

Groton Daily Independent

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“Respect, love, and value yourself. Always remember to be good to yourself by taking care of yourself.”

-Stephanie Lahart



Sunday, May 22

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m., SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

Emmanuel: Worship, 9 a.m.; Choir, 7 p.m.

Methodist: Communion Sunday: Conde Worship at 9 a.m., Groton worship at 11 a.m.

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

Monday, May 23

Senior Menu: Meat loaf, baked potato with sour cream, creamed peas, fruit, whole wheat bread.

6:30 a.m.: Emmanuel Bible Study

Noon: Senior Citizens potluck meeting at Groton Community Center

8:30 a.m.: St. John's Vacation Bible School

Tuesday, May 24

Senior Menu: Hot pork sandwich, coleslaw, baked beans, fruit, ice cream sundae

8:30 a.m.: St. John's Vacation Bible School

9:30 a.m.: Methodist Bible Study

5:30 p.m.: Jr. Teeners host Milbank, DH

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PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460

Wednesday, May 25

Senior Menu: Stir fry beef with rice, oriental blend vegetables, honey fruit salad, whole wheat bread.

Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m., UMYF with bonfire at parsonage and games and food, 7 p.m.

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Swimming Lesson Sign-up and Pass Purchase Pre-sale at the Swimming Pool

8:30 a.m.: St. John's Vacation Bible School

5:30 p.m.: Legion hosts Northville, 1 game.

7 p.m.: Jr. Legion hosts Northville, 1 game

Ken's **HELP WANTED!** **Groton Store**

Part time cashier & part time deli.
Deli must be 18 years of age or older.
Apply at Ken's in Groton.

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

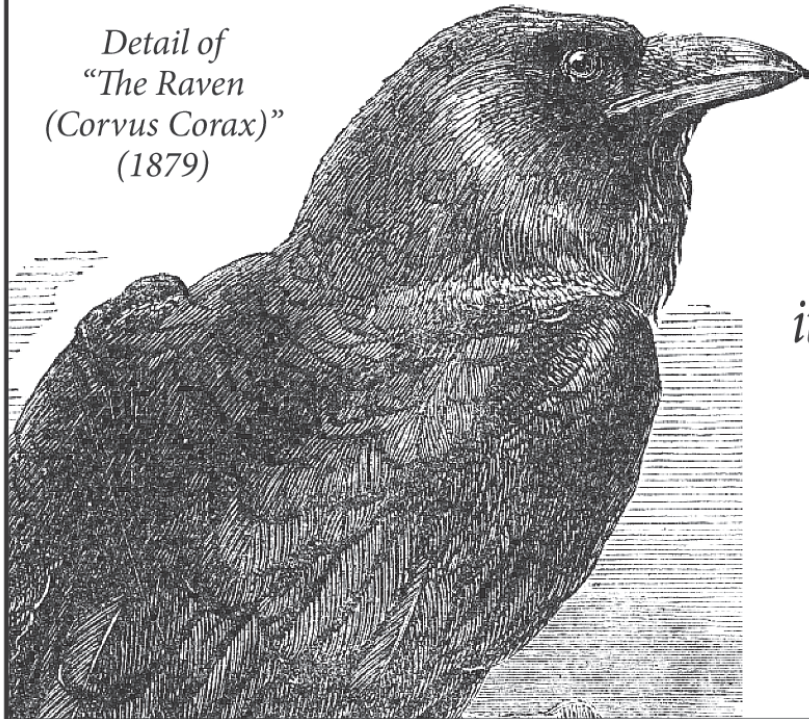
The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Detail of
"The Raven
(Corvus Corax)"
(1879)



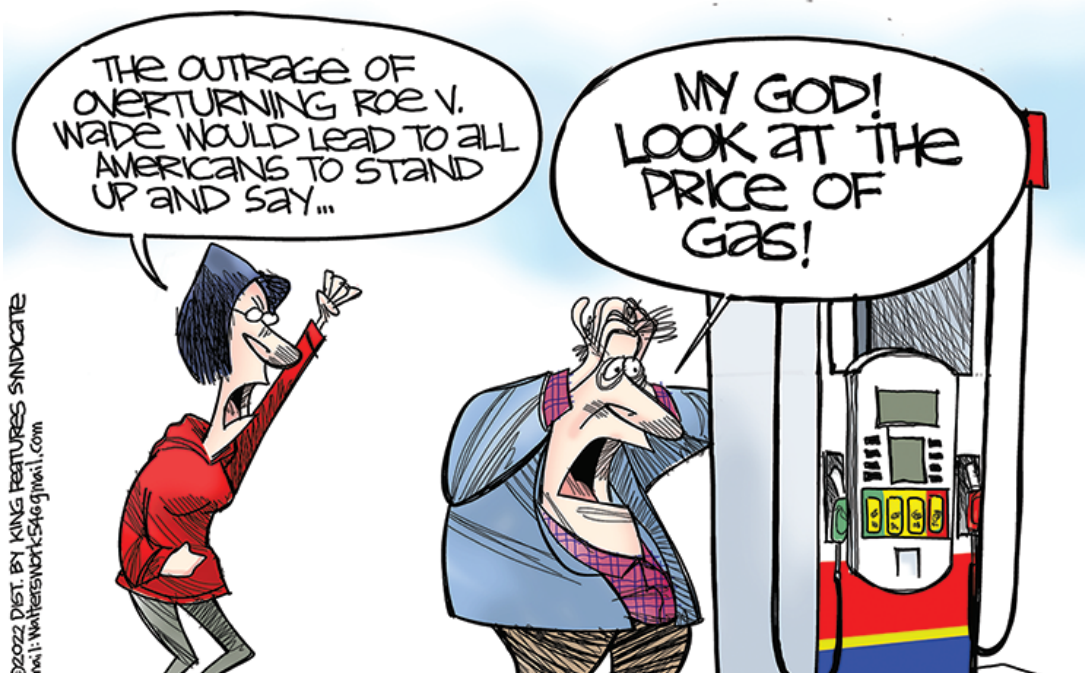
*Who provides food
for the raven when
its young cry out to God
and wander about
for lack of food?*

Job 38:41



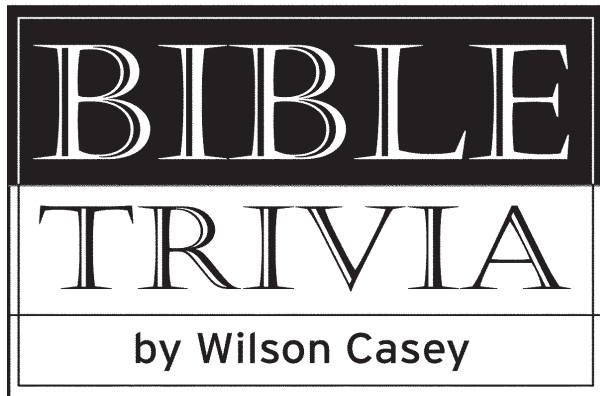
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REPUBLICANS COUNT THE SHORT ATTENTION SPAN OF VOTERS



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by Healthy Exchanges
Grilled Burgers

1. Is the book of Judah in the Old Testament or New Testament or neither?
2. In which book's 12th chapter did Jesus tell the multitudes the very hairs of their heads were numbered? *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*
3. From 2 Samuel 14, who cut his hair once a year, as it was too heavy to carry around? *Samson, Esau, Absalom, Sisera*
4. Which prophet's work is quoted in the New Testament more than any other? *Joshua, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel*
5. In Deuteronomy 34, Moses saw the promised land from what mountain? *Hermon, Zion, Ararat, Nebo*
6. Artaxerxes was king of ...? *Philadelphia, Judah, Persia, Zion*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Luke 12:7; 3) Absalom; 4) Isaiah; 5) Nebo; 6) Persia

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

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Fire up the grill! There's something about cooking and eating outside that just can't be duplicated indoors.

- 16 ounces extra-lean ground turkey or beef
- 3/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 1/2 cup plus 1 tablespoon (2 1/4 ounces) dried fine breadcrumbs
- 1/4 cup reduced-sodium ketchup
- 2 teaspoons prepared yellow mustard
- 1 teaspoon prepared horseradish
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 cup fat-free milk

1. In a large bowl, combine meat, onion and breadcrumbs. Add ketchup, mustard, horseradish, Worcestershire sauce and milk. Mix well with hands until well-combined.

2. Using a 1/2 cup measuring cup as a guide, shape into 6 patties. Place on hot grill, and grill for about 6 minutes on each side or until desired doneness. Good served on small hamburger buns or eaten as "steaks." Makes 6 servings.

* Each serving equals: 175 calories, 7g fat, 15g protein, 13g carbohydrate, 199mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Meat, 1/2 Starch/Carbohydrate

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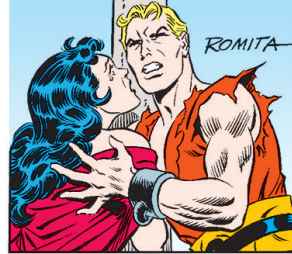
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OUR STORY SO FAR...

MING THE MERCILESS HAS RECREATED THE INFAMOUS TOURNAMENTS OF DEATH.* HIS GOAL - THE ELIMINATION OF THOSE WHO ORCHESTRATED HIS DOWNFALL.

FLASH AND DALE FIND THEMSELVES AT THE CENTER OF THE MAELSTROM!

IN THE ENSUING BATTLE BETWEEN MAN AND MONSTER, VULTAN FALLS!

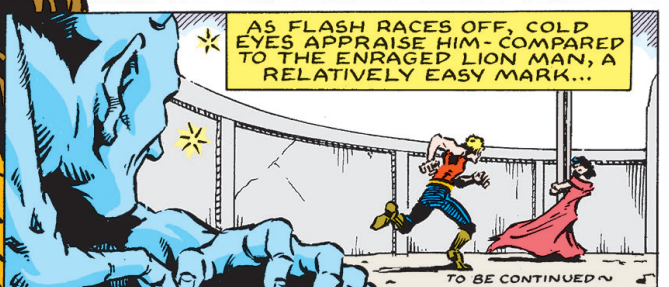
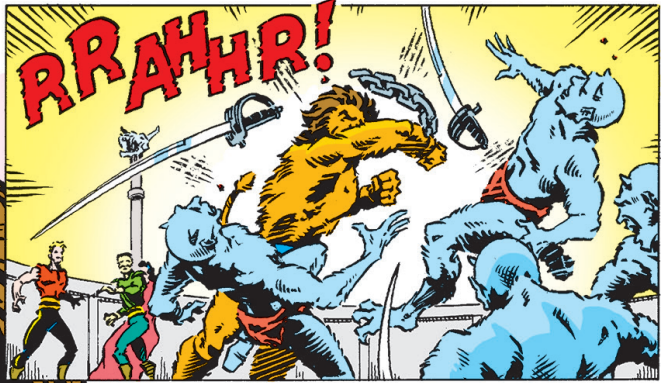


*FIRST SEEN IN ALEX RAYMOND'S CLASSIC 1935 STORY LINE.

FLASH GORDON

By JIM KEEFE
5-15

AS THUN LAYS DOWN THE BROKEN BODY OF HIS COMRADE, A SWARM OF MING'S DRAGON MEN ADVANCE.



BARIN, GO AFTER MING AND AURA.

FLASH, FREE YOUR MATE.

I'LL HANDLE THIS RABBLE.

YES... MAD! NOW GO!

ARE YOU MAD?! THERE'S TOO MANY!

AS FLASH RACES OFF, COLD EYES APPRAISE HIM - COMPARED TO THE ENRAGED LION MAN, A RELATIVELY EASY MARK...

TO BE CONTINUED ~

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

HIGH-HANDICAPPERS OFTEN PUTT LESS WELL THAN THEY COULD BY LIFTING THE PUTTER HEAD ON THE BACKSWING.

GOOD FORM CALLS FOR IT TO STAY CLOSE TO THE GROUND BOTH BACK AND THROUGH THE BALL.

ANOTHER COMMON FAULT IS DECELERATING THE PUTTER HEAD THROUGH IMPACT, FREQUENTLY THROUGH SWINGING BACK TOO FAR RELATIVE TO THE LENGTH OF PUTT.

IN THIS CASE, REVERSE THE RATIOS - SHORT GOING BACK, AND LONG GOING THROUGH.

Blood Thinners Preclude Some OTC Pain Meds



DEAR DR. ROACH: I am on blood thinners, so I am unable to take ibuprofen or naproxen for pain. Do you know of anything I can take to help with pain? -- K.B.

ANSWER: The body has two ways of clotting blood: the blood clotting factors and platelets, which are special blood clotting cells.

Warfarin (Coumadin), like newer agents such as dabigatran (Pradaxa) or rivaroxaban (Xarelto), work as anticoagulants, blocking proteins that help clot the blood. They don't actually "thin" the blood; that would mean a change in viscosity. Clotting factors are needed for a mature, effective blood clot.

Aspirin and NSAID drugs, like ibuprofen or naproxen (Aleve and others), affect platelets, the specialized blood cells that start clotting the blood when

necessary. If both the platelet system and the factor system are decreased due to medication (or underlying clotting disorder), then the risk for abnormal bleeding goes up.

This does not mean people can never take aspirin or NSAIDs if they are on a medication to reduce clotting risk, but it does mean that a careful evaluation must be done, based on a person's unique circumstances, to determine the safety of doing so. In other words, your doctor should be able to tell you how often, if ever, you can take these over-the-counter pain relievers.

If you can't take any, then acetaminophen (Tylenol) is usually the safest bet. However, too much acetaminophen can increase the effect of warfarin (measured by your INR level).

DEAR DR. ROACH: I must admit that I sit on the throne (toilet) for too long for my morning (or evening) constitutional, maybe 15 minutes or so. But I am busy with my crossword puzzles -- it's about the only time I can carve out for my little obsession.

The problem is, my legs almost always fall deeply asleep. This happens frequently. I'm wondering if I should cease this practice. Could I be doing damage to my nervous system? The tingling goes away after I walk around a bit, and there are no lasting effects. -- V.K.C.

ANSWER: I'd recommend finding a different place to do your crossword puzzles.

I don't recommend anyone sit on the toilet too long. Pressure in the colon from prolonged sitting (I don't say you are necessarily straining, but I suspect that like most people you have increased pressure in the colon from sitting on the toilet) increases the risk of colon problems, both common (diverticulosis, outpouchings in the colon wall) and rare (volvulus, a twisting of the colon that is a surgical urgency). When you have the urge to go, you should take yourself to the bathroom and do so. If you are straining, it's time to add more fruits, vegetables and fiber to your diet.

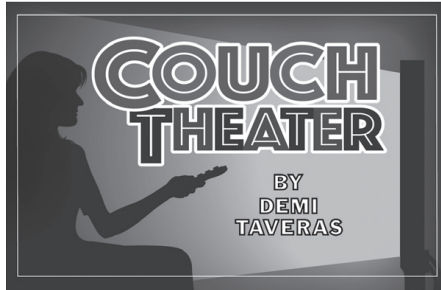
The numbness in your legs is not uncommon. The position of a toilet seat may put extra pressure on the nerves of the leg, especially the sciatic nerves. This pressure is what is causing the numbness. The fact that there are no long-term symptoms suggests no lasting damage, but I would argue this is your body telling you not to stay in that position.

Find a comfortable chair in which to do your crosswords, and ignore the world for a little while.

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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Navalny (R) — As a force behind Russian opposition against the Kremlin, Alexei Navalny is recognized worldwide as a leader in organizing the Russian people against Vladimir Putin. But those who rally against Putin know that this fight comes with severe consequences. At first, Navalny was blacklisted, but as his opposition gained more traction, he became a red dot on Putin’s radar. Mistakenly thinking that Putin wouldn’t be foolish to attempt assassination on someone so public, Navalny was poisoned in 2020 and hospitalized, where he then fought for his life and was able to prevail. However, this fearless man refuses to stop his fight against the Kremlin. Follow Alexei Navalny’s journey in a new award-winning documentary film. Streaming May 26. (HBO Max)

Obi-Wan Kenobi (TV-PG) — Taking place 10 years after “Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith,” when the villainous Darth Vader emerged, Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi watches over a very young Luke Skywalker on Tatooine. Obi-Wan pleads with Owen, Luke’s uncle, to keep Luke hidden until Obi-Wan can train Luke himself. Meanwhile, Obi-Wan embarks on an escapade as he is forced to run from the dark side that desperately searches after him. Ewan McGregor and Hayden Christensen reprise their roles from the prequel trilogy as Obi-Wan and Darth Vader, respectively. The first two episodes of this limited series premiere Friday, May 27. (Disney+)

Emergency (R) — The trend of college comedies has died down since the early 2010s, which brought us movies like “Neighbors” and “Pitch Perfect.” But this satire film from Amazon might reawaken the college

comedy subgenre and shake things up! Two college students, Sean and Kunle, set a challenge to hit seven parties in one night. With their plans solidified, they head home to pre-game and change after class when they find an unconscious girl in the living room. Now with a completely different mission in mind, Sean and Kunle must figure out how to safely rid themselves of the girl, all without knowing that her friends are attempting to track her through her phone. “Emergency” easily hooks in viewers with a diverse and refreshing cast who provide great turmoil for us to enjoy. Premieres May 27. (Prime Video)



Disney+

Ewan McGregor in “Obi-Wan Kenobi”

Stranger Things 4, Vol. 1 (TV-14) — “Stranger Things” has had quite the dedicated following from its start, and as the years go on in this smashing success of a show, it’s wonderful to see how the story and cast evolve and out-do its previous seasons. The fourth season begins six months after the Battle of Starcourt, and our favorite group of friends are separated throughout Hawkins, Indiana; California; and Russia. The Upside Down, however, still leaks through to Hawkins and infiltrates their hometown to a point where no one can ignore what’s happening for much longer, including a powerless Eleven back in California. The season also dives deeper into Eleven’s past and introduces a new, guitar-slinging character named Eddie. Volume 1 of “Stranger Things 4” premieres May 27. (Netflix)

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FLASH BACK POP, ROCK & SOUL TRIVIA BY MICK HARPER

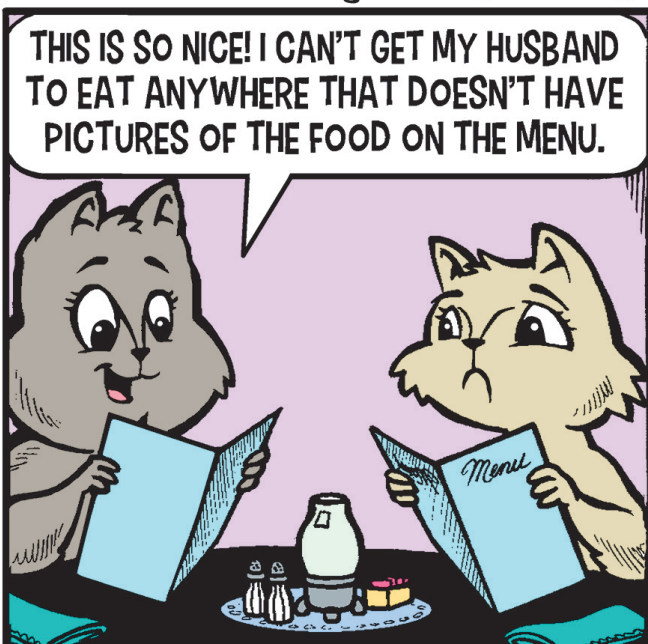
1. What artist released albums titled "Texas Flood" and "Couldn't Stand the Weather"?
2. Why did the Moody Blues originally call themselves "The M Bs" and "The M B Five"?
3. Which Laura Branigan song was used in the film "Flashdance," but wasn't included on the soundtrack album?
4. What artist had a hit with "Total Eclipse of the Heart"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "There ain't nothin in the world like a big-eyed girl, To make me act so funny, Make me spend my money."

Answers

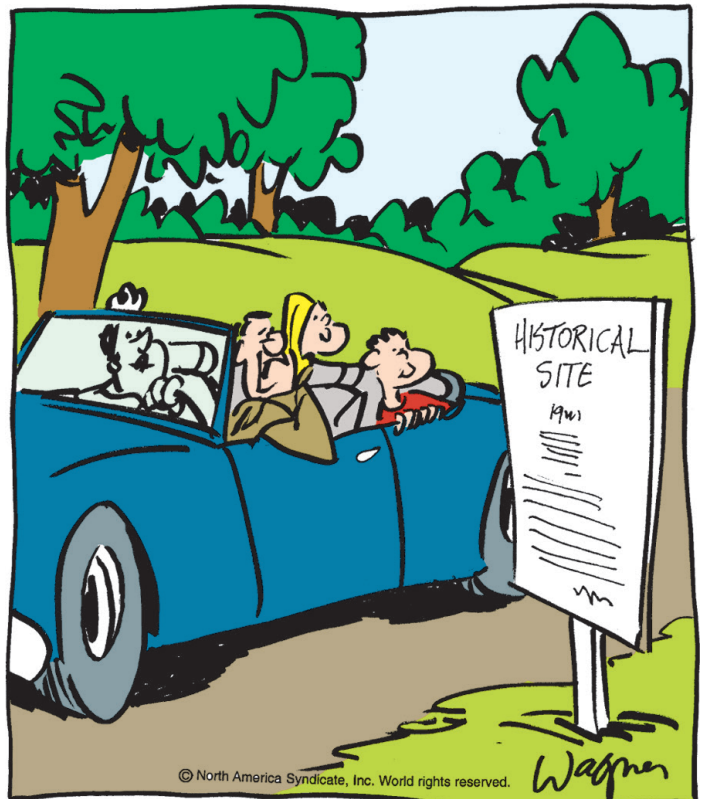
1. Stevie Ray Vaughan, in 1983 and 1984. When Vaughan died in a helicopter crash in 1990, he left behind a wealth of material. Since then, a number of tribute specials and posthumous albums have been released, some of them charting globally.
2. They were hoping for an endorsement from the Mitchells & Butlers Brewery. It didn't happen.
3. "Gloria." The other one, "Imagination," was used. "Gloria" nabbed a Grammy nomination for Best Female Pop Vocal in 1982.
4. Bonnie Tyler, in 1983.
5. "Chantilly Lace," by the Big Bopper in 1958. Jerry Lee Lewis followed with a cover in 1972. Over the years, numerous other artists have either released covers or samples in their own songs.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



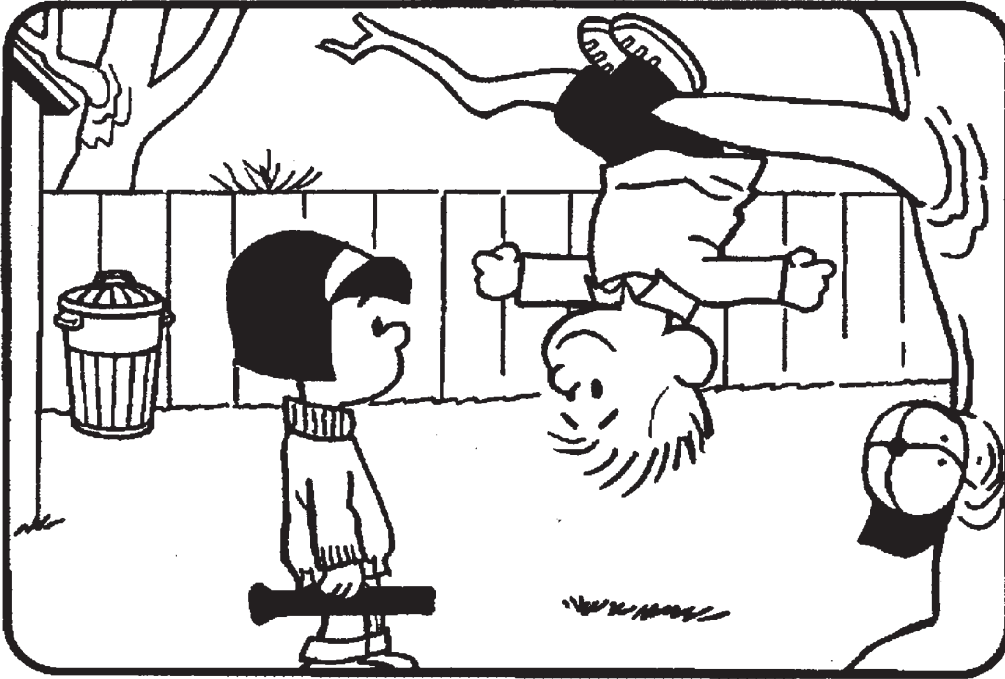
GRIN and BEAR IT ^{Wagner}



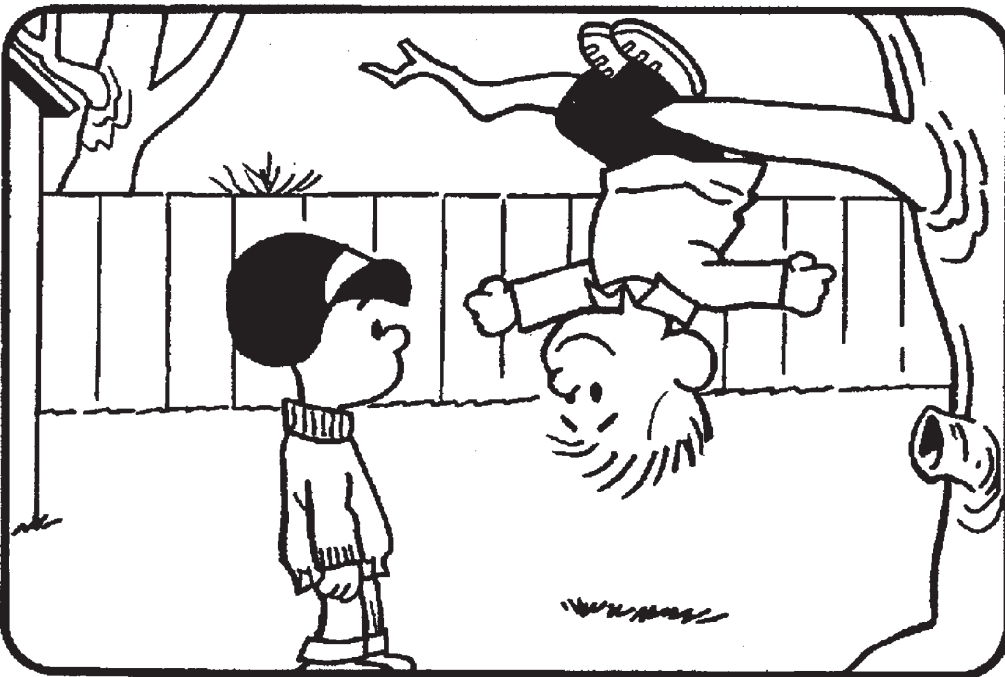
"On this spot, gas once sold for \$1.25 a gallon!"

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Trash can is missing. 2. Hair is different. 3. Instrument case is missing. 4. Tree limb is shorter. 5. Arm is moved. 6. Cap is missing.

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• Here's a grill tip just in time for Memorial Day: When you need to cook something that needs covering (say, chicken) alongside something that does not (like hot dogs), simply invert an aluminum roaster/cake pan over the needs-covering item. You can purchase smaller size pans that can be reused. — *JoAnn*

• “I have a tip about taking medicine. Regardless of the size of the pill, I always feel as if it is stuck in my throat. I have started to have a chunk of banana after taking a pill. I don't get that stuck feeling anymore.” — *T.B. in New Hampshire*

• “The sticky residue from price tags can be really annoying. I use WD-40 to get it off. Works every time for me!” — *J.K. in Alabama*

• “Painting stairs? This tip will save your life! Paint every other step to start with. When they are dry, go back and paint the others. This way, you can use the staircase anytime during your

project. This is particularly important if the stairs are the only way to get to bed after a long day of painting!” — *I.L. in Nevada*

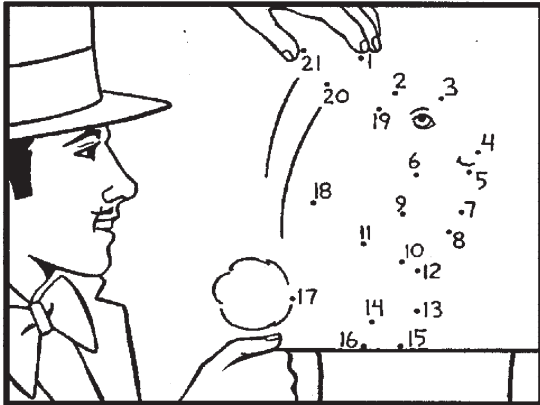
• Mix a quarter cup of salt in with two tablespoons of bath wash for a sudsy, refreshing, skin-soothing salt scrub.

• To travel with pleated skirts, use this packing trick: Turn the skirt inside out, and straighten all the pleats. Then tape the bottom so that all the pleats are held together. Next, feed the skirt into a leg of pantyhose with the foot cut off. You'll end up with a nice tube, which you can tuck into the side of your luggage.

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

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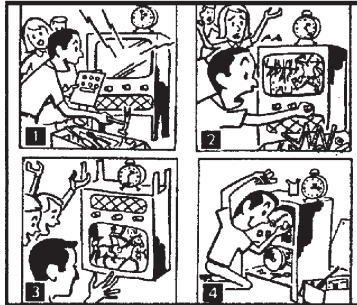
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DOTS LIFE! Yeah, it's only me again. Who'd you expect, Tyrannosaurus Rex? Draw dot to dot to complete the picture.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



UNDO-IT-YOURSELF TV CAPER

So your TV's down, repair shop's closed, and you're bent on fixing it yourself. Such a person is shown at left, and pictured with him are some trials and tribulations in the fix-it process.

Is our good friend successful, or is he a bust? To find out, start with panel 1, study clues, and see if you can rearrange panels 2, 3 and 4 in chronological order.

Time limit: 2 minutes.

Fix-it tale unfolds in this order: 1, 4, 2, 3.

SAFE BET! Bet someone that he or she has a hole in a sock. You can't lose. Every sock has a hole in which to insert foot.

ROBIN 'HOOD! Four more five-letter words are needed to complement the word ROBIN in the diagram at right, and thereby form a word square — a cluster in which all words used read the same both across and down.

Definitions: 1. "On the eighteenth of —, in Seventy five..." 2. Pennsylvania railroad town. 3. Heralded first bird of spring (ROBIN, in place). 4. Trojan War epic by Homer. 5. Singer Ronstadt, for one.

Let's see how quickly you can fill in these words to complete the square.

1	2	3	4	5
		R		
		O		
R	O	B	I	N
		I		
		N		

LETTER GO! Insert a letter (the same letter) in the middle of each of these words to form another word:

- ROOT.
- TALE.
- ALUM.
- REEL.
- COOL.

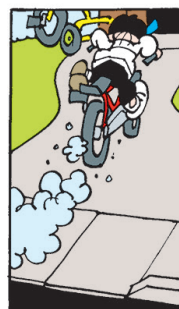
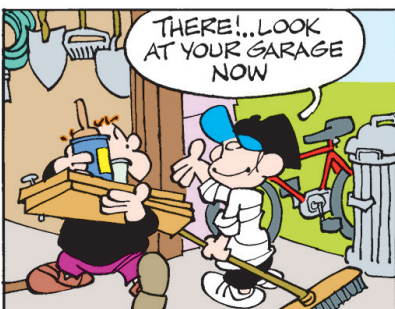
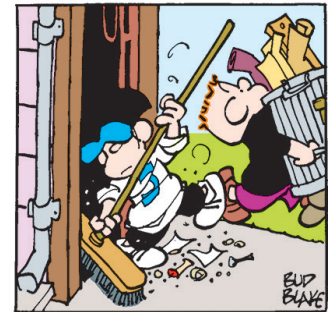
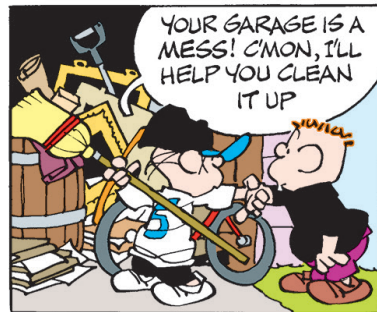
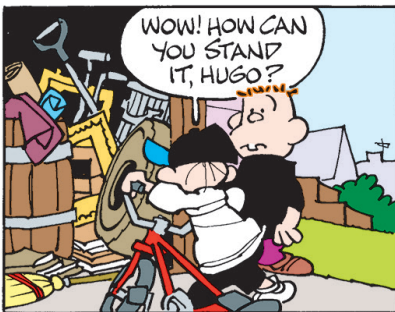
What letter complies?

Letter B — 1. ROBOT. 2. TABLE. 3. ALBUM. 4. REBEL. 5. COBOL (a computer language).

Answers: 1. April. 2. Paoli. 3. Robin. 4. Iliad. 5. Linda.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Ancient Brit
- 5 Started
- 8 Fail to see
- 12 River to the Baltic
- 13 Spanish gold
- 14 "Do — others ..."
- 15 Opera set in Egypt
- 16 Used a Hoover, say
- 18 Baseball divisions
- 20 Diving ducks
- 21 Leb. neighbor
- 22 Ostrich's kin
- 23 Sousa composition
- 26 Empty, as a stare

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

- 30 Commotion
- 31 Melody
- 32 "Top Hat" studio
- 33 Flu forestaller
- 36 Autocrats
- 38 Tummy muscles
- 39 Chatter
- 40 Skirt style
- 43 Set of words
- 47 Work break
- 49 Nitwit
- 50 Pedestal occupant
- 51 In shape
- 52 Ancient Dead Sea land
- 53 Taxpayer IDs
- 54 NBC week-end show
- 55 Scarce
- DOWN**
- 1 Furnace fuel
- 2 Falco of "Nurse Jackie"
- 3 Spartan queen
- 4 Very sad
- 5 Paramour
- 6 Historic periods
- 7 Physician's nickname
- 8 Hawaiian garment
- 9 "By the power
- 10 Leftovers recipe
- 11 Lays down the lawn
- 17 Gomer Pyle's org.
- 19 Show to a seat, slangily
- 22 Hearing thing
- 23 Dallas hooper, briefly
- 24 Nabokov novel
- 25 Sinbad's bird
- 26 Compete
- 27 Man-mouse link
- 28 Kiev's land
- 29 "Mayday!"
- 31 Reply (Abbr.)
- 34 Suez and Erie, e.g.
- 35 "Yeah, right"
- 36 Levy
- 37 Web master?
- 39 Streisand title role
- 40 Hertz rival
- 41 Young fellows
- 42 PC picture
- 43 Pork cut
- 44 Musical finale
- 45 Bloodhound's clue
- 46 Alaskan city
- 48 Conditions

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

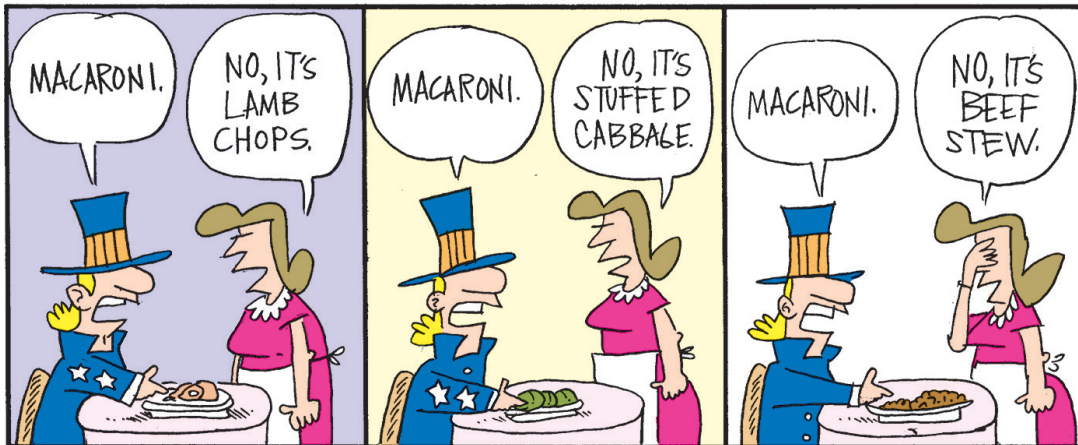
LAFF - A - DAY



“Marriage is really a grind. You wash the dishes, make the bed — then a week later you have to do it all over again.”

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

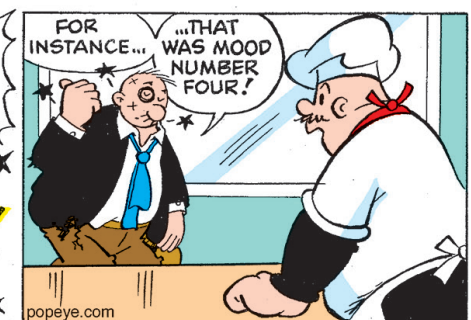
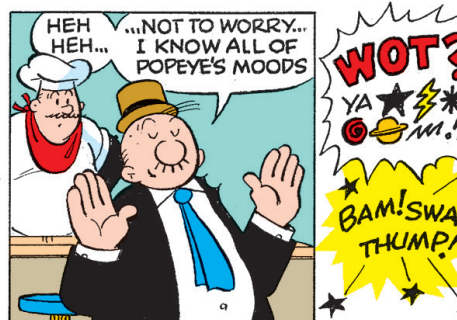
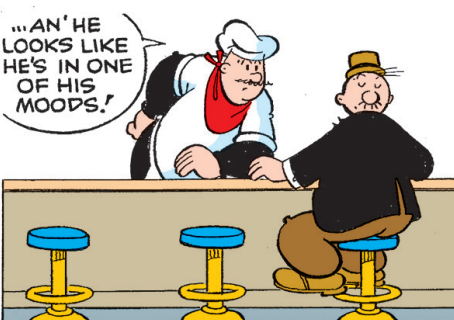
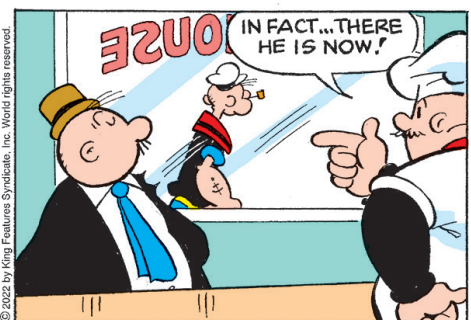
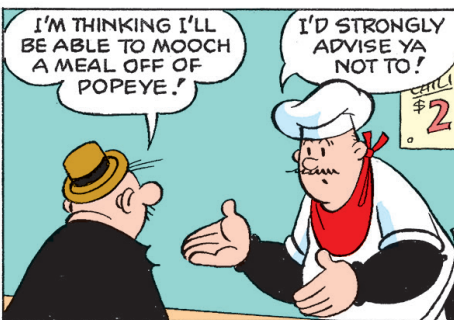
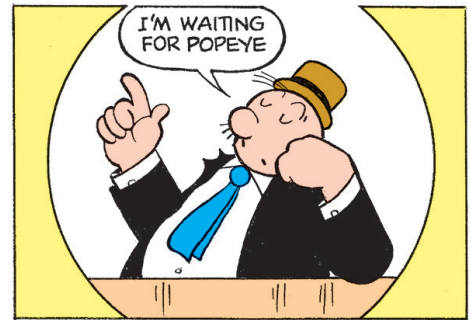
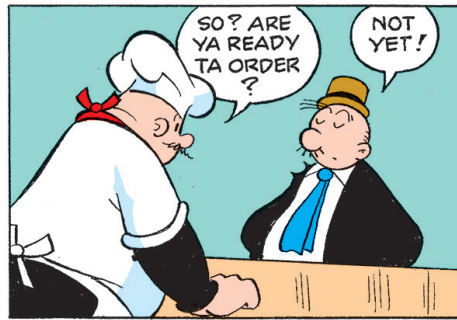
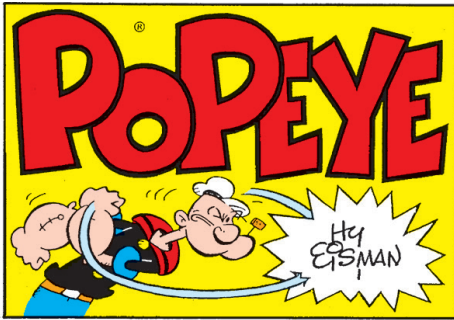


FRANCINE ALWAYS HATED COOKING FOR YANKEE DOODLE

KOPERVAS

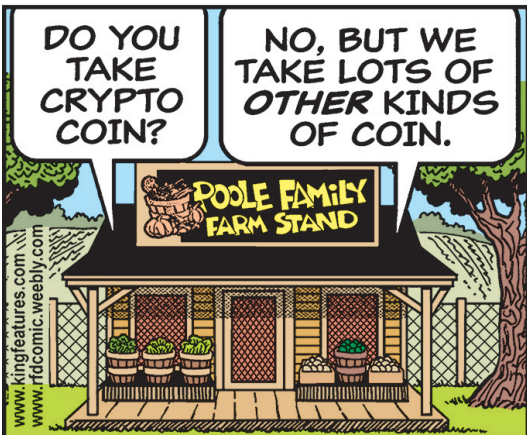
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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MARLAND

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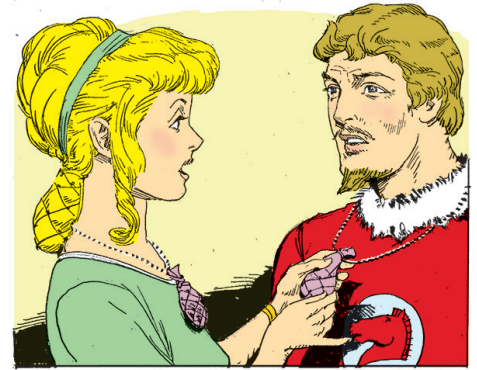
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Hal Foster's
Prince Valiant
GIANNI AND SCHULTZ

ALETA CONTINUES HER CAMPAIGN AGAINST MALDUBH'S WITCHCRAFT. SHE CONFRONTS ARN: "WHY DID YOU PROMOTE DRACO TO COURT ADVISOR?"

"I... I'M NOT SURE... STRANGE... IT SEEMED LIKE A WISE AND PROPER ACTION, BUT NOW I CAN'T SAY WHY..."

"YOU WERE BEWITCHED BY DRACO'S WIFE. HERE - KEEP THIS PROTECTION WITH YOU ALWAYS, AND LET NO PERSONAL ITEMS BE TAKEN FROM YOU. WE ARE AT WAR!"



VAL TURNS GRIM. "YOUR MOTHER HAS DONE THE SAME FOR GAWAIN AND ME. IT IS UNSEEMLY, BUT I TRUST HER IN THIS MATTER. SO SHOULD YOU."



AND DEEP WITHIN HIS HOUSE, DRACO APPROACHES HIS WIFE. "OUR ASSASSIN HAS BEEN DISMISSED - I PRAY YOUR SPELL CLOUDS HIS MEMORY."

MALDUBH PAUSES BY A GREAT CHEST. "IT WILL... NOW COME - WHAT I HAVE HERE ENSURES ALETA'S DESTRUCTION..."

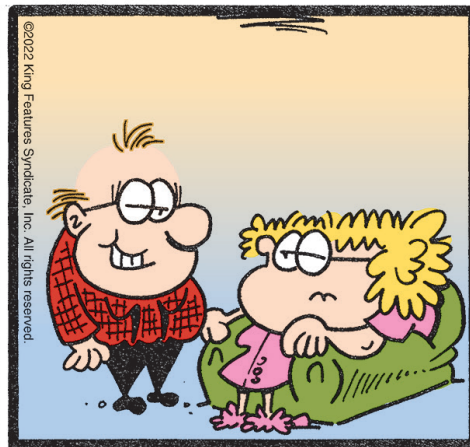
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NEXT:
The exchange

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Walk Faster, Live Longer

We've known for years that walking is a good form of exercise for seniors ... we just didn't know why. Now a new study not only explains how it works, but why brisk walking is even more effective.

Ten years ago, researchers at Leicester University Biomedical Research Centre started looking at genetic data in the biobanks in the U.K. for clues about why seniors who walk seemed to live longer. They didn't fool around with a dozen or so participants. No, they analyzed the information of over 405,000 people.

And now we know: It's the telomere length. Telomeres (aka leucocyte telomere length, or LTLs) are the "end caps" on strands of DNA, the building blocks of our bodies and an indicator of our biological age. Fast walkers have longer LTLs, and therefore better health ... and longer lives.

That same study showed that as little as 10 minutes per day of brisk walking can equate to longer lives. (The Mayo Clinic prefers 30 minutes of activity per day, possibly broken into three

10-minute sessions.) The best walking pace appears to be 3 mph, although the research data was from wearable tracking devices like those we use to measure steps per day.

But there's more. A study at the National Institutes of Health concluded that the length of the telomeres is positively associated with consuming fruits, dairy, 100% fruit juice and coffee. On the other hand, food and drinks with high amounts of sugar and red meat can negatively affect the telomere length. The study gave a big thumbs up to the Mediterranean diet, with loads of nuts, fruits, vegetables, unrefined cereals, fish and olive oil.

If you invest in a pedometer to measure your steps, be sure to look for one that tracks your speed. Ask your doctor about any recommendations they have for the trackers.

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1. What American military leader reportedly declined an offer to be Commissioner of Baseball in 1961?

2. Basketball Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's signature one-handed post move shot was known by what nickname?

3. On Nov. 17, 1990, Houston Cougars quarterback David Klingler set an NCAA record for touchdown passes in a single game with how many?

4. Name the racehorse who won both the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes in 1987, but had his Triple Crown attempt spoiled at the Belmont Stakes.

5. What university in Queens, N.Y., has the nickname "Red Storm" for its athletic teams?

6. Name the brand of beer that had naming rights to the Milwaukee Brewers' home ballpark from 2001-20?

7. What NASCAR driver won the Daytona 500 four times and won three



by Ryan A. Berenz

consecutive Cup Series championships from 1976-78?

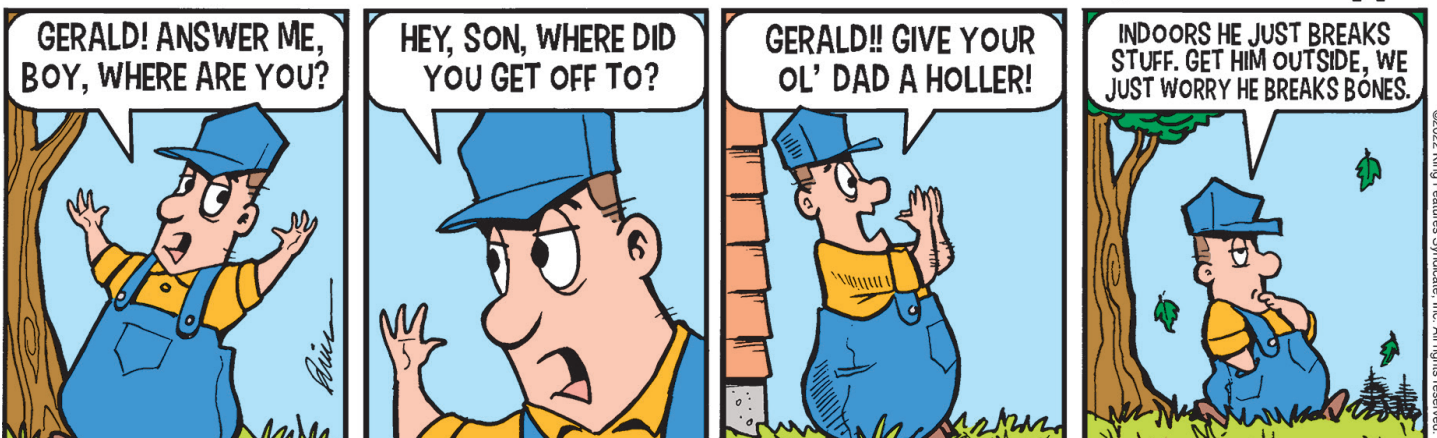
Answers

1. Gen. Douglas MacArthur.
2. The Skyhook.
3. 11.
4. Alysheba.
5. St. John's University.
6. Miller.
7. Cale Yarborough.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Young Puppy Just Can't 'Hold It'

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: We adopted a puppy last month. "Jake" is having some problems adjusting to his new home. He has soiled his own bed three times so far (we crate him at night) and doesn't make it through the day — he starts whining by the door around lunchtime and, if we're not home, will just go anywhere in the house. How can we fix this? — *Carl B., via email*

DEAR CARL: How old is Jake? It sounds like, barring any unknown physical issues or illness, he is a young puppy with a small bladder. He simply can't hold it as long as a fully grown dog.

The fact that Jake makes it a point to whine by the door means that the house training is effective, but you may be waiting much too long to take

him out. When he has to go, he will go. That includes soiling his crate, which is an absolute last resort for a dog.

Follow this guideline, published by the American Kennel Club, called the "month-plus-one" rule: Take your puppy's age in months, and add one. That gives you a rough estimate of the maximum number of hours Jake should wait before going outside to pee or poop.

For example, if Jake is four months old, add one to that number. The total, five, means he should be taken outside every five hours. Every puppy is different, so Jake may need to go out a little sooner. And yes, that means he may need to go out in the middle of the night, or on a pee pad.

He should always be taken out just before bedtime and first thing in the morning, regardless of his age.

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

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

louder when enjoying a favorite food.

* Talk about election fraud! In 2013, police in the Maldives arrested a coconut for loitering near a polling station during the presidential election. The fruit's offense? Locals feared it might have been imbued with a magic spell to influence the election, as there was a Surah (chapter from the Quran) written on it. The coconut was released upon being found to be fake.

* In 2014, over 2.8 million American dogs were on an antidepressant drug similar to Prozac.

* Alarmed neighbors of a couple in Sydney, Australia, called the police after hearing a woman screaming, furniture crashing and a man shouting: "I'm going to kill you, you're dead! Die! Die!" When the law arrived on the scene they found, however, not a typical case of domestic violence, but a frenzied attempt to kill a spider.

* Now here's a good reason to call your plumber: A leaky faucet dripping once every second can waste up to 3,000 gallons of water in a year -- enough for 180 showers!

* The U.S. government gave Indiana University \$1 million to study ... memes.

Thought for the Day: "Yesterday's home runs don't win today's games." --Babe Ruth

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* Idaho is the only U.S. state to explicitly declare that cannibalism is illegal.

* In 2001, the FBI warned Russell Crowe that al-Qaeda were planning to kidnap him as part of a "cultural destabilization plot." For nearly two years, the agency guarded the actor in public, but refused to provide him with any details about the threat.

* In Germany, folks who urinate in the streets are called "wildpinklers," meaning "free pee-ers."

* Gorillas sing happy songs while they eat --

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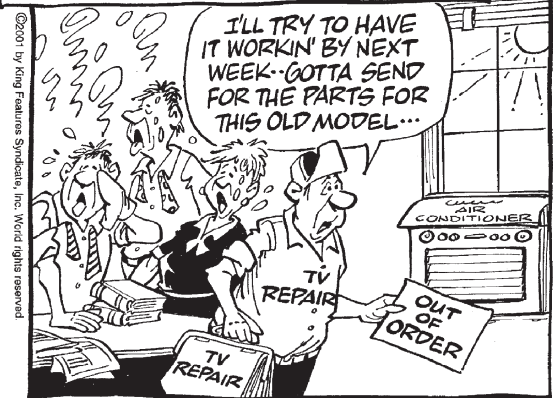
THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BARGAIN TALK-TV COMMERCIAL TALK, THAT IS...

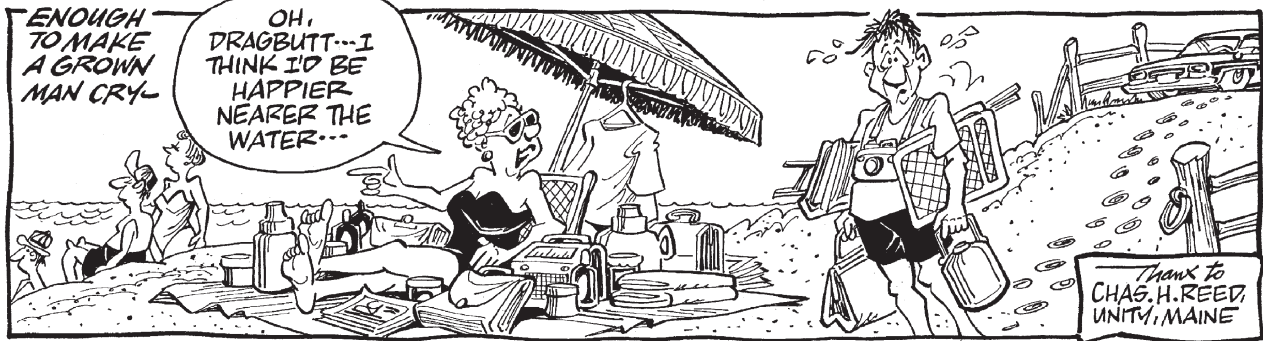


BY AL SCADUTO

EVERY REAL HOT DAY OF THE YEAR, THIS SEEMS TO HAPPEN ON SCHEDULE...



Thank to G. MAXWELL, WASHINGTON, D.C.



The Garden Bug

The caterpillars of fritillary butterflies hatch in the fall, go dormant right away without feeding, and sleep through the winter. They awaken in the spring at the same time as violet plants, their



only food, begin to grow. It is feared that global warming may disrupt this delicate and important synchronization and cause extinction of fritillary butterflies.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: www.fs.fed.us

VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

A Jumble of Wait Times for VA Medical Care

A recent audit by the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of the Inspector General outlined what so many of us already knew — that it's difficult to understand the wait times for appointments and medical care at the VA. It seemed to some of us that the rules changed day by day, that our appointments were at the whim of whatever program was being followed at the time and that there was no transparency about how those dates were calculated. Turns out that we were right all along.

In a perfect world, wait times at the VA always begin with an accurate starting point. If, for example, a veteran wants to seek civilian care because the wait is too long at the VA, he doesn't qualify for that outside care until he's waited a certain amount of time. Precisely when that period of time begins is at the heart of the problem.

Since 2014, the OIG discovered, the VA has used various methods of calculating wait time and figuring out when the criteria is met to seek civilian care. The rules for those calculations were in writing back to 2014. But without following those rules consistently, wait times varied and wandered all over the place. It didn't help that the website gave misleading information about how dates were to be calculated, with differences between wait times for new patients and what was written in the scheduling directive.

Enter the OIG, with its excellent investigators who always leave no stone unturned. While the recent audit doesn't assign blame (which the OIG won't hesitate to do when it's called for), the VA knew about these problems. The OIG has officially asked the VA to respond and let them know what steps they're going to take to fix this.

To read the details, go to www.va.gov/oig/pubs/VAOIG-21-02761-125.pdf. Don't miss the timeline on the cardiology patient whose provider wanted him seen pronto. There was a 66 day wait.

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



Ending Title 42 is a Huge Mistake

The United States Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) announced the border numbers for April this week. Last month, there were 234,088 illegal crossings at our southern border. This is the worst month on record.

April's numbers are up 30% from 2021 and 1,268% since 2022. This is appalling. Since President Biden took office, there have been over 2.6 MILLION illegal immigrants apprehended at our border. Nearly half of those have been just in the past six months.

Regardless of these historic numbers, President Biden has not waived on his decision to end Title 42. It remains to be lifted on Monday, the 23rd—just three days from now. We can all agree that the public health crisis has turned the corner, however, the Administration has no plan in place to secure our border. Should this policy be lifted, encounters at the border are expected to more than double what they currently are, reaching 7,000-8,000 per day. USCBP agents will not be able to keep up with this influx of migrants.

I know how much of a security threat this poses, which is why I support the Public Health and Border Security Act, which would prohibit the President from lifting Title 42 until 60 days after it has formally ended the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration. The Department of Health and Human Services in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security would then have 30 days to create a plan to address the surge of migrants at our borders.

A Morning Consult poll shows that majority of Americans disapprove of Biden's repeal of Title 42. I know that this sentiment is shared by many South Dakotans. I have urged the President and the Department of Homeland Security to reimplement the "Remain in Mexico" policy and to follow the laws already passed by Congress to finish the wall.

We must secure our border.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

South Dakota is a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary

Over the past two years, America has seen some of the most concerning attacks on freedom in our history. Governments seized previously unimagined power over our day-to-day lives. Churches were forced to close, forsaking freedom of religion. Big tech and government alike attempted to police speech, something that is supposed to be free for all. And though the Supreme Court seems poised to advance the right to life of all people, renewed attacks on that right are only just beginning.

Amid all this, the right that exists to defend all other rights is also under assault.

Yes, I'm talking about the 2nd Amendment, our right to keep and bear arms. The Biden administration is attempting to erode this essential right that the founding fathers passionately supported. He has signed executive orders and pursued legislation to strip law-abiding citizens of their rights, and he has promised to do worse.

Since I became governor, I have enhanced South Dakota's protections for 2nd Amendment rights. The first bill I signed as governor was constitutional carry, also known as permitless carry. Every law-abiding citizen should have the 2nd Amendment rights guaranteed.

Consider these quotes from the founding fathers, each pointing to an early understanding of what it meant for the individual right to bear arms:

"A free people ought to be armed, but disciplined;"

— President George Washington's first message to Congress in 1790, a year before the 2nd Amendment was ratified

"No freeman shall ever be debarred from the use of arms within his own lands or tenements." — Thomas Jefferson, in drafts of Virginia's constitution

Even Alexander Hamilton — whose reimagined popularity on Broadway falsely paints him as a liberal — passionately advocated for the right to self-defense. At the time of the

American Revolution, the militias fighting against the British Army were armed with their own muskets and rifles. Hamilton, in Federalist No. 29, asserts that an armed and well-regulated militia would be a check on government tyranny. Under that same principle, a militia today would be armed by the individuals themselves — unlike the U.S. Military branches, which are themselves an instrument of the government.

We must remember that those continental soldiers were fighting an overbearing national government — the British — who was trampling their rights. They kept and bore their own personal arms into battle. In doing so, they built the freest country this world has yet known.

I promise to defend that freedom our founders won for us. That is why we continue to look for ways to protect the rights of law-abiding citizens in South Dakota. In 2020, I blocked bills proposing unconstitutional red-flag laws to strip citizens of their right to bear arms. The following year, I signed "stand your ground" legislation, and I further protected your right to purchase guns and ammo during emergency declarations.

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This year, I repealed all concealed carry permit fees for state residents, which is necessary to remain in good legal standing in other states with stricter gun laws. It won't cost you a penny to exercise your 2nd Amendment rights.

I've taken these actions because the 2nd Amendment is important to South Dakotans. A study this year found we are in the Top 10 states for gun ownership, and we are the number one state for the percentage of residents who get a hunting license (about 1-in-5 South Dakotans get licensed each year).

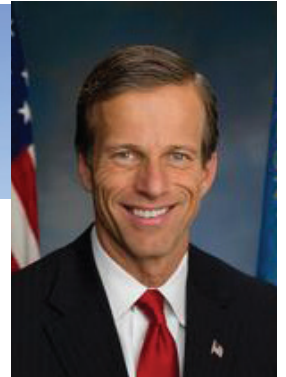
Our focus is on protecting the right to protect yourself, your family, and your property, as Thomas Jefferson asserted. Unfortunately, opponents outside of our state fail to understand what successful protections look like. One anti-gun group gave South Dakota an "F" rating because we strengthened our "stand your ground" law. That same group gave Illinois an "A-" despite the state having higher gun death rates per capita.

As Governor, I will always fight to protect your rights and strengthen them. Individual rights are guaranteed in our Constitution, and the Second Amendment exists to protect the rest. As folks continue to look to South Dakota as an example of liberty, we will continue to be a sanctuary for the 2nd Amendment, as well.

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John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



A Grateful Nation

"Land of the free because of the brave." This simple sentiment recognizes that many of the blessings we enjoy as a grateful nation are a result of the selfless men and women who have answered the call to serve their nation.

I first came to know the military through my dad Harold, a fighter pilot who flew Hellcats off the deck of the USS Intrepid during World War II. From him I learned the patriotism and selflessness and humility that characterized the Greatest Generation – and that continue to characterize our military members today. Throughout the years, I have been privileged to meet many South Dakota veterans and current servicemembers, including the airmen at Ellsworth Air Force Base and members of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard. It is the honor of my life to represent them in Congress.

South Dakota has a proud legacy of military service, but, as many know, our state's role in our nation's security has not always been guaranteed. The fight to save Ellsworth from closure in 2005 is well-told, but it has forever shaped my approach to making sure Ellsworth's future is never again questioned. From the day the base was saved to today, my focus has always been on ensuring that it gets everything it needs to retain its strength. This includes working to ensure that the B-1s remain a responsive and lethal component of Global Strike Command while simultaneously preparing for the future B-21 mission so the base can continue to serve as one of our nation's most essential military assets for decades to come.

Last year, I worked to ensure that the National Defense Authorization Act contained not only full funding for B-21 aircraft development, but full funding for the first of many equipment and support facilities that will be needed for the stealth and nuclear mission at Ellsworth, including a facility to restore the plane's low-observable coating, a wash rack and maintenance hangar, mission operations and training facilities, and an expanded flight simulator space. Now, I am advocating for the timely construction of the weapons generation facility and radio frequency facility that will be essential to ensuring the 28th Bomb Wing is able to fully conduct the nuclear and stealth B-21 mission. Ellsworth is well on its way to becoming "Raider Country," and there's still more new construction on the way.

The work doesn't stop there. I am fighting to ensure that the Air Force is able to invest in unmanned systems to complement the mission of the B-21. I also intend to introduce a measure for this year's National Defense Authorization Act to establish a pilot program that would develop "dynamic airspace" – a concept of efficient air traffic scheduling and airspace boundaries that evolve as exercises or other flights progress. Dynamic airspace would better enable the Pentagon to meet training requirements for 5th generation aircraft like the B-21, which need larger volumes of airspace to accommodate longer engagement distances, and it will build off the successful expansion of the Powder River Training Complex that includes a significant portion of West River.

The foundation of Ellsworth's success isn't modern equipment and facilities, it's the men and women in uniform who support the mission. That's why I'm also focused on making sure Ellsworth has the resources it needs to take care of our military families, particularly as more of them move into the area ahead of the B-21 mission. This includes making sure that ample housing is available and that the Douglas School

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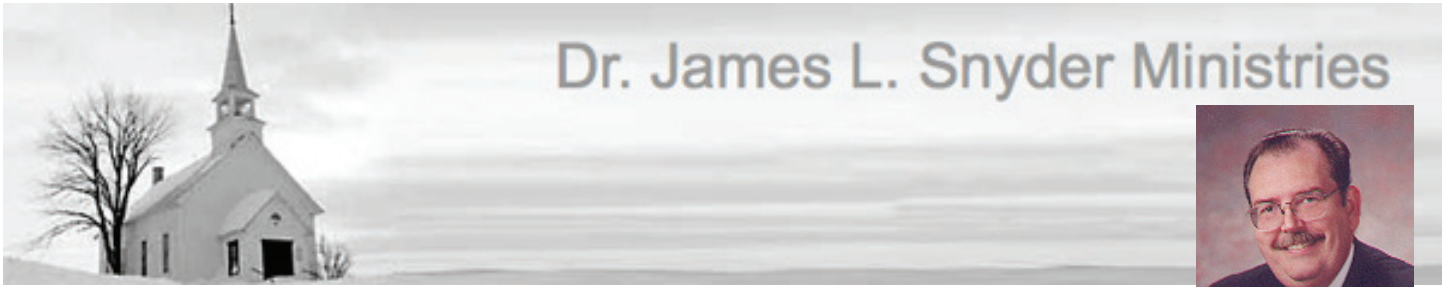
District is able to provide sufficient classroom space for current and arriving students. These are critical quality-of-life issues for our military families – matters that heavily influence whether airmen want to stay in the service or leave for the private sector, where many of their skills are in high demand. We know that South Dakota is an incredible place to live, work, and raise a family, and it should be no different for those serving at Ellsworth.

I am more grateful than I can say for all the men and women in South Dakota and across our great nation who have answered our country's call. It is because of them that we live in peace and safety, and the freedom that we enjoy is secured by their sacrifice.

May God bless all our military men and women and keep them safe as they stand on watch for us.

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Doctors Are Always Right

Last year I suffered what is referred to as a heart attack. I got to the hospital in time, so there was no major damage. I had one artery known as the "Widow Maker" that was 90% blocked, which seemed to be a very serious thing.

Who knew I even had a heart, but doctors are always right.

Coming home from the hospital, I had all kinds of medications to take twice a day, and my blood pressure needed to be taken twice a day as well. I didn't think all of this was necessary, but doctors are always right.

Fortunate for me, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage took over as my in-house medical supervisor. Please do not ask me what that means because I have no idea. She took care of all of my medication every day as well as taking my blood pressure.

I had no obvious after effects of this heart attack, and I seem to be doing just fine.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage several times a day would ask me, "How do you feel today?"

The first time she asked this, I smiled and chirped, "I feel with my fingers."

This was supposed to be a joke, but I was the only one who got it, and the other person in our residence did not think it was very funny.

"Stop joking around," she would say every day, "How are you feeling today?"

Then I would say, "I'm fine."

"No, you're not," she said. "You just had a heart attack, so you're not doing fine."

I'm not sure what it would take to convince her I am doing fine. So, I came up with an idea that did not work.

"Because of the wonderful work and care you have given to me," I said as cheerfully as possible, "I'm doing fine." Then I would smile back at her and say, "Thank you for all your care."

No matter what I do, I can never get the upper hand.

I am not quite sure how a person is supposed to feel after a heart attack because I did not feel any different than before.

A six-month doctor appointment was coming up, and I was hoping he could give me a good report. But, until then, I was at the discretion of my wife.

Every morning it became the same routine. "How are you doing today? And don't tell me you're fine."

Of course, I could lie to her and manipulate her to do things for me. That did cross my mind, but then I realized that eventually, she would find out, and payday would come.



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I would always say, "I'm good today."

I did not say I'm fine, but that still did not settle with her, and she scoured at me and went back into the kitchen.

I was trying to come up with ways to answer that question, but nothing seemed to settle with her. So one morning, I decided to try something different. When she asked me how I was, I said, "I'm terrible today."

That got her attention, and she came and said, "What can I do to help?"

That is what I was waiting for, and so with a very somber tone of voice, I said, "Well, if you want to help me feel better, you could get me an apple fritter."

Unfortunately, it did not work, but at least I tried.

I was sure looking forward to my doctor's visit and getting the authoritative word from him. Until then, someone else in the house had that word, and it certainly wasn't me.

I am not very trusting of doctors these days. I don't know if they get it right or not. I don't depend upon them because I know a doctor can make a mistake. Sometimes a mistake is worse than the illness. But I take things as they come and try to think them through before making a decision.

Then, the day of my doctor's appointment arrived.

After I went through all of the examinations that doctors like him usually do, he looked at my results, and said, "You're fine, you're doing good."

When he said that, I looked at him, smiled and said, "Doctor, can I have that in writing?"

He laughed at me and then left the room, and I went home.

The first thing The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said when I walked in the house was, "What did the doctor say?"

I've been waiting for this moment for a long time and I was going to savor every delicious moment.

"My dear," I said as soberly as possible, trying to hide chuckles, "the doctor said I was fine and doing good, and doctors never lie." Then I splashed a laugh all over the place. It was one of my finest moments.

I do not often win like this, but I have learned that it takes a lot of work to get to one win. For me one win is worth the effort.

While I was enjoying my win, I thought of a Bible verse. "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary" (Galatians 6:9).

It's very easy to lose heart and I've done it often. The key to all this is, don't give up, be diligent and sow the right seeds.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Why is lithium mining so bad for the environment?
-- Jane B., Atlanta, GA

Lithium is called “white gold” for good reason: the metal’s value has been growing exponentially over the last several years, in large part because it is an essential component of lithium-ion batteries, themselves indispensable in several key sustainable technologies where energy storage is of utmost importance. As electric cars, wind and solar power have grown into major players in the energy industry, lithium has become key to engineering a future free of fossil fuels.

But acquiring lithium comes at an enormous cost. As with most metals, its mining is destructive. It often works like this: Briny water, containing lithium as well as salts and other metals, is pumped to the surface from underground aquifers and mixed with freshwater. The concoction then sits in pools to allow the water to evaporate, leaving the rest of its contents behind as brightly-colored toxic sludge. Refineries use heat and chemical reactions to extract the lithium from that, refining it into powder which is then packaged and shipped to buyers around the world. The remaining wastewater is pumped to pools, where it can sit indefinitely. Any accident that releases mine contents into surrounding communities or the groundwater supply could have devastating long-term impacts.

How much environmental degradation can be tolerated locally in the name of conservation globally has led to debates in places as far-flung as Chile, Serbia and Arizona. Indigenous communities often bear the brunt of the damage, and political leaders have typically given little weight to their concerns. In Arizona, for example, an expanding lithium mine is threatening the Hualapai tribe’s cultural and historic sites. While Hualapai leaders have been fighting to protect their land, Supreme Court precedent dating to the 1820s has left them with little legal leverage to wield against the massive power of the mining industry and federal government. And for politicians who have pledged to work with native peoples to confront climate change, mining lithium and other precious metals is bringing priorities into conflict: How do you ensure the availability of materials essential to the future of renewables while protecting tribal rights?

The U.S. currently produces just one percent of the global lithium supply, according to The Wall Street Journal. But as the Biden administration moves to boost production of electric vehicles and challenge China’s market domination, mining of the metal is expected to increase dramatically in coming years. Over time, experts say, that will reduce fossil fuel emissions by making electric cars more affordable, and therefore more popular. Still, environmental leaders disagree as to whether the benefits of those cuts would outweigh the harm done to the people who rely on the mine-scarred land.

Some new research suggests a slightly more positive future scenario. A 2020 University of Córdoba study in Spain found that the batteries could be recycled and reused, and could even work effectively without cobalt, another metal that requires destructive mining practices. For now, though, lithium mining is poised to grow rapidly to meet soaring demand. As environmentally conscious consumers buy electric cars in ever-greater numbers, it’s important to be aware of the dirty process that powers those clean air vehicles.



An expanding lithium mine in Arizona is threatening the Hualapai tribe’s cultural and historic sites. Credit: Richard Martin, FlickrCC.

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South Dakota COVID-19 Report

New Confirmed and Probable Cases

475

Active Cases

1,246
+192

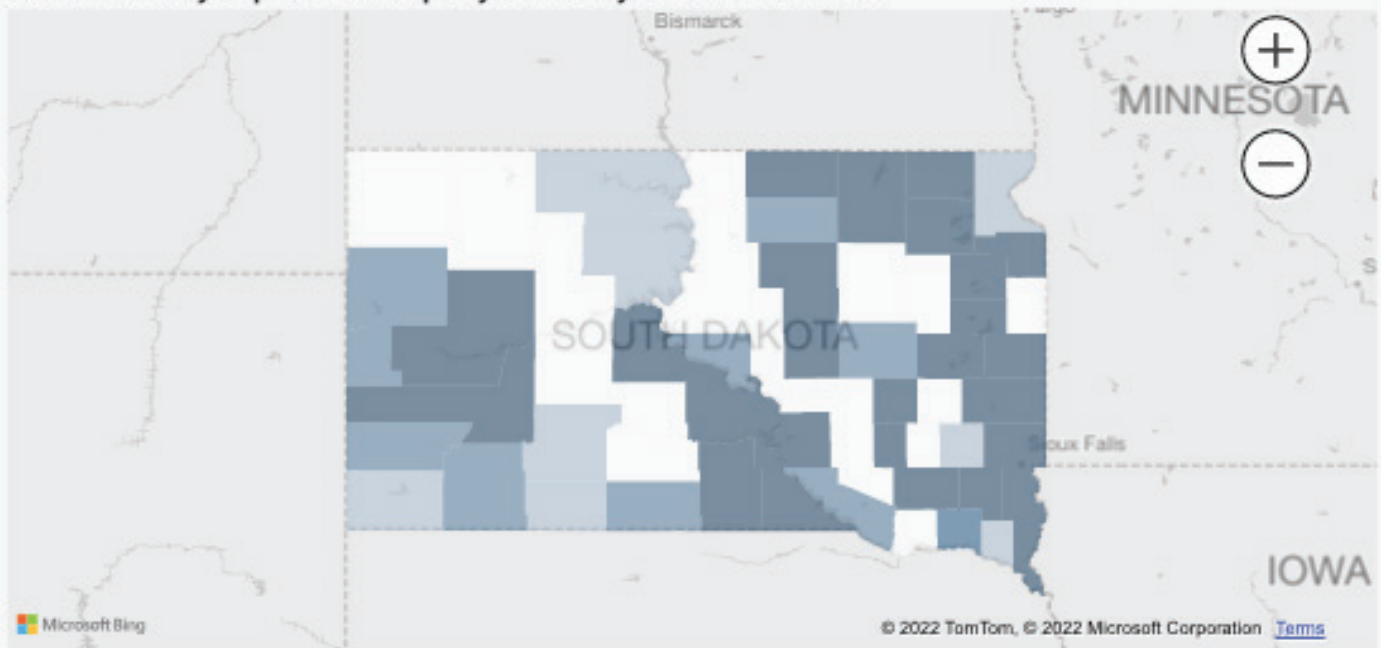
Recovered Cases

234,945

Currently Hospitalized

33

Community Spread Map by County of Residence



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

More information on U.S COVID-19 Community levels can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Total Confirmed and Probable Cases

239,110

PCR Test Positivity Rate, Last 7 Days

10.4%

5/10/2022 - 5/16/2022

Total Tests

2,182,151

Ever Hospitalized

10,819

Deaths Among Cases

2,919

% Progress (March Goal: 44233 Tests)

100%

% Progress (April Goal: 44233 Tests)

60%

% Progress (May Goal: 44233 Tests)

34%

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Brown County COVID-19 Report

New Confirmed and Probable Cases

475

Active Cases

39
+3

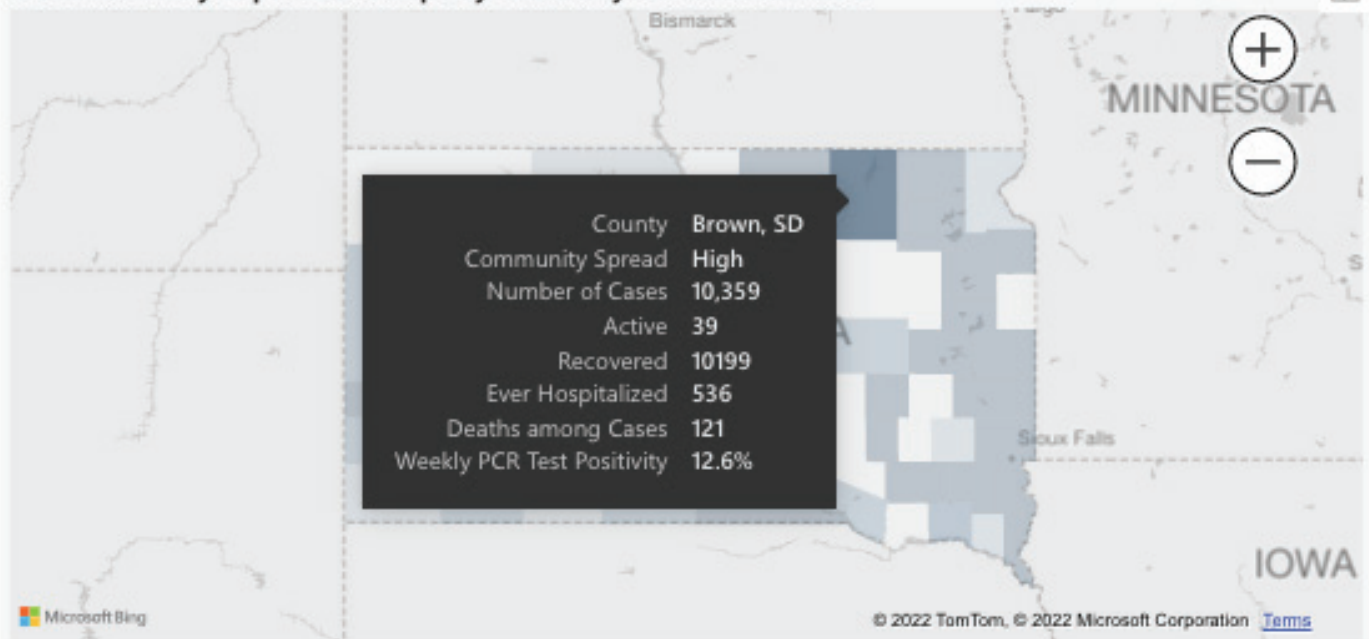
Recovered Cases

10,199

Currently Hospitalized

33

Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread Low Moderate Substantial High

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

More information on U.S COVID-19 Community levels can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Total Confirmed and Probable Cases

10,359

PCR Test Positivity Rate, Last 7 Days

11.7%

5/10/2022 - 5/16/2022

Total Tests

104,677

Ever Hospitalized

536

Deaths Among Cases

121

% Progress (March Goal: 44233 Tests)

100%

% Progress (April Goal: 44233 Tests)

60%

% Progress (May Goal: 44233 Tests)

34%

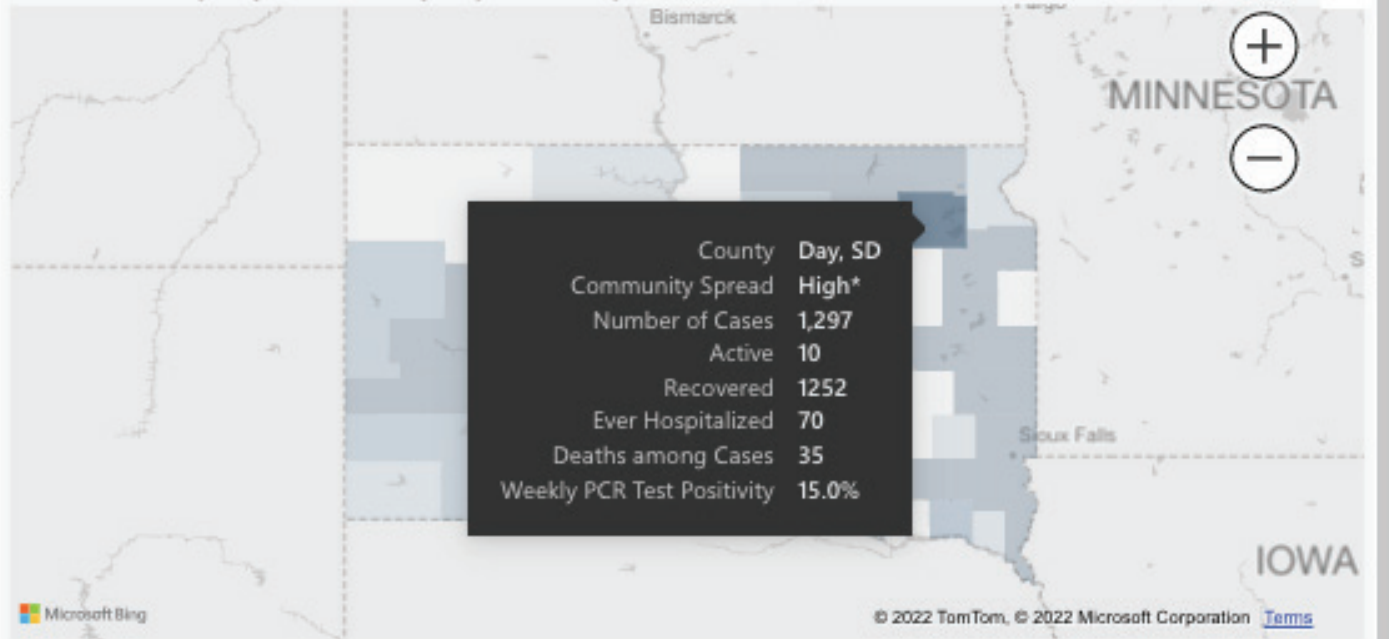
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Day County COVID-19 Report



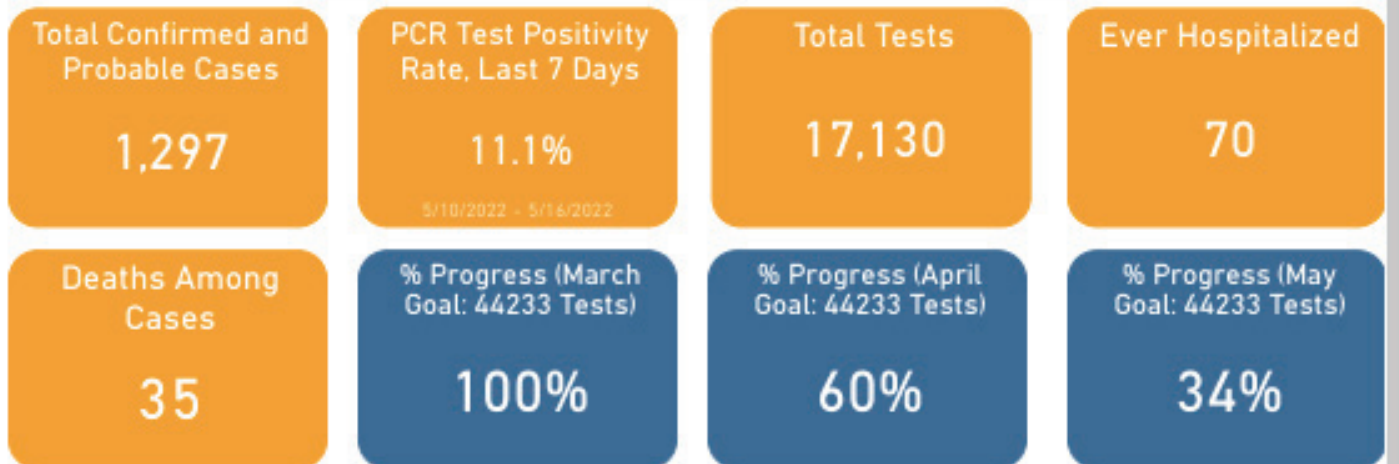
Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread: Low Moderate Substantial High

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

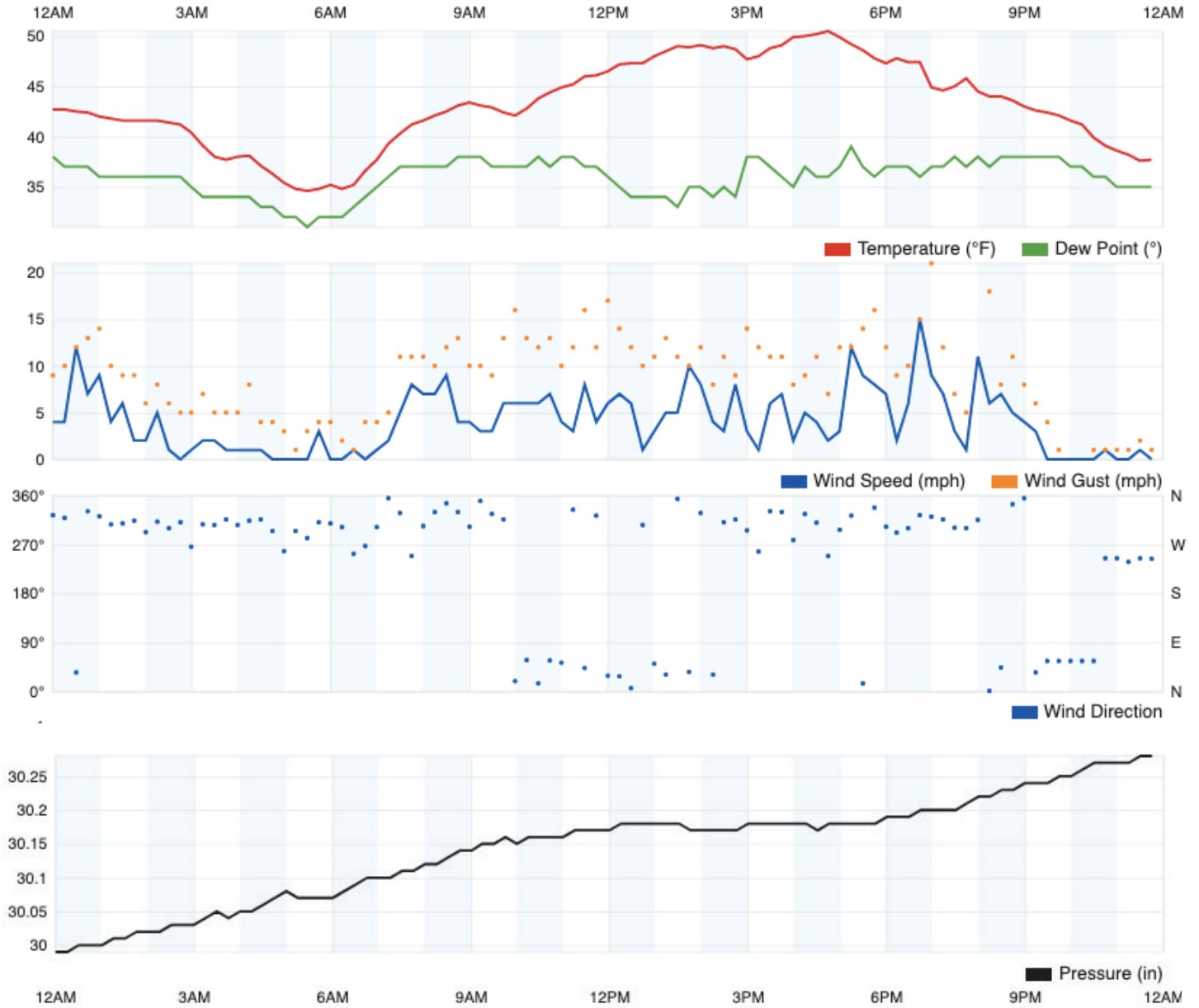
More information on U.S COVID-19 Community levels can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>



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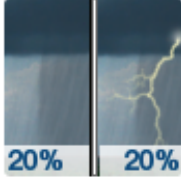


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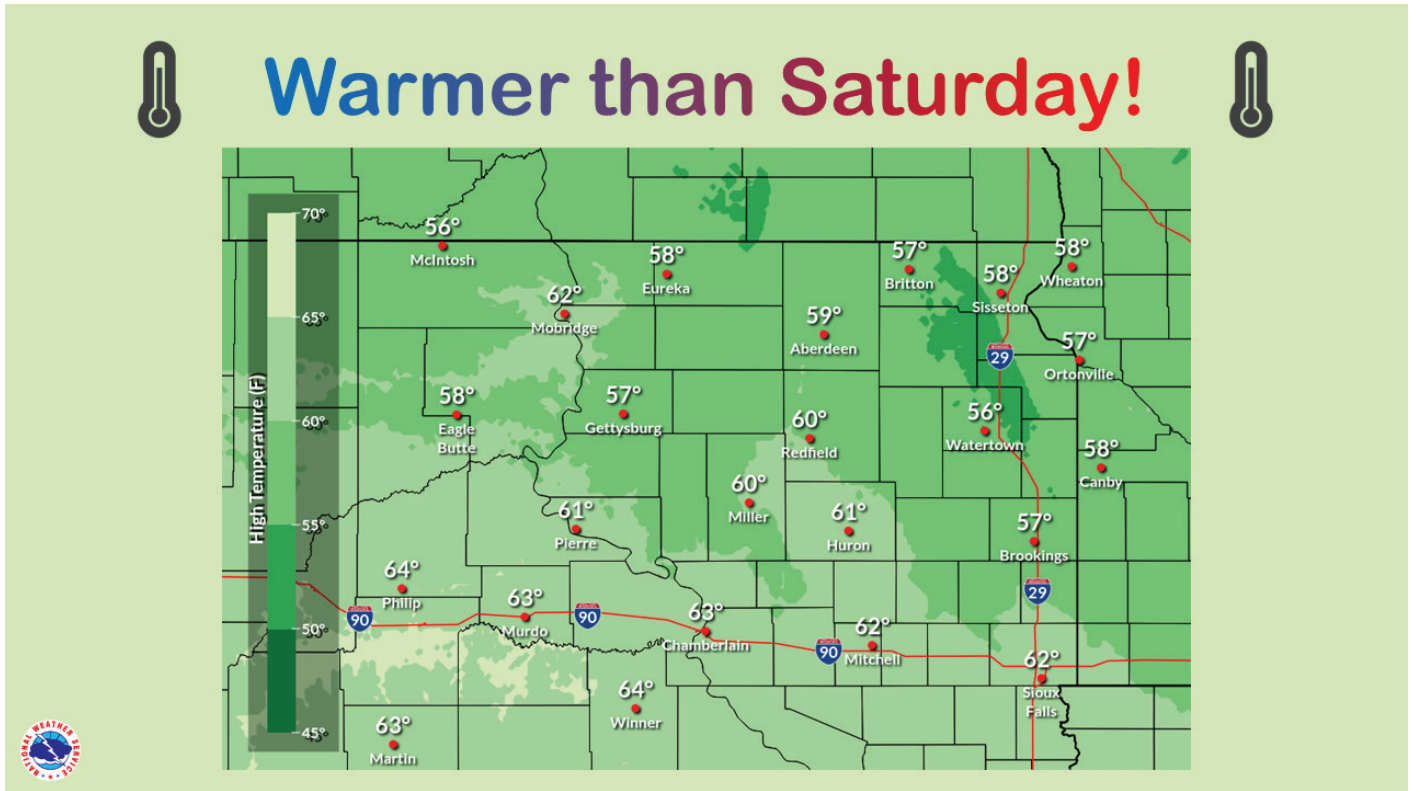
Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
Areas Frost then Partly Sunny	Increasing Clouds	Slight Chance Showers then Slight Chance T-storms	Chance Showers	Partly Sunny
High: 58 °F	Low: 39 °F	High: 62 °F	Low: 43 °F	High: 63 °F



The last few days have been cooler than average but Sunday begins a gradual warm up. Highs will range from upper 50s to low 60s Sunday and Monday.

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Today in Weather History

May 22, 1963: A late spring freeze impacted many locations reporting lows in the lower 20s. Some low temperatures include: 18 degrees in Andover; 20 degrees in Britton, 4 NW of Gann Valley, Leola and Roscoe; 21 degrees Castlewood, Ipswich, Kennebec, Redfield, 2 NW of Stephen, and 1 west of Summit; 22 degrees in Aberdeen, Eureka, 1 west of Highmore, McLaughlin, and 4 west of Mellette.

May 22, 1993: Nearly stationary thunderstorms dumped five to seven one-half inches of rain and hail within three hours on the southwest side of Sioux Falls causing major urban flooding and a flash flood on an area creek. Water and sewage flooded at least 200 basements as the storm and sewer systems backed up. Water came up to the rooftops of many cars in the Empire Mall area. Power was knocked out at the Empire Mall and to 2600 other customers in southwest Sioux Falls. Rainwater came through the roof of the Empire Mall causing damage to some stores. Hail up to an inch in diameter fell continuously for up to one and one-half hours in parts of southwest Sioux Falls causing considerable damage to hundreds of roofs, trees, and gardens. Thousands of cars received damage from hail or water in Sioux Falls. In the Silver Glen area, a flash flood turned a typically three-foot wide creek to a hundred feet wide in places. At least five houses near this creek had severe damage caused by the rushing waters. The flash flood also tore out a section of a road adjacent to the creek, buckled sidewalks, ripped away 100-year-old trees, and floated a 5500 lb truck down the road.

May 22, 2010: An EF2 tornado in eastern Walworth County crossed into western Edmunds County and intensified into a massive EF4 tornado as it struck several farms in its path. At the first farm, several large cottonwood trees were uprooted along with damage to several trailers. Three-grain bins were also destroyed with debris located several hundred yards to the northeast. The residence suffered some shingle and antenna damage. The tornado then tracked northeast to a second farm where several outbuildings were damaged or destroyed along with widespread tree damage. The primary residence at this location suffered no damage. Several grain cars were also rolled about 100 yards into the trees behind the house. The massive tornado continued to track northeast to a third farm to the north of Bowdle. The main residence suffered major damage to walls with part of the roof structure removed. Widespread tree damage was sustained with many of the trees completely debarked with only the stumps of the largest branches remaining. Two large garages were destroyed with the concrete slab wiped clean. The vehicles in one garage were rolled or tossed from 25 to 100 yards away. It is estimated that one car flew through the air 75 to 100 yards resting in the tree shelter belt to the north of the residence. Several other outbuildings were destroyed. The tornado then toppled six to eight metal power transmission towers as it moved to the north of the farm. One tower was sheared off from the concrete footings and traveled an estimated 400 yards. Ground scouring was visible along the path of these towers. The large tornado continued to track east crossing over State Highway 47 where a state radio tower was toppled. The tornado lifted shortly after that. The highest wind speeds were estimated to be from 166 to 200 mph.

1876: Denver, Colorado was drenched with 6.50 inches of rain in 24 hours, an all-time record for that location.

1986: A devastating hailstorm hit the Sichuan Province of China. Reports indicate that up to 100 people were killed, 35,000 homes destroyed and entire crops devastated.

2011: On this day, one of the most devastating tornadoes in the nation's history directly killed 158 people and injured over 1,000 in Joplin, Missouri. The Joplin EF5 tornado was the first single tornado to result in over 100 fatalities since the June 8, 1953, Flint, Michigan tornado.

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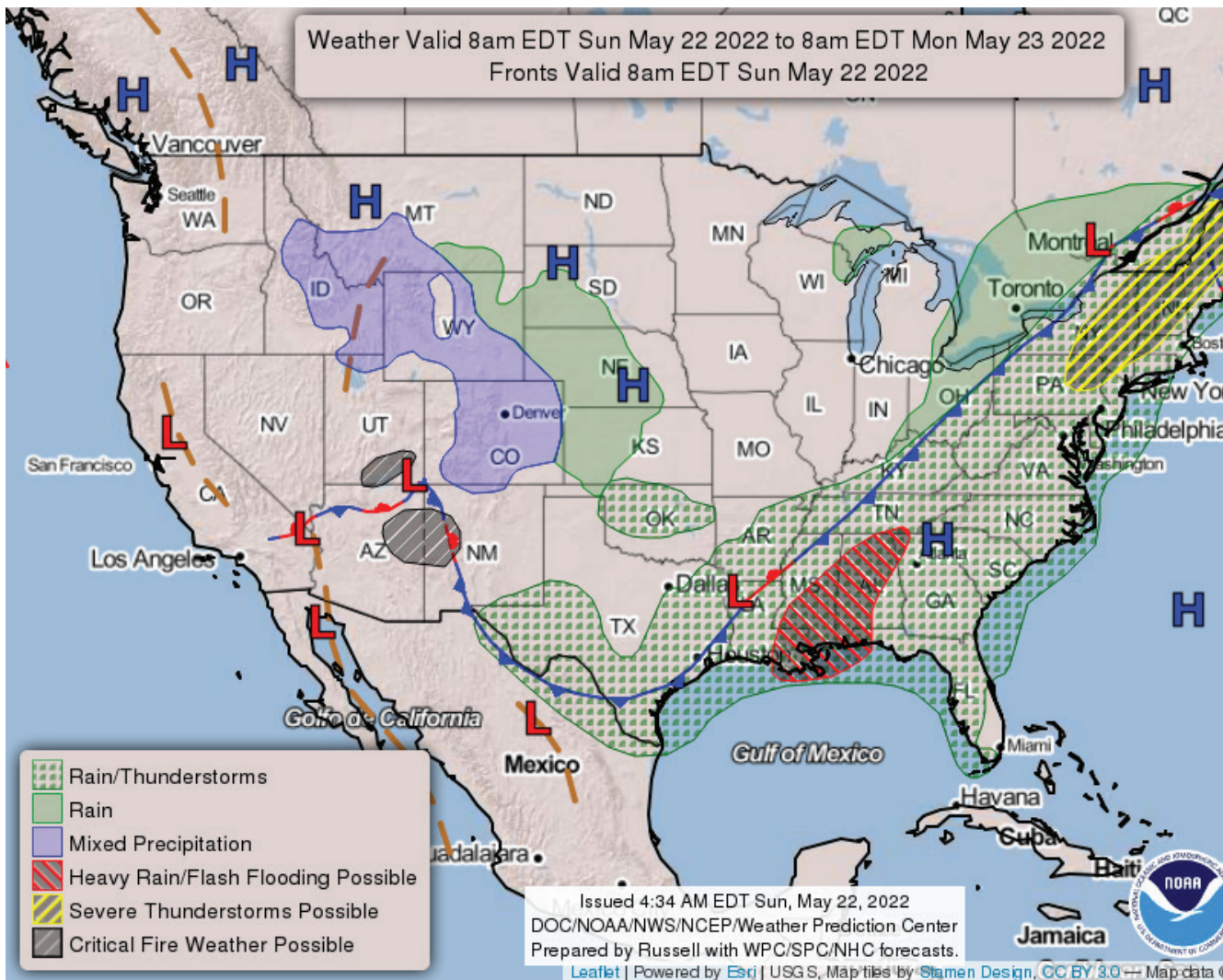
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 51 °F at 4:47 PM
Low Temp: 34 °F at 5:33 AM
Wind: 21 mph at 6:52 PM
Precip: 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 12 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 92 in 1928
Record Low: 22 in 1963
Average High: 73°F
Average Low: 47°F
Average Precip in May.: 2.42
Precip to date in May.: 2.48
Average Precip to date: 6.39
Precip Year to Date: 8.98
Sunset Tonight: 9:05:35 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:51:42 AM



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GOD'S INTENTIONS

The young couple had been married for less than a month. One evening after taking his bride to dinner, the husband nervously asked, "Dear, you wouldn't be offended if I pointed out a few of your flaws and faults, would you?"

"Why, of course not, Andrew," she responded. "After all, those little defects kept me from getting a better husband."

We all have defects - except our Lord. The Psalmist reminded us of this when he wrote, "The Lord is righteous in all His ways and loving toward all He has made."

Before the sixteenth century, the word "righteousness" was spelled "rightwise." It meant "one who is as he ought to be." Our Lord is what God intended Him to be. He committed no sin. He did not violate anyone's rights. He wronged no person. Whatever He did was right. He was "rightwise."

Our English word "holy" is closely related to the idea of being "whole" or "complete." Three feet is a "whole" yard. One hundred pennies are a "whole" dollar. Our Lord approached nothing or no one half-heartedly. He never held anything back for Himself. He was totally committed to whatever He did to the glory of God. Every obligation He had to His Father was "complete!"

Not one of us is who or what God "intended" us to be. We are not who we "ought" to be in God's eyes. Nor are we "whole" or "complete" as God designed and created us to be. We have all "fallen short" of His intentions.

But through Christ our Savior we can be!

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for providing a way for us to become who You intended us to be through Christ. We desire to be "rightwise." In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: The Lord is righteous in all His ways and loving toward all He has made. Psalm 145:17

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2022 Community Events

- 01/30/2022 84th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
01/30/2022 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed, 10am – 1pm, Groton Community Center, 109 N 3rd St, Groton,
04/07/2022 Groton CDE
04/09/2022 Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)
04/09/2022 Dueling Pianos Baseball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39 6-11:30pm
04/23/2022 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
04/24/2022 Princess Prom 4:30-8pm (Sunday after GHS Prom)
05/07/2022 Lions Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sales 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)
St John's Lutheran Church VBS 9-11am
05/30/2022 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
Transit Fundraiser at the Community Center 4-7pm (Thursday Mid-June)
06/17/2022 SDSU Alumni & Friends Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 12pm Start
06/18/2022 Groton Triathlon
Ladies Invitational at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Registration 10am Start
07/04/2022 Firecracker Couples Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Registration, 10am Start
(4th of July)
07/10/2022 Lions Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)
Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar 11am-1pm at the Groton Legion
Baseball Tourney
07/21/2022 Pro Am Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
Ferney Open Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start
How can we... "Love Groton"? United Methodist Church 9:30am
Moonlight Swim at the Swimming Pool 9-11pm for 9th grade to age 20
Golf Fundraiser Lunch at Olive Grove Golf Course 11a-1pm
08/05/2022 Wine on Nine at Olive Grove Golf Course 6pm
08/12/2022 GHS Basketball Golf Tournament
United Methodist Church VBS 5-8pm
Groton Firemen Summer Splash Day 4-5pm GHS Parking Lot
09/10/2022 Lions Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
6th Annual Doggie Day at the Swimming Pool 3:30-5pm
09/11/2022 Couples Sunflower Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 12pm
Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
10/14/2022 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am (2nd Friday in October)
10/01/2022 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
10/31/2022 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm (working day on or closest to Halloween)
10/31/2022 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
11/12/2022 Legion Post #39 Turkey Party 6:30pm (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
11/24/2022 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm (Thanksgiving)
12/03/2022 Tour of Homes & Holiday Party at Olive Grove Golf Course
Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9am-12pm
01/29/2023 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)

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The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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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

05-11-15-16-18

(five, eleven, fifteen, sixteen, eighteen)

Estimated jackpot: \$36,000

Lotto America

11-21-29-32-46, Star Ball: 8, ASB: 2

(eleven, twenty-one, twenty-nine, thirty-two, forty-six; Star Ball: eight; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$13,790,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: 143,000,000

Powerball

14-15-25-52-58, Powerball: 11, Power Play: 2

(fourteen, fifteen, twenty-five, fifty-two, fifty-eight; Powerball: eleven; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$125,000,000

Kate McKinnon, Pete Davidson departing from 'SNL'

NEW YORK (AP) — Kate McKinnon and Pete Davidson are among those departing from "Saturday Night Live," leaving the sketch institution without arguably its two most famous names after Saturday's 47th season finale.

Aidy Bryant and Kyle Mooney will also leave the cast after the episode hosted by Natasha Lyonne.

The departures represent one of the biggest cast shake-ups in years on a show that has seen unusual steadiness in recent seasons.

McKinnon, 38, won two Emmys and was nominated for nine in her 10 seasons on the show, during which her impressions included Hillary Clinton, and former Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Her comic chops with characters like alien abductee Miss Rafferty frequently drove castmates and guest hosts to lose it live on air.

McKinnon opened the show with an out-of-this-world skit, and said her final goodbyes on "Earth."

"I love ya, thanks for letting me stay awhile. Live from New York, it's Saturday night," she said to open the show.

The 28-year-old Davidson joined the cast in 2014 and has appeared in eight seasons. His own outsize personality often outshone the characters he played. His comic commentaries as himself on "Weekend Update" were often his most viral bits. And he was as well-known for his life offscreen — dating Ariana Grande and current girlfriend Kim Kardashian — as on.

"I never imagined this would be my life," Davidson said during the show. "I appreciate SNL for always having my back, for allowing me to work on myself and grow. Thank you to Lorne for never giving up on me or judging me even when everyone else was, for believing in me and allowing me to have a place I could call home with the memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you."

Bryant, 35, joined the cast at the same time as McKinnon and has been a constant in sketches ever since, getting four Emmy nominations of her own.

Mooney, 37, appeared in nine seasons starting in 2013.

Arkansas governor is odd man out in his own state's primary

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By ANDREW DeMILLO Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Based on the barrage of television ads and mailers leading up to Tuesday's primary election in Arkansas, it's obvious who the most influential Republicans in the state are.

Tom Cotton's making the case for fellow Sen. John Boozman, talking up his conservative bona fides while the two-term senator fends off challenges from the right. Donald Trump's image appears in ads for Boozman and for Sarah Sanders, who served as the former president's White House press secretary and is now running for governor. Sanders, whose endorsement is almost as sought after as Trump's, is helping make the closing argument for Boozman in a TV ad.

But conspicuously missing from the ads and the campaign trail is the state's top elected Republican, Gov. Asa Hutchinson, who is entering the final stretch of his term with strong approval ratings and a raised national profile. Hutchinson's advisers say that's because he's concentrating on helping more Republicans nationally as he looks to the future — which might include a White House bid.

But it's also a sign of just how much the party that Hutchinson spent decades building here has shifted farther to the right and how much the state's politics have become nationalized. In competitive primaries where Republicans are trying to out-Trump each other, even a longtime GOP figure in the state like Hutchinson doesn't provide as much of a bump, especially if he's not known for being very hard-edged.

"There are other, flashier wagons for them to hitch their horses to," Janine Parry, a political science professor at the University of Arkansas, said.

And Hutchinson — who tweets Bible verses every Sunday morning and is often flanked by charts and graphs at news conferences — is anything but flashy.

Sanders, who's widely favored to win the Republican nomination, has been endorsed by Hutchinson but rarely mentions the governor. When asked how she'd govern differently from Hutchinson, Sanders says she'd rather focus on her own approach.

"I'm very much my own person. I don't like to compare myself to anybody," Sanders, whose dad served as governor for 10 years, said. "I constantly get asked, 'will you be more like your dad?' or 'will you be like Trump?' I'm going to be Sarah Sanders."

Sanders has avoided publicly criticizing Hutchinson, even when her former boss labeled the outgoing governor a "RINO" — Republican in Name Only — for his decision to veto an anti-transgender law. Sanders said she would have signed the measure, which bans gender confirming treatments for transgender youth. She's running on a promise to phase out the state's personal income tax following a series of cuts Hutchinson has championed over the years. When Hutchinson endorsed Sanders in November, she praised his work on cutting taxes.

Sanders faces a long-shot challenge in the primary from Doc Washburn, a former talk radio host and podcaster who points to Hutchinson's endorsement as a disqualifying factor for Sanders. Five Democrats are seeking the party's nomination for the office, with nuclear engineer and ordained minister Chris Jones the frontrunner.

Sanders has pitched in to help the soft-spoken Boozman adopt a more aggressive tone in tune with the scorched-earth political climate.

"I know John Boozman as a champion of President Trump's America First agenda," Sanders says in a TV ad for the senator.

A super PAC supporting one challenger, former NFL player Jake Bequette, has been running ads questioning Boozman's conservative credentials. Boozman's other challengers include conservative activist Jan Morgan and pastor Heath Loftis. Three Democrats — Natalie James, Jack Foster and Dan Whitfield — are seeking the party's nomination for Boozman's seat.

Hutchinson, who declined to be interviewed for this story, has endorsed several legislative candidates in Arkansas and given money through his political action committee but advisers say his focus has been more on the national stage. Hutchinson has been donating to candidates elsewhere.

"It's just a little bit of a shift in focus on the political front as he looks to the future and says, 'how do I help candidates across the country?'" Jon Gilmore, chief political strategist for Hutchinson, said.

Hutchinson has raised his profile as chairman of the National Governors Association and has become a

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frequent guest on Sunday talk shows, often splitting with Trump and warning Republicans to look ahead rather than fixating on the 2020 election. He's said his decision on a 2024 presidential bid won't be affected by whether Trump joins the race.

He's also battled with the right flank of his party, pushing back against Republicans opposing rape and incest exceptions in abortion bans and against those who would bar businesses from requiring COVID-19 vaccinations.

Hutchinson's distancing from Trump has given him a broader appeal among independents and some Democrats that's helped keep his approval numbers strong, political observers say. Sanders has arrived at similar numbers with a much more polarizing approach.

"They built their houses very differently," Republican strategist Robert Coon said.

Russia presses Donbas offensive as Polish leader visits Kyiv

By ELENA BECATOROS, OLEKSANDR STASHEVSKYI and CIARAN McQUILLAN Associated Press
POKROVSK, Ukraine (AP) — Russia pressed its offensive in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region Sunday as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the outcome of the grueling conflict would determine whether his country's fate lies with the West or under Moscow's domination.

After declaring its full control of a sprawling seaside steel plant that was the last defense holdout in the port city of Mariupol, the Russian military launched artillery and missile attacks in Ukraine's industrial heartland, seeking to expand the territory Moscow-backed separatists have held since 2014.

In a Saturday night video address to the nation, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the situation in the Donbas as "really hard" but "the fact that we are able to say this on the 87th day of a full-scale war against Russia is good news."

"Every day that our defenders take away from these offensive plans of Russia, disrupting them, is a concrete contribution to the approach of the main day. The desired day that we are all looking forward to and fighting for: Victory Day," Zelenskyy said.

Zelenskyy's remarks came as Poland's president prepared to meet with him to support Ukraine's goal of becoming a candidate for European Union membership, a issue set to be decided at an EU summit in late June.

As the West rallies behind Ukraine, Polish President Andrzej Duda made an unannounced visit to Kyiv and on Sunday became the first foreign leader to address the Ukrainian parliament since the start of the war.

Poland, which has welcomed millions of Ukrainian refugees since Russia invaded its neighbor, has become a major gateway for Western humanitarian aid and weapons going into Ukraine. The government in Warsaw also is a strong supporter of Ukraine's desire to join the European Union.

Zelenskyy stressed Saturday that the EU should consider Ukraine's desire to join the 27-nation bloc as soon as possible within the context of Russia's invasion.

"I want to emphasize that our European integration path is not just about politics," Zelenskyy said. "It's about quality of life. And about the fact that Ukrainians perceive the values of life in the same way as the vast majority of Europeans."

Russia appeared to have made slow grinding moves forward in the Donbas in recent days. It intensified efforts to capture Sievierodonetsk, the main city under Ukrainian control in Luhansk province, which together with Donetsk province makes up the Donbas.

Lujansk Gov. Serhii Haidai said the only functioning hospital in the city has just three doctors and enough supplies for 10 days.

On Sunday, the British Ministry of Defense said Russia's only operational company of BMP-T Terminator tank support vehicles, which are designed to protect main battle tanks, "has likely been deployed to the Sievierodonetsk axis of the Donbas offensive."

It said, however, with a maximum of 10 of the vehicles deployed, "they are unlikely to have a significant impact on the campaign."

In a general staff morning report, Russia also said that it was preparing to resume its offensive toward

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Slovyansk, a city in Donetsk province that is critical to Russia's objective of capturing all of eastern Ukraine and saw fierce fighting last month after Moscow's troops backed off from Kyiv.

Russian shelling on Saturday killed seven civilians and injured 10 more elsewhere in Donetsk province, the regional governor said.

A monastery in the village of Bohorodichne was evacuated after being hit by a Russian airstrike, the regional police said Saturday. About 100 monks, nuns and children had been seeking safe shelter in the basement of the church and no one was hurt, the police said in a Facebook post.

Zelenskyy on Saturday emphasized that the Donbas remains part of Ukraine and his forces were fighting to liberate it.

With Russia claiming to have taken prisoner nearly 2,500 Ukrainian fighters from the besieged Mariupol steel plant, concerns grew about their fate and the future facing remaining residents of the city, now in ruins with more than 20,000 residents feared dead.

The Russian Defense Ministry released video of Ukrainian soldiers being detained after announcing that its forces had removed the last holdouts from the Mariupol plant's extensive underground tunnels. It said a total of 2,439 had surrendered.

Family members of the fighters, who came from a variety of military and law enforcement units, have pleaded for them to be given rights as prisoners of war and eventually returned to Ukraine. Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said Saturday that Ukraine "will fight for the return" of every one of them.

The Russian Defense Ministry on Saturday released video of its troops taking into custody Serhiy Volynskyy, the commander of the Ukrainian Navy's 36th Special Marine Brigade, which was one of the main forces defending the steel plant. The Associated Press has not been able to independently verify the date, location and conditions of the video.

The Azovstal steel plant for weeks was the last defense holdout in Mariupol and became a symbol of Ukrainian tenacity. Its seizure gave Russian President Vladimir Putin a badly wanted victory in the war he began nearly three months ago.

Denis Pushilin, the pro-Kremlin head of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, vowed the Ukrainian fighters from the plant would face tribunals. He said the fighters included some foreign nationals, though he did not provide details.

A prominent member of Russia's parliament, Leonid Slutsky, said Moscow was studying the possibility of exchanging the Azovstal fighters for Viktor Medvedchuk, a wealthy Ukrainian with close ties to Putin who faces criminal charges in Ukraine, the Russian news agency Interfax reported.

Slutsky later walked back those remarks, saying he agreed with Pushilin that their fate should be decided by a tribunal.

The Ukrainian government has not commented on Russia's claim of capturing Azovstal. Ukraine's military had told the fighters their mission was complete and they could come out. It described their extraction as an evacuation, not a mass surrender.

Mariupol, which is part of the Donbas, was blockaded early in the war and became a frightening example to people elsewhere in the country of the hunger, terror and death they might face if the Russians surrounded their communities.

The mayor of Mariupol warned Saturday the city is facing a health and sanitation "catastrophe" from mass burials in shallow pits across the ruined city as well as the breakdown of sewage systems.

Mayor Vadim Boychenko said summer rains threaten to contaminate water sources as he pressed Russian forces to allow residents to leave the city. An estimated 100,000 of the 450,000 people who resided in Mariupol before the war remain.

"In addition to the humanitarian catastrophe created by the (Russian) occupiers and collaborators, the city is on the verge of an outbreak of infectious diseases," he said on the messaging app Telegram.

With Russia controlling the city, Ukrainian authorities are likely to face delays in documenting evidence of alleged Russian atrocities in Mariupol, including the bombings of a maternity hospital and a theater where hundreds of civilians had taken cover.

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Satellite images in April showed what appeared to be mass graves just outside Mariupol, where local officials accused Russia of concealing the slaughter by burying up to 9,000 civilians.

Heat Alert: Miami beats Boston 109-103 for 2-1 series lead

By JIMMY GOLEN AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Still angry over a blowout loss in Miami that cost them home-court advantage in the Eastern Conference finals, the Heat jumped to a 26-point first-half lead over the Boston Celtics in Game 3.

Then Bam Adebayo made sure it was enough — just barely — to give Miami a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

The Heat center scored 31 points with 10 rebounds, filling a void left by injured All-Star Jimmy Butler and leading Miami to a 109-103 victory Saturday night. Adebayo also had six assists and four of the Heat's franchise postseason record 19 steals.

"He did his version of what Jimmy does: 'Do what's necessary for the game,'" Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Tonight we needed the scoring and we needed that offensive punch early on.

"Then, when Jimmy was out in the second half, he just stabilized us," Spoelstra added. "It got a little gnarly out there and when it did, we were able to get the ball to Bam and just get something coherent."

The Celtics never led, but they cut a 46-20 deficit to one point, 93-92, with 2:40 to play on a 3-pointer from Jaylen Brown, who finished with 40 points. Max Strus answered with a 3 and then Adebayo bounced off defender Al Horford and made a basket at the shot clock buzzer to give Miami a six-point cushion.

The Celtics never came any closer.

Game 4 is Monday night in Boston.

"In the previous game, as everybody noticed, they beat us like we stole something," Adebayo said. "That should wake everybody up. Getting beat at home like that, that says it all."

In a bruising game that saw Butler and Boston's Jayson Tatum and Marcus Smart leave with injuries — though both Celtics returned — Kyle Lowry came back from a four-game absence and scored 11 with six assists for the Heat. P.J. Tucker — like Lowry, a game-time decision — scored 17 for Miami.

Horford scored 20 points with 14 rebounds, and Smart scored 16. Tatum had 10 points on 3-for-14 shooting; he also had six turnovers, and Brown committed seven of Boston's 2022 playoff-high 24 turnovers.

"Six turnovers, and no field goals in the second half — that is unacceptable," Tatum said. "Honestly, I've got to play better. I feel like I left the guys hanging tonight. That's on me."

After losing Game 2 at home by 25 points, the Heat led 62-37 with under three minutes left in the second quarter. Then Boston scored the last 10 points of the half to claw its way back into the game.

Things got worse for Miami when it announced at halftime that Butler, who scored 41 in the series opener, would not return with right knee inflammation.

Miami still led by 15, 87-72, after three, and made it a 17-point game on Adebayo's basket to start the fourth. But the Celtics ran off the next nine points to get within single digits for the first time since the first three minutes of the game. Trailing 93-80, the Celtics scored 12 straight points — 10 by Brown — to make it a one-point game with 2:40 left.

Miami scored the next seven points.

"We didn't think that it was all of a sudden going to be an easy series and they were going to roll over," Boston coach Ime Udoka said. "We bounced back from Game 1 to Game 2, and they were going to do the same that and we had to match that and came out flat for whatever reason."

IN AND OUT

Boston opened the second with a basket to make it a 13-point game, but the building went silent when Smart, the Defensive Player of the Year, went down in a collision with Lowry while going for a loose ball and needed to be helped to the locker room.

Smart returned just five minutes later, drawing a huge cheer when the scoreboard showed him walking down the tunnel back toward the court. He checked back in with seven minutes left in the third and hit a 3-pointer that made it a 10-point game, 72-62, and forced the Heat to call timeout.

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The situation was repeated when Tatum went down in obvious pain with five minutes left in the fourth. He went straight to the locker room, clutching his right side, but also returned to the cheers of the crowd.

"My neck got caught in a weird position," Tatum said. "Obviously, I went down and felt some pain and discomfort in my neck and down my arm. I went to the back, got it checked on, and started to gain some feeling back and got it checked by the doctors and ran some tests and decided to give it a go."

Lowry missed eight of the Heat's previous 10 games with a right hamstring strain, last playing in Game 4 of Miami's second-round series with Philadelphia. Tucker had a sore left knee but was also in the starting lineup.

"I do not have any updates on anybody," Spoelstra said. "We're just going to go back to our cave and just regroup and maybe I'll have some information for you tomorrow."

The Celtics played without center Robert Williams III, who missed three games in the second round against Milwaukee with soreness and a bone bruise in his surgically repaired left knee. Daniel Theis started in his place. Derrick White returned after missing Game 2 to be at the birth of his first child.

TIP-INS

The Heat forced 24 turnovers in all to lead to 33 Miami points. The Heat also had nine turnovers that led to nine Celtics points. ... Miami's bench outscored Boston's 26-16. ... The Heat shot 64% in the first quarter, but finished at 46.7%. ... Penn State coach and former Celtics assistant Micah Shrewsberry and Providence College coach Ed Cooley were both in attendance.

Biden pushes economic, security aims as he ends SKorea visit

By JOSH BOAK and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — President Joe Biden tended to both business and security interests Sunday as he wrapped up a three-day trip to South Korea, first showcasing Hyundai's pledge to invest at least \$10 billion in the United States and later mingling with troops at a nearby military base.

Biden's visit to Osan Air Base, where thousands of U.S. and South Korean service members monitor the rapidly evolving North Korean nuclear threat, was his final stop before he arrived in Tokyo later Sunday.

"You are the front line, right here in this room," the president said in a command center with maps of the Korean Peninsula projected across screens on a wall.

It was a day that brought together two key messages that Biden is trying to project during his first trip to Asia as president.

At a time of high inflation and simmering dissatisfaction at home, Biden emphasized his global mission to strengthen the American economy by convincing foreign companies like Hyundai to launch new operations in the United States. And he wanted to demonstrate solidarity with nervous Asian allies who live in the shadow of North Korea's nuclear weapons and grew skeptical of U.S. security commitments while President Donald Trump was in office.

Earlier Sunday, Biden brushed aside questions about any possible provocation by North Korea, such as testing a nuclear weapon or ballistic missile during his trip, saying, "We are prepared for anything North Korea does."

Asked if he had a message for the country's leader, Kim Jong Un, Biden offered a clipped response: "Hello. Period."

It was another sharp departure from Trump, who once said he "fell in love" with Kim.

Biden's first appearance of the day was alongside Hyundai chairman Eusiu Chung to highlight the company's expanded investment in the United States, including \$5.5 billion for an electric vehicle and battery factory in Georgia.

"Electric vehicles are good for our climate goals, but they're also good for jobs," Biden said. "And they're good for business."

Chung also said his company would spend another \$5 billion on artificial intelligence for autonomous vehicles and other technologies.

The major U.S. investment by a South Korean company was a reflection of how the countries are le-

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veraging their longstanding military ties into a broader economic partnership.

Earlier in his trip, Biden toured a computer chip plant run by Samsung, the Korean electronics giant that plans to build a \$17 billion production facility in Texas.

Biden has made greater economic cooperation with South Korea a priority, saying on Saturday that "it will bring our two countries even closer together, cooperating even more closely than we already do, and help strengthen our supply chains, secure them against shocks and give our economies a competitive edge."

The pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February has forced a deeper rethinking of national security and economic alliances. Coronavirus outbreaks led to shortages of computer chips, autos and other goods that the Biden administration says can ultimately be fixed by having more manufacturing domestically and with trusted allies.

Hyundai's Georgia factory is expected to employ 8,100 workers and produce up to 300,000 vehicles annually, with plans for construction to begin early next year and production to start in 2025 near the unincorporated town of Ellabell.

But the Hyundai plant shows that there are also tradeoffs as Biden pursues his economic agenda.

The president has tried to link the production of electric vehicles to automakers with unionized workforces, and during his trip he called on Korean companies to hire union labor for their U.S. operations.

However, there has been no guarantee that the Hyundai Georgia plant's workers will be unionized.

Georgia is a "right-to-work" state, meaning workers may not be required to join a union or make payments to a union as a condition of employment.

A Hyundai spokesperson did not respond to an email asking if the Georgia plant would be unionized. A senior Biden administration official, who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity, said there was no contradiction between Biden encouraging investors to embrace union workforces while his administration does "whatever it can" to encourage investment and bring jobs to the U.S.

Biden passed on visiting the demilitarized zone on the North and South's border, a regular stop for U.S. presidents when visiting Seoul. Biden had visited the DMZ as vice president and was more interested in seeing Osan Air Base, said White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan.

While on base, Biden chatted with the troops and their families at the bowling alley and indulged his passion for ice cream — twice over. First chocolate chip, then vanilla and chocolate.

Biden and Korean President Yoon Sook Yeol on Saturday announced they will consider expanded joint military exercises to deter the nuclear threat posed by North Korea.

The push toward deterrence by Biden and Yoon, who is less than two weeks into his presidency, marks a shift by the leaders from their predecessors. Trump had considered scrapping the exercises and expressed affection for North Korea's Kim. And the last South Korean president, Moon Jae-in, remained committed to dialogue with Kim to the end of his term despite being repeatedly rebuffed by the North.

Yoon campaigned on a promise to strengthen the U.S.-South Korea relationship. He reiterated at a dinner on Saturday in Biden's honor that it was his goal to move the relationship "beyond security" issues with North Korea, which have long dominated the relationship.

"I will try and design a new future vision of our alliances with you, Mr. President," Yoon said.

During the Japan leg of Biden's trip, he will meet with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Monday and lay out his vision for negotiating a new trade agreement, the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.

Soon after arriving in Tokyo on Sunday evening, Biden stopped by the U.S. chief of mission's residence to take part in a room dedication for Norman Mineta, the late U.S. transportation secretary.

Mineta, a former Democratic congressman who served in the Cabinets of both George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, died earlier this month. He was the son of Japanese immigrants, and he and his family were among those held by the U.S. government in Japanese interment camps during World War II.

A central theme for the trip is to tighten U.S. alliances in the Pacific to counter China's influence in the region.

But within the administration, there's an ongoing debate about whether to lift some of the \$360 billion in Trump-era tariffs on China. U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen recently said some of the tariffs are

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doing more harm to U.S. businesses and consumers than they are to China.

On Tuesday, Japan hosts Biden at a summit for the Quad, a four-country strategic alliance that also includes Australia and India. The U.S. president will then return to Washington.

Bangkok votes for governor in 1st election since 2014 coup

By GRANT PECK Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Voters in the Thai capital headed to the polls Sunday to elect a new governor in a contest delayed by a military coup that still reflects a divided country with main candidates either supported by the conservative establishment or the liberal opposition.

A record 31 candidates entered the race, but the battle being watched most closely is between two who registered as independents.

One is former Transport Minister Chadchart Sittipunt, a front-runner, and the other Asawin Kwanmuang, who served as the military-appointed governor since 2016. He stepped down in March to contest the election.

The candidates campaigned on issues including congestion, pollution and persistent flooding. There are 4.4 million registered voters in the city, the country's biggest. Apart from governor, they're also electing city council members. Bangkok's last gubernatorial election was in 2013, a year before the military toppled a democratically elected government.

Neither the main opposition party in Parliament, Pheu Thai, nor the ruling Palang Pracharath party, associated with the military and the ruling conservative establishment, officially have candidates on the ballot.

However, 55-year-old Chadchart is seen by both supporters and opponents as a proxy for Pheu Thai, for which he stood as a prime ministerial candidate in the 2019 general election. He served as transport minister in a Pheu Thai government in 2012-2014.

His main rival is 71-year-old Asawin, who was appointed governor in 2016 by Prayuth Chan-ocha. As army commander, Prayuth seized power in the 2014 coup to lead a military regime, and he dismissed the previous governor over corruption allegations. Prayuth was returned to office following the 2019 election as prime minister in a coalition government.

Prayuth, in power for eight years, is expected soon to face a no-confidence motion in Parliament, and rivals on his own side have long been rumored to be seeking to remove him. Even if he survives, there must be a general election by early next year.

Prayuth was able to rule by decree as head of a military government but has struggled within the limits of parliamentary democracy, taking fire especially for fumbling Thailand's coronavirus vaccination program and recovery plan.

Other candidates include Suchatvee Suwansawat of the Democrat Party. He's seen as having an outside chance if conservative voters support him instead of Asawin. The Democrats have historically been a power in Bangkok but have fractured badly in the past two decades of polarized politics that have seen street violence and two coups.

A fourth candidate whose results will be carefully watched is Wiroj Lakkhanaadisorn from the progressive opposition Move Forward Party, which takes a more critical stance than Pheu Thai toward the government.

Political science professor Thitinan Pongsudhirak of Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University noted this was the first significant election since the 2014 coup.

"People are hungry to have a say," he said in an email to The Associated Press. "The result, if it clearly goes against ruling Palang Pracharat, would be consequential for Parliament, Prayuth and no-confidence."

Bangkok is administratively a province as well as a city, and the only one where residents can choose their own governor, who is appointed elsewhere by the country's Interior Ministry.

Biden says monkeypox cases something to 'be concerned about'

By JOSH BOAK and CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

PYEONGTAEK, South Korea (AP) — President Joe Biden said Sunday that recent cases of monkeypox

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that have been identified in Europe and the United States were something "to be concerned about."

In his first public comments on the disease, Biden added: "It is a concern in that if it were to spread it would be consequential."

The president was asked about the disease as he spoke to reporters at Osan Air Base in South Korea, where he visited troops before taking off for Japan to continue his first trip to Asia as president.

"They haven't told me the level of exposure yet but it is something that everybody should be concerned about," Biden said. He added that work was underway to determine what vaccine might be effective.

Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security adviser, told reporters aboard the flight to Tokyo that the United States has a supply of "vaccine that is relevant to treating monkeypox."

"We have vaccine available to be deployed for that purpose," he said. Sullivan said Biden was getting regular updates on the outbreak.

Monkeypox is rarely identified outside of Africa, but as of Friday, there were 80 confirmed cases worldwide, including at least two in the United States, and another 50 suspected ones.

Although the disease belongs to the same virus family as smallpox, its symptoms are milder. People usually recover within two to four weeks without needing to be hospitalized, but the disease occasionally is deadly.

Albanese elected Australia's leader in complex poll result

By TREVOR MARSHALLSEA Associated Press

SYDNEY (AP) — Australians awoke on Sunday to a new prime minister in Anthony Albanese, the center-left Labor Party leader whose ascension to the nation's top job from being raised in social housing by a single mother on a disability pension was said to reflect the country's changed fabric.

The 59-year-old career politician, who has described himself as the only candidate with a "non-Anglo Celtic name" to run for prime minister in the 121 years the office has existed, referred to his humble upbringing in the inner-Sydney suburb of Camperdown while thanking electors for making him the country's 31st leader.

"It says a lot about our great country that a son of a single mom who was a disability pensioner, who grew up in public housing down the road in Camperdown, can stand before you tonight as Australia's prime minister," Albanese told jubilant supporters after tipping Scott Morrison out of office to end nine years of conservative rule.

"Every parent wants more for the next generation than they had. My mother dreamt of a better life for me. And I hope that my journey in life inspires Australians to reach for the stars," he said.

It's unclear whether Albanese's party could form a majority government or have to rely on the support of an increased number of independents and minor party lawmakers who won seats in Saturday's election, in results analysts described as extremely complicated, and which also mirrored the face of modern Australia.

With counting set to continue for many days as postal votes are tallied, one prospect that emerged was that Albanese may need to be sworn in as acting prime minister to attend Tuesday's Quad summit in Tokyo with U.S. President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Biden, asked about his message for Albanese just before he departed South Korea on Sunday to head to Tokyo, said, "I'm looking forward to seeing him and the Quad matters."

Biden also said he had called Albanese.

Australian National University constitutional law expert professor Donald Rothwell said that Australia's governor general, the representative of the country's ultimate head of state, Queen Elizabeth II, would "only be prepared to swear in Albanese as 'Acting PM' until such time as the results are much clearer."

Albanese, speaking to reporters on Sunday morning, merely said he would be among "five people who'll be sworn in tomorrow (Monday)" before attending the Quad meeting, then returning to Australia

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on Wednesday when "we'll get down to business." The four colleagues he mentioned included lawmakers set to step into key financial portfolios and his deputy leader.

The election delivered a clear rebuke to Australia's traditional two-party system, both to Labor and the heavily defeated conservative coalition led by the Liberal party's outgoing Prime Minister Morrison. The major parties bled votes to fringe parties and independents, including in many seats considered Labor or coalition strongholds.

Needing 76 seats in the lower chamber, the House of Representatives, to govern in its own right, Labor on Sunday afternoon was being called the winner in 71, with 67% of votes counted, according to the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

The Liberal-National coalition was ahead in just 52 — drastically down from its bare-majority 76 in the 2019 poll. Analysts described the result as a fierce rejection of Morrison and his team's handling of many issues in its three-year term including climate, COVID-19, women's rights, political integrity and natural disasters such as bushfires and floods.

A total of 15 seats had been declared for independents or minor party candidates. Of these, three were from the environment-centric Green party and 12 were non-aligned politicians, with up to nine of those so-called teal independents.

In a new wave in Australian politics, the teal independents are marketed as a greener shade than the Liberal Party's traditional blue color and want stronger government action on reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions than either the government or Labor are proposing.

Most of their successful candidates are women, their rise seen partly as a repudiation of Morrison for his handling of gender issues including sexual harassment scandals that have rocked Parliament during his latest three-year term.

While Labor will form either a majority or minority government, both major parties lost ground, with support for the coalition dropping by more than 6% from the 2019 election, and Labor's vote falling by around 1.2% as of Sunday morning.

Albanese vowed to bring Australians together, increase investment in social services and "end the climate wars."

Speaking to reporters while walking his dog in his electorate on Sunday morning, he evoked a more cooperative approach to parliamentary business — possibly unavoidable if Labor cannot form a majority government — and described his victory as "a really big moment."

"It's something that's a big moment in my life, but what I want it to be is a big moment for the country," he said. "I do want to change the country. I want to change the way that politics operates in this country."

Greens leader Adam Bandt concurred, saying his party wanted to work with the next government to "tackle the climate crisis" and an "inequality crisis" he said was threatening Australia.

"The Liberal vote went backwards, the Labor vote went backwards," he told reporters. "More people turned to the Greens than ever before ... because we said that politics needs to be done differently."

Albanese, who revealed in a 2016 interview he had tracked down his biological father in Italy in 2009, four years before his death, said his surname and that of new government Senate leader Penny Wong, who is of Chinese ancestry, reflected modern, multi-cultural Australia.

"I think it's good ... someone with a non-Anglo Celtic surname is the leader in the House of Representatives and that someone with a surname like Wong is the leader of the government in the Senate," he said.

Labor has promised more financial assistance and a robust social safety net as Australia grapples with the highest inflation since 2001 and soaring housing prices.

The party also plans to increase minimum wages, and on the foreign policy front it proposed to establish a Pacific defense school to train neighboring armies in response to China's potential military presence on the Solomon Islands on Australia's doorstep.

It wants to tackle climate change with a more ambitious 43% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.

Morrison, who became prime minister after an internal party coup in 2018, said he would stand down as Liberal leader.

Australia's next prime minister came from humble beginnings

By ROD McGUIRK Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australia's Prime Minister-elect Anthony Albanese is a politician molded by his humble start to life as the only child of a single mother who raised him on a pension in gritty inner-Sydney suburbia.

He is also a hero of multicultural Australia, describing himself as the only candidate with a "non-Anglo Celtic name" to run for prime minister in the 121 years that the office has existed.

His friends pronounce his name "Alban-ez," like bolognese. But having been repeatedly corrected over the years by Italians, the nationality of his absent father, he introduces himself and is widely known as "Alban-easy."

He shared the stage during his victory speech with Senator Penny Wong, who will become foreign minister. Her father was Malaysian-Chinese and her mother European Australian.

"I think it's good. Someone with a non-Anglo Celtic surname is the leader in the House of Representatives and ... someone with a surname like Wong is the leader of the government in the Senate," Albanese said.

Australia has been criticized for its overrepresentation in Parliament of offspring of British colonizers. Britain is no longer the major source of Australia's immigrants since racist policies were dismantled in the 1970s. Around half of Australia's multicultural population was born overseas or has an overseas-born parent. Chinese and Indians are now immigrating in large numbers.

Albanese has promised to rehabilitate Australia's international reputation as a climate change laggard with steeper cuts to greenhouse gas emissions. The previous administration had stuck with the same commitment it made at the Paris Agreement in 2015: 26% to 28% below 2005 levels by 2030. Albanese's Labor Party has promised a 43% reduction.

His financially precarious upbringing in government-owned housing in suburban Camperdown fundamentally formed the politician who has led the center-left Australian Labor Party into government for the first time since 2007. He is still widely known by his childhood nickname, Albo.

"It says a lot about our great country that a son of a single mom who was a disability pensioner, who grew up in public housing down the road in Camperdown can stand before you tonight as Australia's prime minister," Albanese said in his election victory speech on Saturday.

"Every parent wants more for the next generation than they had. My mother dreamt of a better life for me. And I hope that my journey in life inspires Australians to reach for the stars," he added.

Albanese repeatedly referred during the six-week election campaign to the life lessons he learned from his disadvantaged childhood. Labor's campaign focused on policies including financial assistance for first home buyers grappling with soaring real estate prices and sluggish wage growth.

Labor also promised cheaper child care for working parents and better nursing home care for the elderly.

Albanese this week promised to begin rebuilding trust in Australia when he attends a Tokyo summit on Tuesday with U.S. President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Albanese said he will be "completely consistent" with Prime Minister Scott Morrison's current administration on Chinese strategic competition in the region.

But he said Australia had been placed in the "naughty corner" in United Nations' climate change negotiations by refusing to adopt more ambitious emissions reduction targets at a November conference.

"One of the ways that we increase our standing in the region, and in particular in the Pacific, is by taking climate change seriously," Albanese told the National Press Club.

Biden's administration and Australia "will have a strengthened relationship in our common view about climate change and the opportunity that it represents," Albanese said.

Albanese blamed Morrison for a "whole series of Australia's international relations being damaged."

He said Morrison misled the United States that a secret plan to provide Australia with a fleet of submarines powered with U.S. nuclear technology had the support of Albanese's Labor Party. In fact, Labor

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wasn't told of the plan until the day before it was announced in September.

Albanese also accused Morrison of leaking to the media personal text messages from Emmanuel Macron to discredit the French president's complaint that Australia had given no warning that a French submarine contract would be canceled.

In November, French Ambassador to Australia Jean-Pierre Thebault described the leak as a "new low" and a warning to other world leaders that their private communications with the Australian government could be weaponized and used against them.

Labor also has described a new security pact between China and the Solomon Islands as Australia's worst foreign policy failure in the Pacific since World War II.

As a young child, to spare Albanese the scandal of being "illegitimate" in a working-class Roman Catholic family in socially conservative 1960s Australia, he was told that his Italian father, Carlo Albanese, had died in a car accident shortly after marrying his Irish-Australian mother, Maryanne Ellery, in Europe.

His mother, who became an invalid pensioner because of chronic rheumatoid arthritis, told him the truth when he was 14 years old: His father was not dead and his parents had never married.

Carlo Albanese had been a steward on a cruise ship when the couple met in 1962 during the only overseas trip of her life. She returned to Sydney from her seven-month journey through Asia to Britain and continental Europe almost four months pregnant, according to Anthony Albanese's 2016 biography, "Albanese: Telling it Straight."

She was living with her parents in their local government-owned house in inner-suburban Camperdown when her only child was born on March 2, 1963.

Out of loyalty to his mother and a fear of hurting her feelings, Albanese waited until after her death in 2002 before searching for his father.

Father and son were happily united in 2009 in the father's hometown of Barletta in southern Italy. The son was in Italy for business meetings as Australia's minister for transport and infrastructure.

Anthony Albanese was a minister throughout Labor's most recent six years in power and reached his highest office — deputy prime minister — in his government's final three months, which ended with the 2013 election.

But Albanese's critics argue that it's not his humble background but his left-wing politics that make him unsuitable to be prime minister.

The conservative government argued he would be the most left-wing Australian leader in almost 50 years since the crash-or-crash-through reformer Gough Whitlam, a flawed hero of the Labor Party.

In 1975, Whitlam became the only Australian prime minister to be ousted from office by a British monarch's representative in what is described as a constitutional crisis.

Whitlam had introduced during his brief but tumultuous three years in power free university education, which enabled Albanese to graduate from Sydney University with an economics degree despite his meager financial resources.

Albanese's supporters say that while he was from Labor's so-called Socialist Left faction, he was a pragmatist with a proven ability to deal with more conservative elements of the party.

Albanese had undergone what has been described as a makeover in the past year, opting for more fashionable suits and glasses. He has also shed 18 kilograms (40 pounds) in what many assume was an effort to make himself more attractive to voters.

Albanese says he believed he was about to die in a two-car collision in Sydney in January last year and that was the catalyst for his healthier life choices. He had briefly resigned himself to a fate he once believed had been his father's.

After the accident, Albanese spent a night in a hospital and suffered what he described as external and internal injuries that he has not detailed. The 17-year-old boy behind the wheel of the Range Rover SUV that collided with Albanese's much smaller Toyota Camry sedan was charged with negligent driving.

Albanese said he was 12 when he became involved in his first political campaign. His fellow public housing tenants successfully defeated a local council proposal to sell their homes — a move that would have

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increased their rent — in a campaign that involved refusing to pay the council in a so-called rent strike. The unpaid rent debt was forgiven, which Albanese described as a “lesson for those people who weren’t part of the rent strike: Solidarity works.”

“As I grew up, I understood the impact that government had, can have, on making a difference to people’s lives,” Albanese said. “And in particular, to opportunity.”

On election day, before the vote counting started, he spoke of an advantage from his upbringing.

“When you come from where I’ve come from, one of the advantages that you have is that you don’t get ahead of yourself. Everything in life’s a bonus,” Albanese said.

California church leaders, shooting survivors join in prayer

By AMY TAXIN Associated Press

LAGUNA WOODS, Calif. (AP) — When a gunman began shooting at a Taiwanese American church luncheon, Shoei Su said he froze.

The retired appraiser uses a walker and said he and many of the elderly congregants didn’t immediately know what was happening. He said the shooter said nothing before firing on churchgoers who were snapping photos after finishing lunch following last Sunday morning’s prayer service.

Nearly a week later, Su said he can’t sleep and is struggling to heal from the attack that killed one and wounded five in the close-knit congregation in the Southern California community of Laguna Woods, which is made up largely of retirees.

“At that time, we were not afraid,” he said. “Later, when we think about it, we’re afraid.”

His comments came as survivors, churchgoers and leaders from the Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church joined in prayer Saturday and thanked community members for their support at an event on the campus of Geneva Presbyterian Church, where the Taiwanese congregation shares space.

Authorities say the gunman, David Chou, 68, of Las Vegas, was motivated by hatred of Taiwan, where he was born and grew up after his family was forced from mainland China when Communists took control. He had no connection to the church but spent about an hour with attendees apparently to gain their trust so he could execute his plot, authorities said.

Authorities said Chou had two 9 mm handguns and three bags containing four Molotov-cocktail-type incendiary devices and ammunition. They said he chained doors shut and glued locks before he began shooting.

Dr. John Cheng, the 52-year-old son of a congregant, charged him and was shot. He died at the scene, but his quick action disrupted the shooter, who was then hit by a chair thrown by the church’s former pastor, Billy Chang, and jumped on by several congregation members who used an extension cord to tie him up until police arrived.

Cheng was the only person killed. Five others were wounded, including four men aged 66 to 92 and an 86-year-old woman.

The community is still reeling from the attack. At Saturday’s event, churchgoers bowed their heads in prayer and several sobbed. Bouquets of sunflowers and roses were laid out with notes reading “RIP Dr. Cheng.”

Pastor Albany Lee, the congregation’s leader who was away last Sunday, said he remembers meeting with Cheng a few months ago while visiting the family after Cheng’s father died. He said Cheng, who didn’t usually attend the Taiwanese congregation but took his mother there last week, in his eyes is more than a hero but one of two angels who, along with Chang, saved the community.

On Sunday, his congregation will resume its weekly prayer service. Security will be tight and no media coverage allowed on the Geneva campus.

Lee said trauma specialists will be available to assist the community for the next few weeks and coming together for worship is critical, despite the pain many feel.

“I think this is the most important time that we need to come together as a faith community,” he said. “We can help each other.”

Russia's claim of Mariupol's capture fuels concern for POWs

By ELENA BECATOROS, OLEKSANDR STASHEVSKYI and CIARAN McQUILLAN Associated Press
POKROVSK, Ukraine (AP) — Concern mounted Saturday over Ukrainian fighters who became prisoners at the end of Russia's brutal three-month siege of Mariupol, as a Moscow-backed separatist leader vowed they would face tribunals.

Russia claimed full control of the Azovstal steel plant, which for weeks was the last holdout in Mariupol and a symbol of Ukrainian tenacity in the strategic port city, now in ruins with more than 20,000 residents feared dead. Its seizure delivers Russian President Vladimir Putin a badly wanted victory in the war he began in February.

As the West rallies behind Ukraine, Polish President Andrzej Duda arrived in Ukraine on an unannounced visit and will address the country's parliament on Sunday, his office said.

Poland, which has welcomed millions of Ukrainian refugees since the start of the war, is a strong supporter of Ukraine's desire to join the European Union. With Russia blocking Ukraine's sea ports, Poland has become a major gateway for Western humanitarian aid and weapons going into Ukraine and has been helping Ukraine get its grain and other agricultural products to world markets.

The Russian Defense Ministry released video of Ukrainian soldiers being detained after announcing that its forces had removed the last holdouts from the Mariupol plant's extensive underground tunnels. Denis Pushilin, the pro-Kremlin head of an area of eastern Ukraine controlled by Moscow-backed separatists, claimed that 2,439 people were in custody. He said on Russian state TV that the figure includes some foreign nationals, though he did not provide details.

Family members of the steel mill fighters, who came from a variety of military and law enforcement units, have pleaded for them to be given rights as prisoners of war and eventually returned to Ukraine. Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said Saturday that Ukraine "will fight for the return" of every one of them.

Convoys of buses, guarded by Russian armored vehicles, left the plant Friday. At least some Ukrainians were taken to a former penal colony. Russian officials said others were hospitalized.

Pushilin said the Ukrainians were sure to face a tribunal. Russian officials and state media have sought to characterize the fighters as neo-Nazis and criminals.

"I believe that justice must be restored. There is a request for this from ordinary people, society, and, probably, the sane part of the world community," Russian state news agency Tass quoted Pushilin as saying.

Among the defenders were members of the Azov Regiment, whose far-right origins have been seized on by the Kremlin as part of its effort to cast the invasion as a battle against Nazi influence in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian government has not commented on Russia's claim of capturing Azovstal. Ukraine's military had told the fighters their mission was complete and they could come out. It described their extraction as an evacuation, not a mass surrender.

The capture of Mariupol furthers Russia's quest to create a land bridge from Russia stretching through the Donbas region to the Crimean Peninsula, which Moscow seized from Ukraine in 2014.

The impact on the broader war remained unclear. Many Russian troops already had been redeployed from Mariupol to elsewhere in the conflict.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov reported Saturday that Russia destroyed a Ukrainian special-operations base near Odesa, Ukraine's main Black Sea port, as well as a significant cache of Western-supplied weapons in northern Ukraine's Zhytomyr region. There was no confirmation from the Ukrainian side.

The Ukrainian military reported heavy fighting in much of the Donbas in eastern Ukraine.

"The situation in Donbas is extremely difficult," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address to the nation. "As in previous days, the Russian army is trying to attack Sloviansk and Sievierodonetsk." He said Ukrainian forces are holding off the offensive "every day."

Sievierodonetsk is the main city under Ukrainian control in the Luhansk region, which together with the

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Donetsk region makes up the Donbas. Gov. Serhii Haidai said the only functioning hospital in the city has just three doctors and supplies for 10 days.

Sloviansk, in the Donetsk region, is critical to Russia's objective of capturing all of eastern Ukraine and saw fierce fighting last month after Moscow's troops backed off from Kyiv. Russian shelling on Saturday killed seven civilians and injured 10 more elsewhere in the region, the governor said.

A monastery in the Donetsk region village of Bohorodichne was evacuated after being hit by a Russian airstrike, the regional police said Saturday. About 100 monks, nuns and children had been seeking safe shelter in the basement of the church and no one was hurt, the police said in a Facebook post, which included a video showing extensive damage to the monastery as well as nuns, monks and children boarding vans on Friday for the evacuation.

Zelenskyy on Saturday emphasized that the Donbas remains part of Ukraine and his forces were fighting to liberate it.

Speaking at a joint news conference with Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa, he pressed Western countries for multiple-launch rocket systems, which he said "just stand still" in other countries yet are key to Ukraine's success.

U.S. President Joe Biden signed off Saturday on a fresh, \$40 billion infusion of aid for Ukraine, with half for military assistance. Portugal pledged up to 250 million euros, as well as continued shipments of military equipment.

Mariupol, which is part of the Donbas, was blockaded early in the war and became a frightening example to people elsewhere in the country of the hunger, terror and death they might face if the Russians surrounded their communities.

The seaside steelworks, occupying some 11 square kilometers (4 square miles), were a battleground for weeks. Drawing Russian airstrikes, artillery and tank fire, the dwindling group of outgunned Ukrainian fighters held out with the help of airdrops.

Zelenskyy revealed in an interview published Friday that Ukrainian helicopter pilots braved Russian anti-aircraft fire to ferry in medicine, food and water as well as to retrieve bodies and rescue wounded fighters. A "very large" number of the pilots died on the missions, he said, calling them "absolutely heroic."

The Russian Defense Ministry on Saturday released video of Russian troops taking into custody Serhiy Volynskyy, the commander of the Ukrainian Navy's 36th Special Marine Brigade, which was one of the main forces defending the steel plant. The Associated Press has not been able to independently verify the date, location and conditions of the video.

With Russia controlling the city, Ukrainian authorities are likely to face delays in documenting evidence of alleged Russian atrocities in Mariupol, including the bombings of a maternity hospital and a theater where hundreds of civilians had taken cover. Satellite images in April showed what appeared to be mass graves just outside Mariupol, where local officials accused Russia of concealing the slaughter by burying up to 9,000 civilians.

An estimated 100,000 of the 450,000 people who resided in Mariupol before the war remain. Many, trapped by Russia's siege, were left without food, water and electricity.

The Ukrainian mayor of Mariupol warned Saturday the city is facing a health and sanitation "catastrophe" from mass burials in shallow pits across the ruined city as well as the breakdown of sewage systems. Vadim Boychenko said summer rains threaten to contaminate water sources as he pressed Russian forces to allow residents to safely leave the city.

"In addition to the humanitarian catastrophe created by the (Russian) occupiers and collaborators, the city is on the verge of an outbreak of infectious diseases," he said on the messaging app Telegram.

Late spring Colorado snowstorm knocks out power for 210,000

DENVER (AP) — A late spring Colorado snowstorm dumped several inches in the Denver metro area Saturday and knocked out electricity for about 210,000 customers, officials said.

The wet snow weighed down tree branches and sent them toppling onto power lines, the KUSA televi-

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sion station reported. Much more snow fell in mountainous regions of Colorado.

By Saturday night, power had been restored to 160,000 customers but about 50,000 still did not have it back, the Xcel Energy Colorado utility said in a statement.

The small Colorado community of Cripple Creek near the base of Pike's Peak got 20 inches (51 centimeters) of snow, KUSA reported.

Early Voting holds off Epicenter to win Preakness Stakes

By STEPHEN WHYNO AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — Maybe extra rest isn't such a bad thing for a racehorse after all.

In the Preakness Stakes that was run without the Kentucky Derby winner because Rich Strike's owner felt he needed more time off after his 80-1 upset, Early Voting validated a gutsy decision to skip the Derby and aim for the second leg of the Triple Crown.

Early Voting held off hard-charging favorite Epicenter to win the Preakness on Saturday, rewarding trainer Chad Brown and owner Seth Klarman for their patience. Early Voting stalked the leaders for much of the race before moving into first around the final turn and finished 1 1/4 lengths ahead of Epicenter, who was second just like in the Derby.

"We thought he needed a little more seasoning, the extra rest would help him," Klarman said. "He was pretty lightly raced — only three races before today. And as it turned out, that was the right call. We wanted to do right by the horse, and we're so glad we waited."

The initial plan in the Preakness was for Early Voting not to wait and for jockey Jose Ortiz to take him to the lead. That looked especially important on a day when the dirt track at Pimlico Race Course was favoring speed and making it hard for horses to come from behind down the stretch.

But when Armagnac jumped out to the lead, Ortiz settled Early Voting, who had plenty left in the tank before the finish line with Epicenter threatening inside at the rail.

"I was never worried," Brown said. "Once we had a good target, I actually preferred that. We were fine to go to the lead, but I thought down the back side it was going to take a good horse to beat us. And a good horse did run up on us near the wire and it was about the only one that could run with us."

After just two Triple Crown winners in the past four-plus decades, Rich Strike owner Rick Dawson took plenty of criticism for skipping the Preakness because he felt the horse needed more rest to prepare for the Belmont Stakes on June 11.

Some of that might be muted in the aftermath of Early Voting's impressive performance.

"That's very hard to get an owner to pass on the Derby, and they did the right choice," said Ortiz, who won the Preakness for the first time. "The horse, I don't think he was seasoned enough to run in a 20-horse field and they proved that they were right today. I've been on him since he was a baby. We always knew he was very talented, but we knew he was going to be a late developer."

Klarman and Brown cast doubt on the possibility of Early Voting taking on Rich Strike in the Belmont to make it a showdown between the Derby and Preakness winners. They said Early Voting might not be suited for the mile-and-a-half Belmont.

But Early Voting had no problem with 1 3/16 miles in the Preakness, which did not have a blazing fast pace like the Derby.

"It's just beautiful when a plan comes together," Brown said.

Early Voting, who went off at 5-1, gave Brown his second Preakness victory. Cloud Computing, the 2017 winner, is also owned by Klarman's Klaravich Stables.

"Cloud Computing was a once in a lifetime and now I have a twice in a lifetime," said Klarman, who grew up three blocks from Pimlico and was celebrating his 65th birthday. "Really hard to believe it could've happened."

Early Voting won the race in 1:54.54 and paid \$13.40, \$4.60 and \$3.60. Epicenter paid \$2.80 and \$2.40 for place and show, and Creative Minister was third and paid \$4.20 to show.

Although Epicenter was passed by Rich Strike in the Derby and couldn't make a similar move in the

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Preakness, it was a familiar feeling for trainer Steve Asmussen and jockey Joel Rosario. A disappointed Asmussen said his horse "just had too much to overcome" after a rough start.

"I couldn't get my position," Rosario said. "I had nowhere to go. You just have to stay there and hopefully at some point it opens up. It was really tight the whole way."

Early Voting finished first in a field of nine horses, which included D. Wayne Lukas-trained filly Secret Oath and three who came back after running in the Kentucky Derby two weeks ago. Secret Oath finished fourth 15 days after winning the Kentucky Oaks.

"She made a big, sweeping run," Lukas said. "It just wasn't her day."

Early Voting, a son of Gun Runner, won for the third time in four career races to take the \$990,000 winner's share of the \$1.65 million purse. Asmussen said, "Early Voting is the winner of the Preakness and deserves all the credit for doing so — and nothing but."

The 147th edition of the Preakness took place in near-record heat with the temperature soaring to 90 when the horses left the starting gate.

Wisconsin Republicans vote not to endorse for governor

By SCOTT BAUER Associated Press

MIDDLETON, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin Republicans voted Saturday not to endorse anyone for governor ahead of the GOP primary in August, with former Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch falling just short of the 60% needed to get the nod — and cash — that comes with winning the party's official backing.

It marked the first time delegates have not endorsed a candidate for governor. Many activists, and one of Kleefisch's rivals, had argued for not endorsing anyone, saying it would fracture the party.

The winner of the Aug. 9 primary will advance to face Democratic Gov. Tony Evers, in a race that's a top priority for both parties nationally. In addition to Kleefisch, who polls have shown is leading the field, other candidates are construction business co-owner Tim Michels; business consultant and former Marine Kevin Nicholson; and state Rep. Timothy Ramthun.

The Republican endorsement has been highly sought after because it unlocks funding from the state party, which can then spend as much as it wants on the winner. Now the top candidates will fight it out without any official backing from the party.

Kleefisch got 55%, while "no endorsement" got 43% on the final ballot. The other candidates were all in the single digits.

After the vote, Kleefisch declared victory, saying she feels "terrific" with getting majority support despite falling short of what was needed for the endorsement.

Kleefisch, the only woman running for governor, served eight years under former Gov. Scott Walker between 2011 and 2019.

She described herself at the annual convention outside of Madison as a "tea party mom" and highlighted her victory in a 2011 recall election and her opposition to abortion.

"Now I'm not a biologist," Kleefisch said. "But I am a woman and I will not let a man like Tony Evers tell me how I'm supposed to feel about Roe. I will win this because I can speak with a mother's heart."

She portrayed herself as a fighter, opposed to vaccine mandates, in support of school choice and the only candidate "tested against the liberal mob," referring to protesters who demonstrated against Walker's ending of collective bargaining for most public workers.

Michels, the most recent candidate to get in the race, dismissed attacks against him for living out of state part-time for years, calling them "garbage" and "political smear."

"I am in this to win, but I am not here to tear down this convention or any other candidate for governor," Michels said. He didn't directly ask for an endorsement, saying he wanted attendees' votes in August and November.

Nicholson, a former Marine, advocated for no endorsement, but he kept his name in consideration.

"I want Republicans to win and we can't do that if our party is fractured," he said. "An endorsement today does not put us in a position of strength."

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Delegates approved a rule change earlier Saturday that allowed for the “no endorsement” option. Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, who supports Kleefisch, downplayed the importance of winning the endorsement, likening it to a straw poll and saying it’s just one indicator of a candidate’s strength.

Evers has issued more vetoes than any governor in Wisconsin history in blocking the Republican-controlled Legislature’s agenda. A Republican governor would give the GOP the power to enact any laws it wished.

The Republican Party has endorsed candidates since 2009, including the past three governor’s races. Winning that backing was crucial to U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson’s win in his first race in 2010. Johnson, who is up for reelection this year, focused his speech not on Democrats running against him but instead defending his record and attacking the media.

“I can’t even breathe without them taking my exhalation and distorting and twisting it,” Johnson said of the media. “My race is literally about the truth versus lies and distortion.”

Divisions within the Republican Party have been a distraction: Some Republicans have called for the ouster of Vos for not pursuing former President Donald Trump’s false claims of election fraud vigorously enough and refusing to decertify President Joe Biden’s win.

“We have no ability to decertify the election and go back,” Vos said, generating loud boos from many in the crowd. “We need to focus on moving forward.”

All of the GOP gubernatorial candidates have questioned the legitimacy of Biden’s win in Wisconsin, even though the outcome has withstood recounts, lawsuits, an audit by the nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau and a review by the conservative Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty.

Ramthun, whose campaign for governor is focused on decertifying Biden’s win in 2020, told convention attendees that he would personally perform a “forensic audit” on both the primary and the general election.

“Election integrity is the No. 1 issue in the state,” he said to cheers.

Trump hasn’t endorsed anyone in the governor’s race primary, but all of the main candidates except for Nicholson have met with him to try and get his blessing.

Republicans also voted not to endorse in the races for lieutenant governor, attorney general and secretary of state. They did endorse treasurer candidate Orlando Owens, who is running for an office with almost no official duties or powers. Johnson, who has no Republican challenger, was also endorsed.

The state Democratic Party convention will be June 25 in La Crosse. Democrats do not endorse.

Live updates | Woods withdraws from final round of PGA

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — The Latest on the third round of the PGA Championship (all times local):

6:45 p.m.

There will be no Sunday red for Tiger Woods in the PGA Championship.

The PGA of America said Woods has withdrawn. Woods had a career-high 79 in the third round Saturday at Southern Hills. He limped his way around in the cold and wind, at one point making five straight bogeys.

This is the first time Woods has withdrawn from a major as a professional.

He declined interviews after his round, speaking only to a pool reporter. Woods was asked if he felt as though he would play the final round. All he said was he was sore, he would do some work and see how it went.

Woods has made the cut in the two majors he has played since his right leg was battered in a car crash 15 months ago.

6:20 p.m.

Mito Pereira, the largely unknown journeyman from Chile, birdied three of his final six holes Saturday to shoot 1-under 71, giving him a three-shot lead over Matt Fitzpatrick and Will Zalatoris heading into the final round of the PGA Championship.

The 27-year-old Pereira was at 9 under for the tournament after an up-and-down round that began with two early birdies, contained four bogeys during a five-hole stretch making the turn, and ended with

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a brilliant birdie putt on the 18th.

Zalatoris, the second-round leader, followed rounds of 66-65 with a shaky 73 at Southern Hills that left him tied with Fitzpatrick, who played back side in 3 under Saturday to join Zalatoris at 6 under for the championship.

Bubba Watson, whose 63 on Friday tied the PGA record, was on the move again early Saturday. But he stumbled badly down the stretch, making three bogeys over his final four holes to finish seven shots off the lead.

4:20 p.m.

Bubba Watson carried the momentum from his blistering second-round 63 into the third round at the PGA Championship, where he played the front side in 1 under Saturday to reach 6 under for the tournament and climb into second place.

Watson bounced back from a bogey at the third with a birdie at the fourth and one at the seventh, though he gave up another shot at the par-4 10th. That left the 2012 Masters champ three shots behind Mito Pereira.

Watson was tied with Will Zalatoris, the first-round leader, who missed a series of short putts and played the front in 4 over. That left him 5 under for the championship.

3:20 p.m.

Chile's Mito Pereira is opening a lead with a big start in the third round of the PGA Championship.

Pereira opened with two birdies in the first five holes to get to 10 under in the cool and wet conditions at Southern Hills. Will Zalatoris started the round with a one-stroke lead before a shaky putter saw him drop three shots after six holes.

Pereira is in his first season on the PGA Tour.

First-round leader Rory McIlroy's struggles continued. He has dropped eight shots off the lead after a double bogey on the par-3 sixth Saturday. McIlroy looked ready to chase a fifth career major when he topped the leaderboard with a 65, but he has gone backward since then.

3 p.m.

Stewart Cink must be taking some inspiration from 50-year-old Phil Mickelson's triumph at last year's PGA Championship.

On his 49th birthday, Cink made an early birdie Saturday to remain in contention at Southern Hills. The 2009 British Open winner began the day at 3 under, six shots behind Will Zalatoris, who happens to be 24 years his junior.

Mickelson, who withdrew rather than defend his title this week, became the oldest major winner with his victory last year at Kiawah Island. Mickelson surpassed the mark set by Julius Boros, who was 48 when he won the 1968 PGA.

Cink was 48 when he won last year's Heritage at Harbour Town Golf Links.

2 p.m.

Overnight leader Will Zalatoris has teed off in the third round of the PGA Championship, where the former Wake Forest standout will try to continue a trend of halfway leaders winning major titles at Southern Hills.

In four previous PGAs and three U.S. Opens at the course, the leader after 36 holes went on to win the tournament.

Zalatoris, who has never won on the PGA Tour, shot rounds of 66-65 to take a one-shot lead over Chile's Mito Pereira into Saturday. Justin Thomas was two more shots back before bogeying the opening hole of his third round.

1:45 p.m.

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Webb Simpson posted one of the lowest scores of PGA championship so far with a 65 that proved there are some good rounds available in the blustery conditions at Southern Hills.

The 2012 U.S Open champion had barely made the cut after his second-round 75 and went off early Saturday on a soggy and windy course. But Simpson made it look easy while others struggled badly in the morning.

He had two birdies in the first four holes. His eagle on the par-5 13th when he holed a wedge from the fairway was the shot of the morning.

Simpson said his round surprised him because he normally doesn't like playing in cold weather. His 5-under round got him to 1 under for the tournament.

1:30 p.m.

Tiger Woods shot the worst round of his PGA Championship career Saturday, hitting two shots into the water, making five straight bogeys for the first time in a major championship and finishing with a 9-over 79 at Southern Hills.

It was 10 shots worse than his score on Friday, when he barely made the cut, and left him 12 over for the tournament.

Woods actually rallied down the stretch Saturday, playing the last five holes in 1 under. And when he rolled in a 36-footer for his only birdie at the par-4 15th, he finally allowed a smile to slip amid a round full of painful grimaces.

He narrowly avoided matching his worst round in a major championship, which came when he shot 10-over 81 during the third round of the 2002 British Open at Muirfield. That was the same year he won the Masters and U.S. Open.

12:45 p.m.

Kramer Hickock made perhaps the most incredible bogey of the PGA Championship during his third round Saturday.

Hickock had hit into the greenside bunker at the par-4 12th before his shot out of the sand caught the lip and bounced back toward him. The ball wound up hitting his foot, which would have been a penalty before a 2019 rules change, and it settled into his deep foot print in the sand in a nearly unplayable position.

With several inches of sand in the way, Hickock hammered at the ball but couldn't get it out of the bunker. This time, it rolled back to the bottom of the trap and gave Hickock a decent lie. And with his third shot out of the bunker, and his fifth on the hole, Hickock merely holed out for the crowd-pleasing bogey.

11:15 a.m.

Tiger Woods made an 8-footer for bogey at the par-4 ninth at the PGA Championship on Saturday for one of his worst nine-hole scores in a major. He finished the front side in 6-over 41 on a cold and windy morning at Southern Hills.

Woods hit his tee shot into the water at the second and made bogey. He hit another tee shot into the water at the sixth, then flubbed his pitch shot and made triple. He also missed a 7-footer for par at the seventh before his bogey at the ninth.

The final hole of the front side was an odd adventure.

Woods had driven into the fairway bunker 100 yards short of the green when his next shot buried into the lip, which rose sharply in front of him. Because Woods was no longer in the bunker, he was allowed a free drop within a club length of the spot, giving him a good lie in the fairway. He still missed the green from there.

10:30 a.m.

Tiger Woods put two shots in the water over his first six holes during the third round of the PGA Championship, including one on the par-3 sixth Saturday that eventually resulted in a triple bogey.

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The trouble began at the par-4 second, when Woods found the meandering stream off the tee but managed to make bogey.

Four holes later, he hit another tee shot into the water at the 218-yard sixth and everything unraveled. He played from the drop area and hit into the rough left of the green, then left his pitch short of the putting surface. Woods finally chipped to within 2 feet and made the putt for a six that left him 7 over for the championship.

Woods did not have a penalty shot over his first two rounds at Southern Hills.

9:30 a.m.

Tiger Woods has picked up where he left off at the PGA Championship, but only briefly.

Woods one-putted five of his last six holes at the end of the second round, including a pair of 15-foot par putts, that allowed him to rally to make the cut at Southern Hills.

He began the third round by holing a 15-foot par putt. But on the second hole, Woods put his tee shot into the meandering stream. It was his first penalty shot of the week. He wound up with a bogey and was 4 over for the tournament. A conventional par on No. 3 left him 1 over for the round.

Temperatures have yet to top 60 degrees, and Louis Oosthuizen arrived wearing a full face scarf to cope with the chill.

Of the early starters, Webb Simpson is 2 under through four holes, but hardly making up much ground.

8 a.m.

Out with the wind, in with the rain at the PGA Championship on Saturday.

Southern Hills had about a half-inch of rain in the early morning hours, along with a lightning show that delayed the start of the third round by some 30 minutes. That left the course a little softer as it was starting to get firm.

Will Zalatoris has a one-shot lead and won't tee off until early afternoon. On deck is Tiger Woods, who showed great fight in his finish for a 69 to make the cut by one.

Woods was 12 shots behind.

Preakness updates | Early Voting tops Epicenter in Preakness

BALTIMORE (AP) — The Latest on the 147th running of the Preakness Stakes (all times local):

7:15 p.m.

Early Voting won the Preakness Stakes, holding off a late challenge from fast-closing favorite Epicenter, who was the runner-up in a second consecutive Triple Crown race.

Early Voting's win validated the decision to skip the Kentucky Derby and aim for the middle jewel of the Triple Crown. The Preakness went off without Rich Strike, who passed favorite Epicenter to win the Derby at 80-1.

This time it was Epicenter that was trying to make up ground at the end, but Early Voting was well rested six weeks after his most recent race. He won by 1 1/4 lengths.

Early Voting gave trainer Chad Brown his second Preakness victory. He's also owned by Klaravich Stables, which won the race in 2017 with Cloud Computing. Jockey Jose Ortiz won the Preakness for the first time.

5:30 p.m.

The horse whose removal from the Kentucky Derby let eventual winner Rich Strike into the field won a stakes race on the Preakness undercard.

D. Wayne Lukas-trained Ethereal Road came from the back of the pack to win the \$100,000 Sir Barton roughly two hours before post time for the Preakness. He went off as the 3-2 favorite.

Lukas apologized to Epicenter trainer Steve Asmussen for withdrawing Ethereal Road from the Derby at the eleventh hour. Rich Strike was entered just before the deadline and passed Epicenter down the stretch to win at odds of 80-1.

Epicenter remains the favorite for the Preakness, which is being run without Rich Strike after his owner

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said the horse needed more rest and would be considered for the Belmont Stakes on June 11.

3:15 p.m.

Fenwick is no longer the biggest long shot at the Preakness.

Updated odds less than four hours before post time for the middle jewel of the Triple Crown had Fenwick bet down to 7-1. He started 50-1 on the morning line.

Fenwick may have been a popular underdog choice for bettors after Rich Strike won the Kentucky Derby at 80-1. Rich Strike is not in the Preakness after his owner decided more rest was needed to prep for the Belmont Stakes on June 11.

There's also an emotional story behind Fenwick, who was named after owner Jeremia Rudan's mother who died when he was 19. Fenwick is running for trainer Kevin McKathan, who lost his brother to a heart attack three years ago.

Fenwick started the week as the longest shot on the board largely because of his 11th-place finish in his most recent race April 9. He was also purchased for the modest sum of \$52,000 as a yearling and went unsold as a 2-year-old.

Epicenter, who was second to Rich Strike in the Derby, remains the favorite at 9-5. Filly Secret Oath is next at 9-2, followed by Early Voting and Fenwick at 7-1, Simplification and Happy Jack at 8-1, Creative Minister and Skippylongstocking at 9-1 and Armagnac at 18-1.

1:05 p.m.

Standing outside the stakes barn at Pimlico Race Course earlier in the week, trainer Kenny McPeck brushed off concern about the heat and how it might affect Creative Minister in the Preakness.

"He goes out there and never flinches," McPeck said. "I don't think the heat will bother him at all, and I don't worry about what I can't control but I hope the weatherman's wrong."

The weatherman was not wrong.

The 147th Preakness could be run in some of the hottest weather in the history of the Triple Crown race.

The temperature at Pimlico Race Course soared above 90 degrees Fahrenheit just after 1 p.m.. The forecast calls for it to be 90 degrees when the horses enter the starting gate just after 7. Post time is scheduled for 7:01.

The record high on Preakness day is 96 set in 1934. Steve Asmussen, the trainer of favorite Epicenter, said he was as concerned as he possibly could be about the heat.

"We know it can be pretty sticky when it gets warm in Baltimore, so I think that all of them are going to have to deal with that," Asmussen said. "He's a big horse turning back in 14 days, so just make sure he's drinking plenty of water and hydrated, just like your kids."

3 Air Force cadets who refused vaccine won't be commissioned

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy who have refused the COVID-19 vaccine will not be commissioned as military officers but will graduate with bachelor's degrees, the academy said Saturday.

Academy spokesman Dean Miller said that a fourth cadet who had refused the vaccine until about a week ago, decided to be vaccinated and will graduate and become an Air Force officer.

In a statement, Miller said that while the three will get a degree "they will not be commissioned into the United States Air Force as long as they remain unvaccinated." He added that a decision on whether to require the three to reimburse the United States for education costs in lieu of service will be made by the secretary of the Air Force.

As of Saturday, the Air Force is the only military academy, so far, where cadets are not being commissioned due to vaccine refusal. All of the more than 1,000 Army cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, graduated and were commissioned as officers earlier in the day and all were vaccinated.

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The Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, said Saturday that none of the Navy or Marine Corps seniors there are being prevented from commissioning due to vaccine refusals. That graduation is later this week, and the Air Force ceremony is Wednesday in Colorado. Ahead of that ceremony, the U.S. Air Force Academy Board conducted its standard review of whether this year's class had met all graduation requirements on Friday.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, who is the scheduled speaker at the Air Force graduation, last year made the COVID-19 vaccinations mandatory for service members, including those at the military academies, saying the vaccine is critical to maintaining military readiness and the health of the force.

Military leaders have argued that troops for decades have been required to get as many as 17 vaccines in order to maintain the health of the force, particularly those deploying overseas. Students arriving at the military academies get a regimen of shots on their first day — such as measles, mumps and rubella - if they aren't already vaccinated. And they routinely get flu shots in the fall.

Members of Congress, the military, and the public have questioned if the exemption reviews by the military services have been fair. There have been multiple lawsuits filed against the mandate, mainly centering on the fact that very few service members have been granted religious exemptions from the shots.

Until the COVID-19 vaccine, very few military members sought religious exemptions to any vaccines.

Lt. Col. Brian Maguire, an Air Force Academy spokesman, said a week ago that all four of the cadets had been informed of the potential consequences and met with the academy's superintendent. And he noted then that they still had time before graduation to change their minds - and one did.

The military academies for years have required students under certain circumstances to repay tuition costs if they leave during their junior or senior year. Often those cases involve students with disciplinary issues or similar problems. The costs can be as much as \$200,000, or more, and any final decision on repayment is made by the service secretary.

Across the military, the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps have discharged as many as 4,000 active duty service members for refusing the vaccine. Those who flatly refuse the vaccine without seeking an exemption are still being discharged. But the courts have stalled additional discharges of service members who sought religious exemptions.

According to the military, as many as 20,000 service members have asked for religious exemptions. Thousands have been denied.

About 99% of the active duty Navy and 98% of the Air Force, Marine Corps and Army have gotten at least one shot.

2 dead; northern Michigan town cleans up from rare tornado

By ED WHITE Associated Press

Roofs and walls on a busy business stretch were turned to tangled rubble. Mobile homes were destroyed. Tornadoes are so uncommon in northern Michigan that Gaylord doesn't have a siren system to warn people about hazardous weather.

The town of 4,200 turned to cleanup Saturday, a day after a tornado with 140 mph winds pummeled Gaylord, killing two people, injuring more than 40 and shocking residents who are more familiar with snowstorms than spring windstorms.

A utility reported much progress in restoring electricity, though thousands still lacked power. Some roads remained clogged with downed poles and other wreckage.

"We have a lot of debris to clear," said state police Lt. Derrick Carroll.

Two people in their 70s who lived at the Nottingham Forest mobile home park died, state police said. It was among the first sites hit by the tornado, which was rated an EF3 by the National Weather Service on a scale of 0-5.

"There have been trailers picked up and turned over on top of each other. Just a very large debris field," said Chris Martin, Otsego County fire chief. Martin said crews used heavy equipment to conduct a secondary search of the area.

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He said there's "probably 95% destruction in there."

Gaylord, about 230 miles (370 kilometers) northwest of Detroit, is a popular destination for skiers and snowmobilers in the winter and golfers in the summer. It doesn't have tornado sirens, though anyone with a mobile phone got a "code red" warning from the weather service about 10 minutes before the tornado hit, Carroll said.

Video posted online showed a dark funnel cloud approaching as anxious drivers looked on or slowly drove away on area roads.

"Everyone in Michigan is going to wrap our arms around those families and everyone who is working together to recover here," Michigan Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist said during a visit.

Betty Wisniewski, 87, avoided injury even though the tornado significantly damaged her house, said son Steve Wisniewski, who lives next door.

"Luckily she was OK — rosary in hand," he said from a ladder while attaching plastic to his windows. "She was praying. Pretty amazing."

Gaylord Police Chief Frank Claeys said the immediate moments after the tornado were tough for first responders.

"We were searching in places where we knew the occupants. We were calling them out by name," Claeys said. "It's a lot more personal when our officers know the people who live in those homes."

John Boris of the weather service post in Gaylord said the tornado passed through the community in about three minutes but was on the ground in the region for 26 minutes — a "fairly long" time.

"We don't get a whole lot of tornadoes," said Boris, a science and operations officer. "In the state of Michigan, in general, we typically average about 15 or so (a year) and more of those are downstate than they are up to the north. It's pretty unusual."

Indeed, the last notable windstorm was in 1998 when 100 mph straight-line winds raked Gaylord.

Boris said warm, 80-degree air earlier Friday and strong winds moving east across Lake Michigan were key conditions producing the tornado.

A link to climate change probably doesn't fit, he said.

"It's very difficult to attribute something very specific like this to a large-scale signal like that," Boris said. "If we had these more frequently, that may be a signal."

AP source: Giuliani interviewed for hours by 1/6 committee

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rudy Giuliani, who as a lawyer for then-President Donald Trump pushed bogus legal challenges to the 2020 election, met for hours with the House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, a person familiar with the interview said Saturday.

The interview with Giuliani took place virtually and lasted for much of the day on Friday, according to the person, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss the private meeting. A spokesperson for the committee declined to comment.

Giuliani had been scheduled to meet with the committee earlier this month, but a spokesperson for the panel said that meeting was rescheduled.

The former New York mayor is seen as a critical aide for the committee, which has interviewed nearly 1,000 witnesses, including family members of Trump and advisers in his inner circle. The panel plans a series of hearings in June.

In January, the committee subpoenaed Giuliani and other members of the Trump legal team who sought to overturn election results in battleground states through lawsuits that made unsupported claims of vast election fraud. Trump's own attorney general, William Barr, has said there were no widespread irregularities that could have affected the outcome of the race won by President Joe Biden, and judges across the country have dismissed the allegations.

At the time of the subpoena, the committee said it was seeking records and an interview with Giuliani, and that it wanted information about Giuliani's reported encouragement of Trump to direct the seizure of voting machines and his efforts to persuade state legislators to take steps to overturn the election results.

Giuliani also spoke at the rally in front of the White House that preceded the Jan. 6 insurrection. CNN first reported Friday's interview with Giuliani.

Buffalo shooting victim laid to rest; city marks 1 week

By AARON MORRISON Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Roberta Drury, a 32-year-old woman who was the youngest of the 10 Black people killed at a Buffalo supermarket, was remembered at her funeral Saturday for “that smile that could light up a room,” as the city marked one week since the shooting with sorrowful moments of silence.

“Robbie,” as she was called, grew up in the Syracuse area and moved to Buffalo a decade ago to help tend to her brother in his fight against leukemia. She was shot to death May 14 on a trip to buy groceries at the Tops Friendly Market targeted by the white gunman.

“There are no words to fully express the depth and breadth of this tragedy,” Friar Nicholas Spano, parochial vicar of Assumption Church, said during the funeral service in Syracuse, not far from where Drury grew up in Cicero.

“Last Saturday, May 14, our corner of the world was changed forever,” he said. “Lives ended. Dreams shattered and our state was plunged into mourning.”

Drury’s family wrote in her obituary that she “couldn’t walk a few steps without meeting a new friend.”

“Robbie always made a big deal about someone when she saw them, always making sure they felt noticed and loved,” her sister, Amanda, told The Associated Press by text before the service.

After the funeral, at the Tops store in Buffalo, the mood was a mixture of tension and somber reflection as the city marked one week since the racist massacre.

At exactly 2:30 p.m., the moment the gunman opened fire, people who gathered and placed flowers near the corner where the victims have been memorialized observed a moment of silence. A dozen workers stood in a line outside of the Tops store entrance. Nearby, some mourners wept.

At the same time, Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown and other elected officials, along with Tops President John Persons, bowed their heads on the steps of City Hall for 123 seconds to mark the span of the attack. Houses of worship throughout the city were encouraged to ring their bells 13 times in honor of the 10 killed and three wounded.

Joshua Kellick, a mental health and substance abuse counselor in Buffalo, said victim Geraldine Talley, 62, was a friend. She worked as a secretary in his office, but she was the glue that held their work family together, he said outside the store.

“She was nothing but loving and giving. She would go out of her way to help everybody. She was a mother, a grandmother to everybody, without actually being just that,” said Kellick, who gathered with several of Talley’s former coworkers to observe the moment of silence.

Jacob Blake Sr., the father of Jacob Blake, Jr., a Black man paralyzed after being shot several times by police in Kenosha, Wisconsin, in 2020, said he flew into town from the Chicago area to offer support to the victims’ families. When his son was shot, Blake said, he needed a true outpouring of support.

“What I needed was somebody just holding my hand,” he said. “I just want the families to know that we’re here to give them what they need.”

As Drury was laid to rest, Spano said mourners would remember her “kindness ... love for family and friends, her perseverance, her tenacity, and most of all, that smile that could light up a room.”

She was the second shooting victim to be eulogized.

A private service was held Friday for Heyward Patterson, the beloved deacon at a church near the supermarket. More funerals were scheduled throughout the coming week.

Back at the memorial, Kellick, who is white, said the shooter’s motivations and the reality of systemic racism in the country prompted a moment of personal reflection.

“I have to learn a lot of things,” he said. “I really need to look at my beliefs. I have a daughter at home. I need to be able to focus on teaching her how to love and care for people, no matter their sex, age, gender, race, sexual orientation.”

Cher Desi, a niece of 86-year-old victim Ruth Whitfield, said she would use her own grief to push for

change across the nation.

"I don't want anyone leaving here and judging people on their race, on their religion, or where they come from," said Desi, who now lives in Orlando, Florida, but often returned to Buffalo to visit the aunt who raised her. "How many people have to be devastated? The senseless killing has to stop."

Kardashians take Portofino for Kourtney-Travis wedding

By LEANNE ITALIE AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Kravis wedding train has rolled into Italy.

After a Las Vegas practice wedding (no marriage license) with an Elvis impersonator officiating, followed by a small ceremony (with license) in Santa Barbara, California, Kourtney Kardashian and Travis Barker stepped out Friday in the jet set playground of Portofino, a fishing village known for its multicolored houses and crystalline green water on the Italian Riviera coast.

Photographers snapped the couple, along with the rest of the Kardashian-Jenner clan, as they arrived for dinner clad in Dolce & Gabbana. Notably absent was Scott Disick, the father of Kourtney's three children. They took to the streets again Saturday on their way to lunch, Kourtney in a veil and short black dress emblazoned with a likeness of the Virgin Mary.

The wedding was to be held at some point over the weekend at the rented Castello Brown, a castle built in the Middle Ages overlooking the Gulf of Portofino, according to TMZ.

The reality star, 43, and the Blink-182 drummer, 46, are known for their PDA and didn't disappoint in Portofino, where they were seen Friday on a boat sharing a kiss in the abundant sun — she in a T-shirt of her beau's band and he in his favorite style condition: shirtless with his multiple tattoos on display.

On their way to dinner, "momager" Kris Jenner was in a black dress on the arm of Guilherme Siqueira, a brand ambassador for Dolce & Gabbana. With sis Kim's eldest child, North West, and her own daughter, Penelope Disick, at her sides, Kourtney wore a sheer corseted red gown and matching furry stole. Barker? Shirtless under a black suit as he walked with daughter Alabama.

The third wedding round was to include family and a small circle of close friends, with a larger reception planned later in Los Angeles, according to reports.

Barker and the oldest Kardashian sister went Instagram official with their relationship early last year. He popped the question in October, beachside with a ring of red roses and white candles at a Montecito, California, hotel. Last month, just hours after the Grammys, word of a Las Vegas wedding spread quickly, though no marriage license could be found. Kourtney later clarified they couldn't get one in the wee hours but went ahead with a drunken practice run.

In Santa Barbara, they posted photos after making it legal at the courthouse May 15, the bride in a short white dress with veil and the groom in black, his coat buttoned up for a change. Travis' father, Randy Barker, and Kourtney's grandmother, Mary Jo "MJ" Campbell, were in attendance.

Kourtney didn't marry Disick. Barker has been married twice. His first marriage, to Melissa Kennedy, lasted nine months. His last divorce, from Shanna Moakler, came in 2008. They wed in 2004 and share two teen kids, Alabama and son Landon. Barker is also close with his 23-year-old stepdaughter, Atiana De La Hoya, from Moakler's previous relationship with former boxer Oscar De La Hoya.

The Kardashians ended their long-running "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" on E! last year and de-camped to Hulu for a new iteration, "The Kardashians," which debuted in April.

With public camping a felony, Tennessee homeless seek refuge

By TRAVIS LOLLER Associated Press

COOKEVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Miranda Atnip lost her home during the coronavirus pandemic after her boyfriend moved out and she fell behind on bills. Living in a car, the 34-year-old worries every day about getting money for food, finding somewhere to shower, and saving up enough money for an apartment where her three children can live with her again.

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Now she has a new worry: Tennessee is about to become the first U.S. state to make it a felony to camp on local public property such as parks.

"Honestly, it's going to be hard," Atnip said of the law, which takes effect July 1. "I don't know where else to go."

Tennessee already made it a felony in 2020 to camp on most state-owned property. In pushing the expansion, Sen. Paul Bailey noted that no one has been convicted under that law and said he doesn't expect this one to be enforced much, either. Neither does Luke Eldridge, a man who has worked with homeless people in the city of Cookeville and supports Bailey's plan — in part because he hopes it will spur people who care about the homeless to work with him on long-term solutions.

The law requires that violators receive at least 24 hours notice before an arrest. The felony charge is punishable by up to six years in prison and the loss of voting rights.

"It's going to be up to prosecutors ... if they want to issue a felony," Bailey said. "But it's only going to come to that if people really don't want to move."

After several years of steady decline, homelessness in the United States began increasing in 2017. A survey in January 2020 found for the first time that the number of unsheltered homeless people exceeded those in shelters. The problem was exacerbated by COVID-19, with shelters limiting capacity.

Public pressure to do something about the increasing number of highly visible homeless encampments has pushed even many traditionally liberal cities to clear them. Although camping has generally been regulated by local vagrancy laws, Texas passed a statewide ban last year. Municipalities that fail to enforce the ban risk losing state funding. Several other states have introduced similar bills, but Tennessee is the only one to make camping a felony.

Bailey's district includes Cookeville, a city of about 35,000 people between Nashville and Knoxville, where the local newspaper has chronicled growing concern with the increasing number of homeless people. The Herald-Citizen reported last year that complaints about panhandlers nearly doubled between 2019 and 2020, from 157 to 300. In 2021, the city installed signs encouraging residents to give to charities instead of panhandlers. And the City Council twice considered panhandling bans.

The Republican lawmaker acknowledges that complaints from Cookeville got his attention. City council members have told him that Nashville ships its homeless here, Bailey said. It's a rumor many in Cookeville have heard and Bailey seems to believe. When Nashville fenced off a downtown park for renovation recently, the homeless people who frequented it disappeared. "Where did they go?" Bailey asked.

Atnip laughed at the idea of people shipped in from Nashville. She was living in nearby Monterey when she lost her home and had to send her children to live with her parents. She has received some government help, but not enough to get her back on her feet, she said. At one point she got a housing voucher but couldn't find a landlord who would accept it. She and her new husband saved enough to finance a used car and were working as delivery drivers until it broke down. Now she's afraid they will lose the car and have to move to a tent, though she isn't sure where they will pitch it.

"It seems like once one thing goes wrong, it kind of snowballs," Atnip said. "We were making money with DoorDash. Our bills were paid. We were saving. Then the car goes kaput and everything goes bad."

Eldridge, who has worked with Cookeville's homeless for a decade, is an unexpected advocate of the camping ban. He said he wants to continue helping the homeless, but some people aren't motivated to improve their situation. Some are addicted to drugs, he said, and some are hiding from law enforcement. Eldridge estimates there are about 60 people living outside more or less permanently in Cookeville, and he knows them all.

"Most of them have been here a few years, and not once have they asked for housing help," he said.

Eldridge knows his position is unpopular with other advocates.

"The big problem with this law is that it does nothing to solve homelessness. In fact, it will make the problem worse," said Bobby Watts, CEO of the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council. "Having a felony on your record makes it hard to qualify for some types of housing, harder to get a job, harder to qualify for benefits."

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Not everyone wants to be in a crowded shelter with a curfew, but people will move off the streets given the right opportunities, Watts said. Homelessness among U.S. military veterans, for example, has been cut nearly in half over the past decade through a combination of housing subsidies and social services.

"It's not magic," he said. "What works for that population, works for every population."

Tina Lomax, who runs Seeds of Hope of Tennessee in nearby Sparta, was once homeless with her children. Many people are just one paycheck or one tragedy away from being on the streets, she said. Even in her community of 5,000, affordable housing is very hard to come by.

"If you have a felony on your record — holy smokes!" she said.

Eldridge, like Sen. Bailey, said he doesn't expect many people to be prosecuted for sleeping on public property. "I can promise, they're not going to be out here rounding up homeless people," he said of Cookeville law enforcement. But he doesn't know what might happen in other parts of the state.

He hopes the new law will spur some of its opponents to work with him on long-term solutions for Cookeville's homeless. If they all worked together it would mean "a lot of resources and possible funding sources to assist those in need," he said.

But other advocates don't think threatening people with a felony is a good way to help them.

"Criminalizing homelessness just makes people criminals," Watts said.

Veering from Mad Max, George Miller debuts '3,000 Years'

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

CANNES, France (AP) — It's taken a lot of time and a good deal of yearning for Australian director George Miller to make "Three Thousand Years of Longing," his long-awaited follow-up to "Mad Max: Fury Road."

Miller premiered "Three Thousand Years of Longing" over the weekend at the Cannes Film Festival, the culmination of a journey that began 20 years ago when Miller first read the A. S. Byatt story upon which the film is based, "The Djinn in the Nightingale's Eye."

But it was only when frictions over the profits from "Fury Road" — Miller's operatic action opus — opened a window that the time came for "Three Thousand Years of Longing."

"After we wrote it, it was really a question of when to do it," Miller said alongside his stars, Idris Elba and Tilda Swinton, shortly before the film's premiere in Cannes. "It was lucky, actually. We got into litigation with Warner Bros. on 'Fury Road' and it meant that, hey, we can bring this to the fore."

The unveiling of "Three Thousand Years of Longing" had most Cannes festivalgoers on the edge of their seats. What would Miller conjure up this time? Could the 77-year-old filmmaker match the propulsive thrill of "Mad Max: Fury Road"?

That film, which Miller is preparing to revisit with the prequel "Furiosa," made its blistering premiere in Cannes seven years ago on its way to an armful of Oscars, \$374 million in box office receipts and a place on plenty of best-century lists.

The answer, it turns out, is a singular blend of fantasy epic and chamber-piece drama that goes to the heart of Miller's own feelings about storytelling. The film, which MGM will release on Aug. 31, was scripted by Miller and his daughter, first-time screenwriter Augusta Gore. In it, Swinton plays a narratologist named Alitheia Binnie who is visiting Turkey for a conference on how science has replaced mythology.

After Alitheia buys an old bottle at the Grand Bazaar and scrubs it in her hotel sink, a wish-granting djinn (Elba) appears, filling up the room. A lengthy and intimate conversation ensues, in which he tells her about his previous masters throughout the last 3,000 years. Using computer-generated imagery, Miller blends mythology and modern world in a contemplative, history-spanning fairy tale that resolutely believes in magic.

"There are some people who are great storytellers, who can do it as a performance," Miller says. "I know that I struggle with that. I can't get up and tell a spontaneous story well. But I can do it in the ultra-slow motion of telling a movie, where I think about every nuance, every rhythm of it."

Miller teamed up again with many of his "Fury Road" collaborators, including cinematographer John Seale, editor Margaret Sixel and composer Tom Holkenborg. But the director sensed that in some ways

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"Three Thousand Years of Longing" was the "anti-Mad Max" — talkative where "Fury Road" was wordless, spread across eons rather than in real time.

Reactions have been mixed to "Three Thousand Years of Longing," but few have questioned its ambition or its uniqueness.

And for all the eras it spans, the movie reaches right up to today. The pandemic is seen late in the film in scenes where background actors are wearing masks. The film's production was also dramatically shaped by the pandemic. Miller shifted from shooting in a series of international locations to relying on CGI and his native Australia for the bulk of the film.

"When we started talking about this film, it felt very right," Swinton says. "But now, this year, it's even more. And I imagine it will be even more the next. That instinct of yours for on the wind, that's going to run and run. That's like a seed that one plants."

To Miller, "Three Thousand Years of Longing" doesn't just lead up to now — it goes beyond.

"It's a very pertinent story," says Miller. "It's like a metal detector or a Geiger counter, when something really activates it. You go: 'Oh, there's a rich seam in here somewhere.'"

"Time will tell if it has enough stuff going in it that other people respond to it. You hope that the story becomes someone else's and belongs to everyone," he said.

Milley tells West Point cadets technology will transform war

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The top U.S. military officer challenged the next generation of Army soldiers on Saturday to prepare America's military to fight future wars that may look little like the wars of today.

Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, painted a grim picture of a world that is becoming more unstable, with great powers intent on changing the global order. He told graduating cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point that they will bear the responsibility to make sure America is ready.

"The world you are being commissioned into has the potential for significant international conflict between great powers. And that potential is increasing, not decreasing," Milley told the cadets. "Whatever overmatch we, the United States, enjoyed militarily for the last 70 years is closing quickly, and the United States will be, in fact, we already are challenged in every domain of warfare, space, cyber, maritime, air, and of course land."

America, he said, is no longer the unchallenged global power. Instead, it is being tested in Europe by Russian aggression, in Asia by China's dramatic economic and military growth as well as North Korea's nuclear and missile threats, and in the Middle East and Africa by instability from terrorists.

Drawing a parallel with what military officials are seeing in Russia's war on Ukraine, Milley said future warfare will be highly complex, with elusive enemies and urban warfare that requires long-range precision weapons, and new advanced technologies.

The U.S. has already been rushing new, high-tech drones and other weapons to the Ukrainian military — in some cases equipment that was just in the early prototype phases. Weapons such as the shoulder-launched kamikaze Switchblade drones are being used against the Russians, even as they are still evolving.

And as the war in Ukraine has shifted — from Russia's unsuccessful battle to take Kyiv to a gritty urban battle for towns in the eastern Donbas region — so has the need for different types of weapons. Early weeks focused on long-range precision weapons such as Stinger and Javelin missiles, but now the emphasis is on artillery, and increased shipments of howitzers.

And over the next 25 to 30 years, the fundamental character of war and its weapons will continue to change.

The U.S. military, Milley said, can't cling to concepts and weapons of old, but must urgently modernize and develop the force and equipment that can deter or, if needed, win in a global conflict. And the graduating officers, he said, will have to change the way U.S. forces think, train and fight.

As the Army's leaders of tomorrow, Milley said, the newly minted 2nd lieutenants will be fighting with

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robotic tanks, ships and airplanes, and relying on artificial intelligence, synthetic fuels, 3-D manufacturing and human engineering.

"It will be your generation that will carry the burden and shoulder the responsibility to maintain the peace, to contain and to prevent the outbreak of great power war," he said.

In stark terms, Milley described what failing to prevent wars between great powers looks like.

"Consider for a moment that 26,000 — 26,000 — soldiers and Marines were killed in only six weeks from October to November of 1918 in the Battle of the Meuse-Argonne in World War I," Milley said. "Consider also that 26,000 U.S. troops were killed in the eight weeks in the summer of 1944 from the beaches of Normandy to the liberation of Paris."

Recalling the 58,000 Americans killed in just the summer of 1944 as World War II raged, he added, "That is the human cost of great-power war. The butcher's bill."

Thinking back to his own graduation, Milley paraphrased a popular Bob Dylan song from the time: "we can feel the light breeze in the air. And right now as we sit here on the plain at West Point, we can see the storm flags fluttering in the wind. We can hear in the distance the loud clap of thunder. The hard rain is about to fall."

US, SKorea open to expanded military drills to deter North

By AAMER MADHANI and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — U.S. President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said after meeting Saturday that they will consider expanded joint military exercises to deter the nuclear threat from North Korea at a time when there's little hope of real diplomacy on the matter.

The announcement reflects a shift in direction by both leaders from their predecessors: Former U.S. President Donald Trump had considered scrapping the exercises and expressed affection for North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. And the last South Korean president, Moon Jae-in, remained committed to dialogue with Kim to the end of his term despite being repeatedly rebuffed by the North.

Biden said cooperation between the U.S. and South Korea shows "our readiness to take on all threats together."

North Korea, which has defended its nuclear weapons and missile development as a necessary deterrence against what it describes as U.S. threats, could well respond angrily to Saturday's announcement. It has long described joint military exercises as rehearsals for an invasion, although the allies have portrayed the drills as defensive.

Biden and Yoon affirmed in remarks at a joint news conference that their shared goal is the complete denuclearization of North Korea. The U.S. and South Korea said in a joint statement that they were committed to a "rules-based international order" following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The statement likely sets the stage for how the U.S. and its allies will address any challenges with North Korea.

Yet Biden also reiterated his offer of vaccines to North Korea as the coronavirus spreads at a dangerously fast speed through that country, including an offer to route them through China if that was more acceptable to North Korea. Asked if he would be willing to meet Kim Jong Un, Biden said that would depend on whether the North Korean leader was "sincere" and "serious."

"Yes, we've offered vaccines, not only to North Korea but China as well," Biden said. "We're prepared to do that immediately. We've gotten no response."

The division of the Korean Peninsula after World War II has led to two radically different countries. In South Korea, Biden is touring factories for computer chips and next-generation autos in a democracy and engaging in talks for greater cooperation. But in the North, there is a deadly coronavirus outbreak in a largely unvaccinated autocracy that can best command the world's attention by flexing its nuclear capabilities.

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One as Biden flew to South Korea, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said the U.S. has coordinated with Seoul and Tokyo on how they'll respond should the North conduct a nuclear test or missile strike while Biden is in the region or soon after. Sullivan also

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spoke with his Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi earlier in the week and urged Beijing to use its influence to persuade the North to cease the tests.

As part of a five-day visit in Asia, Biden spent Saturday developing his relationship with Yoon, who assumed office little more than a week ago.

The U.S. president on Saturday laid a wreath at Seoul National Cemetery, wearing white gloves and a somber expression as he also burned incense and then signed a guest book. Biden then greeted Yoon at the People's House for a nearly two-hour meeting followed by the news conference. The leaders capped the day with a dinner at the National Museum of Korea.

Yoon welcomed Biden with a toast, noting that the alliance "was forged in blood on the battlefield of the Korean War." He said this partnership would go beyond security in Korea to include cutting edge technology and a global strategic partnership, then drew a laugh from Biden by quoting Irish poet William Butler Yeats.

Biden reciprocated with a toast for the alliance to "flourish for all the decades ahead." Both men ended their toasts with the military motto, "We go together."

During the talks, both leaders emphasized economic security and growing trade relations as two Korean industrial stalwarts — Samsung and Hyundai — are opening major plants in the U.S.

Yoon, a political neophyte with no foreign policy experience, came into the talks with Biden less than two weeks after taking office looking to demonstrate his competency on the world stage. The U.S. president on Saturday also spoke by telephone with Moon Jae-in, South Korea's immediate past president. Biden thanked him for his close partnership, the White House said.

Biden faces growing disapproval within the U.S. over inflation near a 40-year high, but his administration sees one clear economic win in the contest with China for influence in the Pacific. Bloomberg Economics Analysis estimates that the U.S. economy will grow faster this year than China for the first time since 1976, a forecast that Biden highlighted at the news conference.

The U.S. has struggled to knit together a coalition of countries in Asia that can counterbalance China's growing strength, abandoning the trade deal known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership after a political backlash at home.

Biden sidestepped a question about resurrecting the agreement, but spoke about the potential for closer ties in the region beyond traditional allies like South Korea and Japan.

"Things have changed," he said. "There is a sense among the democracies in the Pacific that there's a need to cooperate much more closely. Not just militarily, but in terms of economically and politically."

Biden did not explicitly talk in his remarks about the need to counter China, but Beijing on Saturday offered its own counter-messaging.

"We hope that the U.S. will match its words with deeds and work with countries in the region to promote solidarity and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, instead of plotting division and confrontation," Chinese envoy for Korean affairs Liu Xiaoming, said on Twitter.

At the start of the administration, many White House officials thought Kim's nuclear ambitions would prove to be perhaps the administration's most vexing challenge and that the North Korean leader would aim to test Biden's mettle early in his time in office.

Through the first 14 months of Biden's administration, Pyongyang held off on missile tests even as it ignored efforts by the administration to reach out through back channels in hopes of restarting talks that could lead to the North's denuclearization in return for sanctions relief.

But the quiet didn't last. North Korea has tested missiles 16 separate times this year, including in March, when its first flight of an intercontinental ballistic missile since 2017 demonstrated a potential range including the entire U.S. mainland.

The Biden administration is calling on China to restrain North Korea from engaging in any missile or nuclear tests. Speaking on Air Force One, Sullivan said Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping could hold a phone call in the coming weeks.

While Biden has made clear that he sees China as the United States' greatest economic and national

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security competitor, he says it is crucial to keep the lines of communication open so the two powers can cooperate on issues of mutual concern. North Korea is perhaps highest on that list.

White House officials said Biden won't visit the Demilitarized Zone dividing the Korean Peninsula during the trip. Instead, Biden will visit the Air Operations Center's Combat Operations Floor on Osan Air Base, south of Seoul, on Sunday.

Australian Labor topples conservatives; PM faces early tests

By ROD McGUIRK Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australia's center-left opposition party toppled the conservative government after almost a decade in power, and Prime Minister-elect Anthony Albanese in his Saturday election victory speech promised sharper reductions in greenhouse gas emissions while he faces an early foreign policy test.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said he quickly conceded defeat despite millions of votes yet to be counted because an Australian leader must attend a Tokyo summit on Tuesday with U.S. President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Albanese, who has described himself as the only candidate with a "non-Anglo Celtic name" to run for prime minister in the 121 years that the office has existed, referred to his own humble upbringing in the Sydney suburb of Camperdown.

"It says a lot about our great country that a son of a single mom who was a disability pensioner, who grew up in public housing down the road in Camperdown can stand before you tonight as Australia's prime minister," Albanese said.

"Every parent wants more for the next generation than they had. My mother dreamt of a better life for me. And I hope that my journey in life inspires Australians to reach for the stars," he added.

Albanese will be sworn in as prime minister after his Labor party clinched its first electoral win since 2007.

Labor has promised more financial assistance and a robust social safety net as Australia grapples with the highest inflation since 2001 and soaring housing prices.

The party also plans to increase minimum wages, and on the foreign policy front, it proposed to establish a Pacific defense school to train neighboring armies in response to China's potential military presence on the Solomon Islands on Australia's doorstep.

It also wants to tackle climate change with a more ambitious 43% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.

Morrison's Liberal party-led coalition was seeking a fourth three-year term. It held the narrowest of majorities — 76 seats in the 151-member House of Representatives, where parties need a majority to form a government. In early counting on Saturday, the coalition was on track to win 51 seats, Labor 72, 10 were unaligned lawmakers and 18 were too close to call.

The major parties bled votes to fringe parties and independents, which increases the likelihood of a hung parliament and a minority government.

Australia most recent hung parliaments were from 2010-13, and during World War II.

The minor Australian Greens party appeared to have increased its representation from a single seat to three.

The Greens supported a Labor minority government in 2010, and will likely support a Labor administration again if the party falls short of a 76-seat majority.

As well as campaigning against Labor, Morrison's conservative Liberals fought off a new challenge from so-called teal independent candidates to key government lawmakers' reelection in party strongholds.

At least four Liberal lawmakers appeared to have lost their seats to teal independents including Liberal Party deputy leader Josh Frydenberg, who had been considered Morrison's most likely successor.

"What we have achieved here is extraordinary," teal candidate and former foreign correspondent Zoe Daniels said in her victory speech. "Safe Liberal seat. Two-term incumbent. Independent," she added.

The teal independents are marketed as a greener shade than the Liberal Party's traditional blue color

and want stronger government action on reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions than either the government or Labor are proposing.

The government's Senate leader Simon Birmingham was concerned by big swings toward several teal candidates.

"It is a clear problem that we are losing seats that are heartland seats, that have defined the Liberal Party for generations," Birmingham said.

"If we lose those seats — it is not certain that we will — but there is clearly a big movement against us and there is clearly a big message in it," Birmingham added.

Due to the pandemic, around half of Australia's 17 million electors have voted early or applied for postal votes, which will likely slow the count.

Early polling for reasons of travel or work began two weeks ago and the Australian Electoral Commission will continue collecting postal votes for another two weeks.

Adoptions another facet of life halted by war in Ukraine

By PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

LEEDS, Maine (AP) — The ripple effects of Russia's invasion of Ukraine have been devastating for families of all kinds — including those who have seen their prospective adoptions put on hold.

Ukraine was once one of the U.S.'s most frequent partners on international adoptions, but the war changed all that: The embattled country has halted all international adoptions as the country copes with the turmoil unleashed on its courts and social services. Many children, including orphans, have also fled or been displaced.

When the war started, there were more than 300 Ukrainian children previously hosted by American families that were seeking to formally adopt them, said Ryan Hanlon, chief executive officer and president of the National Council For Adoption. Representatives for adoption agencies said that means at least 200 families were at some point of the adoption process, which takes between two to three years in ideal circumstances.

But, the National Council For Adoption made clear in a statement, "this is not the appropriate time or context to be considering adoption by U.S. citizens."

That is because adoptions can only proceed with children who are clearly orphaned or for whom parental rights have been terminated, the group said, and establishing identities and family statuses is impossible for many Ukrainian children right now.

Jessica Pflumm, a stay-at-home mom who runs a smoothie business and has two daughters in the suburbs of Kansas City, is one prospective adoptive parent. She hopes to adopt Maks, a younger teen — Pflumm was reluctant to reveal his exact age because of safety concerns — whom they hosted for four weeks in December and January. Maks is now back in Ukraine, where his orphanage's director has moved him to relatively safety in the country's west.

"Every day is hard. We pray a lot and we try to think of what he is experiencing versus what we're experiencing," Pflumm said. "For us, it's hard, but nothing compared to what he's experiencing."

War, natural disasters and other destabilizing events have a long history of upending intercountry adoptions. And Ukraine is a big piece of the international adoption puzzle, Hanlon said.

International adoptions have declined in number in recent years, but they have stayed relatively common from Ukraine. In fiscal year 2020, it surpassed China to become the country with the most adoptions to the U.S., responsible for more than 10% of all intercountry adoptions to the U.S., Hanlon said. Ukraine has one of the highest rates of children living in orphanages in Europe.

There were more than 200 adoptions from Ukraine in 2020 and nearly 300 in 2019, according to statistics from the U.S. Department of State. Russia, meanwhile, banned adoptions of children by American families in 2013 (around 60,000 children from Russia had been adopted by Americans in the two preceding decades).

Many prospective adoptions begin with U.S. families temporarily hosting older Ukrainian children through

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a network of orphan hosting programs, Hanlon said.

"It's a very different experience if you've already connected with a particular child," Hanlon said. "There's a very visceral connection that these families have with their children, with having them in their homes."

Pflumm said she and her family do have a language barrier with Maks. He speaks only Russian, which they do not know. She said they communicate with him via phone, typing everything into Google Translate. A friend from Belarus sometimes interprets, she said.

Pflumm said the family truly bonded with Maks through experiences, above language. When he was in Kansas, he experienced his first Christmas opening gifts, she said. They also connected over sports, and Maks was introduced to baseball, Pflumm said.

These days, Maks hears air raids going on every night and is often unable to sleep, Pflumm said.

"He deserves to have a family, and to have opportunity in front of him," she said. "I feel like these kids are lost in the shuffle."

In rural Maine, Tracy Blake-Bell and her family hosted two brothers, now 14 and 17, for a month in 2020 through a Wyoming-based program called Host Orphans Worldwide. The family then began the formal adoption process — an already complex process further snarled first by the coronavirus pandemic and, now, war.

The brothers, who grew up in orphanages, are now relatively safe in a Polish facility, the Blake-Bells said. But the Blake-Bells, who have two teenage sons and a dog named Jack, want them home.

"My husband and I love these two children as much as we love anyone in the world," Tracy Blake-Bell said.

For most families, the wait is not going to end soon.

The State Department "is working with the Ukrainian government on resolving cases involving families who have final adoption orders but need to obtain other required documents for the child's immigrant visa processing," spokesperson Vanessa Smith said.

However, the Ukraine government maintains, per a March statement, that "under current conditions intercountry adoption is impossible."

The Blake-Bells are among about 15 families waiting on that final step of the process — clearance from Ukrainian court. And they said they're going to stick with it, as long as it takes.

"These boys are eligible," said Nat, Tracy Blake-Bell's husband. "Let them experience something a little bit more than an orphanage."

US sees risk of COVID supply rationing without more funds

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is planning for "dire" contingencies that could include rationing supplies of vaccines and treatments this fall if Congress doesn't approve more money for fighting COVID-19.

In public comments and private meetings on Capitol Hill, Dr. Ashish Jha, the White House coronavirus coordinator, has painted a dark picture in which the U.S. could be forced to cede many of the advances made against the coronavirus over the last two years and even the most vulnerable could face supply shortages.

Biden administration officials have been warning for weeks that the country has spent nearly all the money in the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan that was dedicated directly to COVID-19 response.

A small pool of money remains, and the administration faces critical decisions about how to spend it. That means tough decisions, like weighing whether to use it to secure the next generation of vaccines to protect the highest risk populations or giving priority to a supply of highly effective therapies that dramatically reduce the risks of severe illness and death.

That decision may be made in the coming week, according to the administration, as the White House faces imminent deadlines to begin placing orders for vaccines and treatments before other nations jump ahead of the U.S. in accessing supply.

Jha has warned that without more money, vaccines will be harder to come by, tests will once again be

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scarce, and the therapeutics that are helping the country weather the current omicron-driven surge in cases without a commensurate increase in deaths could be sold overseas before Americans can access them.

"I think we would see a lot of unnecessary loss of life if that were to happen," Jha said this past week. "But we're looking at all the scenarios and planning for all of them."

He said the administration was "getting much more into the scenario-planning business to make sure that we know what may be ahead of us so we can plan for it and obviously also lay those out in front of Congress."

Jha, who declined to put a specific projection on potential loss of life, has become the face of the Biden administration's efforts to persuade Congress to approve an additional \$22.5 billion for COVID-19 response.

"The scenarios that we're planning for are for things like what if Congress gives us no money and we don't have adequate vaccines," Jha told the AP in a May 12 interview. "We run out of therapies. We don't have enough tests. What might things look like? Obviously, that's a pretty dire situation."

Already, the domestic production of at-home testing is slowing, with workers beginning to be laid off. In the coming weeks, Jha said, manufacturers will sell off equipment and "get out of this business," leaving the U.S. once again dependent on overseas suppliers for rapid test.

Drug manufacturers and the Food and Drug Administration, meanwhile, are working on evaluating the next generation of vaccines, potentially including ones that are targeted at the dominant omicron strain. But getting them ready before the predicted case surge in the fall means placing orders now, since they take two to three months to produce.

Jha said this week that the U.S. has yet to start negotiations with drugmakers because of the lack of money.

"We've had some very preliminary conversations with the manufacturers," he said. "But the negotiations around it have not yet begun, partly because we're waiting for resources." He added: "The truth is that other countries are in conversations with the manufacturers and starting to kind of advance their negotiations."

The U.S., he said, doesn't have enough money to purchase additional booster vaccines for anyone who wants one. Instead, the supplies of those vaccines may be restricted to just the most vulnerable — not unlike the chaotic early days of the COVID-10 vaccine roll-out.

"Without additional funding from Congress, we will not be able to buy enough vaccines for every American who wants one once these new generation of vaccines come out in the fall and winter," he said.

And while the U.S. has built up a stockpile of the antiviral pill Paxlovid, which has been widely effective at reducing severe disease and death, it's running out of money to purchase new doses — or other, even more effective therapies that are in the final stages of development.

"If we don't get more resources from Congress, what we will find in the fall and winter is we will find a period of time where Americans can look around and see their friends in other countries — in Europe and Canada — with access to these treatments that Americans will not have," Jha said.

A congressional deal for a slimmed-down COVID-19 response package of about \$10 billion fell apart in March over the Biden administration's plans to lift virus-related restrictions on migration at U.S. borders. But a federal judge on Friday put that plan on hold, just days before it was to take effect on Monday.

There is no guarantee of swift action on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers — particularly Republicans — have grown newly wary of deficit spending. On Thursday, a \$40 billion measure to assist restaurants that struggled during the pandemic failed on those grounds. GOP lawmakers have also objected to additional funding for the global pandemic response, and called for any new virus response funding to come from unspent economic relief money in the \$1.9 trillion rescue plan.

The administration is preparing to lay the blame on lawmakers if there are tough consequences this fall due to lack of money. Still, it could be perilous for Biden, who has struggled to fulfill his promise to voters to get control of the pandemic.

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Parris Island wages battles, not war, against climate change

By MICHELLE LIU Associated Press/Report for America

PARRIS ISLAND, S.C. (AP) — Rising seas are encroaching on one of America's most storied military installations, where thousands of recruits are molded into Marines each year amid the salt marshes of South Carolina's Lowcountry region.

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island is particularly vulnerable to flooding, coastal erosion and other impacts of climate change, a Defense Department-funded "resiliency review" noted last month. Some scientists project that by 2099, three-quarters of the island could be under water during high tides each day.

Military authorities say they're confident they can keep the second-oldest Marine Corps base intact, for now, through small-scale changes to existing infrastructure projects.

Maj. Marc Blair, Parris Island's environmental director, describes this strategy as "the art of the small," a phrase he attributes to the base's commanding general, Brig. Gen. Julie Nethercot. In practice, it means such things as raising a culvert that needs to be repaired anyway, limiting development in low-lying areas and adding floodproofing measures to firing range upgrades.

Others advocate much larger and more expensive solutions, such as building huge seawalls around the base, or moving Marine Corps training away from the coast altogether.

Parris Island has an outsized role in military lore and American pop culture as a proving ground for Marines who have served in every major conflict since World War I. It remains a crucial training ground, along with Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. But the rising sea is proving to be a formidable enemy.

Salt marsh makes up more than half of the base's 8,000 acres (3,200 hectares), and the depot's highest point, by the fire station, is just 13 feet (4 meters) above sea level. It is linked to the mainland by a single road that's already susceptible to flooding.

Low-lying areas on the island and the nearby Marine Corps air station already flood about ten times a year, and by 2050, "the currently flood-prone areas within both bases could experience tidal flooding more than 300 times annually and be underwater nearly 30 percent of the year given the highest scenario," according to the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Military reports have for decades acknowledged threats from climate change to national security, as wildfires, hurricanes and floods have prompted evacuations and damaged bases. A Pentagon document published last fall, after President Joe Biden ordered federal agencies to revamp their climate resilience plans, says the Department of Defense now has "a comprehensive approach to building climate-ready installations" and cites an adaptation and resilience study undertaken by Parris Island.

But day-to-day disruptions are growing, from nuisance flooding on roads to rising temperatures and higher humidity that when combined, limit the human body's ability to cool down with sweat.

Those wetter, hotter days could limit outdoor training. Already, more than 500 people on Parris Island suffered from heat stroke and heat exhaustion between 2016 and 2020, putting the base among the top ten U.S. military installations for heat illnesses, according to the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch.

All the training that happens at Parris Island could be technically replicated on cooler, drier land somewhere else, said retired Brig. Gen. Stephen Cheney, who served as commanding general at the base from 1999 to 2001.

But Cheney doesn't foresee any appetite in Congress for closing the base and relocating its mission to less risky ground, which means the government needs to start investing in structural solutions to protect its crucial components such as the firing ranges near the water, he said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Spending millions to build seawalls would be cheaper than spending billions to rebuild the base after a devastating hurricane, Cheney reasons.

Parris Island has so far been spared the direct hits that have caused billions in damage to other military installations, but it has been evacuated twice in the last five years for hurricanes, which hit South Carolina every eight years, on average.

In 2018, Hurricane Florence pummeled North Carolina's Camp Lejeune, washing away the beach used by Marines for training, destroying buildings and displacing personnel. A month later, Hurricane Michael tore

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through Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida, devastating airplane hangars and causing \$3 billion in damage.

Those disasters should serve as cautionary tales for Parris Island, argues Cheney. But there is no grand overhaul currently planned -- no concrete bulkheads or other seawalls that could dramatically revise the post's visual character, no master plan to raise buildings all at once.

Hurricane planning is focused on protecting life and preserving the equipment and buildings necessary to limit training disruptions, said Col. William Truax, the depot's director of installations and logistics.

"We're not taking on any major projects because we've not experienced a major threat to what we have to do here," Truax said. "To be honest, these old brick buildings aren't going anywhere."

Parris Island also depends on the resilience of communities just off the base. Stephanie Rossi, a planner with the Lowcountry Council of Governments, said the group's Defense Department-funded study of climate change impacts suggests shoring up the only road on and off the island, elevating buildings and bolstering the storm water system of an area where military families live.

The base also works with environmental groups to support living shoreline projects, building up coastal oyster reefs to strengthen natural buffers to floods and hurricanes.

"The waters will recede," said Blair, the environmental director. "The more resilient we make this place, the quicker we can get back to making Marines."

GOP primary race for Alabama Senate seat turns bitter

By KIM CHANDLER ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUBURN, Ala. (AP) — Alabama's Republican primary for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by retiring U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby has become a bitter high-dollar contest with the three strongest contenders jockeying for the nomination.

The leading candidates are U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks who won — and then lost — former President Donald Trump's backing in the race; Katie Boyd Britt, the former leader of Business Council of Alabama and Shelby's former chief of staff; and Mike Durant, an aerospace company owner best known as the helicopter pilot whose capture during a U.S. military mission in Somalia was chronicled in the "Black Hawk Down" book and subsequent movie.

Lillie Boddie, Karla M. Dupriest and Jake Schafer are also seeking the GOP nomination.

Observers say it's hard to predict whether the nomination will be settled in Tuesday's primary. The fractured field increases the chances that the race will go to a June 21 runoff, which is required unless one candidate captures more than 50% of Tuesday's vote. David Mowery, an Alabama-based political consultant said the race has an up-for-grabs feel.

"It's anybody's guess as to who's in first and who's in second in the runoff," he said.

As for the barrage of negative campaign ads in the primary's closing days, Mowery said: "The gloves have come off."

The Alabama race is one of several bitterly contested GOP primaries for open Senate seats. Retirements also sparked heated races this season in Pennsylvania, North Carolina and in Ohio. Trump further scrambled the Alabama race this spring when he rescinded his endorsement of Brooks. Both Britt and Durant have courted Trump's nod, but he has so far stayed out of the Alabama race.

"We look at this country and don't recognize it right now. Unfortunately, under the Biden administration, every single thing in this nation is moving in the wrong direction," Britt said during a speech to the Republican Women of East Alabama.

Before leading the Business Council, Britt served as chief of staff to Shelby, one of the Senate's most senior members and a traditional Republican known for his ability to bring home federal projects and funding to his home state.

But in speeches Britt, running under a slogan of Alabama First, has leaned away from her hefty Washington resume. She said it's important voters get to know her and kind of senator she will be. Her experience, she said, gave her an opportunity to understand how the Senate works.

"I can hit the ground running on day one. And for me, Alabama First is not just a slogan. It's a mission," she said.

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Brooks, a six-term congressman from north Alabama, is banking on his long history with Alabama voters to overcome his feud with Trump.

"If you're a conservative Republican I would submit to you that I'm the only proven conservative in this race. With me there is no rolling the dice to determine how I'm going to go on major public policy issues," Brooks said, urging people to look up his ratings from the National Rifle Association, Heritage Action and other groups.

Despite losing Trump's backing, he continues to run as "MAGA Mo," invoking Trump's Make America Great Again slogan, and his campaign website continues to include old video footage of Trump praising the north Alabama congressman.

Trump initially endorsed Brooks last year, rewarding the conservative firebrand who whipped up a crowd of Trump supporters at the Jan. 6, 2021 "Stop the Steal" rally that preceded the U.S. Capitol insurrection.

"Today is the day that American patriots start taking down names and kicking ass," Brooks said. But Trump withdrew the endorsement in March after their relationship soured. Trump cites Brooks' languishing performance and accused the conservative congressman of going "woke" for saying it was time to move on from the 2020 presidential outcome and focus on upcoming elections. Brooks said Trump was trying to get him to illegally rescind the election.

Trump has not made a new endorsement in the race. Both Durant and Britt have maintained they are the superior choice for Trump's backing if the race goes to a runoff.

At a speech in Phenix City, a town in the shadow of the U.S. Army's Fort Benning, Durant pitched himself as the outsider in the race. He began a speech by describing his combat service — which included not just Somalia but Desert Storm and missions in Panama — and then working in the defense industry and founding an aerospace company.

"I'm not a politician," Durant said. "That is what people are tired of. That's why people want outsiders. That is why people want straight shooters."

Durant said his military experience separates him from those in Washington who "don't know what they're talking about" when discussing deploying troops.

"This is serious business. We don't deploy troops, we don't get in skirmishes, we don't try to do nation building unless we truly understand the commitment that we're about to make, not only financially, but the lives of young men and women, our national credibility, all those things that are on the line."

Durant, a helicopter pilot who was held prisoner after being shot down, is seeking the endorsement of Trump, who once disputed that Sen. John McCain was a war hero because he was held as a POW. "I like people that weren't captured," Trump said in 2015. Asked about that, Durant said he thought the divisions between the two were "based on politics, not based on service."

Both Britt and Brooks have criticized Durant for "dodging debates" after his campaign declined three separate dates offered by the Alabama Republican Party. Durant said he is willing to debate but could not make it fit his schedule.

Outside groups have pumped more than \$20 million into the race to either support or oppose one of the frontrunners.

The Super PACS have been responsible for many of the attack ads in the race. Alabama Patriots PAC spent \$4 million to support Durant after receiving money from America's Project, a Virginia-based PAC associated with Jacob Harriman, a Marine Corps veteran who operates the organization, "More Perfect Union." Alabama's Future, a PAC opposing Brooks, has received \$2 million from a Mitch McConnell-aligned PAC.

The Rev. Will Boyd, former Brighton mayor Brandaun Dean and retired Army veteran Lanny Kackson are vying for the Democratic nomination. However, Democrats have struggled in recent years statewide races in Alabama. Former U.S. Sen. Doug Jones, harnessed a well-funded campaign and a scandal surrounding GOP nominee Roy Moore, to win a special election in 2017. But Jones, who was the first Alabama Democrat elected to the Senate in over two decades, lost the following election.

On Venezuelan roads, old cars prevail, break down everywhere

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By REGINA GARCIA CANO Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — A 1983 Chevrolet C-10 pickup is the workhorse of Argenis Ron's party equipment rental business. He uses it to haul chairs, tents and tables to gatherings all across Venezuela's sprawling capital.

The once-white paint is slightly yellowish and the body shows a bit of rust, a few dings. The odometer was already broken when he bought it 12 years ago.

And with business picking up as the pandemic seems to slow, he's putting in more miles — and making more trips to mechanics, including a recent visit to investigate a snoring-like noise emanating from the left rear wheel.

"When the mechanics ask for parts — the truck asks you — you have to buy them," Ron said. "One cannot refuse because the truck is a resource to make money."

He's philosophical about the need to keep repairing his vintage truck: "It's not like the current cars that have a computer and have a lot of things at the system level. I say that (old trucks) are trustworthy and more reliable because they use nothing but gasoline and water."

People like Ron are keeping Caracas' street-corner mechanics increasingly busy these days as they try to coax a little more life out of aging vehicles in a country whose new car market collapsed and where few can afford to trade up for a better used one.

Venezuela's vehicle industry produced only eight trucks last year — and nary a single car — according to the Chamber of Venezuelan Manufacturers of Automotive Products. At the century's peak, in 2006-2007, some 172,000 vehicles rolled out of plants operated by Ford, General Motors, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Chrysler and others.

Imports haven't filled the gap. In 2021, only 1,886 new light vehicles were sold in Venezuela, according to estimates from LMC Automotive, an auto industry consulting firm. That was about double the number in 2020, but less than 1% of what was sold in 2007, when new light vehicle sales peaked at 437,675.

Venezuela lifted a ban on importing used cars in 2019. But years of hyperinflation obliterated much of the middle class that could once dream at least of a used car, leaving average monthly salaries at less than \$100. That inflation combined with government controls meant to stifle it also meant banks were unwilling or unable to make car loans.

So people cling to what they have. Like Eduardo Ayala's 1999 Nissan Sentra, which was undergoing mechanical surgery at a shop in a working class district in western Caracas.

"It wasn't that I chose that car, it was that I had the money for that car," Ayala said. "I would like to buy a (Suzuki) Grand Vitara, at least a 2005, (but) you also have to adjust to your economy as much as you can."

Elvis Hernandez found the problem that had left Ayala stranded on the freeway a day earlier: A month-old off-brand ignition distributor had failed.

"The vast majority of people do not have money to buy a car — that is the truth of the matter. So they prefer to repair the one they have," Hernandez said. Around him, fellow mechanics worked on other cars, all at least a decade old.

Venezuela's roads are full of high-mileage, money-sucking vehicles, many that predate the socialist transformation ushered in by the late President Hugo Chavez at the turn of the century.

A morning commute to work, a brief trip to the grocery store or a 14-mile drive to the beach all involve sightings of cars parked with someone tinkering under the hood.

Venezuela — with one the world's largest reserves of crude oil — once had the most prosperous middle class in Latin America and car dealerships boomed.

But a complex social, economic and humanitarian crisis began in the mid-2010s, aggravated by falling oil prices, U.S. economic sanctions on the government and — critics allege — flamboyant mismanagement of the economy.

In 2020, about nine out of 10 families once ranked as middle class had fallen into the ranks of the poor, according to the Inter-American Development Bank. By one measure, the monthly income of those once-

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middle-class households fell from the equivalent of \$830 a month in 2012 to \$195 in 2020.

Many of the spacious dealerships that once catered to them still bear their logos, but now sit empty or house other businesses. Those open in the capital tend to target the upper class. A Ferrari dealership has three red cars on the floor, each costing more than \$400,000.

Some Venezuelans have turned to YouTube for instruction on fixing their own cars.

Somewhere in Caracas is a Honda Civic with a PVC pipe acting as a hose and a piece of wood holding the battery in place. It broke down on the freeway after a holiday weekend, stranding all four swimsuit-wearing passengers and prompting them to improvise a repair as sweat streamed down their sand-dusted faces.

Others can still scrape together money to hire experts of varying degrees.

Dozens of mechanics operate along the street in the neighborhood where Ron, the equipment rental business owner, had his truck repaired. They keep their tools locked away in nearby buildings or other hideaways.

Enderson Ramirez, who specializes in brake systems, said some people have put off repairs for so long that they show up with broken brake pads and severely damaged discs.

He said that some vehicle owners may fix damaged rear brakes but "they put off doing the brakes in the front because their budget is not enough," he said. "And, well, we negotiate with them. We negotiate the labor costs because ... if he doesn't get the work done, we don't earn anything."

Russia cuts off gas exports to Finland in symbolic move

By JARI TANNER Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — Russia halted gas exports to neighboring Finland on Saturday, a highly symbolic move that came just days after the Nordic country announced it wanted to join NATO and marked a likely end to Finland's nearly 50 years of importing natural gas from Russia.

The measure taken by the Russian energy giant Gazprom was in line with an earlier announcement following Helsinki's refusal to pay for the gas in rubles as Russian President Vladimir Putin has demanded European countries do since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24.

The Finnish state-owned gas company Gasum said that "natural gas supplies to Finland under Gasum's supply contract have been cut off" by Russia on Saturday morning at 7 a.m. local time (0400 GMT).

The announcement follows Moscow's decision to cut off electricity exports to Finland earlier this month and an earlier decision by the Finnish state-controlled oil company Neste to replace imports of Russian crude oil with crude oil from elsewhere.

After decades of energy cooperation that was seen beneficial for both Helsinki — particularly in the case of inexpensive Russian crude oil — and Moscow, Finland's energy ties with Russia are now all but gone.

Such a break was easier for Finland than it will be for other European Union nations. Natural gas accounts for just some 5% of total energy consumption in Finland, a country of 5.5 million. Almost all of that gas comes from Russia, and is used mainly by industrial and other companies with only an estimated 4,000 households relying on gas heating.

Gasum said it would now supply natural gas to its customers from other sources through the undersea Balticconnector gas pipeline running between Finland and Estonia and connecting the Finnish and Baltic gas grids.

Matti Vanhanen, the former Finnish prime minister and current speaker of Parliament, said the effect of Moscow's decision to cut off gas after nearly 50 years since the first deliveries from the Soviet Union began is above all symbolic.

In an interview Saturday with the Finnish public broadcaster YLE, Vanhanen said the decision marks an end of "a hugely important period between Finland, the Soviet Union and Russia, not only in energy terms but symbolically."

"That pipeline is unlikely to ever open again," Vanhanen told YLE, referring to the two parallel Russia-Finland natural gas pipelines that were launched in 1974.

The first connections from Finland's power grid to the Soviet transmission system were also constructed

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in the 1970s, allowing electricity imports to Finland in case additional capacity was needed.

Vanhanen didn't see Moscow's gas stoppage as a retaliatory step from Russia to Finland's bid to join NATO but rather a countermove to Western sanctions imposed on Moscow following its invasion of Ukraine.

"Russia did the same thing with Finland it has done earlier with some other countries to maintain its own credibility," Vanhanen said, referring to the Kremlin's demands to buy its gas in rubles.

Finland shares a 1,340-kilometer (830-mile) with Russia, the longest of any of the EU's 27 members, and has a conflict-ridden history with its huge eastern neighbor.

After losing two wars to Soviet Union, in World War II, Finland opted for neutrality with stable and pragmatic political and economic ties with Moscow. Large-scale energy cooperation, also including nuclear power, between the two countries was one of the most visible signs of friendly bilateral ties between former enemies.

Rare northern Michigan tornado kills 1, injures more than 40

By JOHN FLESHER and ED WHITE Associated Press

GAYLORD, Mich. (AP) — A rare northern Michigan tornado tore through a small community on Friday, killing at least one person and injuring more than 40 others as it flipped vehicles, tore roofs from buildings and downed trees and power lines.

The twister hit Gaylord, a city of about 4,200 people roughly 230 miles (370 kilometers) northwest of Detroit, at around 3:45 p.m.

Mike Klepadlo, who owns the car repair shop Alter-Start North, said he and his workers took cover in a bathroom.

"I'm lucky I'm alive. It blew the back off the building," he said. "Twenty feet (6 meters) of the back wall is gone. The whole roof is missing. At least half the building is still here. It's bad."

Emma Goddard, 15, said she was working at the Tropical Smoothie Cafe when she got a phone alert about the tornado. Thinking the weather outside looked "stormy, but not scary," she dismissed it and returned to what she was doing. Her mother then called and she assured her mom she was OK.

Two minutes later, she was pouring a customer's smoothie when her coworker's mom rushed in yelling for them to get to the back of the building, Goddard told The Associated Press by text message. They took shelter in the walk-in cooler, where they could hear windows shattering.

"I was crammed shoulder-to-shoulder with my seven co-workers, two of my co-workers' parents and a lady from Door Dash coming to pick up her smoothies."

When they left the cooler about 15 minutes later and stepped outside, they saw "some of our cars in pieces and insulation all over the ground," Goddard said. Three neighboring businesses were destroyed, she said.

Brian Lawson, a spokesman for Munson Healthcare, said Otsego Memorial Hospital was treating 23 people injured by the tornado and that one person was killed. He didn't know the conditions of the injured or the name of the person who died.

The Michigan State Police confirmed that one person was killed, saying in a tweet that more than 40 others were hurt and being treated at area hospitals. The state police planned to hold a briefing Saturday morning.

"I've never seen anything like this in my life," Mayor Todd Sharrard said. "I'm numb."

Video posted online showed a dark funnel cloud materialize out of a cloud as nervous drivers looked on or slowly drove away, uncertain of its path.

Other video showed extensive damage along the city's Main Street. One building appeared to be largely collapsed and a Goodwill store was badly damaged. A collapsed utility pole lay on the side of the road, and debris, including what appeared to be electrical wires and parts of a Marathon gas station, was scattered all along the street.

The Red Cross set up a shelter at a church.

Brandie Slough, 42, said she and a teen daughter sought safety in a restroom at a Culver's. Windows

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of the fast food restaurant were blown out when they emerged, and her pickup truck had been flipped on its roof in the parking lot.

"We shook our heads in disbelief but are thankful to be safe. At that point, who cares about the truck," Slough said.

Eddie Thrasher, 55, said he was sitting in his car outside an auto parts store when the tornado seemed to appear above him.

"There are roofs ripped off businesses, a row of industrial-type warehouses," Thrasher said. "RVs were flipped upside down and destroyed. There were a lot of emergency vehicles heading from the east side of town."

He said he ran into the store to ride it out.

"My adrenaline was going like crazy," Thrasher said. "In less than five minutes it was over."

Extreme winds are uncommon in this part of Michigan because the Great Lakes suck energy out of storms, especially early in spring when the lakes are very cold, said Jim Keysor, a Gaylord-based meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

"Many kids and young adults would have never experienced any direct severe weather if they had lived in Gaylord their entire lives," he said.

The last time Gaylord had a severe wind storm was in 1998, when straight-line winds reached 100 mph, Keysor said. He said the conditions that spawned Friday's twister included a cold front moving in from Wisconsin and hitting hot and humid air over Gaylord, with the added ingredient of turning winds in the lower part of the atmosphere.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer declared a state of emergency for Otsego County, making further state resources available to the county.

Gaylord, known as the "Alpine Village," is set to celebrate its 100th birthday this year, with a centennial celebration that will include a parade and open house at City Hall later this summer.

The community also holds the annual Alpenfest in July, an Alpine-inspired celebration honoring the city's heritage and a partnership with a sister city in Switzerland.

Palestinian teen shot in Israeli raid in occupied West Bank

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli troops shot and killed a 17-year-old Palestinian militant as fighting erupted when soldiers entered a volatile town in the occupied West Bank early Saturday, the Palestinian health ministry and local media said.

The shooting, which Israel said came during a gunbattle with local militants, came at a time of intensified Israeli military activity in the northern West Bank town of Jenin in recent months.

The ministry identified the dead teen as Amjad al-Fayyed. It said another Palestinian — an 18-year-old — was in critical condition after being wounded by Israeli gunfire.

Later Saturday, the militant group Islamic Jihad said al-Fayyed was a member of its armed wing.

Local media reported that clashes erupted outside Jenin's refugee camp when Israeli forces stormed the area.

In a statement, the army said that soldiers opened fire after gunmen shot at them from a passing vehicle. It said the suspects also threw explosives toward the soldiers.

Israel has stepped up its military activity in Jenin in recent weeks in response to a series of deadly attacks inside Israel. Several attackers were from the Jenin area, which is known as a stronghold of Palestinian militants.

On May 11, a veteran Palestinian journalist for the Al Jazeera satellite channel was killed while covering an Israeli military operation in the Jenin refugee camp. Shireen Abu Akleh's family, the broadcaster, the Palestinian Authority and witnesses accused Israel of shooting the correspondent for the Qatari channel. Israel says there was a fierce gunbattle at the time, and it's not clear if she was killed by Israeli or Palestinian gunfire.

Israel has called for a joint forensics investigation. The Palestinians have refused, saying Israel cannot

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be trusted. They are carrying out their own investigation and say they will share their results with other countries, but not Israel.

Israeli military officials on Thursday said the military has identified a soldier's rifle that may have killed Abu Akleh, but said it cannot be certain unless the Palestinians turn over the bullet for analysis.

Today in History: May 22, Johnson's 'Great Society'

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, May 22, the 142nd day of 2022. There are 223 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 22, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson, speaking at the University of Michigan, outlined the goals of his "Great Society," saying that it "rests on abundance and liberty for all" and "demands an end to poverty and racial injustice."

On this date:

In 1939, the foreign ministers of Germany and Italy, Joachim von Ribbentrop and Galeazzo Ciano, signed a "Pact of Steel" committing the two countries to a military alliance.

In 1960, an earthquake of magnitude 9.5, the strongest ever measured, struck southern Chile, claiming some 1,655 lives.

In 1962, Continental Airlines Flight 11, en route from Chicago to Kansas City, Missouri, crashed after a bomb apparently brought on board by a passenger exploded, killing all 45 occupants of the Boeing 707.

In 1967, a fire at the L'Innovation department store in Brussels killed 322 people. Poet and playwright Langston Hughes died in New York at age 65.

In 1968, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Scorpion, with 99 men aboard, sank in the Atlantic Ocean. (The remains of the sub were later found on the ocean floor 400 miles southwest of the Azores.)

In 1969, the lunar module of Apollo 10, with Thomas P. Stafford and Eugene Cernan aboard, flew to within nine miles of the moon's surface in a dress rehearsal for the first lunar landing.

In 1985, U.S. sailor Michael L. Walker was arrested aboard the aircraft carrier Nimitz, two days after his father, John A. Walker Jr., was apprehended; both were later convicted of spying for the Soviet Union. (Michael Walker served 15 years in prison and was released in 2000.)

In 1992, after a reign lasting nearly 30 years, Johnny Carson hosted NBC's "Tonight Show" for the final time. (Jay Leno took over as host three days later.)

In 2006, The Department of Veterans Affairs said personal data, including Social Security numbers of 26.5 million U.S. veterans, was stolen from a VA employee after he took the information home without authorization.

In 2011, a tornado devastated Joplin, Missouri, with winds up to 250 mph, claiming at least 159 lives and destroying about 8,000 homes and businesses.

In 2018, Stacey Abrams won Georgia's Democratic gubernatorial primary, making her the first woman nominee for Georgia governor from either major party. (Abrams, seeking to become the nation's first Black female governor, was defeated by Republican Brian Kemp.)

In 2020, "Full House" star Lori Loughlin and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, pleaded guilty to paying half a million dollars into the University of Southern California as part of a college admissions bribery scheme. (Loughlin would spend two months behind bars; Giannulli began a five-month sentence in November 2020 and was released to home confinement in April 2021.)

Ten years ago: The Falcon 9, built by billionaire businessman Elon Musk, sped toward the International Space Station with a load of groceries and other supplies, marking the first time a commercial spacecraft had been sent to the orbiting outpost. Wesley A. Brown, the first African-American to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, died in Silver Spring, Maryland, at age 85.

Five years ago: A suicide bomber set off an improvised explosive device that killed 22 people at the end of an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England. In a historic gesture, President Donald Trump

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solemnly placed a note in the ancient stones of Jerusalem's Western Wall. Ford Motor Co. announced it was replacing CEO Mark Fields. Actor Dina Merrill, 93, died at her home in East Hampton, New York.

One year ago: Virgin Galactic made its first rocket-powered flight from New Mexico to the fringe of space in a manned shuttle, a step toward offering tourist flights to the edge of the Earth's atmosphere. An expert climbing guide said a coronavirus outbreak on Mount Everest had infected at least 100 climbers and support staff; officials in Nepal had denied that there was a COVID-19 cluster on the world's highest peak.

Today's Birthdays: Conductor Peter Nero is 88. Actor-director Richard Benjamin is 84. Actor Frank Converse is 84. Former CNN anchor Bernard Shaw is 82. Actor Barbara Parkins is 80. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Tommy John is 79. Songwriter Bernie Taupin is 72. Actor-producer Al Corley is 67. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, is 65. Singer Morrissey is 63. Actor Ann Cusack is 61. Country musician Dana Williams (Diamond Rio) is 61. Rock musician Jesse Valenzuela is 60. Actor Mark Christopher Lawrence is 58. R&B singer Johnny Gill (New Edition) is 56. Rock musician Dan Roberts (Crash Test Dummies) is 55. Actor Brooke Smith is 55. Actor Michael Kelly is 53. Model Naomi Campbell is 52. Actor Anna Belknap is 50. Actor Alison Eastwood is 50. Singer Donell Jones is 49. Actor Sean Gunn is 48. Actor A.J. Langer is 48. Actor Ginnifer Goodwin is 44. R&B singer Vivian Green is 43. Actor Maggie Q is 43. Olympic gold medal speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno is 40. Actor Molly Ephraim (TV: "Last Man Standing") is 36. Tennis player Novak Djokovic is 35. Actor Anna Baryshnikov (TV: "Superior Donuts") is 30. Actor Camren Bicondova is 23.