

Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday, June 5

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.

Aberdeen U10 Tournament

8:00 #3 pool A vs #3 Pool B

10:00 #1 pool A vs #2 pool B

12:00 #1 pool B vs #2 pool A

2:00 championship game

Monday, June 6

Senior Menu: Hamburger on bun, oven-roasted potatoes, cucumber salad, ice cream sundae.

5:30 p.m.: Legion hosts Smithy's DH

6 p.m.: U12 at Webster, DH

5:30 p.m.: U10 hosts Britton, DH, (R/W), Nelson Field

5:30 p.m.: U8 hosts Britton, DH, (R/W), Nelson Field

Tuesday, June 7

Elementary Library Open 9-11 (Reading time 10 a.m.)

Senior Menu: Breaded codfish, parsley buttered potatoes, creamy coleslaw, fruit, whole wheat bread.

5:30 p.m.: Jr. Legion hosts Milbank, DH

5:30 p.m.: U12 vs. Hannigan in Aberdeen (north complex), DH

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

"IF WE FORGAVE FOR AS LONG AS WE HOLD GRUDGES, THE WORLD WOULD BE A HEALTHIER AND HAPPIER PLACE."

Charmaine J. Forde



Chicken Soup
for the Soul.

5:30 p.m.: U10 vs. Hannigan in Aberdeen (north complex), DH (W/B)

5:30 p.m.: U8 vs. Hannigan in Aberdeen (north complex), DH (W/B)

6 p.m.: U12 SB hosts Britton, Falk Field, DH

6 p.m.: T-Ball practice

Wednesday, June 8

Senior Menu: Taco salad, Mexican rice, fresh fruit, bread stick

10 a.m.: Little Free Library reading time (south Methodist Church)

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

5:30 p.m.: U12 hosts Jacobson, DH

6 p.m.: U8 SB at Doland, 1 game

7 p.m.: U10 SB at Doland, 1 game

5 p.m.: T-Ball Black at Doland

Thursday, June 9

Senior Menu: Oven-Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, buttermilk biscuits, banana pudding with bananas.

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

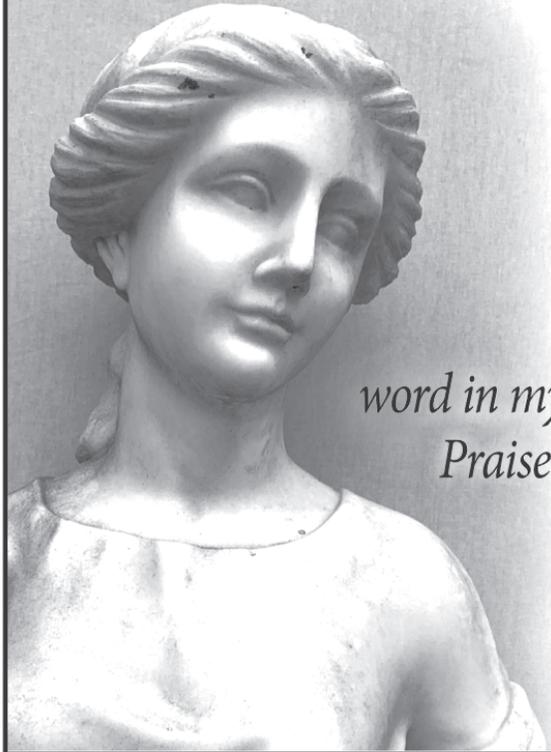
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Praise be to you, Lord; teach me your decrees.

Psalm 119: 9-12



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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Esther in the Old Testament, New Testament or neither?
2. From the first chapter of James, what kind of man is like the waves of the sea? *Righteous, Doubting, Jealous, Sleeping*
3. Which apostle was a tax collector from Capernaum? *Andrew, John, James, Matthew*
4. From Acts 16, Lydia was a seller of ...? *Perfumes, Water, Sandals, Purple*
5. Oholah, Oholibah and Rahab were all ...? *Queens, Prostitutes, Priests, Vineyards*
6. From what church was Silas? *Unity, Bethany, Antioch, Trinity*

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Doubting; 3) Matthew; 4) Purple; 5) Prostitutes; 6) Antioch

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

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by Healthy Exchanges
S'more Gorp

Stuck for a Father's Day gift? This is just the type of crunchy snack that guys love to munch on.

- 3 full cups honey graham cereal
- 1 cup miniature marshmallows
- 1/2 cup dry-roasted peanuts
- 1 cup raisins
- 1/4 cup mini chocolate chips

In a large zip-type storage bag, combine cereal, marshmallows, peanuts, raisins and chocolate chips. Seal bag and shake well to combine. Store mixture in an airtight container. Mix well before serving. Makes 8 (3/4 cup) servings.

* Each serving equals: 201 calories, 5g fat, 3g protein, 36g carb., 150mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Starch/Carb., 1 Fruit, 1 Fat.

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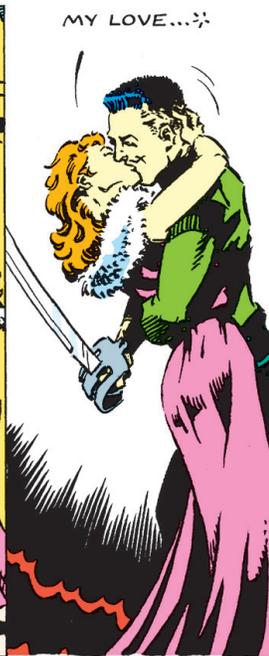
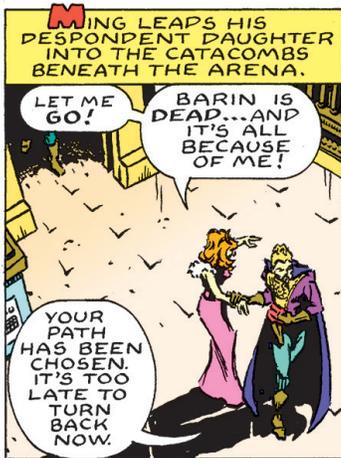
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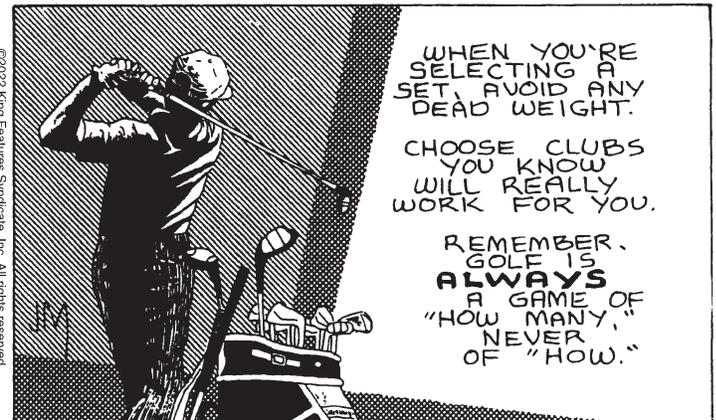
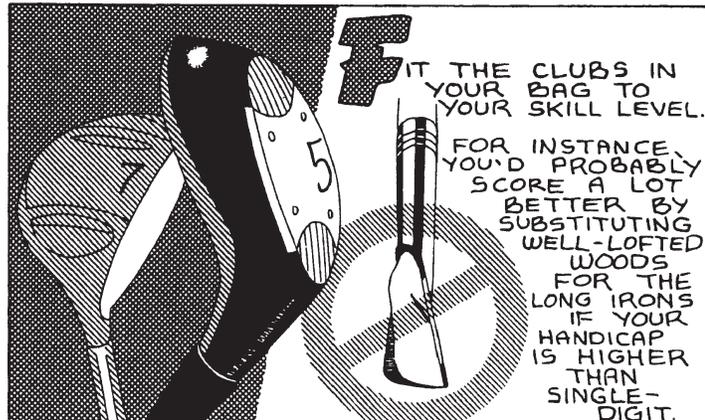
FLASH GORDON

By JIM KEEFE

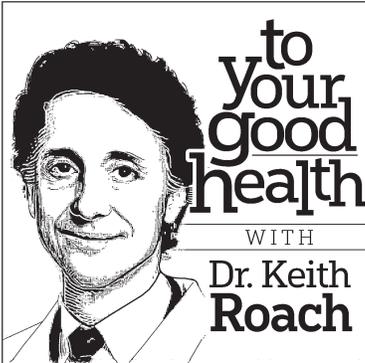
5-29



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



Can She Donate Plasma Despite Gene Mutation?



DEAR DR. ROACH: When my mother discovered she has a factor V mutation, everyone in the family decided to be tested as a precaution. This is a hereditary item, which I am sure you know. It was determined that I carry the gene. I am 65. I have had no issues, and it probably never would have been discovered if we did not go looking for it. This was discovered over 10 years ago and is listed on all my charts. I would like to donate plasma for extra money. I am not on any type of blood thinners except for a baby aspirin every morning. I take a statin for cholesterol control. Can I donate my plasma? -- S.S.

ANSWER: Factor V is a blood clotting factor made in the liver. A common mutation in the gene, called factor V Leiden, confers a small increased risk to developing blood clots. People with factor V Leiden and who have never had a blood clot are generally not started on medication to prevent one; however, they may need more aggressive prophylactic treatment to prevent clot at a time of surgery, for example. Although some experts use aspirin in this situation, there is not good evidence to support it.

People with factor V Leiden may donate blood, platelets or plasma safely, as long as they are not on an anticoagulant such as warfarin.

Only a very few medicines prevent people from donating blood. In addition to anticoagulants, these include medicines that can cause serious birth defects (such as Accutane, used for acne; finasteride and dutasteride, used for prostate enlargement and baldness; and Aubagio, a treatment for multiple sclerosis) and those which might cause infection risk (human-derived growth hormone).

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am 87 and take 10 mg of melatonin every night to help me sleep. I have heard it is perfectly safe. Are there any side effects to melatonin? I know a lot of people who take it, including a child who takes 3 mg. -- B.D.

ANSWER: Melatonin is a hormone secreted in the pineal gland of the brain that affects sleep and circadian rhythms. At nighttime, melatonin blood levels are 10 times higher than in the day. Melatonin is used extensively as a sleep aid, as you can confirm.

There is no substance you can put in your body that is perfectly safe at all doses. To paraphrase a wise man, anyone who tells you differently is selling something. However, the risk of major side effects with even high doses of melatonin is low. The major adverse events reported were headache, fragmented sleep and seizures. Rare adverse events reported included confusion, psychosis, autoimmune hepatitis and rash.

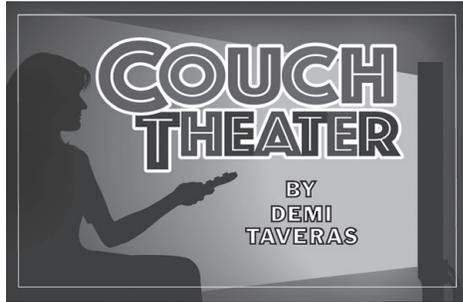
Incidentally, the term "side effect" means an unintended effect that occurs from a drug when taken correctly. "Adverse event" refers to any undesired reaction that comes with taking a medication. Adverse events are more common at high doses. With very high doses of melatonin can come additional types of reactions, including poor memory and reduced physical exercise performance.

Ten mg is far more melatonin than I recommend starting with. For older people, I recommend 0.5 mg to 1 mg about an hour before bed. Higher doses are generally not more effective and have higher risk.

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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Iman Vellani in "Ms. Marvel"

Photo Credit: Disney+

"Irma Vep" (NR) -- Mira is a successful American movie star who gained most of her fame by acting in box office hits. After growing weary of blockbusters, Mira accepts the role of Irma Vep in a remake of the French silent film "Les Vampires," much to the dismay of her agent, Zelda.

Mira travels to France to work under the outlandish director Rene Vidal, and as Mira works to develop her character, Irma's reality eerily starts to merge into Mira's until she is unable to discern which is which. This drama-thriller miniseries depicts the making of "Irma Vep" and the story of its lead actress (played by Alicia Vikander) attempting to come out of it with her sanity. (HBO Max)

"Ms. Marvel" (TV-PG) -- Meet Kamala Khan (Iman Vellani), a 16-year-old high school student in Jersey City. She is artistic, a gamer and, being an Avengers fangirl, even writes superhero fanfiction. But Kamala's prone to living in her own fantasies more than she focuses on making a realistic plan for her approaching future. But then, Kamala finds a discarded family heirloom, a bracelet that activates cosmic powers within her, and she finally receives everything she's fantasized about: Kamala can become a superhero. But now that she has her powers, it remains up to Kamala to prove she can bring this dream to life and, eventually, save the world. Episode 1 of this TV miniseries premieres June 8. (Disney+)

"Hustle" (R) -- Another Adam Sandler movie hits Netflix, the same streaming platform that released recent Sandler films like "Uncut Gems" and "Hubie Halloween." In this sports film, we see Sandler more seriously as former 76ers basketball scout Stanley Sugarman, itching to work his way back into the NBA. On a trip to Spain, Stanley meets Bo Cruz, an undiscovered player with superstar talent. Stanley convinces Bo to leave his family and travel back to Philadelphia with him in order to train Bo up in time for the draft. Sure to encounter obstacles on the way, both Bo and Stanley must rely on their great love for the game to kick off their careers once again. A heart-warming story about how grit, discipline and bending the rules can serve as a game-changer. Premieres June 8. (Netflix)

"Conversations with Friends" (TV-MA) -- Based on the novel of the same name by Sally Rooney, this TV series adaptation from Hulu and the BBC follows the lives of two best friends, Frances and Bobbi, and a married couple, Nick and Melissa. The two pairs meet, and the lines between them all become blurred quite quickly. Frances connects well with Nick, while Bobbi ensues her own flirtation with Melissa. But Frances, having only been with Bobbi romantically, falls down the rabbit hole much quicker than Bobbi does and must deal with the consequences of her actions once she realizes she's in way too deep with Nick. Messy, romantic and dramatic; what else could you ask for? (Hulu)

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FLASH BACK POP, ROCK & SOUL TRIVIA BY MICK HARPER

1. Name the group that released "What's the Name of Your Love?"
2. Who wrote and released "Have I Told You Lately"?
3. What was the original name of The Ronettes?
4. Which duo released "Nobody I Know"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Wait a minute baby ... Stay with me awhile, Said you'd give me light, But you never told me about the fire."

Answers:

1. The Emotions, in 1979. The group performed the song in 1980 on "The Midnight Special" variety show.
2. Van Morrison, in 1989. In a U.K. poll, the song made the list of "Top 10 First Dance Wedding Songs," and in

the U.S. it was included on a list of "The 100 Greatest Love Songs."

3. Ronnie and the Relatives. The trio included Veronica (known as Ronnie), her sister Estelle and cousin Nedra.

4. Peter & Gordon, in 1964. It was penned by Paul McCartney (although credited to Lennon-McCartney).

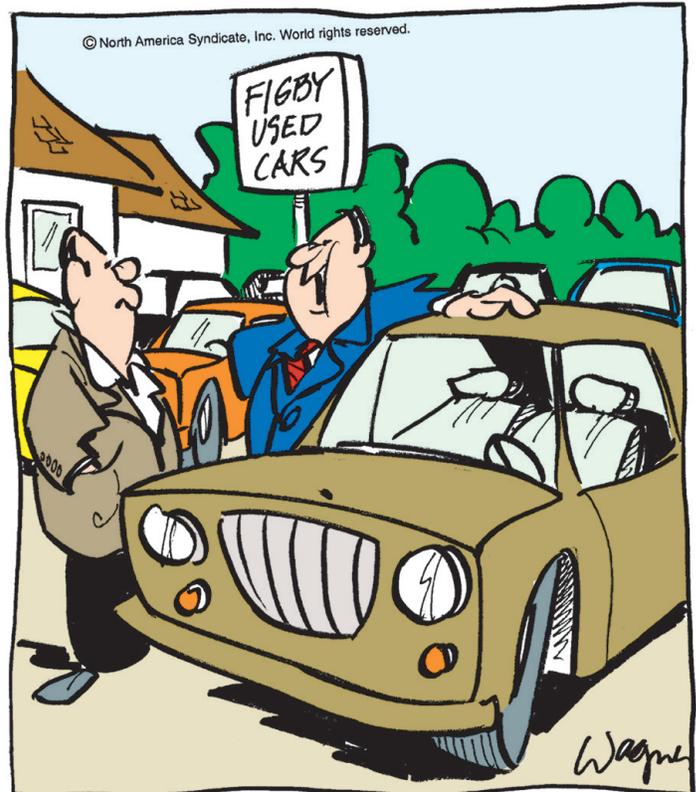
5. "Sara," by Fleetwood Mac, in 1979. The origins of the song are debatable. Songwriter Stevie Nicks said it was about a good friend. Former boyfriend Don Henley claimed it was a name he'd chosen for a future daughter, should he ever have one.

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GRIN and BEAR IT ^{Wagner}

Just Like Cats & Dogs

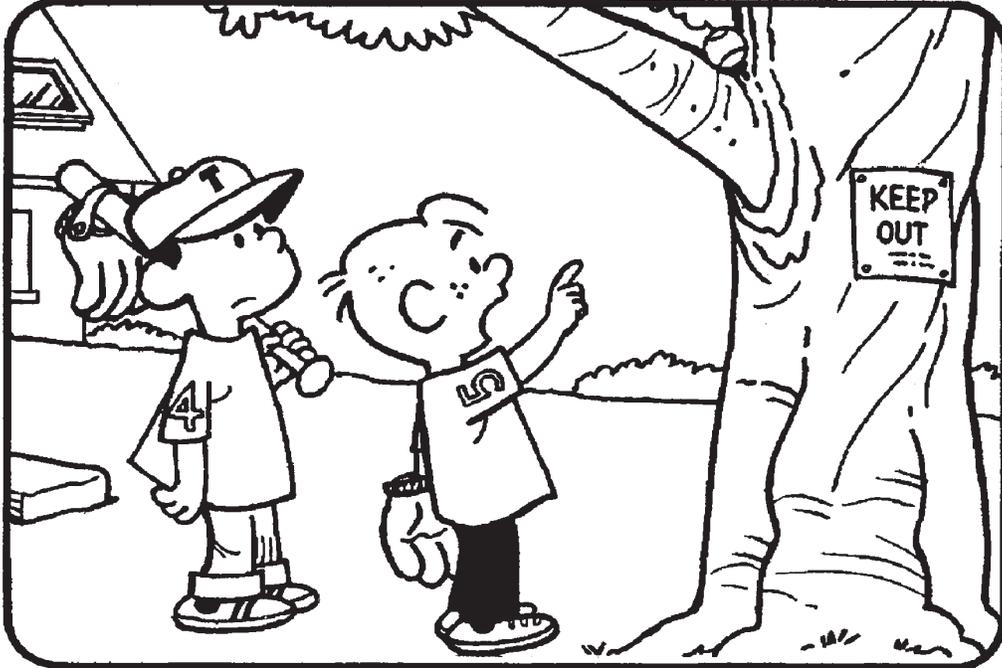
by Dave T. Phipps



"It didn't get along with its previous owner, but I think it likes you."

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Roof panel is missing. 2. Glove is missing. 3. Shirt is different. 4. Number is different. 5. Arm is moved. 6. Sign is missing.

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* Having a yard sale? Here's a great way to put out extra signs when you don't have a way to stake them into the ground: "Write your sign advertising your yard sale on the sides of a big box. Place it where you want it, and add a large rock to the inside, then tape shut. We did this when we had no poles to tape signs to or any other way to get them to stand up. It worked really well!" -- D.R. in Georgia

* Avoid calling the pediatrician's office on Monday mornings for routine business. Wait until the afternoon. All the parents with mildly sick children over the weekend will be calling to consult with the doctor and nurses first thing when the office opens.

* If you drop an egg, sprinkle with salt before you attempt to clean it up. The salt binds the whites,

which will not spread, making pickup easier!

* "My kids had kind of an obsession with colorful Duck tape in the past year, and we made some "beach bags" to keep our electronics safe at the pool, lake and beach. We carefully covered a variety of sizes of zipper-top self-sealing bags with the tape, creating tough, colorful pouches in which we can store cell-phones, etc., to keep them safe from water damage." -- W.L. in North Carolina

* You can sharpen scissors by cutting folded aluminum foil into small strips.

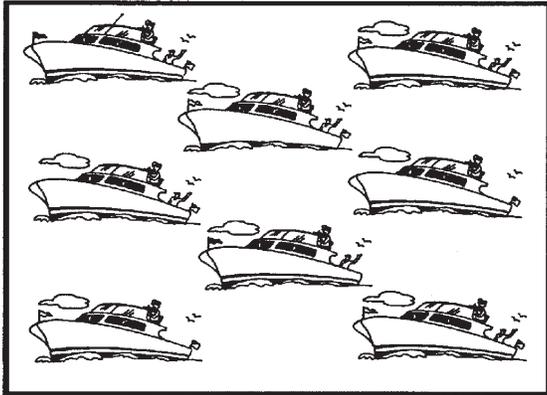
* The best time of day to water your lawn is the evening. The cooler temperatures allow the water to sink into the soil instead of evaporating with the heat of the day. Always follow your city or county guidelines on watering times for your area.

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

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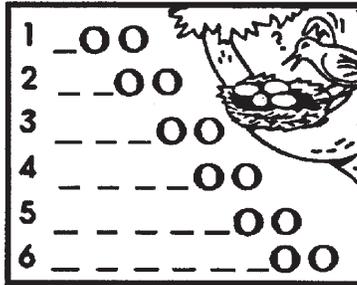
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WAVE LENGTHS! Two of eight cabin cruisers above appear to be enough alike to be twins. Which two is for you to say.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



DOUBLE-O WORDS TO PONDER

WELL, double-O and behold, we have half a dozen double-O words to ponder, each with one more letter than its predecessor. You are asked to identify these words in accord with the following definitions:

SENSES TAKER! Add a sense — sight, hearing, touch, smell, or taste — to each sentence. 1. We play — football. 2. I — trouble. 3. She dresses in good —. 4. The judge held a —. 5. We bought the item — unseen.

1. Touch. 2. Smell. 3. Taste. 4. Hearing. 5. Sight.

TAKE STEPS! A street with a steady flow of traffic is 22 feet wide. Your stride, either forwards or backwards, is always exactly two feet in length. Now then, starting at curb's edge, if you take three strides forward and two strides backward continuously (in dodging traffic to go straight across), and each stride takes one second, in how many seconds should you reach the other side? This may sound tricky, but it isn't.

Hint: You gain two feet in each five-second period.
P.S.: You'd be much safer at a corner with a light.

Answer: 43 seconds. You advance 16 feet in 40 seconds; last three strides take you to curb.



1. Winnie-the-Pooh pal: Baby —.
2. Away, scat, you chickens!
3. Eskimo snow house.
4. Skin-deep body design.
5. Produce used to cleanse hair, prevent dandruff, etc.
6. Screechy, crested member of the parrot family.

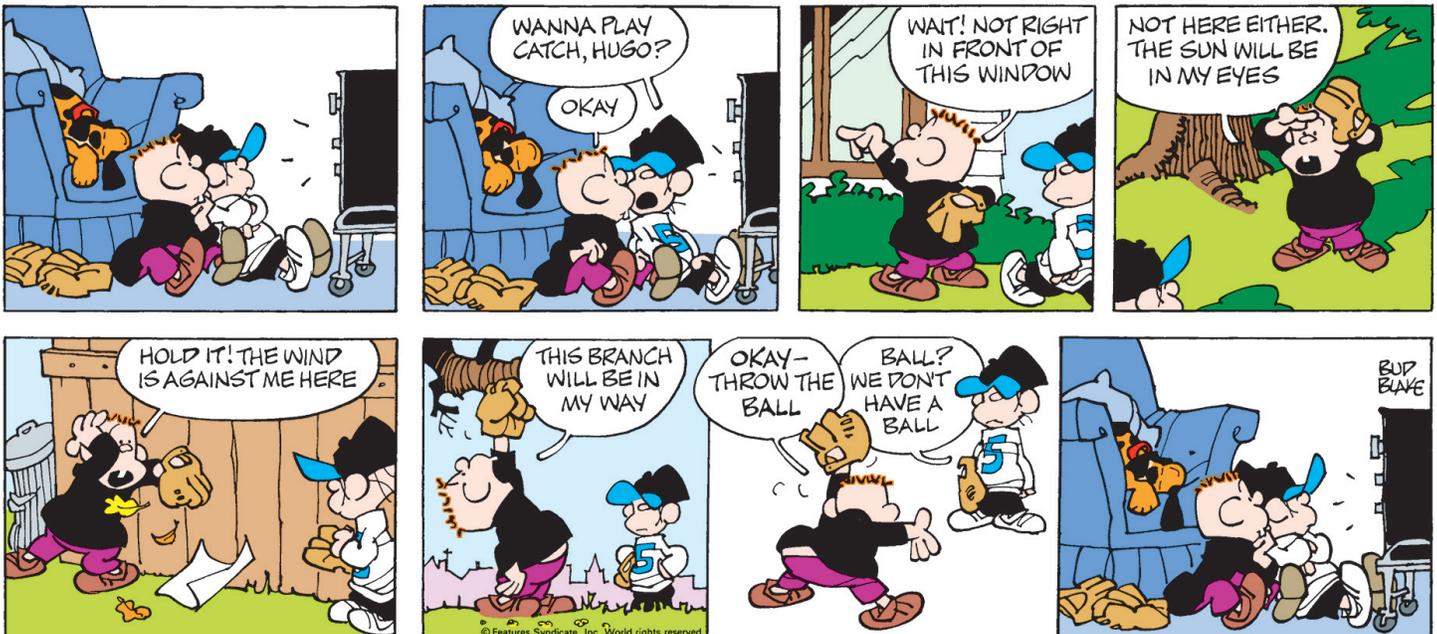
Let's see how quickly you can come up with the answers.

Time limit: 2 minutes.

1. Roo. 2. Shoo. 3. Igloo. 4. Tattoo. 5. Shampoo. 6. Cockatoo.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Bridge
- 5 Dallas hoopster, briefly
- 8 Untalkative one
- 12 Architect Saarinen
- 13 Inseparable
- 14 Reply to "Shall we?"
- 15 Legal document
- 16 Sailor
- 17 Privy to
- 18 Debriefed person?
- 20 Crib cry
- 22 Enigma
- 26 Mudville slugger
- 29 "Certainly!"
- 30 Half of CIV
- 31 Exploits
- 32 Goof up
- 33 Fine spray
- 34 Pickle holder
- 35 "— was saying ..."
- 36 "Olympia" artist
- 37 Batting position
- 40 Scruff
- 41 Help
- 45 Eager
- 47 Energy
- 49 Yon folks
- 50 Anti-fur org.
- 51 Before

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			

- 52 Wheelchair access
- 53 Texter's sign-off
- 54 Last letter in London
- 55 Garfield's pal
- 9 "Chocolat" actress
- 10 From — Z
- 11 AOL rival
- 19 Devious
- 21 TV spots
- 23 Aleppo's land
- 24 French river
- 25 Chanteuse Eartha
- 26 Stephen King pooch
- 27 Now, in a memo
- 28 Peace
- 32 Emilio of "The Breakfast Club"
- 33 Address for Toscanini
- 35 Venomous viper
- 36 Roast VIPs
- 38 Tennis star Rafael
- 39 Identified
- 42 "If — a Hammer"
- 43 Big rig
- 44 Ilk
- 45 Suitable
- 46 Dog doc
- 48 Rage

DOWN

- 1 Stitched
- 2 Andean land
- 3 Saharan
- 4 Observes
- 5 Slogan
- 6 Santa — winds
- 7 Dutch artist
- 8 Scale

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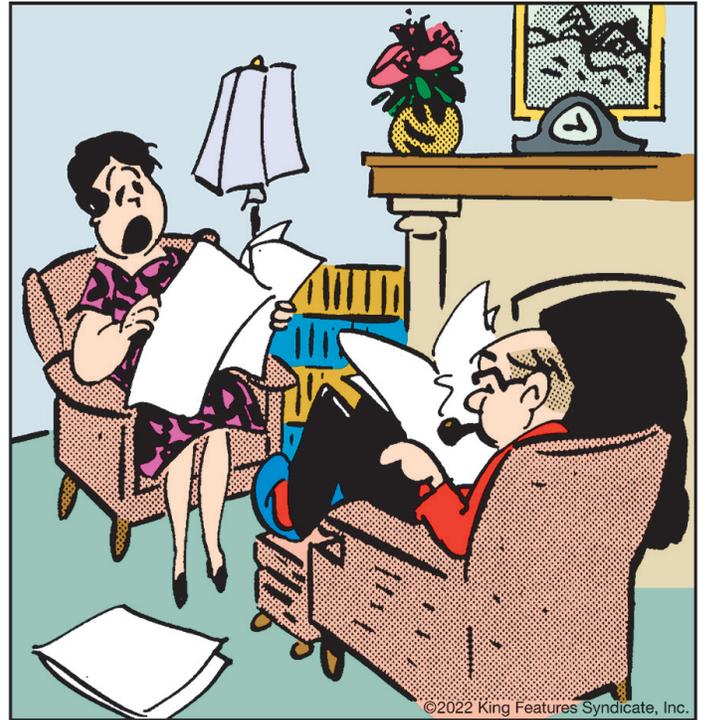
— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

LAFF - A - DAY



"I'm confused — what are we fighting now, inflation or recession?"

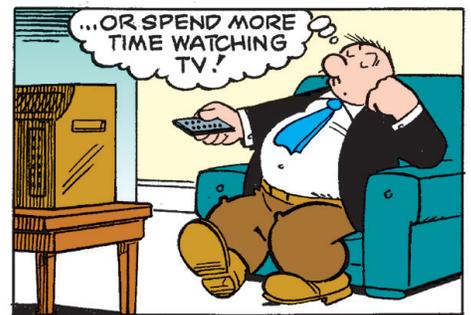
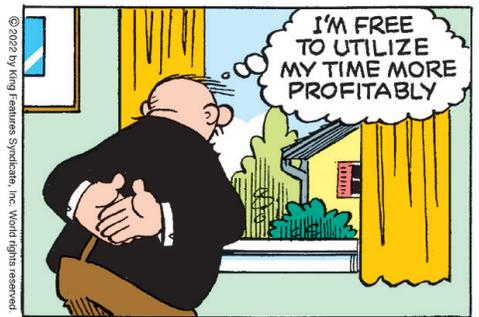
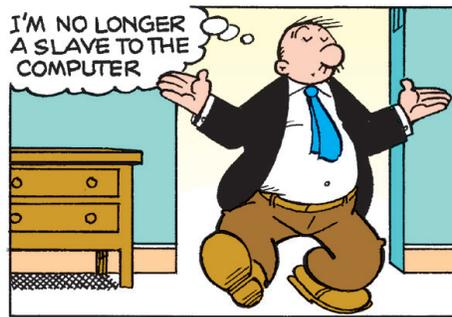
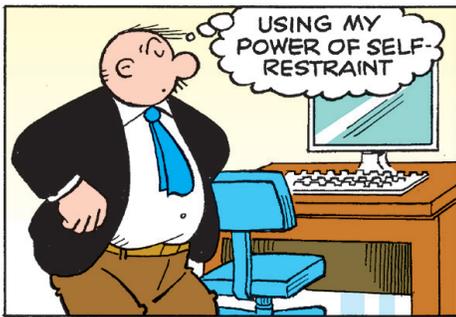
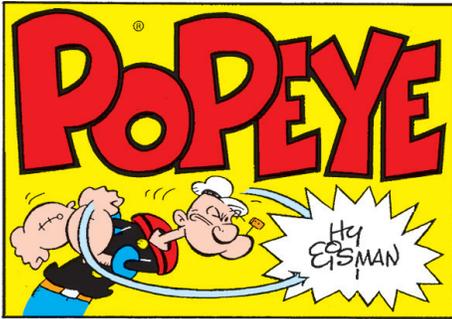
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



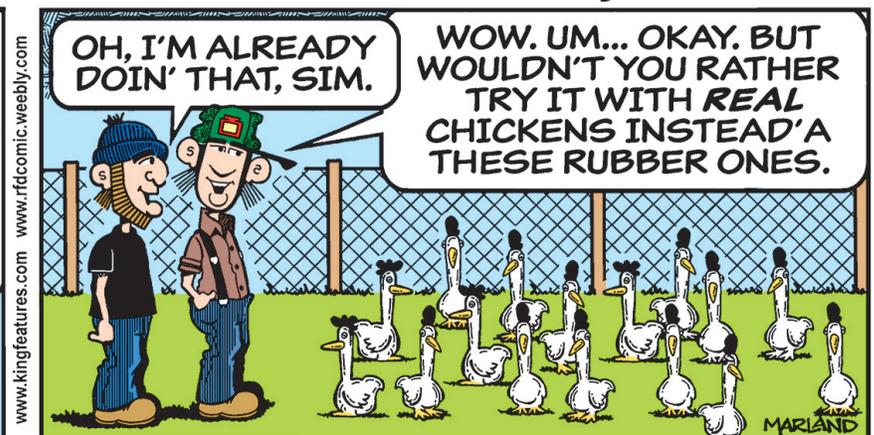
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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MARLAND

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VAL VISITS ARN CONCERNING DRACO. "I ADMIT I ERRED, TRUSTING HIM," MUSES THE REGENT, "BUT TO ACCUSE DRACO OF WITCHCRAFT..."



Hal Foster's
Prince Valiant
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ

VAL SIGHS. "I KNOW. HE AND MALDUBH ARE CLEVER. I WOULD APPEAR INSANE, CLAIMING THEY INTEND TO KILL US BY MAGICS."



"YOUR MOTHER, HOWEVER, TURNED THEIR ASSASSIN WITH A SPELL - I SAW THIS! SHE HAD HIM RELIEVE MALDUBH OF CERTAIN PERSONAL EFFECTS,"



WHICH SHE WILL USE AS SURROGATES - TO CAST A SPELL AGAINST MALDUBH." EVEN AS VAL SPEAKS, ALETA PREPARES HER SPELL.

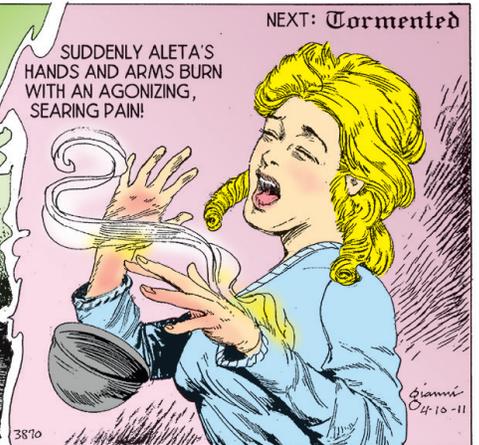


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BUT MALDUBH IS ONE STEP AHEAD, CONJURING WITH ARTICLES STOLEN FROM ALETA!



SUDDENLY ALETA'S HANDS AND ARMS BURN WITH AN AGONIZING, SEARING PAIN!



NEXT: Tormented

Gianni
04-10-11

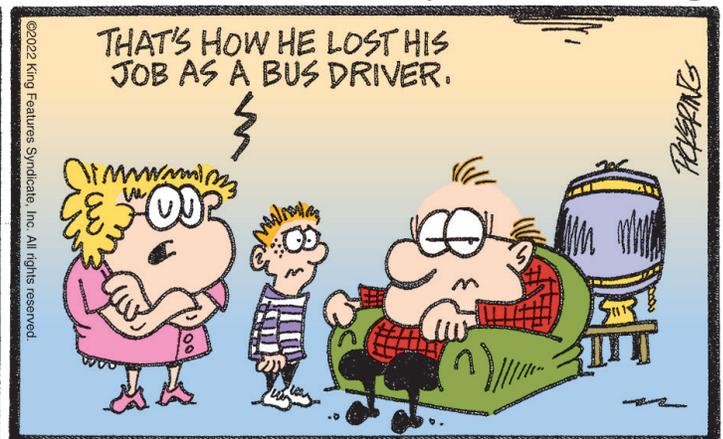
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

JEFFY, I ONCE GAVE UP MY SEAT ON THE BUS TO A BLIND PERSON.



THAT'S HOW HE LOST HIS JOB AS A BUS DRIVER.



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PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

How to Defend Against the Newest Scams

They're getting better at what they do, more sophisticated and slick ... scammers, that is. They've had lots of practice, and many are truly skilled, but what they all have in common is that they want your money and your information.

Scams against seniors get worse by the year, and the pandemic hasn't helped.

Many of the current scams are COVID-related: A scammer will offer to send you a box of at-home test kits -- for a fee. A fake contact tracer will call and claim to need to know your Social Security number for identity purposes. Some will say that your latest doctor bill won't be paid unless you give them your Medicare number. Others will claim to need your banking information so they can do a direct deposit of the stimulus money the government is sending you.

Some are new for this year: Supposed Amazon employees will call or send email to warn you about a large purchase. Fake rental-assistance payment scammers will try to get your personal information.

Far too many seniors are scammed each and every day. In 2020, seniors lost over \$1 billion to fraud, with an average loss of over \$9,000. But you can stop it for yourself and not be a victim.

Feel free to be rude. Hang up on people who are likely scammers. Don't even bother saying goodbye. Just slam the phone down. Delete emails that have any links without clicking on them. Don't bother opening the door to people you don't know. Use a black marker to cover the information on old pill bottles.

Bonus Tip: Invest in a shredder. Look for one that does confetti cuts (small pieces instead of strips). Shred everything that has your name, address and account or credit card numbers. Even envelopes with your name and address can give clues to scammers. Shred them.

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1. In a 1990 game, what New York Mets pitcher allowed two Atlanta Braves baserunners to score while he was arguing a close call at first base?

2. Name the racehorse that won both the 1986 Kentucky Derby and the 1987 Breeders' Cup Classic.

3. What HBO TV drama series had Basketball Hall of Famer Jerry West threatening legal action "all the way to the Supreme Court" over how he was portrayed?

4. The tennis stadium that hosts the French Open is named for what aviation pioneer and World War I fighter pilot?

5. How old was Baseball Hall of Famer Satchel Paige when he played his final pro baseball game with the Carolina League's Peninsula Grays in 1966?

6. Name the motorsports facility in Monterey County, California, that has segments known as "Rahal Straight," "Andretti Hairpin" and "The Corkscrew."

7. What South African track star, a two-time Olympic gold medalist in the women's 800 meter, was subjected to a sex verification test in 2009?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. David Cone.
2. Ferdinand.
3. "Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty."
4. Roland Garros.
5. 59.
6. Laguna Seca Raceway.
7. Caster Semenya.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Look Into Crowdfunding to Rehome Inherited Pets

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I'm writing in regard to the person who "inherited" her relative's pets but is unable to keep them. While directly posting the pets for adoption on social media may not be a good option for all of the reasons you previously listed, I do think there's an opportunity for Sherrie to harness the reach of those platforms to raise the money she needs to get them rehomed properly and to cover their medical care. I'm continually amazed (and encouraged) by the kindness of strangers on GoFundMe pages for pets. -- Lauren P.

DEAR LAUREN: That's certainly an option to cover the cost of their care. Crowdfunding is an increasingly popular way to quickly raise cash to cover pets' medical needs and care needs. GoFundMe has dedicated a page with several ideas for pet funding: <https://www.gofundme.com/c/fundraising-ideas/pets>, and there is even a pet-specific crowdfunding organization, Waggle: <https://www.waggle.org>, which helps owners raise money for pets' medical procedures.

To crowdfund a pet's care and treatment, do plenty of research first. Look at active fundraisers to see what messages are effective and double-check the rules about pet fundraising at each crowdfunding site.

To rehome a pet, there is at least one online resource that may be helpful. Adopt-A-Pet and Petco's rehome service (<https://rehome.adoptapet.com/>) is a go-between service that helps owners connect with people who are looking to adopt.

I still recommend that Sherrie contacts the local shelter to get information about rehoming or, if all else fails, surrendering the pets safely to the shelter. But the above options may be a great help as she hunts for new owners for her relative's pets.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

would phone them to make sure they were all right.

* The numbers on a roulette wheel, when added together, sum up to 666.

* The Eco Gym in Rochester, New York, uses cardio equipment that harvests energy from members' workouts as a means of reducing energy costs. Savings are passed on to the members as an incentive to keep coming back for regular exercise.

* Women's fashion changed with the invention of cars, when skirts in the 1900s were shortened to allow women to step into automobiles with more ease.

* The "XXX" that is often used to signify "poison" originated from moonshiners, indicating that their alcohol had been run through the still three times and was now pure and strong.

* In Sweden, millennials are known as the "Curling Generation," after the sport in which teammates sweep the ice in front of their stone to guide it, in the same manner as parents of millennials have swept away obstacles from their children's paths.

* Since snowflakes fall at about the rate of 1.5 mph, every one you see has traveled from 45-60 minutes to reach the ground.

Thought for the Day: "Experience without theory is blind, but theory without experience is mere intellectual play." -- Immanuel Kant

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* Boston College has a policy allowing employees' children to attend for free once they've been accepted. One janitor's five children all made it in, saving the family almost \$700,000 in tuition costs.

* At some point, you've probably promised someone you'd "be there in a jiffy," but did you know that's an actual unit of time? 1/100th of a second, to be precise.

* Bob Ross, known for his TV show "The Joy of Painting," received up to 200 fan letters per day. If regular correspondents failed to keep in touch, he

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THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

SIGNS OF GETTING OLD—



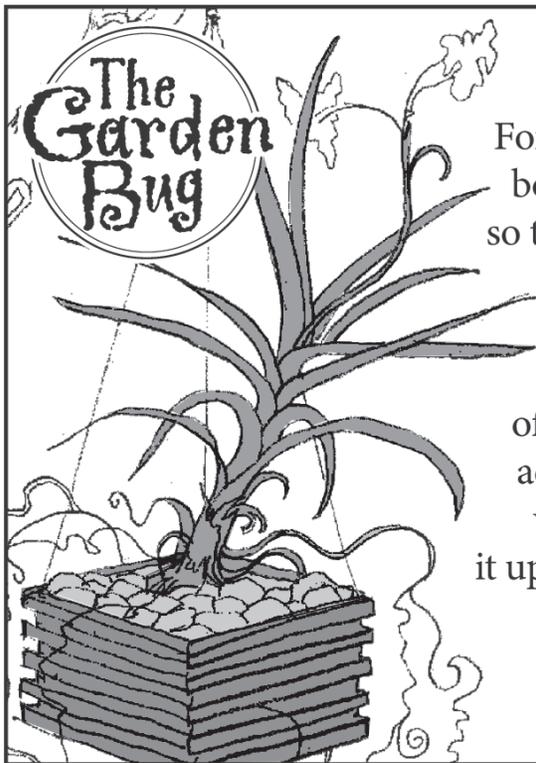
BY AL SCADUTO

GUESS WHO SPENT THE WHOLE DAY PREPARING THE BUFFET FOR HER PARTY--AND WHAT'S SHE ALWAYS SAY?



GROUNDS FOR YOU-KNOW-WHAT—
DINNER AT DAUGHTER-IN-LAW'S, AND DAD HAS THIS TO SAY ABOUT HER COOKING...

Thank to SHIRLEY A. WAXBOM, WORTHINGTON, OHIO



Orchids

For orchids grown in containers, the bottom must have enough drainage so the roots never sit in water. Slatted baskets made of rot-resistant wood work well. Put a layer of sheet moss, some soil and a layer of stones or shells for a top dressing across the bottom before putting in your plant, and for support. Hang it up near indirect light exposure, and mist it for moisture.

Source: www.orchidsmadeeasy.com

— Brenda Weaver



by Freddy Groves

Most VA, DoD Health Records Aren't Accurate

It can be a big problem when you need medical care and the electronic health records sent from one provider to another contain inaccuracies. Unfortunately, a Department of Defense Inspector General audit showed this is happening in far too many active-duty and veterans records.

After sending surveys to 7,387 health care providers in late 2020 asking about their ability to access health care information for both DoD and Department of Veterans Affairs patients and whether that information was accurate, the DoD recently reported that:

- 91.2% of DoD patient records were inaccurate or incomplete.
- 67.5% of VA patient records were inaccurate or incomplete.
- 93.9% said that it impacted patient care, including giving an inaccurate or incomplete diagnosis.

The inaccurate or missing information included problems and conditions, lab results, medications and much more.

Over at the VA, they've known for a long time that they needed to upgrade their 40-year-old computer system and proposed to merge with the DoD's system. That got started in 2018. They would begin with one facility as a test.

In 2020, the VA Office of the Inspector General was tasked with finding out one overriding answer: Is it all going well at the test site before they open the system at the 174 VA medical centers, as well as the 1,577 other sites?

The answer, in a word, no.

The ill-timed pandemic no doubt kept most workers at home, especially in the beginning. But they've made progress. Just recently, the VA brought online its third site with the new system to track and store patient data.

Thoughts: Keep track of your records ... and whether they're accurate. Carry a 3x5 card in your wallet listing your drugs and dosages, conditions and surgeries. When you go to a medical appointment at a VA facility, ask for verification that their records are correct. The last thing you need in an emergency is for your medical records to be inaccurate.

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Wishing Well®

3	4	3	2	5	8	6	5	6	7	4	5	7
T	N	A	C	A	G	L	B	I	A	E	E	C
6	3	8	2	7	4	8	4	6	3	8	7	2
V	K	R	O	T	W	E	J	E	E	A	B	N
5	4	6	5	6	3	6	5	4	5	3	4	2
A	O	Y	M	O	S	U	I	B	N	O	C	S
5	3	2	6	3	6	2	7	5	2	3	6	2
G	L	I	R	I	I	D	O	S	E	D	D	R
5	4	2	3	2	4	3	7	6	4	6	5	2
M	O	A	S	C	U	T	L	E	L	A	I	H
3	5	7	4	2	7	6	2	3	4	5	2	6
A	L	D	D	A	L	L	N	N	B	E	G	S
7	3	2	8	4	8	4	8	4	8	4	8	4
Y	D	E	T	E	J	N	O	E	Y	A	S	R

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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1. GEOGRAPHY: Which country owns the Canary Islands?
2. MOVIES: Which movie features the song "Moon River"?
3. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "non ducor, duco" mean in English?
4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of ducks called?
5. LITERATURE: Which 20th-century novel features a character called Sethe?
6. TELEVISION: What drive-in diner is featured in the 1970s TV sitcom "Happy Days"?
7. MUSIC: When did Lynyrd Skynyrd's anthem "Sweet Home Alabama" chart in the Top 10?
8. U.S. STATES: Which state's motto is "Eureka"?
9. HISTORY: When did Wyoming give women the right to vote, hold public office and own property?
10. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president had an estate called The Hermitage?

Answers

1. Spain
2. "Breakfast at Tiffany's"
3. "I am not led, I lead"
4. A raft
5. "Beloved"
6. Arnold's
7. 1974
8. California
9. 1869
10. Andrew Jackson

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



It Tolls for Thee

On Monday, I was honored to provide some remarks at the Sioux Falls Memorial Day commemoration. Memorial Day rightfully honors those who have died in service to their country, acknowledging their tremendous sacrifice.

But as I thought about those who have died, I reflected upon those they left behind. Each of them had families, friends, and neighbors. Death imposed a terrible price on the patriots who died, but not just on them.

"For Whom the Bell Tolls," the 1940 novel by Ernest Hemingway, popularized the phrase "Ask not for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee." That line is often interpreted to mean that sooner or later death comes for us all. That's true, but it isn't what Hemingway meant. Instead, Hemingway was reminding us that because we are interconnected to one another, the death of any of us harms all of us.

The death of each of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines leaves a hole that lasts for decades. There are Little League players they'll never get to coach, church choirs they'll never sing with, the girl or boy next door they'll never marry, and the new hire at the office or factory they'll never take under their wing. There are thousands of contributions, large and small, that their death denies to them, and to us.

The fallen men and women in uniform weren't just war fighters or leaders-in-theater. They were also to be the leaders of so many neighborhoods here at home.

On Monday, when "Taps" played at the ceremony, I let it call to mind those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. But I also let it call to mind the countless families, worksites, churches, and communities diminished by those deaths. Our nation was made stronger by the service of those who died, but their absence leaves gaps that are hard to fill.

Ask not for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for all of us.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

What Happened to America?

What happened to America? That's the question that's been on my mind.

Before the pandemic struck, America was experiencing a resurgence in global economic and political strength that hadn't been seen since World War II. We had the lowest unemployment rate in more than 50 years – including record-high employment rates for Black and Hispanic Americans. We became the global leader in energy production. We were the third-largest exporter of cars and the second-largest producer of auto parts. It's simple – we were putting America first.

Today, gas prices are surging, energy production has plummeted, and car dealerships are buying back two-year-old cars to keep their inventory stocked. The president is begging foreign companies to sell us oil and gas. Shutting down the world economy splintered the supply chain, too. And the Biden Administration's spending policies have caused historic inflation, crushing the modern family.

Not only are we depending on other countries for oil production, but we're also depending on them for our food supply. European countries are providing life-sustaining baby formula for America's infants. Two of the four mega-beef packers are Brazilian-owned companies. China is buying up land and our chemical companies, and they're producing our fertilizer.

What happened? Where did it all go so horribly wrong?

For starters, governments in other states jumped at the chance to seize power and crippled state and local economies. Then there was a change in leadership in Washington, D.C. On President Biden's first day in office, thousands of South Dakotans and others working on the Keystone XL pipeline had their jobs taken away by the stroke of Biden's pen. The damage didn't stop there, either.

The curtailing of domestic drilling further hindered our energy dominance. Biden's restrictions on timber are directly affecting West River jobs and sawmills and causing a cascading effect on the rising cost of home construction – another pain point driving historic inflation.

Despite all this, South Dakota is continuing to push back and provide solutions to stop these conditions from eroding or erasing our state's economic gains.

Over the past two years, South Dakotans' personal income has grown more than in any other state. During the pandemic, I fought to keep businesses open. That kept our economy rolling. We kept our citizens

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working, avoiding the catastrophic workforce issues other states are facing.

In the process, we made South Dakota one of the top tourist destinations in the country. Unlike other states, we did such a great job promoting South Dakota – and our dedication to freedom – that we're seeing hundreds of businesses move here. That created even more demand for skilled workers, which is raising wages.

Last month, I joined other governors to call for fewer restrictions on ethanol production to slow the increase in gas prices. I have also joined nearly two dozen governors in pushing back against the Biden Administration's anti-American approach to energy. South Dakota gave out grant funding to small- and medium-sized meat processors to provide more competitive market options for our Stockgrowers. Last week, I announced that we are investing in apprenticeship startups to get more companies training their next generation of employees straight out of high school and college.

In the last three years, we have increased funding to help our working moms and young families get a better start in life. This includes expanding the Bright Start program from a small pilot program to a statewide initiative to help new moms get training and assistance to raise a strong family. And we've put more funding towards mental health, including regional mental health centers so that South Dakotans in crisis can get the care they need close to home.

America used to pride itself on being a global leader. Other nations looked to us to solve problems. Through our efforts, we lifted entire generations out of poverty across the world by laying the foundation for industry in developing nations.

Maybe it's time we put some of those practices back to work here at home. It's working for South Dakota. I know by working together, we can restore the American spirit of innovation across the country. We can put America first, again, which will benefit South Dakota families.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Rising Temperatures, Rising Prices

I think it's fair to say that in South Dakota, the unofficial start of summer begins when the temperature hits – and stays – over 65 degrees ... give or take. It's been another long winter and spring, and I think we are all looking forward to some warmer, sunnier days. Few things can top summers in South Dakota, and some of my fondest childhood memories are from our summer road trips to the Black Hills. We're blessed to call South Dakota home, and South Dakotans quickly win the hearts of all who travel to the state. We are home to the Corn Palace, the Missouri River, the Badlands, Wall Drug, the Black Hills, the Crazy Horse Memorial, Mount Rushmore, and more. As they say, there is something for everyone.

With the school year officially wrapped up, families are not only starting to fine-tune their summer schedules, but they're having to revisit their budgets, too. Everything from sports camps, summer school, carpool duty, road trips, and nearly everything else in between – whatever keeps the kids busy – may cost more this summer due to rising gas prices and soaring inflation. For lots of folks, a summer road trip is a no-brainer, but the price hikes hitting Americans threaten to shorten plans or keep travelers home altogether. As I travel throughout the state, I continue to hear from South Dakotans who tell me about the tremendous toll these high fuel costs have on their household budgets.

The national average for a gallon of gas leapt over \$4 in May and seems to climb higher each day. In fact, the national average for a gallon of gas is double what it was the day President Biden took his oath of office in January 2021. Heading into peak travel season, this means families are reprioritizing their spending and having to make tough decisions on whether or not they can afford to spend the day driving through the Badlands or having enough groceries to get through the week.

I am frequently asked what can be done to lower these egregious fuel costs. The short answer: an all-of-the-above energy strategy. Since taking office, President Biden has pursued a radical agenda that is hostile to conventional energy. The president cancelled the Keystone XL pipeline on his first day in office and he almost immediately froze new oil and gas leases on federal lands – sending a clear signal to oil and gas producers that his administration would be reluctant to work with them to increase American energy production. As we are seeing now, the only effect of curbing conventional energy production is to either force Americans to pay more for their energy or rely more on foreign sources for oil, like the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. The more we rely on energy from abroad, the more vulnerable Americans are to energy price spikes and global shortages.

The ongoing energy crisis hasn't spurred the Biden administration to take action beyond raiding our Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which only minimally stunted rising prices. However, I am pleased that the administration recently permitted the summertime sale of E15 fuel, which went into effect on June 1. I have long advocated for the year-round sale of E15 as a way to offer American drivers a more affordable and cleaner option at the gas pump. Earlier this year, I led a bipartisan letter to the president calling for this very policy. It's a step in the right direction, but President Biden needs to get serious about leveraging all American energy solutions. Failure to take meaningful action to reverse rising energy prices will cast a long shadow over the summer and our economy.

As families all across the country have to dig deeper into their pocketbooks in order to fill up their tanks and make ends meet, I will continue to press the administration to abandon its failed energy policies and put our country back on track to restore our energy security.

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Angels do Play Harps and I Have Proof

A few weeks ago, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came to me with a question. I'm always very cautious whenever that happens because it could be a trap.

"Next Saturday I have to go and pick up something. It's about an hour away, and I wonder if you could come with me?"

This is a new one. So I asked her, "What are you going to be picking up?"

That's a straightforward question with no strings attached.

She looked at me for a few moments and finally said, "It's a secret, and I don't want to tell you yet."

That was enough to put me on my guard. A secret? What kind of a secret could this be?

So I ask her, "What is the secret?"

She didn't respond right away, but finally, she said very soberly, "I don't want to tell you right now. It's a secret, and you'll understand when we get there."

I don't mind secrets as long as they are my secrets. But when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has a secret, the red flags begin waving.

Thinking about it for a few moments, I thought I should go along with her, so I said, "If you need me to go with you, I'll be glad to go."

Hoping to trip her up, I said, "And what is the secret?"

She looked at me, smiled, and walked away.

For her to have a secret and then want me to help her facilitate that secret without telling me what it is, is beyond my pay scale. As long as we've been married, I've never heard her ask for this kind of favor.

Of course, this kind of favor could work in my favor down the line. Whenever I want something, I could always say, "Do you remember that secret I helped you with a few years ago?" I'm sure I could use it for some value at the proper time.

For the last few weeks, I noticed she's been searching for things on her computer, but there's no way in the world I'm going to get on her computer and try to figure out what she was searching for.

Finally, the Saturday came, and she said, "Are you ready to go?"

"And," I said staggeringly, "what are we going for?"

"You'll find out in due time."

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I didn't know what I was in for, and I did not know how to prepare for it. I'm not very good at handling secrets, especially if they're not my secrets.

We finally arrived at our destination, and my wife parked her van there was a lady on the sidewalk waiting for us.

My wife looked at me and said, "That's the lady who has my secret."

We got out of the van and I walked rather slowly toward the lady, not knowing if I should shout or run. She did not look like a dangerous lady with a dangerous secret, but I was going to be cautious nevertheless.

We greeted her, and my wife introduced me to her; then we walked to the back of her van, and I found out what that secret was.

I didn't quite know how to handle the secret or what to make of it, but I just smiled and helped transfer this "secret" from the lady's van to my wife's van.

As the transfer took place, my jaw dropped. I really could not believe what I was seeing. There was a harp and all the things that went with it. The secret was my wife had just purchased a professional harp. I did not know what she was going to make of it, but our travel home was very interesting as she described this new interest to me in detail.

In the next several weeks, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage learned how to play the harp. She watched a bunch of videos and was quite a fast learner.

She played the piano for years and did it for all our church services as long as I knew her. From what she told me, playing the piano helped her learn how to play the harp.

Every time I came home, I walked into the house and she was sitting there with her harp playing it. I discovered she was quite good with this harp as I listened to it.

I did not know very much about this kind of an instrument; as far as I was concerned, only angels played harps in heaven, which got me wondering.

Is there another secret that I don't know about?

Could she be playing this harp, preparing me for heaven?

I know my wife knows everything, and maybe there is this other secret she's not telling me for a reason.

One consolation is she's not playing fireballs. I can handle the harp preparing me for heaven, so I just sit back every time she played and enjoyed it.

After all, angels do play harps, and my wife is getting better at it every day.

As she was playing her harp I thought of a verse of Scripture. "I will also praise thee with the psaltery, even thy truth, O my God: unto thee will I sing with the harp, O thou Holy One of Israel" (Psalms 71:22).

Is going to be a wonderful time in heaven as we gather together listening to the Angels play their hearts as we worship the Lord together.

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EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: What do outdated federal housing mandates from the 1930s have to do with environmental justice today?
—William. O., New York, NY

Racist policies from the 20th century have left minority communities disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution and global warming, researchers find. Through studies conducted nationwide, researchers have determined that urban neighborhoods historically “red-lined” by the federal government suffer from higher levels of air pollution and tend to be several degrees warmer than nearby communities.

How did this happen? Following the Great Depression, the U.S. economy was faced with nationwide housing shortages. The federal government stepped in and designed color-coded maps to help banks determine “safe” locations to insure mortgages. Minority neighborhoods—typically African-Americans and immigrants—were redlined to indicate high risk, while privileged white communities were favored for housing opportunities. Nine decades later, these communities continue to have lower income and suffer from deteriorating infrastructure, making them more susceptible to environmental hazards.

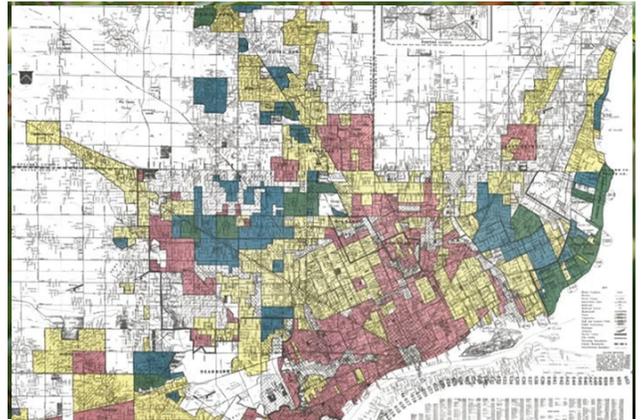
Redlined communities were also targeted—and are still—for industrial development unlike the affluent suburbs nearby. Overrun with manufacturing facilities, highways and warehouses, they face what is known as the “urban heat island” effect and suffer from warmer temperatures due to heat-trapping structures, pavement and cement. They also lack green infrastructure like trees and cooling canopy cover.

The policies of segregation that the U.S. followed “were so powerful that they determine the racial landscape of today,” says Richard Rothstein of the Economic Policy Institute and author of *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*. “...other neighborhoods are now unaffordable to them, [so they are] restricted to neighborhoods where there are fewer trees, where there is more heat.” Urban communities are often chosen for industrial developments, like pipelines and facilities with high-pollutant discharge, causing poorer living conditions and increased health risks.

Studies find that people living in redlined neighborhoods can have lifespans up to 30 years shorter than others in nearby areas, due to conditions brought on by environmental hazards. Such communities are much more likely to suffer from poor health and lower financial health and have less ability to cope with these effects, says Vivek Shandas, a professor of urban studies and planning at Portland State University studying the link between redlined communities and warmer temperatures.

In a nation grappling with discrimination, environmental justice efforts need to prioritize these marginalized communities. Some Democratic candidates have made climate change impacts on urban, minority and low-income communities a focus of their platforms. Addressing these challenges will require understanding how not everyone has the same capacity to adapt to environmental burdens. In order to ensure a fair and just world for all, we need to acknowledge and address mistakes of the past.

• EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.



This segment of a late 1930s map of Detroit, Michigan shows land “graded” based on race, with the “least desirable” neighborhoods color-coded in red. Credit:

“Mapping Inequality” / National Archives and Records Administration.

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South Dakota COVID-19 Report

New Confirmed and Probable Cases

653

Active Cases

1,678
+208

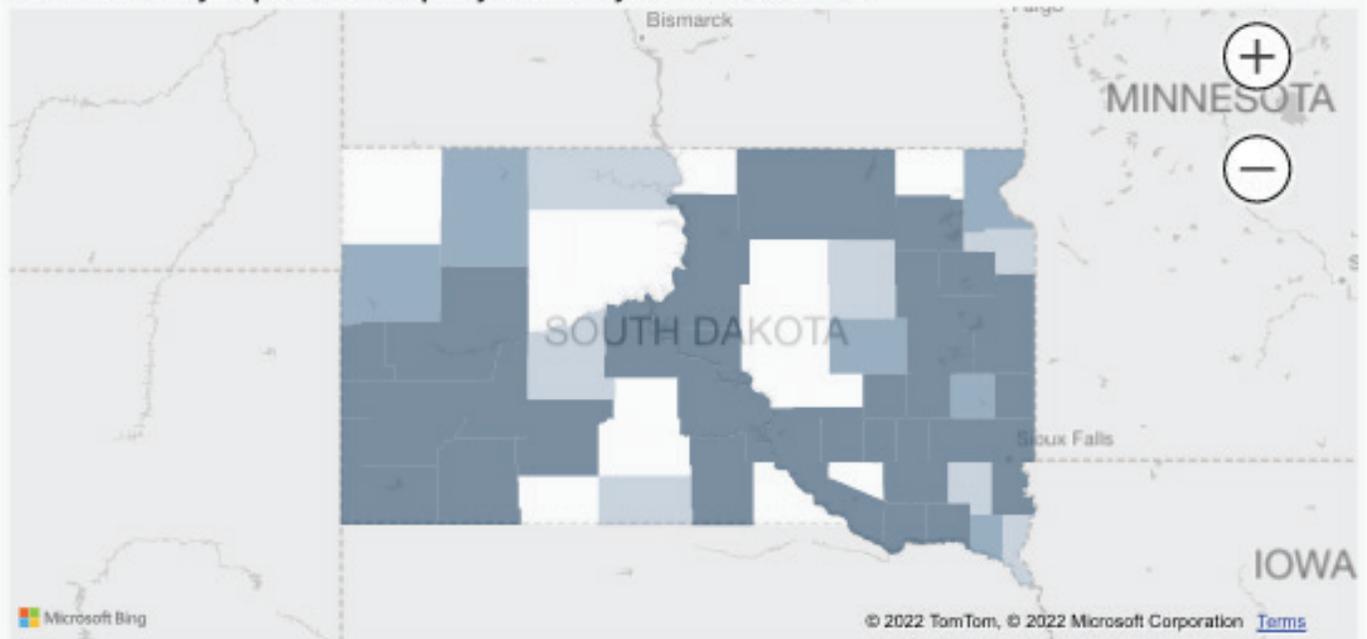
Recovered Cases

235,751

Currently Hospitalized

52

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

240,357

Total Tests

2,196,174

Deaths Among Cases

2,928

Ever Hospitalized

10,865

Percent of State Population with at least 1 Dose**

73%

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Brown County COVID-19 Report

New Confirmed and Probable Cases

17

Active Cases

54
-1

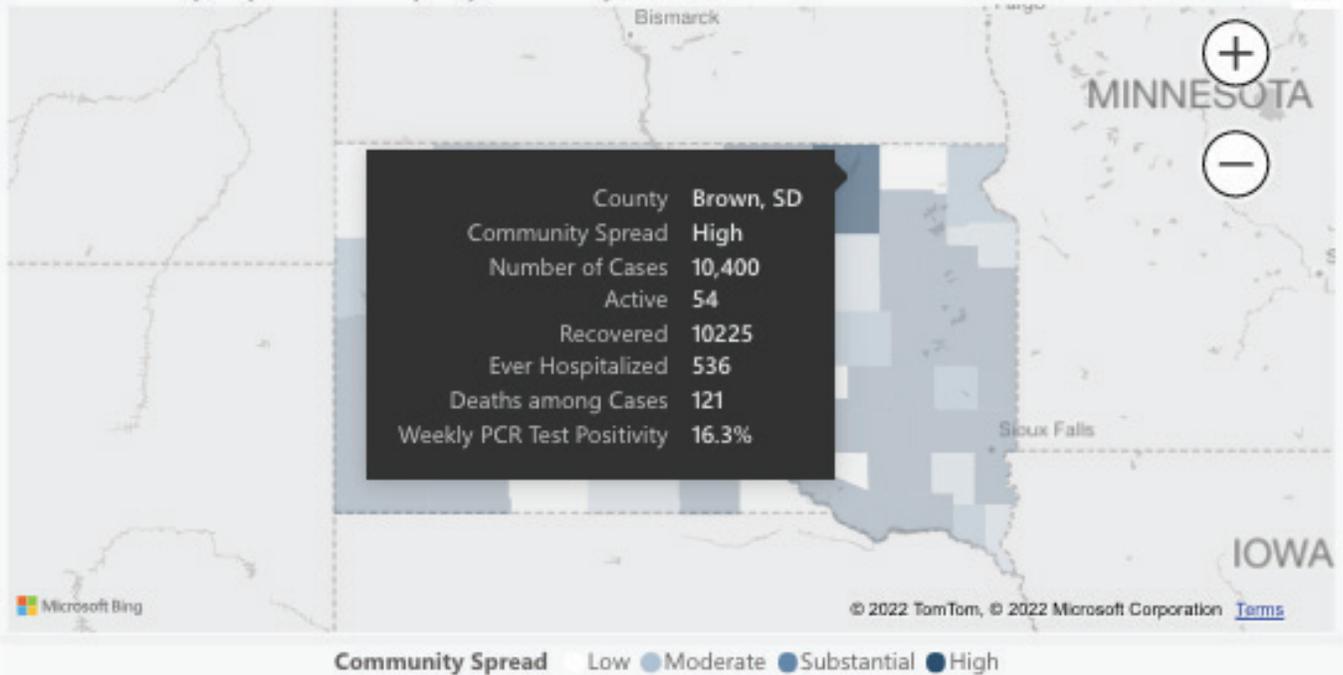
Recovered Cases

10,225

Currently Hospitalized

52

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

10,400

Total Tests

105,208

Deaths Among Cases

121

Ever Hospitalized

536

Percent of State Population with at least 1 Dose**

73%

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Day County COVID-19 Report

New Confirmed and Probable Cases

1

Active Cases

5
-2

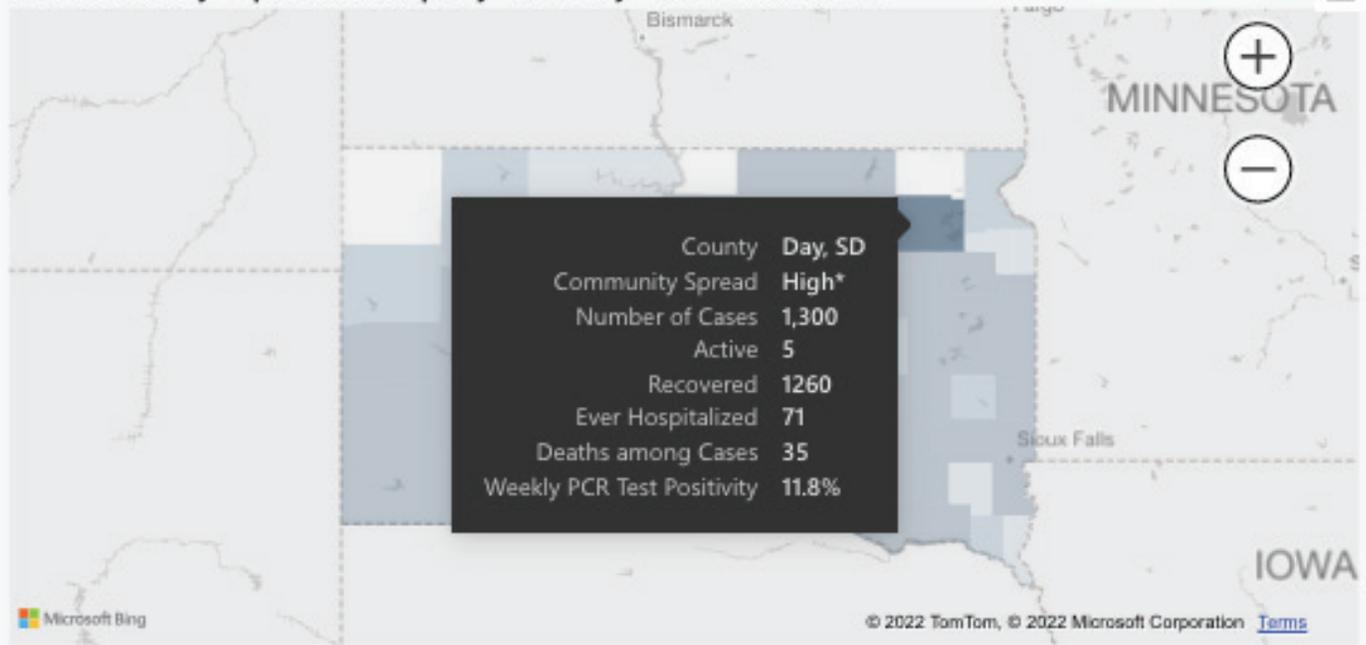
Recovered Cases

1,260

Currently Hospitalized

52

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

1,300

Total Tests

17,175

Deaths Among Cases

35

Ever Hospitalized

71



[See details](#)

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Ever Hospitalized

10,865

03/07/2020 - 05/30/2022

Currently Hospitalized

52
+22

VARIANT CASES OF COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

COVID-19 Variant	# of Cases	# of Cases - Last 3 Months
Delta (B.1.617.2 & AY lineages)	1,720	151
Omicron (B.1.1.529 & BA lineages)	1,166	232
Alpha (B.1.1.7)	176	3
Omicron (BA.2)	34	33
Gamma (P.1)	4	1
Beta (B.1.351)	2	2

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Hospitalizations	# of Deaths Among Cases
Male	113,167	5,649	1,596
Female	127,190	5,216	1,332

AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range with Years	# of Cases	# of Hospitalizations	# of Deaths Among Cases
0-9 years	16,108	143	3
10-19 years	29,005	171	2
20-29 years	42,074	585	14
30-39 years	40,737	816	52
40-49 years	33,603	959	88
50-59 years	30,867	1,474	226
60-69 years	25,599	2,217	476
70-79 years	13,537	2,300	684
80+ years	8,827	2,200	1,383

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	# of Hospitalizations	# of Deaths
Asian / Pacific Islander	3,320	108	20
Black	5,904	202	22
Hispanic	10,309	350	39
Native American	30,516	1,903	444
Other	2,005	60	13
Unknown	4,563	68	18
White	183,740	8,174	2,372

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COVID-19 Update by Marie Miller

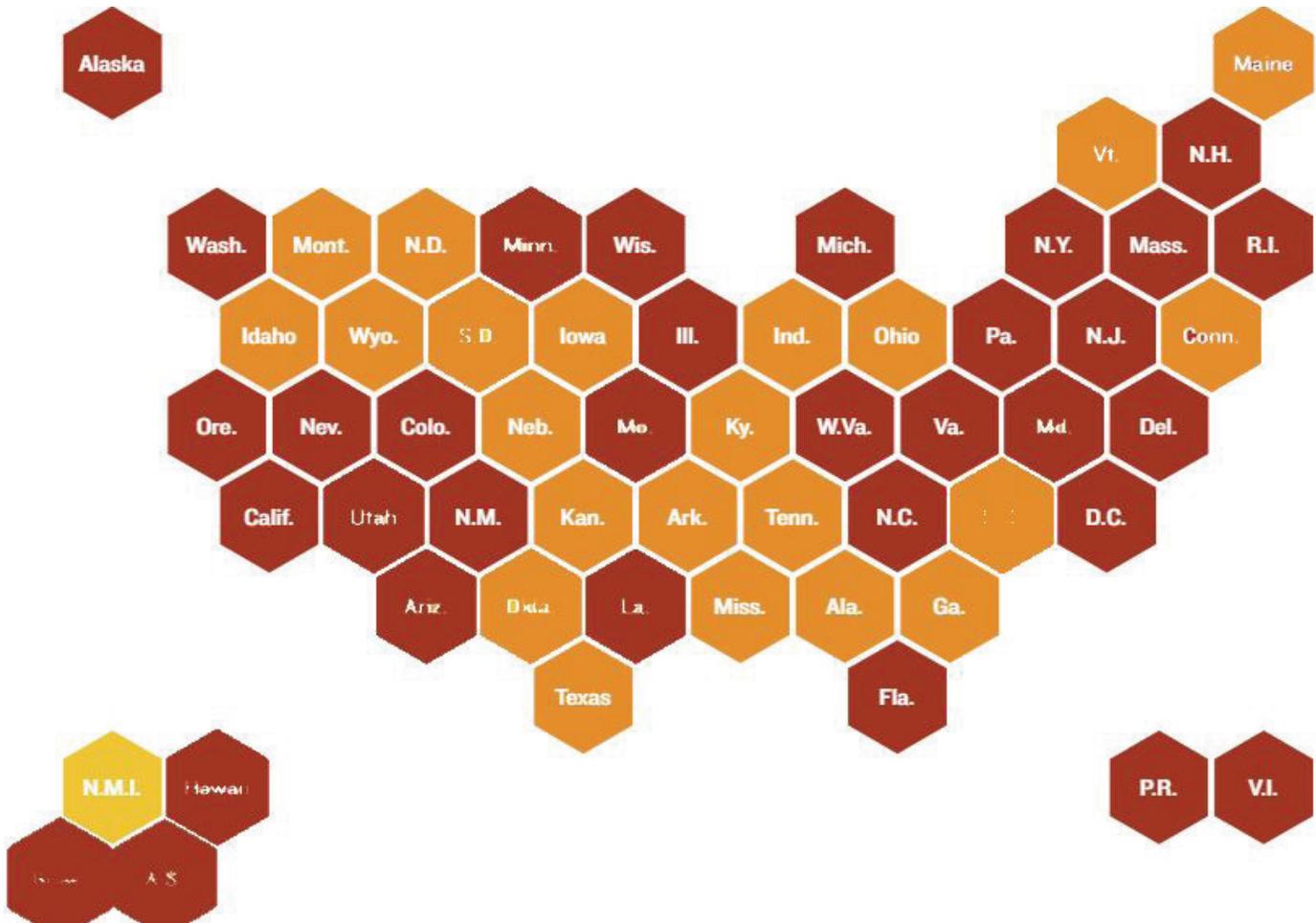
Changes: some worse, some better. Overall, a little worse. Here's what I'm seeing:

The good news is that Kentucky, Maine, New Hampshire, and Connecticut dropped from red into orange. This is the first time in a long while that more than a single state showed progress. The bad news is that Guam, Arizona, Missouri, and Louisiana went from orange to red. Oklahoma went from yellow to orange.

That means we still have 33 states and territories in red and have increased from 21 to 22 in orange. Only the Northern Mariana Islands remain in yellow. Not a great look.

Thirty-one states and territories are showing increasing new-case numbers; this looks better than we've been. While individual regions have different pictures, the overall situation appears to be improving somewhat. I am feeling some hope we're turning things around, but it's still too soon to tell. Let's hang in there and see what the next few days show us. For now, it's still pretty grim.

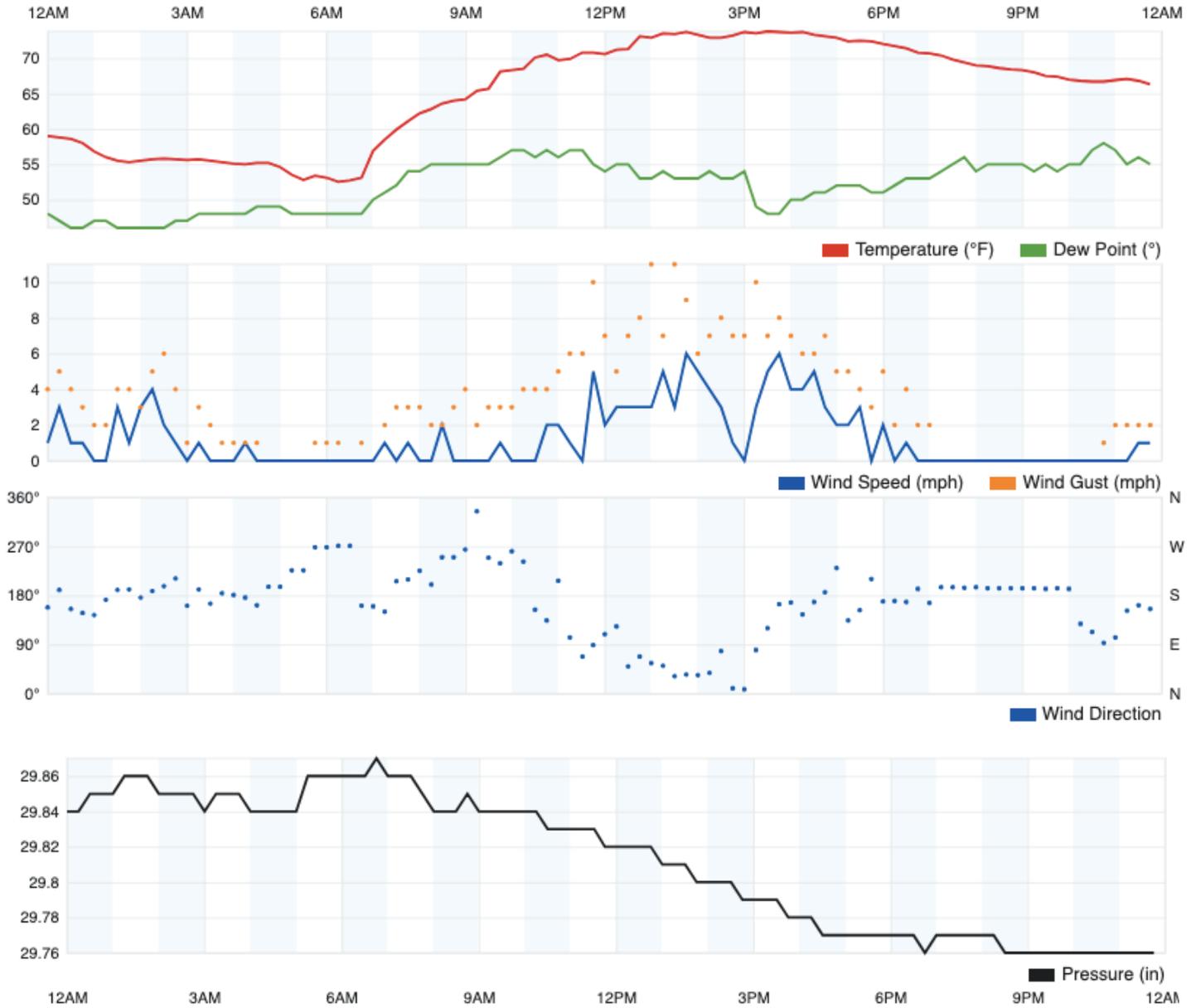
The original template for this heat map is from NPR; I have modified it to show changes since NPR's last update. Red designates "unchecked spread," orange is "escalating spread," yellow is "potential spread," and green is "close to containment." (For the record, NMI is the Northern Mariana Islands, AS is American Samoa, and VI is the US Virgin Islands, all US territories.)



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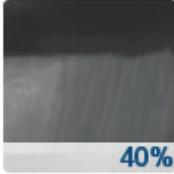
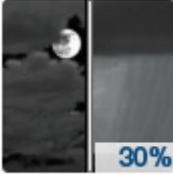
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
Mostly Cloudy then Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Chance Showers	Showers Likely
High: 71 °F	Low: 49 °F	High: 67 °F	Low: 49 °F	High: 68 °F

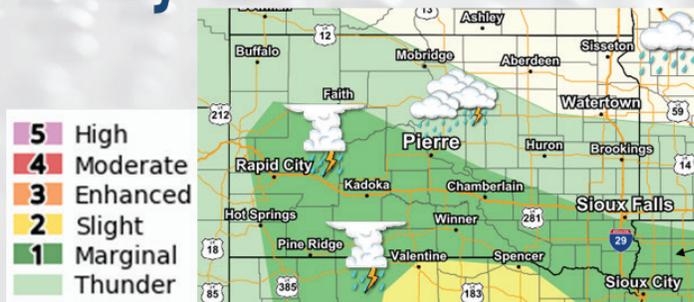
Wet Day Today



Highs: 60s

Showers over central SD, expanding across northeastern SD & west central MN this afternoon. Thunderstorms possible. A few storms could become strong or severe over the southwestern third of SD.

Today's Severe Weather Outlook



Strong to severe storms possible over the southwestern third of SD

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
www.weather.gov/abr

Showers over central South Dakota, will expand across northeastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota this afternoon. Thunderstorms possible. Stay weather aware, as a few storms could become strong or severe over the southwestern third of South Dakota.

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Today in Weather History

June 5, 1925: A severe thunderstorm that probably produced multiple numbers of small tornadoes moved northwest from Presho, in Jones County. There were large gaps of about 15 miles at times between tornadoes. One of these tornadoes passed 10 miles north of Ree Heights and ended north of Miller. Half dozen barns were destroyed west and north of Ree Heights. The strongest of the tornadoes was estimated as having F2 strength. Also on this date, a tornado moved from the southern edge of Fargo, North Dakota and on into Moorhead Minnesota. There were no injuries reported from this storm.

June 5, 1996: Hail, between a golf ball and tennis ball size, broke many windshields and dented vehicles in Watertown. Some houses in Watertown had their windows broken out because of the large hail. Golf ball sized hail also covered most of the ground at the Watertown Airport.

June 5, 1999: Winds gusting to 74 mph knocked down several trees throughout Groton. One tree took out a major transmission line and ripped the electrical service line off of a house. Power was out for parts of Groton for several hours. The high winds shattered the windows at a store on Main Street and tore a standing board on a sign loose which damaged five new vehicles at a dealership in Groton. The high winds also destroyed a small service building and the surrounding fence at the main juncture of natural gas pipelines at Groton. Winds to 70 mph brought several trees and many large tree branches down in Henry. Winds gusting to 80 mph snapped off several trees, blew a garage down, and brought power lines down in Hazel. In Watertown winds gusted to over 70 mph, blowing a portion of a roof off a house and destroyed the attached garage on another house. Near Watertown, a pole barn was destroyed, a hay bale was blown into a basement window of a house, and part of their deck was torn away. Near Florence, winds up to 80 mph tipped over and damaged a small shed, destroyed another storage shed, and also completely demolished a three stall garage.

June 5, 2008: Very heavy rains of 3 to 7 inches caused extensive flooding throughout Dewey County. Many roads, bridges, dams, culverts, along with some buildings were damaged or destroyed by the flooding. One man, west of Promise, used a boat to get back and forth from his ranch. A federal disaster declaration was issued for Dewey County and the Cheyenne River Reservation.

1859 - Frost was reported from Iowa to New England. The temperature dipped to 25 degrees in New York State, and up to two inches of snow blanketed Ohio. The cold and snow damaged the wheat crop. (David Ludlum)

1908 - Helena MT was deluged with 3.67 inches of rain to establish their all-time 24 hour rainfall record. (4th-5th) (The Weather Channel)

1916 - A tornado struck the town of Warren AR killing 83 persons. There were 125 deaths that day in a tornado outbreak across Missouri and Arkansas. (David Ludlum)

1917 - Residents near Topeka KS reported disk-shaped hailstones six to ten inches in diameter, and two to three inches thick. The hailstorm was accompanied by a tornado. (The Weather Channel)

1976: When water began leaking from Idaho's new Teton Dam, there seemed to be no cause for alarm. On this date, warnings were frantic that the dam was about to break. As workers tried to shore up the crumbling dam, it crumbled shortly after 11 AM, sending 180 billion gallons of water pouring through Teton Canyon. 11 people lost their lives, but the toll would have been much higher if the dam had failed at night and residents had been asleep.

1987 - International Falls, MN, dipped to a record low reading of 34 degrees during the morning. Williston, ND, and Glasgow, MT, reported record warm afternoon highs of 94 degrees. Major flooding was reported along the Guadalupe River in South Texas, with the water level at Cuero reaching 18 feet above flood stage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Twenty cities in the south central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Asheville NC with a reading of 40 degrees. Fifteen cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. The high of 108 degrees at Glasgow MT was a record for June. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Lower Mississippi Valley to the Southern Atlantic Coast during the day and into the night. Four tornadoes were reported, and there were 87 reports of large hail and damaging winds. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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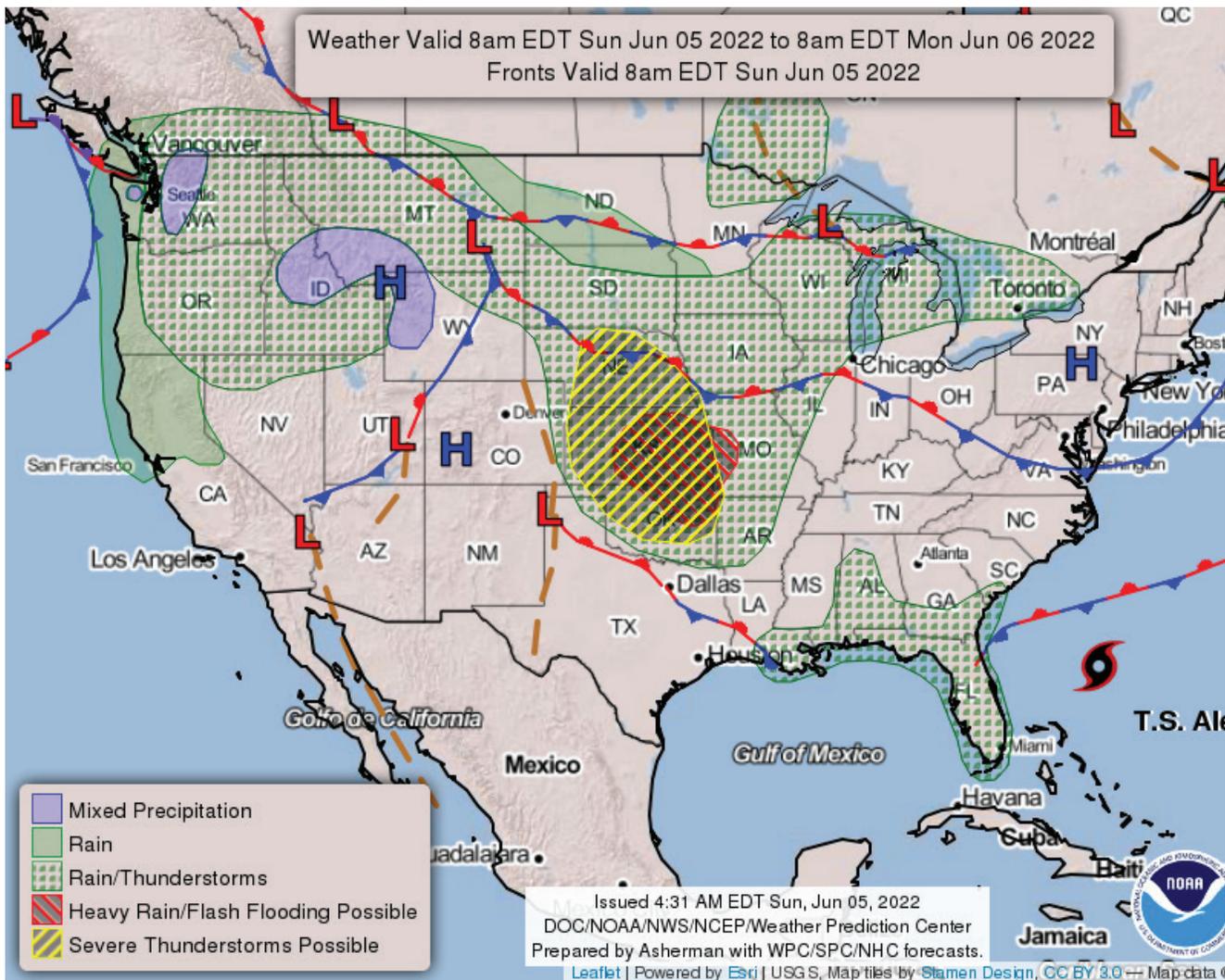
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 74 °F at 3:05 PM
Low Temp: 52 °F at 6:16 AM
Wind: 11 mph at 12:56 PM
Precip: 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 35 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 104 in 2021
Record Low: 37 in 1907
Average High: 77°F
Average Low: 52°F
Average Precip in June.: 0.55
Precip to date in June.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 7.80
Precip Year to Date: 11.18
Sunset Tonight: 9:18:33 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:42:59 AM



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God's Never-Ending Grace

George and Will had been best friends since they were in grade school. Unfortunately, Will was having a difficult time financially. So, he went to George and said, "I'm having a difficult time with my finances. Can you help me out with a loan until I get back on my feet?"

"Sorry, Will, I just can't do that," said George.

"We have been best friends forever," said Will. "How can you do this to me? We grew up together, studied for our exams together, and went camping together. And, I even rescued you when you were about to drown. Why, George?"

"I remember all those fun times together, Will. They were good times, and I think of them often. But here's the question: What have you done for me lately?" said George.

Often we ask God the same question: "What have you done for me lately? I know that You love me because You sent Your Son to be my Savior. And, I know You have answered my prayers in the past. But where are You now when I need You? Have You given up on me?"

The Psalmist in his wisdom said, "He covers the sky with clouds; He supplies the earth with rain and makes the grass grow on the hills." However, we must remember one fact: He always does what He said He would do: but in His time and on His terms.

The beloved spiritual reminds us that "He's got the whole world in His hands," and continues by making it personal, "He's got you and me, brother, in His hands."

Our God is a powerful God and a personal God. He cares for us and will never abandon us. When we don't get what we need when we want it, trust Him. It's coming.

Prayer: Father, there's no doubt that You love us and will meet our every need. Please add patience to our trust. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Bible Verse: He covers the sky with clouds; He supplies the earth with rain and makes the grass grow on the hills. Psalm 147:8

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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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News from the **AP** Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

10-12-28-30-33

(ten, twelve, twenty-eight, thirty, thirty-three)

Estimated jackpot: \$53,000

Lotto America

09-14-33-45-46, Star Ball: 9, ASB: 3

(nine, fourteen, thirty-three, forty-five, forty-six; Star Ball: nine; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$14,720,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: 207,000,000

Powerball

14-16-36-52-60, Powerball: 16, Power Play: 3

(fourteen, sixteen, thirty-six, fifty-two, sixty; Powerball: sixteen; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$198,000,000

US naval officer in Japan faces prison over deadly crash

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For Ridge Alkonis, a U.S. Navy lieutenant living in Japan, a springtime trip with his wife and three children to Mount Fuji was intended as fun and leisurely family time before an expected deployment.

What happened next, and why, is a matter of dispute. But it gave rise to a three-year prison sentence.

In the telling by Alkonis' family and supporters, the naval officer abruptly lost consciousness in the car, causing him to slump over behind the wheel after suffering acute mountain sickness. Japanese prosecutors and the judge who sentenced him contend he fell asleep while drowsy, shirking a duty to pull over immediately.

No matter the cause, Alkonis' car veered into parked cars and pedestrians in a parking lot, striking an elderly woman and her son-in-law, both of whom later died. With a Japanese court set to hear an appeal Wednesday of Alkonis' prison sentence, his parents are pleading for leniency for an act they say was nothing more than a terrible accident but that prosecutors view as deadly negligence. He is home in Japan pending the appeal.

"The word that comes to our mind is fairness. We want him to be treated fairly for an accident," said Alkonis' father, Derek Alkonis, of Dana Point, California. "We don't feel like it's been that way. We know it hasn't been that way. And it concerns us that our son has been given a three-year prison sentence for an accident."

The victims' families could not be contacted by The Associated Press because their names are redacted in court records reviewed by the AP.

The upcoming hearing is the latest development in the case against Alkonis, 34, a specialist in underseas warfare and acoustic engineering who has spent nearly seven years in Japan as a civilian volunteer and naval officer.

In the spring of 2021, after a period of land-based assignments, the Southern California native was preparing for a deployment as a department head on the USS Benfold, a missile destroyer.

On May 29, 2021, with the assignment looming, his family set out for an excursion of Mount Fuji hiking and sightseeing.

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They had climbed a portion of the mountain and were back in the car, heading to lunch and ice cream near the base of Mount Fuji. Alkonis was talking with his daughter, then 7, when his family says he suddenly fell unconscious behind the wheel. He was so out of it, they say, that neither his daughter's screams to wake up nor the impact of the collision roused him.

After the crash near Fujinomiya, he was arrested by Japanese authorities and held for 26 days in solitary confinement at a police detention facility, interrogated multiple times a day and was not given a medical treatment or evaluation, according to a statement of facts provided by a family spokesman. That statement says that when American authorities arrived to take Alkonis into custody and return him to a U.S. base, he already was held by the Japanese.

He was indicted on a charge of a negligent driving, resulting in death, and sentenced last October to three years in prison. The charge carries up to seven years imprisonment in Japan. He has appealed.

English-language court records obtained by the AP show that the judge expressed skepticism over the mountain sickness claim, citing an initial statement from Alkonis to police in which he said he felt drowsy after driving through mountainous curves.

He later testified to feeling sudden mountain sickness — a finding supported by a neurologist's June 2021 diagnosis — but the judge said such a sensation should have abated as Alkonis drove down the mountain.

The judge said that though it was conceivable Alkonis was suffering from light mountain sickness, it was difficult to imagine he went from not feeling drowsy at all to becoming suddenly incapacitated.

A Navy spokesperson said Alkonis remains on active duty and that the Navy has provided him and his family "with the whole-person care and support they need." A lawyer for Alkonis declined to comment.

The case is playing out against the backdrop of long-standing concerns by Japan about bad behavior, however sporadic, by the tens of thousands of U.S. service members in the country and a sense that they are afforded preferential treatment. A 2014 AP investigation found that at U.S. military bases in Japan, most service members judged culpable in sex crimes in recent years did not go to prison, with offenders instead routinely punished by demotions, fines or removal from the military.

This case is different, though, in that Alkonis is not accused of acting with any nefarious intent, and he and his family say they have taken repeated steps to express remorse and to accept responsibility.

The family says they were encouraged by Alkonis' lawyer to cooperate, plead guilty and pay restitution to the victims' families — which they did, by signing a \$1.65 million settlement, about half of which was raised from savings and friends and family.

"Ridge has said from day one, minute one: All he wants to do is help this family. He feels the burden of what happened that day," said his mother, Suzi Alkonis. "We all do."

Eric Feldman, a professor of Japanese law at the University of Pennsylvania, said that instinct is especially understandable in Japan, where the criminal justice system values expressions of remorse and where payment to victims can sometimes avert criminal prosecution. It's a system that gives particular focus to serving the interests of victims.

"There's a general view that what you don't want to do in Japan is to continue to proclaim one's innocence," Feldman said.

In this case, however, the criminal case has not gone away, and Suzi Alkonis said it was frustrating that displays of remorse can seem to actually work against her son in the courtroom. She feels anxiety for her son, uncertain of the lasting impact the case will have on his military career, but also pain for the victims.

"There are people who make really bad decisions and there's mercy for people who make bad decisions," she said. "We feel like we would love a little mercy because Ridge has spent his lifetime trying to make good decisions. And then to have an accident come out of the blue, it's already hurt one family so badly — and it's it's hurting this one."

Russia hits Kyiv with missiles; Putin warns West on supplies

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia took aim at Western military supplies for Ukraine's government with early

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Sunday airstrikes in Kyiv that it said destroyed tanks donated from abroad, as President Vladimir Putin warned that any Western deliveries of long-range rocket systems to Ukraine would prompt Moscow to hit "objects that we haven't yet struck."

The cryptic threat of a military escalation from the Russian leader didn't specify what the new targets might be, but it comes days after the United States announced plans to deliver \$700 million of security assistance for Ukraine that includes four precision-guided, medium-range rocket systems, helicopters, Javelin anti-tank weapon systems, radars, tactical vehicles, spare parts and more.

Military analysts say Russia is hoping to overrun the embattled eastern Donbas region, where Russia-backed separatists have fought the Ukrainian government for years, before any weapons that might turn the tide arrive. The Pentagon said earlier this week it will take at least three weeks to get the precision U.S. weapons and trained troops onto the battlefield.

Russian forces pounded railway facilities and other infrastructure early Sunday in Kyiv, which had previously seen weeks of eerie calm. Ukraine's nuclear plant operator, Energoatom, said one cruise missile buzzed the Pivdennoukrainsk nuclear plant, about 350 kilometers (220 miles) to the south, on its way to the capital — citing the dangers of such a near miss.

There was no immediate confirmation from Ukraine that the Russian airstrikes had destroyed tanks.

Kyiv hadn't faced any such strikes since the April 28 visit of U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres. The early morning attack triggered air raid alarms and showed that Russia still had the capability and willingness to hit at Ukraine's heart since abandoning its wider offensive across the country to instead focus its efforts in the east.

In a posting on the Telegram app, the Russian Defense Ministry said high-precision, long-range air-launched missiles were used. It said the strikes destroyed on the outskirts of Kyiv destroyed T-72 tanks supplied by Eastern European countries and other armored vehicles located in buildings of a car-repair business.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24 has led to untold tens of thousands of civilian and troop deaths, driven millions from their homes, sparked vast sanctions against Putin's government and allies, and strangled exports of critical wheat and other grains from Ukraine through Black Sea ports — limiting access to bread and other products in Africa, the Middle East and beyond.

In a television interview on Sunday, Putin lashed out at Western deliveries of weapons to Ukraine, saying they aim to prolong the conflict.

"All this fuss around additional deliveries of weapons, in my opinion, has only one goal: To drag out the armed conflict as much as possible," Putin said, alluding to U.S. plans to supply multiple launch rocket systems to Kyiv. He insisted such supplies were unlikely to change much for the Ukrainian government, which he said was merely making up for losses of rockets of similar range that they already had.

If Kyiv gets longer-range rockets, he added, Moscow will "draw appropriate conclusions and use our means of destruction, which we have plenty of, in order to strike at those objects that we haven't yet struck."

The missiles hit Kyiv's Darnytski and Dniprovski districts, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said on the Telegram messaging app, punctuating the Kremlin's recently reduced goal of seizing the entire Donbas. Moscow-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian forces for eight years in the Donbas and established self-proclaimed republics.

In recent days, Russian forces have focused on capturing the city of Sievierodonetsk.

A billowing pillar of smoke filled the air with an acrid odor in Kyiv's eastern Darnytski district, and the charred, blackened wreckage of a warehouse-type structure was smoldering. Police near the site told an Associated Press reporter that military authorities had banned the taking of images. Soldiers also blocked off a road in a nearby area leading toward a large railway yard.

The sites struck included facilities for the state rail company, Ukrzaliznytsia, said Serhiy Leshchenko, an adviser in President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office, on Telegram. The cruise missiles appeared to have been launched from a Tu-95 bomber flying over the Caspian Sea, the Air Force Command said on Facebook. It said air defense units shot down one missile.

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Energoatom said one cruise missile came dangerously close to the Pivdenoukrainsk nuclear power plant. It said the missile "flew critically low" and that Russian forces "still do not understand that even the smallest fragment of a missile that can hit a working power unit can cause a nuclear catastrophe and radiation leak."

Elsewhere, Russian forces continued their push to take ground in eastern Ukraine, with missile and air-strikes carried out on cities and villages of the Luhansk region, with the war now past the 100-day mark.

Luhansk governor Serhiy Haidai said on Telegram that "airstrikes by Russian Ka-52 helicopters were carried out in the areas of Girske and Myrna Dolyna, by Su-25 aircraft - on Ustynivka," while Lysychansk was hit by a missile from the Tochka-U complex.

A total of 13 houses were damaged in Girske, and five in Lysychansk. Another airstrike was reported in the eastern city of Kramatorsk by its mayor Oleksandr Goncharenko. No one was killed in the attack, he said, but two of the city's enterprises sustained "significant damage."

On Sunday morning, Ukraine's General Staff accused Russian forces of using phosphorus munitions in the village of Cherkaski Tyshky in the Kharkiv region. The claim couldn't be independently verified.

The update also confirmed strikes on Kyiv, which occurred in the early hours of Sunday. It wasn't immediately clear from the statement which infrastructure facilities in Kyiv were hit.

The General Staff said Russian forces continue assault operations in Sievierodonetsk, one of two key cities left to be captured in the Luhansk region of the Donbas. The Russians control the eastern part of the city, the update said, and are focusing on trying to encircle Ukrainian forces in the area and "blocking off main logistical routes."

The U.K. military said in its daily intelligence update that Ukrainian counterattacks in Sieverodonetsk were "likely blunting the operational momentum Russian forces previously gained through concentrating combat units and firepower." Russian forces previously had been making a string of advances in the city, but Ukrainian fighters have pushed back in recent days.

The statement also said Russia's military was partly relying on reserve forces of the separatists in the Luhansk region.

"These troops are poorly equipped and trained, and lack heavy equipment in comparison to regular Russian units," the intelligence update said, adding that "this approach likely indicates a desire to limit casualties suffered by regular Russian forces."

Far from the battlefield, Ukraine's national soccer players are hoping to secure a World Cup spot when the team takes on Wales later Sunday in Cardiff.

On the diplomatic front, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov was heading to Serbia for talks with President Aleksandar Vucic early this week, followed by a visit to Turkey on Tuesday, where the Russian envoy is expected to discuss Ukraine with his Turkish counterpart.

Turkey has been trying to work with U.N. and the warring countries to help clear the way for Ukrainian grain to be exported to Turkish ports, though no deal on the issue appeared imminent.

A Ukrainian presidential adviser urged European nations to respond with "more sanctions, more weapons" to Sunday's missile attacks.

Mykhailo Podolyak referenced remarks Friday by French President Emmanuel Macron, who said Putin had made a "historic error" by invading Ukraine, but that world powers shouldn't "humiliate Russia" so that a diplomatic exit could be found when the fighting stops.

Ukrainian authorities said Ukraine and Russia had exchanged bodies of killed troops this week, in the first officially confirmed swap. Ukraine's Ministry for Reintegration of Occupied Territories said Saturday each side had exchanged 160 bodies Thursday on the front line in the southern Zaporizhzhia region, parts of which are under Russian control. Russian officials haven't commented on the exchange.

At the Vatican, Pope Francis made one of his strongest appeals for a cease-fire and peace negotiations in Ukraine, urging leaders: "Don't bring the world to ruins, please. Don't bring the world to ruins." He made the plea during his traditional Sunday blessing from a window overlooking St. Peter's Square, asking leaders to hear "the desperate cries of the people who suffer" more than 100 days after the Russian invasion.

Colorful pageant, street parties to cap Platinum Jubilee

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Royal fans were hoping for an appearance by Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace after a colorful street pageant through London on Sunday, the final day of a holiday weekend celebrating the monarch's 70 years on the throne.

Thousands of performers will parade along a three-kilometer (nearly two-mile) route from Horse Guards Parade down the Mall to Buckingham Palace, telling the story of the queen's life with dance, vibrant costumes, carnival music and giant puppets.

Festivities will begin with the ringing of bells at Westminster Abbey, and a military band will lead the gilded gold state coach, a horse-drawn carriage that transported the queen to her coronation 69 years ago.

The monarch won't take part in the pageant, but archival video of her will be broadcast at the coach's windows.

Royal fans braved the wet, chilly weather and camped out on the Mall overnight to secure the best view of the pageant. Some came for the celebrities due to perform, while others say they want to be part of a historical moment.

"It's part of history it's never going to happen again. It's something special, so if you are going to do it you've got to go big or go home," said Shaun Wallen, 50.

The queen hasn't appeared in public for the Platinum Jubilee events since Thursday, when she smiled and waved on Buckingham Palace's balcony with her family. She has limited her appearances in recent months due to what the palace describes as "episodic mobility issues."

Still, she delighted the country when she appeared in a surprise comedy video that opened a concert Saturday staged in front of Buckingham Palace. In the video, the monarch had tea with a computer animated Paddington Bear — and revealed that, just like the furry character, she was partial to marmalade sandwiches and liked to keep them in her handbag.

Diana Ross and the rock band Queen headlined the star-studded tribute concert, which also featured Rod Stewart, Duran Duran, Alicia Keys and Andrea Bocelli.

On Sunday, celebrities including Ed Sheeran will belt out "God Save The Queen" outside Buckingham Palace as a finale to the pageant. Many hope that the monarch will make a second balcony appearance to round off the weekend of celebrations.

North Korea test-fires salvo of short-range missiles

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea test-fired a barrage of short-range ballistic missiles from multiple locations toward the sea on Sunday, South Korea's military said, extending a provocative streak in weapons demonstrations this year that U.S. and South Korean officials say may culminate with a nuclear test explosion.

Possibly setting a single-day record for North Korean ballistic launches, eight missiles were fired in succession over 35 minutes from at least four different locations, including from western and eastern coastal areas and two inland areas north of and near the capital, Pyongyang, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

It said the missiles flew 110 to 670 kilometers (68 to 416 miles) at maximum altitudes of 25 to 80 kilometers (15 to 56 miles).

Hours later, Japan and the United States conducted a joint ballistic missile exercise aimed at showing their "rapid response capability" and "strong determination" to counter threats, Japan's Defense Ministry said in a statement.

South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Won In-Choul held a video conference with Gen. Paul LaCamera, an American general who heads the South Korea-U.S. combined forces command in Seoul,

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and they reaffirmed the allies' joint defense posture, according to the military in Seoul.

Sung Kim, U.S. President Joe Biden's special envoy for North Korea, also discussed the launches with South Korean officials while on a visit to Seoul. They expressed "deep regret" that North Korea was continuing weapons development despite grappling with a COVID-19 outbreak at home, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said.

Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi said none of the missiles fell inside Japan's exclusive economic zone.

The launches came a day after the U.S. aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan concluded a three-day naval drill with South Korea in the Philippine Sea, apparently their first joint drill involving a carrier since November 2017, as the countries move to upgrade their defense exercises in the face of North Korean threats.

North Korea has long condemned the allies' combined military exercises as invasion rehearsals and often countered with its own missile drills, including short-range launches in 2016 and 2017 that simulated nuclear attacks on South Korean ports and U.S. military facilities in Japan.

Discussing the launches with his national security officials, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol lamented that North Korea was firing missiles at a pace of once every nine days this year. He vowed to strengthen the country's defense in cooperation with the United States, according to his office.

The launches marked North Korea's 18th round of missile tests in 2022 alone — a streak that has included the country's first demonstrations of intercontinental ballistic missiles in nearly five years.

Experts say North Korean leader Kim Jong Un wants to force the United States to accept the idea of the North as a nuclear power and negotiate economic and security concessions from a position of strength.

South Korean and U.S. officials say there are signs that North Korea is also pressing ahead with preparations at its nuclear testing ground in the northeastern town of Punggye-ri. The North's next nuclear test would be its seventh since 2006 and the first since September 2017, when it claimed to have detonated a thermonuclear bomb to fit on its ICBMs.

On Friday, Sung Kim, the U.S. envoy, said Washington is "preparing for all contingencies" in close coordination with its Asian allies. The United States has vowed to push for additional international sanctions if North Korea conducts a new nuclear test, but the prospects for further U.N. Security Council measures appear dim.

Russia and China vetoed a U.S.-sponsored resolution that would have imposed additional sanctions on North Korea over its latest ballistic tests on May 25, which South Korea's military said involved an ICBM on a medium-range trajectory and two short-range weapons. Those tests came as Biden wrapped up his trip to South Korea and Japan, where he reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to defend both allies.

North Korea in March launched an ICBM almost straight up at a full-range and saw it fly higher and longer than any weapon it had ever tested, demonstrating the potential to reach the entirety of the U.S. mainland.

While Kim's ICBMs have garnered much international attention, he has also spent the past three years expanding his arsenal of shorter range solid-fuel missiles threatening South Korea and Japan. He has punctuated his tests with repeated comments that the North would use its nuclear weapons proactively when threatened or provoked, which experts say portend an escalatory nuclear doctrine that may create greater concerns for neighbors.

Nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang have stalled since 2019 over disagreements in exchanging the release of crippling U.S.-led sanctions for the North's disarmament steps.

Despite deepening economic woes, Kim has shown no willingness to fully surrender an arsenal he sees as his strongest guarantee of survival and is clearly trying to convert the dormant denuclearization talks into a mutual arms reduction negotiation with the United States, experts say.

Kim's pressure campaign comes as the country deals with a deadly COVID-19 outbreak across his largely unvaccinated autocracy that lacks public health tools.

GAVI, the nonprofit that runs the U.N.-backed COVAX distribution program, said Friday it understands that North Korea has accepted an offer of vaccines from ally China and has started to administer doses. It isn't immediately clear how many doses of which vaccines the North received or how the country was rolling them out.

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Japanese man, 83, ready for more after crossing Pacific solo

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese adventurer Kenichi Horie at 83 just became the oldest person in the world to complete a solo, nonstop voyage across the Pacific Ocean — and he says he is still “in the middle of my youth” and not done yet.

Horie returned home as he crossed the Kii Strait off Japan’s western coast early Saturday, completing his trans-Pacific solo voyage in 69 days after leaving a yacht harbor in San Francisco in late March.

On Sunday, after spending the night on his 19-foot (6-meter) -long Suntory Mermaid III just off the coast, Horie was towed into his home port of Shin Nishinomiya, where he was cheered by local residents and supporters and banners that read: “Welcome back, Mr. Kenichi Horie!”

As he approached the harbor, Horie, standing in his boat, took off his white cap and waved. He got off the yacht, took off the cap again and bowed deeply on the pier before he was presented with bouquets of roses.

“Thank you for waiting!” said Horie, who appeared tanned and with his white hair longer than usual.

He carried a stock of medicine from San Francisco, he said, but only used eye drops and Band-Aids during his more than two months alone at sea.

“That shows how healthy I am,” Horie said. “I’m still in the middle of my youth.”

He said he “burned all my body and soul” on the journey but says he’s ready for more. “I will keep up my work to be a late bloomer.”

At a news conference at the yacht harbor later Sunday, he said becoming the oldest person to make the feat was a dream come true. “It was my great joy to have been able to make a challenge as a real goal and safely achieve it, instead of just holding onto it as a dream.”

“I want to be a challenger as long as I live,” he said.

It 1962, he became the first person in the world to successfully complete a solo nonstop voyage across the Pacific from Japan to San Francisco. Sixty years later, he traveled the opposite route.

This time, his preparation during the coronavirus pandemic was full of uncertainties involving vaccine requirements, testing and other logistics. “It was like walking on thin ice,” he said.

Soon after his departure from San Francisco, he was faced with a storm, but the weather gradually improved and he reached Hawaii in mid-April ahead of schedule.

He had some struggles toward the end with a few days of pushback from a strong tide. He wrote on his blog on Friday that he had succeeded but was exhausted, and he took a nap after feeling assured that his yacht was on the right track to the finish line.

Horie has completed other long-distance solo voyages, including sailing around the world in 1974. His latest expedition was the first since his 2008 solo nonstop voyage on a wave-powered boat from Hawaii to the Kii Strait.

Despite sailing on his own, technology such as ship tracking and communications allowed him to stay in touch with his family and other people throughout the journey. “I imagine my next voyage would be even more fun,” he said.

Tropical Storm Alex, 1st of season, forms in Gulf of Mexico

By BRENDAN FARRINGTON Associated Press

Tropical Storm Alex, the first named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, formed Sunday morning in the Gulf of Mexico on a track to come ashore in southern Florida with heavy rains and gusty wind.

National Hurricane Center forecasters said in a 5 a.m. advisory that Alex had sustained winds of 50 mph (80 kph) and was located about 270 miles (435 kilometers) northeast of Fort Pierce, Florida.

Parts of South Florida were experiencing road flooding from heavy rain and wind Saturday. Officials in Miami warned drivers about road conditions as many cars were stuck on flooded streets.

“This is a dangerous and life-threatening situation. Traveling during these conditions is not recommended. It’s better to wait. Turn around, don’t drown,” the city of Miami tweeted.

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The city was towing stranded vehicles from flood-ridden roadways.

Miami Beach Mayor Dan Gelber said the storm tested the system of drainage pumps the city has recently installed as climate change has increasingly made flooding an issue in the low-lying area.

"We moved the water off pretty quickly, but in some areas, obviously, it was really challenging," Gelber said. "There were some problems getting through on some streets, one of the main arteries was unpassable, but by and large water is dissipating."

Alex is a new version of the storm that was called Hurricane Agatha when it slammed into Mexico's Pacific Coast earlier this week, killing at least 11 people and leaving 20 missing. It got a new name once the storm crossed Mexico into the Atlantic basin.

A tropical storm warning was in effect for Bermuda.

In Cuba, the storm killed three people, damaged dozens of homes in Havana and cut off electricity in some areas, according to authorities. Heavy rainfall continued Saturday, but was diminishing as the weather system moved away from the island.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said most government services, such as bus routes and trains, planned to operate as normal over the weekend. Canal levels in South Florida have been lowered to minimize flooding from heavy rains.

The Atlantic hurricane season officially began Tuesday. This is an unusually early start to the storm season but not unprecedented for Florida.

The National Hurricane Center predicted rainfall up to 10 inches (25 centimeters) was possible in South Florida, including the Florida Keys. The storm was not expected to produce huge winds or major storm surge. But local flooding was likely.

China launches mission to complete space station assembly

BEIJING (AP) — China on Sunday launched a new three-person mission to complete assembly work on its permanent orbiting space station.

The Shenzhou 14 crew will spend six months on the Tiangong station, during which they will oversee the addition of two laboratory modules to join the main Tianhe living space that was launched in April 2021.

Their spaceship blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center on the edge of the Gobi Desert at 10:44 a.m. (0244 GMT) atop the crewed space flight program's workhorse Long March 2F rocket. Fifteen minutes later, it reached low Earth orbit and opened its solar panels, drawing applause from ground controllers in Jiuquan and Beijing.

The launch was broadcast live on state television, indicating a rising level of confidence in the capabilities of the space program, which has been promoted as a sign of China's technological progress and global influence.

Commander Chen Dong and fellow astronauts Liu Yang and Cai Xuzhe will assemble the three-module structure joining the existing Tianhe with Wentian and Mengtian, due to arrive in July and October. Another cargo craft, the Tianzhou-3, remains docked with the station.

The arrival of the new modules will "provide more stability, more powerful functions, more complete equipment," said Chen, 43, who was a member of the Shenzhou 11 mission in 2016, at a press conference Saturday.

Liu, 43, is also a space veteran and was China's first female astronaut to reach space aboard the Shenzhou 9 mission in 2012. Cai, 46, is making his first space trip.

China's space program launched its first astronaut into orbit in 2003, making it only the third country to do so on its own after the former Soviet Union and the U.S.

It has landed robot rovers on the moon and placed one on Mars last year. China has also returned lunar samples and officials have discussed a possible crewed mission to the moon.

China's space program is run by the ruling Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, prompting the U.S. to exclude it from the International Space Station.

Chen, Liu and Cai will be joined at the end of their mission for three to five days by the crew of the

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upcoming Shenzhou 15, marking the first time the station will have had six people aboard.

At least 38 dead in fire at Bangladesh container depot

By JULHAS ALAM Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — A massive fire at a container depot near a port city in southeastern Bangladesh killed at least 38 people and injured more than 100 others, officials and local media reported Sunday, as firefighters struggled to get the blaze under control.

The fire at the BM Inland Container Depot, a Dutch-Bangladesh joint venture, broke out around midnight Saturday following explosions in a container full of chemicals. The cause of the fire could not be immediately determined. The depot is located near country's main Chittagong Seaport, 216 kilometers (134 miles) southeast of the capital, Dhaka.

At least five firefighters were among the dead, according to Brig. Gen. Main Uddin, director general of the Bangladesh fire service and civil defense. Another 15 firefighters were being treated for burns, he added.

Multiple rounds of explosions occurred after the initial blast as the fire continued to spread, Uddin said. Explosives experts from Bangladesh's military have been called in to assist the firefighters. The explosions shattered the windows of nearby buildings and were felt as far as 4 kilometers (2 1/2 miles) away, officials and local media reports said.

Firefighters were still working to bring the fire under control on Sunday.

The death toll reached 38 by Sunday afternoon, according to Ekattor TV station, and the area's civil surgeon said the number could still rise.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her shock at the accident and ordered adequate arrangement for medical treatment of the injured.

Bangladesh has a history of industrial disasters, including factories catching fire with workers trapped inside. Monitoring groups have blamed corruption and lax enforcement.

Global brands, which employ tens of thousands of low-paid workers in Bangladesh, have come under fire to improve factory conditions in recent years. In the country's massive garment industry, which employs about 4 million people, safety conditions have improved significantly after massive reforms, but experts say accidents could still occur if other sectors do not make similar changes.

In 2012, about 117 workers died when they were trapped behind locked exits in a garment factory in Dhaka.

The country's worst industrial disaster occurred the following year, when the Rana Plaza garment factory outside Dhaka collapsed, killing more than 1,100 people.

In 2019, a blaze ripped through a 400-year-old area cramped with apartments, shops and warehouses in the oldest part of Dhaka and killed at least 67 people. Another fire in Old Dhaka in a house illegally storing chemicals killed at least 123 people in 2010.

In 2021, a fire at a food and beverage factory outside Dhaka killed at least 52 people, many of whom were trapped inside by an illegally locked door.

MTV Movie & TV Awards return Sunday; 'Spider-Man' leads noms

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The MTV Movie & TV Awards return Sunday with a live show that could see "Spider-Man: No Way Home" snag some trophies.

The 2021 sensation enters the show as the leading nominee with seven. With almost \$1.9 billion earned at the box office, "No Way Home" was the biggest film of the year and a fan favorite, though it was largely overlooked by the major awards shows.

MTV's celebration of films and television shows is a lighter, breezier show. Vanessa Hudgens is hosting this year and the show will be broadcast live from Barker Hanger in Santa Monica, California, beginning at 8 p.m. Eastern on MTV, BET, Comedy Central, VH1 and other Paramount networks.

Jack Black will receive the Comic Genius honor, while Jennifer Lopez is this year's Generation Award

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recipient, which celebrates actors whose diverse contributions in both film and television have turned them into household names.

HBO's "Euphoria" has six nominations while "The Batman" has four. In all, 26 awards will be handed out in gender-neutral categories during the two-hour show.

This year the show has added best song and "Here for the Hookup" awards.

Diplo and Swae Lee will perform "Tupelo Shuffle" from the upcoming "Elvis" biopic from director Baz Luhrmann.

The ceremony is returning to a live format after being pre-recorded for several years.

Pope Francis fuels new speculation on future of pontificate

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Pope Francis added fuel to rumors about the future of his pontificate by announcing he would visit the central Italian city of L'Aquila in August for a feast initiated by Pope Celestine V, one of the few pontiffs who resigned before Pope Benedict XVI stepped down in 2013.

Italian and Catholic media have been rife with unsourced speculation that the 85-year-old Francis might be planning to follow in Benedict's footsteps, given his increased mobility problems that have forced him to use a wheelchair for the last month.

Those rumors gained steam last week when Francis announced a consistory to create 21 new cardinals scheduled for Aug. 27. Sixteen of those cardinals are under age 80 and eligible to vote in a conclave to elect Francis' successor.

Once they are added to the ranks of princes of the church, Francis will have stacked the College of Cardinals with 83 of the 132 voting-age cardinals. While there is no guarantee how the cardinals might vote, the chances that they will tap a successor who shares Francis' pastoral priorities become ever greater.

In announcing the Aug. 27 consistory, Francis also announced he would host two days of talks the following week to brief the cardinals about his recent apostolic constitution reforming the Vatican bureaucracy. That document, which goes into effect Sunday, allows women to head Vatican offices, imposes term limits on priestly Vatican employees and positions the Holy See as an institution at the service of local churches, rather than vice versa.

Francis was elected pope in 2013 on a mandate to reform the Roman Curia. Now that the nine-year project has been rolled out and at least partially implemented, Francis' main task as pope has in some ways been accomplished.

All of which made Saturday's otherwise routine announcement of a pastoral visit to L'Aquila carry more speculative weight than it might otherwise have.

Notable was the timing: The Vatican and the rest of Italy are usually on holiday in August to mid-September, with all but essential business closed. Calling a major consistory in late August to create new cardinals, gathering churchmen for two days of talks on implementing his reform and making a symbolically significant pastoral visit suggests Francis might have out-of-the-ordinary business in mind.

"With today's news that @Pontifex will go to L'Aquila in the very middle of the August consistory, it all got even more intriguing," tweeted Vatican commentator Robert Mickens, linking to an essay he had published in La Croix International about the rumors swirling around the future of the pontificate.

The basilica in L'Aquila hosts the tomb of Celestine V, a hermit pope who resigned after five months in 1294, overwhelmed by the job. In 2009, Benedict visited L'Aquila, which had been devastated by a recent earthquake and prayed at Celestine's tomb, leaving his pallium stole on it.

No one at the time appreciated the significance of the gesture. But four years later, the 85-year-old Benedict would follow in Celestine's footsteps and resign, saying he no longer had the strength of body and mind to carry on the rigors of the papacy.

The Vatican announced Saturday Francis would visit L'Aquila to celebrate Mass on Aug. 28 and open the "Holy Door" at the basilica hosting Celestine's tomb. The timing coincides with the L'Aquila church's celebration of the Feast of Forgiveness, which was created by Celestine in a papal bull.

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No pope has travelled to L'Aquila since to close out the annual feast, which celebrates the sacrament of forgiveness so dear to Francis, noted the current archbishop of L'Aquila, Cardinal Giuseppe Petrocchi.

"We hope that all people, especially those harmed by conflicts and internal divisions, might (come) and find the path of solidarity and peace," he said in a statement announcing the visit.

Francis has praised Benedict's decision to retire as "opening the door" for future popes to do the same, and he had originally predicted a short papacy for himself of two to five years.

Nine years later, Francis has shown no signs he wants to step down, and he has major projects still on the horizon.

In addition to upcoming trips this year to Congo, South Sudan, Canada and Kazakhstan, in 2023 he has scheduled a major meeting of the world's bishops to debate the increasing decentralization of the Catholic Church, as well as the continued implementation of his reforms.

But Francis has been hobbled by the strained ligaments in his right knee that have made walking painful and difficult. He has told friends he doesn't want to undergo surgery, reportedly because of his reaction to anesthesia last July when he had 33 centimeters (13 inches) of his large intestine removed.

This week, one of his closest advisers and friends, Honduran Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga, said talk of a papal resignation or the end of Francis' pontificate was unfounded.

"I think these are optical illusions, cerebral illusions," Maradiaga told Religion Digital, a Spanish-language Catholic site.

Christopher Bellitto, a church historian at Kean University in Union, New Jersey, noted that most Vatican watchers expect Francis will eventually resign, but not before Benedict dies. The 95-year-old retired pope is physically frail but still alert and receiving occasional visitors in his home in the Vatican gardens.

"He's not going to have two former popes floating around," Bellitto said in an email. Referring to Francis' planned visit to L'Aquila, he suggested not reading too much into it, noting that Benedict's gesture in 2009 was missed by most everyone.

"I don't recall a lot of stories at the time saying that Benedict's visit in 2009 made us think he was going to resign," he said, suggesting that Francis' pastoral visit to L'Aquila might be just that: a pastoral visit.

Source: Whitmer, McConnell, Evers on Wisconsin gunman's list

By DAVE KOLPACK and MIKE BALSAMO Associated Press

A gunman suspected of fatally shooting a retired county judge at a Wisconsin home had a list that included Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers, Whitmer's office and a law enforcement source said Saturday.

Douglas K. Uhde, 56, who has not been charged, is suspected of killing retired Juneau County Judge John Roemer at Roemer's house in New Lisbon on Friday, the Wisconsin Department of Justice said in a news release Saturday.

Uhde was found in the basement of the home with a self-inflicted gunshot wound, following attempts by police to negotiate with him. Uhde is hospitalized in critical condition, DOJ officials said.

Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul on Friday said the shooting appeared to be a "targeted act" and that the gunman had selected people who were "part of the judicial system."

But investigators believe the gunman also may have planned to target other government officials and found a list in his vehicle that contained the names of several other prominent elected leaders, a law enforcement official said. The other targets on the list, which mentioned Roemer, included Evers, McConnell and Whitmer, the official said.

Roemer was found zip-tied to a chair in his home and had been fatally shot, the official said. The official could not discuss details of the investigation publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Uhde has an extensive criminal and prison record dating back at least two decades, including a case when he was sentenced by Roemer to six years in prison on weapons charges. He was released from his last prison stint in April 2020.

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Zach Pohl, Whitmer's deputy chief of staff, said her office was notified that her name appeared "on the Wisconsin gunman's list."

"Governor Whitmer has demonstrated repeatedly that she is tough, and she will not be bullied or intimidated from doing her job and working across the aisle to get things done for the people of Michigan," Pohl said.

Whitmer became the object of protests and criticism after she blamed former President Donald Trump for stoking anger over COVID-19 restrictions and refusing to condemn right-wing extremists.

A trial held earlier this year in which four men accused in an alleged kidnapping plot of the Michigan Democrat resulted in the acquittal of two of the men. The jury could not reach a unanimous verdict for the other two.

Roemer, 68, was a "very loving, very encouraging man with a wonderful sense of humor who will be dearly missed" by the community, said Chip Wilke, pastor at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mauston, where Roemer was president of the congregation and evangelism chairman. "He was in my office several mornings a week."

Wilke said after he was notified of Roemer's death Friday the pastor's thought was "I'm glad we have Jesus and we know where he's at."

Roemer retired from the bench in 2017. He was first elected in 2004 and was reelected in 2010 and 2016. He previously had served as an assistant district attorney for Juneau County and an assistant state public defender. He also worked in private practice and served as a lieutenant colonel for the U.S. Army Reserves.

Investigators said there is no immediate danger to the public.

"The information that's been gathered indicated that it was a targeted act and that the targeting was based on some sort of court case or court cases," Kaul said.

The Juneau County Sheriff's Office received a call that two shots were fired at a home in New Lisbon at 6:30 a.m. Friday, according to the Division of Criminal Investigation. The caller had fled the home and made the call from another nearby house.

Donna Voss, a neighbor, told The Associated Press she heard law enforcement on a loudspeaker telling the man to surrender and leave the home.

For Voss, the shooting came as a shock in a usually quiet neighborhood where houses sit alongside farmland and wooded lots, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) northwest of Madison.

"It's unbelievable and really freaky," she said.

New Lisbon, which has a population of about 2,500 people, is in Juneau County in central Wisconsin.

Mystery solved: UK Queen shares secret with Paddington

By DANICA KIRKA and SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Now we know what is in Queen Elizabeth II's handbag.

The long-time mystery was solved Saturday when the British monarch made the second star turn of her career, appearing in a mini-movie to kick off a concert celebrating her 70 years on the throne. The sketch featured the queen having a cream tea with British national treasure Paddington Bear at Buckingham Palace.

After drinking all the tea and destroying the cakes, the duffle-coat wearing bear from deepest Peru told Elizabeth how he always had a reserve supply of marmalade sandwiches with him, lifting up his red hat to reveal his favorite treat.

"So do I," the queen responded before opening her bag and declaring: "I keep mine in here."

The scene recalled the moment Elizabeth appeared as a Bond girl in a short film for the opening ceremony of the 2012 London Olympics.

"Her majesty is well known for her sense of humor, so it should be no surprise that she decided to take part in tonight's sketch," the palace said. "There was an interest in the filming and animation process and the opportunity to invite a famous bear to tea was just too much fun to miss."

The queen's performance with an animated bear drew laughter and loud applause from the overflow crowd at the concert outside Buckingham Palace that was the highlight of the third of four days of festivi-

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ties celebrating her Platinum Jubilee. The 96-year-old monarch did not attend the concert in person due to what the palace describes as "episodic mobility issues."

Despite the queen's absence, spirits were high during an event that culminated with appearances by the monarch's son and grandson. Prince Charles and his son Prince William paid tribute to the queen in separate speeches that honored the past and looked to the future.

Anne Middleton, 61, who travelled from Cardiff in Wales for the jubilee celebrations, said she loved the Paddington sketch and the queen's decision to skip the event didn't dim the festivities.

"Not for me," she said, decked out from head to toe in the flags of the U.K. and Wales. "She turned up on the first day, and we know she would have been there if she could have been."

Charles opened his short speech by addressing the queen as "Your Majesty, mummy," then paid tribute to her "lifetime of selfless service."

The queen's eldest son and heir recalled the ever-growing list of world leaders Elizabeth has met and the endless stacks of state papers she has reviewed during a reign that has now stretched from the early days of the Cold War to the information age. But he also highlighted his mother's role as a symbol of stability, unifying the U.K. and the Commonwealth as they negotiated this rapidly changing world.

"You have met us and talked with us. You laugh and cry with us and, most importantly, you have been there for us, for these 70 years," Charles said as scenes from the queen's life were projected on the palace walls. "You pledged to serve your whole life – you continue to deliver. That is why we are here. That is what we celebrate tonight."

William preceded his father with remarks that underscored the queen's long-time commitment to the environment as he highlighted the need to combat climate change. The presentation began with a clip of the queen's 1989 Christmas message, in which she called on all nations to work together to protect the earth for "our children and our children's children."

That message is still relevant today, William said.

"It's my firm hope that my grandmother's words are as true in 70 years' time as they are tonight, that as nations we come together in common cause, because then there is always room for hope."

The queen has not attended any of the jubilee festivities since Thursday, when she waved to supporters from the balcony on Buckingham Palace.

The monarch also decided not to go to the Epsom Derby earlier Saturday, and was represented at the prestigious annual horse race by her daughter, Princess Anne.

The queen, known as a horse lover, has only missed the Epsom Derby a handful of times. On Saturday, five of her former racehorses were paraded, and 40 jockeys who have ridden for the queen formed a guard of honor before the national anthem was played.

"She's been breeding horses for over 60 years," Frankie Dettori, one of the jockeys, told the BBC. "She knows all the blood lines and she's won lots of races and she's very knowledgeable,"

"I'm sure today she'll find a TV and she's going to watch it live, because she loves the Derby so much," he added.

It was the second time in as many days that the queen's mobility issues have robbed crowds of a chance to see her.

On Friday, the queen skipped a special service of Thanksgiving in her honor at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Palace officials said she had experienced "some discomfort" at events the day before, which included waving to huge crowds from Buckingham Palace.

Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, were among nearly 50 members of the royal family who gathered Friday at St. Paul's Cathedral to honor the absent head of state. It was the couple's first public appearance in the U.K. since they stepped back from royal duties and moved to California two years ago.

Apart from attending Friday's service, the couple has so far stayed out of the limelight. Their two children, Archie and Lilibet, who turned one Saturday, haven't yet made an appearance during this trip. A spokesperson for the couple said they were spending the day "privately" and were not joining some 30 other royals at Saturday's concert.

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Meanwhile, members of the royal family travelled to Wales and Northern Ireland as part of celebrations across the U.K.

William and his wife Kate brought two of their three children — 8-year-old Prince George and 7-year-old Princess Charlotte — to Cardiff Castle in Wales before a separate concert in the castle grounds in honor of the queen.

The queen's youngest son, Prince Edward, and his wife Sophie, Countess of Wessex, visited a 1950s-themed seaside funfair in Belfast. Edward tried his hand at pulling a pint of Guinness at a diner, while Sophie took in a '50s and '60s dance demonstration.

Biden evacuated after plane entered airspace near beach home

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. (AP) — A small private airplane mistakenly entered restricted airspace near President Joe Biden's Delaware vacation home Saturday, prompting the brief evacuation of the president and first lady, the White House and the Secret Service said.

The White House said there was no threat to Biden or his family and that precautionary measures were taken. After the situation was assessed, Biden and his wife, Jill, returned to their Rehoboth Beach home.

The Secret Service said in a statement that the plane was immediately escorted from the restricted airspace after "mistakenly entering a secured area." The agency said it would interview the pilot who, according to a preliminary investigation, was not on the proper radio channel and was not following published flight guidance.

As is standard practice for presidential trips outside Washington, the Federal Aviation Administration published flight restrictions earlier this week before Biden's beach town visit. The restrictions include a 10-mile radius no-fly zone contained within a 30-mile restricted zone.

A CBS News reporter said on Twitter that he saw Biden motorcading to a Rehoboth Beach fire station. The group of reporters that travels with the president was not part of the motorcade.

Federal regulations require pilots to check for flight restrictions along their route before taking off. Still, accidental airspace breaches, particularly around temporary restricted zones, are common.

U.S. military jets and Coast Guard helicopters are often used to intercept any planes that violate the flight restrictions around the president. Intercepted planes are diverted to a nearby airfield where aircrews are interviewed by law enforcement and face potential criminal or civil penalties.

Celtics add their voices to those asking for Griner's return

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Brittney Griner hasn't been forgotten at the NBA Finals.

The WNBA star has been detained in Russia for more than 100 days — wrongfully so, U.S. officials insist — and some members of the Boston Celtics are using their platform at the NBA's title series to add their voices to the chorus of those demanding she be allowed to come home.

Several players wore black T-shirts with "We Are BG" on the front in orange letters for their practice session at the NBA Finals on Saturday. Game 2 of the title series between the Celtics and Golden State Warriors is Sunday.

"It's extremely tough seeing what she's going through," All-NBA forward Jayson Tatum of the Celtics said. "I know everybody sees and feels that, and obviously we're all together in support trying to bring her back to her family and things like that. Yeah, wearing those shirts today in support of her."

The shirts also had a QR code on the back, linking to an online petition seeking 300,000 signatures in support of the notion of bringing Griner home.

"We felt like it was a good idea to use our availability and our platforms to bring attention to certain matters," said Celtics guard Jaylen Brown, an officer within the National Basketball Players Association. "I always stand for that. Being an athlete, we're not just up here just to entertain you guys. We also have a voice. I always appreciate and applaud athletes, entertainers, my teammates who plan to do something with that. I'm not sure if we'll wear it for the rest of the time, but today was a good day to bring attention

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to a topic that was necessary.”

Griner, who plays for the Phoenix Mercury, has been detained since February after vape cartridges containing oil derived from cannabis were allegedly found in her luggage at an airport in Moscow.

Griner, a two-time Olympic gold medalist for the U.S., faces drug smuggling charges that carry a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

“It’s been now over 100 days since she’s been illegally held in Russia,” NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. “I think it’s something that all of us should be heard on, contacting your representatives and others. I will only say we are working in lockstep with the U.S. government and outside experts on trying to expedite her release in any way we can. Certainly our hearts go out to her and her family, and we are just as eager for her safe return.”

Russian officials have described Griner’s case as a criminal offense without making any political associations. But Moscow’s war in Ukraine has brought U.S.-Russia relations to the lowest level since the Cold War.

Despite the strain, Russia and the United States carried out an unexpected prisoner exchange last month — trading former Marine Trevor Reed for Konstantin Yaroshenko, a Russian pilot serving a 20-year federal prison sentence for conspiring to smuggle cocaine into the United States.

While the U.S. does not typically embrace such exchanges, it made the deal in part because Yaroshenko had already served a long portion of his sentence. The Russians may consider Griner someone who could figure into another such exchange.

Celtics guard Grant Williams helped coordinate Saturday’s effort, working with the NBPA and the WNBA’s player association as well to make it happen.

He said it’s important NBA players show “that love and support” for Griner.

“They sent them overnight to get them here for today,” Williams said. “They did a phenomenal job, and want to credit them to make that process happen. We just wanted to do that as a team. It was one of those things where no one questioned it. Everyone said, ‘Let’s do it. Everyone put the shirt on immediately when we got them, fresh off the box. They were ironed and good to go.’”

The WNBA has acknowledged Griner’s absence this season in a number of ways, including social media posts from many players and the league placing a decal with her initials and number on the home floor of all 12 of that league’s teams.

“Don’t forget, y’all,” Celtics guard Marcus Smart said as he pointed proudly to Griner’s initials on his chest. “See this shirt. We are with BG.”

Police ID suspect in attack on doctor, nurses at LA hospital

By ROBERT JABLON and STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Police on Saturday identified the man who allegedly stabbed a doctor and two nurses inside a Southern California hospital emergency ward and remained inside a room for hours before police arrested him.

Ashkan Amirsoleymani, 35, has been booked on three counts of attempted murder related to Friday’s attack, the Los Angeles Police Department said on Twitter.

He is being held on \$3 million bail. It was not immediately clear on Saturday whether he had an attorney who could speak on his behalf and the district attorney’s office did not respond to an email asking whether charges have been filed.

Police have not yet disclosed Amirsoleymani’s motive and Los Angeles Police Officer Rosario Cervantes said no other information was available Saturday.

Amirsoleymani walked into Encino Hospital Medical Center in the San Fernando Valley shortly before 4 p.m. Friday, police said.

He had parked his car in the middle of a street and went to the emergency room, where he asked for treatment for anxiety before stabbing the doctor and nurses, authorities said.

Fire officials said three victims were taken to a trauma center in critical condition. Police later said one was in critical condition and underwent surgery.

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KNBC-TV reports that Dignity Health Northridge Hospital Medical Center said two of the victims have been treated and released. The third victim remains hospitalized in fair but stable condition, the TV station reported.

The hospital did not immediately respond to requests for comment Saturday.

The first floor of the Encino hospital and some nearby offices were evacuated during the attack, police said.

There was no evidence that the man — later identified as Amirsoleymani — knew the victims, LAPD Deputy Chief Alan Hamilton said at a news conference Friday.

He remained inside a room in the hospital for about four hours as SWAT team members tried to unsuccessfully to negotiate with him before he was finally arrested, police said.

No one else in the hospital was injured and other patients were able to be treated, according to Elizabeth Nikels, a spokesperson for Prime Healthcare, which runs the Encino hospital.

Amirsoleymani was later taken to another hospital for treatment of self-inflicted injuries to his arms, authorities said.

Hamilton said he had a lengthy criminal record, including two arrests last year for battery of a police officer and resisting arrest.

Parham Saadat, a dental hygienist who works nearby, told the Los Angeles Times that he and his co-worker ran across the street to help the victims.

"There was blood all over the floor, blood in the rooms, blood on the gurney the doctor was laying on," Saadat told the newspaper. "It was a bloodbath."

Saadat said he later closed a storage room's door behind the suspect to keep him contained inside and only became afraid when they made eye contact.

"He just very calmly turned his face and looked at me through the window, then turned his head back around. No reaction," he said. "That's where it kind of got me."

Benjamin Roman, an ultrasound technician, told KNBC-TV that before the stabbing, he saw the suspect, who had a dog with him and who might have been high on drugs because he looked anxious and was drenched in sweat.

After the hospital issued an "internal triage" code, Roman said he saw a doctor and a nurse who had been stabbed.

"The doctor looked (like) she was in pain," he said. "There was a lot of blood and it looked like ... he might have got her abdomen."

Nickels, in an email, said the hospital's staff faced the harrowing situation with "incredible courage, calmness, and dedication."

"Their focus throughout remained on the safety of staff and patients," she wrote.

The attack came only two days after a gunman killed four people and then himself at a hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The assailant got inside a building on the Saint Francis Hospital campus with little trouble, just hours after buying an AR-style rifle, authorities said.

The man killed his surgeon and three other people at a medical office. He blamed the doctor for his continuing pain after a recent back operation.

Warriors remain loose, Celtics stay focused entering Game 2

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A peek at Golden State's practice Saturday wouldn't have suggested that the Warriors are trailing the Boston Celtics in the NBA Finals.

Stephen Curry was making most of his shots, as usual. Klay Thompson was bobbing his head in time with the music in between his own shot attempts. Draymond Green was at the other end of the floor with the forwards yelling "Oh, yeah!" at nobody in particular.

The biggest game of their season is Sunday. Say this much for the Warriors: They don't seem nervous about it.

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The Celtics can take a 2-0 lead — and absolute command — of the NBA Finals on Sunday when they visit the Warriors in the second game of the title series. It's not must-win time for the Warriors, technically, but opening a series with two home losses would mean they'd need to pull off something nearly unprecedented to win a championship.

"It's really important to turn the page one way or the other," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "If you win and you get happy and you let your guard down, then you're in trouble. And if you lose and you feel sorry for yourself, then you're in trouble doing that, too. It's all about how you respond."

Boston has a similar approach. Much was made of how the Celtics didn't have any players with finals experience before the series opener Thursday night; they used a 48-18 run to pull away late and win 120-108. But moments after the final buzzer, there was no celebrating in the winning locker room — just a reminder from Marcus Smart that, like Kerr said, the page needed to turn quickly to Sunday.

"I know it may sound arrogant, but when you play for the Celtics, the expectation is to win a championship," said Boston's Al Horford, who led the Celtics 26 points in Game 1 on Thursday night and turned 36 on Friday. "Even when I got here in '16, that was the expectation even then. That's what it is in the organization. We don't have to talk about it. We don't even talk about it at this point. We're just taking it a game at a time."

The Celtics ended Golden State's 13-game winning streak in Game 1's at home, and that means the Warriors are trailing 1-0 in these playoffs for the first time.

The Warriors led by 15 points late in the third quarter of Game 1, then trailed by 15 points in the final moments. It was only the second finals game in the last 25 years where both teams held leads of at least 15 points — the other being Game 5 of the 2014 finals between San Antonio and Miami.

"It's the first time we've been down 0-1. It's the first time for a lot of things with this particular group," said Curry, who had a game-high 34 points in the opener. "We are here in the finals for a reason, because we figured it out along the way. If we're going to get back in this series, we've got to figure it out again."

UP 1-0

Winning Game 1 of the NBA Finals almost always leads to a championship for the Celtics.

Thursday's victory in the series opener was the 15th time Boston has taken a 1-0 lead in the finals. In 13 of the previous 14 instances the Celtics have gone on to claim the title — the exception being 1985, when the Los Angeles Lakers lost Game 1 148-114 but won four of the next five games to clinch the championship.

The Warriors are facing a 1-0 deficit for only the third time in Kerr's eight seasons as coach. They recovered to win the 2016 Western Conference finals over Oklahoma City, then lost the 2019 NBA Finals to Toronto.

HOME REBOUND

The Warriors are 7-3 in home games that follow a home loss this season, including wins by 15, 21 and 31 points.

TATUM BOUNCEBACK

Game 1 was just the 10th instance of Boston's All-NBA forward Jayson Tatum taking at least 10 shots in a game and shooting 20% or less. He was 3 for 17 in the series opener — but led everyone with 13 assists.

He tends to bounce back nicely. In those situations, he's averaged 23.6 points and 8.4 rebounds on 47% shooting in his very next outing.

BOSTON 3 PARTY

The longer this series goes, the better chance there is of the Celtics setting a record for most 3-pointers in a single postseason.

Boston is up to 263 3s so far in these playoffs, tied for sixth-most in a playoff run. The only teams with more were the 2020 Miami Heat and 2019 Warriors (both with 268), this season's Dallas Mavericks (284), the 2019 Toronto Raptors (286) and the 2016 Warriors (306).

The Warriors have made 235 3s so far in these playoffs, putting them on pace for one of the five highest postseason 3-point totals.

ODDSMAKERS SAY

Golden State is a four-point favorite in Game 2, according to FanDuel Sportsbook. But the Celtics are now favored to win the series, with Tatum slightly favored over Curry to win the NBA Finals MVP award.

'Tiger King' star Doc Antle to face money laundering charges

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP) — "Tiger King" star Bhagavan "Doc" Antle was arrested by the FBI and expected to appear in court Monday to face federal money laundering charges, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press.

Federal agents arrested the controversial wild animal trainer Friday and he has been in custody at the J. Reuben Long Detention Center in Conway, South Carolina throughout the weekend.

Antle, the owner of the Myrtle Beach Safari in South Carolina, is featured prominently in "Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness," a 2020 Netflix documentary miniseries that focused on tiger breeders and private zoo operators in the U.S. The series focused heavily on Oklahoma zoo operator Joe Exotic, who also was targeted for animal mistreatment and was convicted in a plot to kill a rival, Carole Baskin.

The charges against Antle, 62, were expected to be formally announced during a court proceeding Monday afternoon in Florence, South Carolina. The charges relate to allegations of money laundering, a person familiar with the matter told the AP on Saturday. The person could not discuss the matter publicly and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity.

Animal rights advocates have accused Antle of mistreating lions and other wildlife. He was indicted in Virginia in 2020 on animal cruelty and wildlife trafficking charges.

In May, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals asked the IRS to probe Antle's Rare Species Fund, a nonprofit raising money for wildlife conservation. PETA alleges he uses some of the fund's money to subsidize his safari site in Socastee outside Myrtle Beach.

"It's fitting that "Doc" Antle is behind bars after years of locking up the endangered animals he uses in tawdry photo ops. His legal woes are mounting, as PETA recently blew the whistle on his apparent 'charity' scam, and the end to his reign of terrorizing tiger cubs can't come soon enough," said Debbie Metzler, associate director of PETA's Captive Animal Law Enforcement division, in a statement.

Meanwhile, in Virginia, Antle is facing two felony counts of wildlife trafficking and conspiracy to wildlife trafficking charges, as well as 13 misdemeanor counts of conspiracy to violate the Endangered Species Act and animal cruelty charges tied to trafficking lion cubs. Those charges are scheduled to go to trial next month.

Antle has a history of recorded violations, going as far back as 1989, when he was fined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for abandoning deer and peacocks at his zoo in Virginia. Over the years, he has more than 35 USDA violations for mistreating animals.

Online pro-gun extremism: 'Cool for active shooter stuff'

By DAVID KLEPPER Associated Press

The young man in the jeans and sunglasses proudly shows off his gun in the YouTube video, then instructs his 1 million subscribers how to fit extra ammo on his belt, and offers a chilling observation.

"Pretty cool for active shooter stuff, if you need extra mags."

It's a typical video, one of thousands teaching military-style training and tactics to civilian gun owners, offering instructions on silencers and grenade launchers, on shooting from vehicles or into buildings. Other websites sell ghost gun kits, gas masks and body armor.

"You shouldn't be scared of the NRA. You should be scared of us," one online ghost gun dealer Tweeted last week.

As Americans reel from repeated mass shootings, law enforcement officials and experts on extremism are taking increasing notice of the sprawling online space devoted to guns and gun rights: gun forums, tactical training videos, websites that sell unregistered gun kits and social media platforms where far-right gun owners swap practical tips with talk of dark plots to take their weapons.

It's an ecosystem rich with potential recruits for extremist groups exploiting the often blurry line separating traditional support for a Constitutional right from militant anti-government movements that champion racism and violence.

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White supremacists have carried out most of the deadliest attacks on U.S. soil in the last five years, including a 2018 shooting inside a Pittsburgh synagogue and a 2019 rampage in which a gunman targeting Hispanics inside a Texas Walmart killed 23 people.

The gunman who perpetrated last month's rampage in Buffalo, for example, claimed in a rambling racist diatribe that he was radicalized when pandemic boredom led him to far-right social media groups and tactical training videos he found online.

One of the companies specifically cited by the gunman sells firearm accessories and operates popular social media channels boasting hundreds of training videos. The videos cover topics like shooting from cars, assaulting a building, using gas masks while shooting, and night vision goggles.

"I think we're going to see an increase in these kinds of attacks," said Kurt Braddock, a professor and extremism researcher at the Polarization and Extremism Research and Innovation Lab at American University. "Until we're able to figure out a way to address this, this kind of disinformation is going to keep spreading, and with it the risk of increased radicalization and violence."

Elected leaders in some states are considering how to address the internet's role in radicalizing extremists. New York lawmakers, for example, recently introduced legislation to require social media companies to set policies on "hateful conduct" and to create mechanisms for users to report disturbing posts they may read.

New York Attorney General Letitia James initiated an investigation into some of the platforms used by the Buffalo gunman, who streamed his attack on Twitch, which is owned by Amazon. Twitch pulled the livestream after about two minutes.

Federal authorities have also taken notice, increasing funding for investigations into domestic terrorism, a challenge that FBI Director Christopher Wray last year described as "metastasizing." But there's little law enforcement can do but monitor as extremists use the threat of gun control to recruit new members.

Extremists paint any effort to regulate firearms as the prelude to widespread gun seizures, according to Callum Hood, director of research at the Center for Countering Digital Hate, a UK-based organization that researches online extremism and abuse.

"The message quickly becomes 'the government is coming to take your guns and leave you undefended,'" Hood said. That's despite the obvious political challenges that even modest attempts at gun control face in the U.S. Despite a long and growing list of mass shootings, gun rights have not been restricted in any significant way in the U.S. in decades.

Rather than be under threat, guns are flourishing. Since the year 2000, the year after Columbine school shooting in Colorado, the number of firearms manufactured in the U.S. has tripled. There are now an estimated 400 million guns in the U.S. — more than one for everyone in the country — giving the nation the world's highest gun ownership rate.

Gun manufacturers and industry groups like the National Rifle Association bear some responsibility for unfounded conspiracy theories about federal plots to seize American's guns, according to Braddock.

"What's the first rule in salesmanship? It's to create the need for the item. We think about guns as something different — and they are because they're instruments of violence — but they're also commodities sold in huge quantities," Braddock said. "They're creating the illusion of need."

Contacted by the Associated Press, one website selling ghost gun kits responded with a statement saying "all questions" about regulating firearms amount to "naked attempts to disarm traditional Americans, weaponize the government against them, and subject them to the ignorant and vicious tools of federal power."

While some of the creators of tactical training videos posted on platforms like YouTube say their intended audience is law enforcement, others say their subscriber base is mostly those looking to arm themselves against the government.

Despite their alarm, law enforcement officials and experts on extremism caution there's little to do about the growing online spaces devoted to military-style weaponry unless they find evidence of illegal gun sales or other crimes.

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For their part, tech companies and social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter say they have rules to prohibit violent threats, hate speech and other content that poses a direct harm. Some platforms also prohibit the sale of firearms.

Further restrictions on content about guns or even extremism will only backfire anyway, according to Amy Cooter, an expert on militias. While efforts to ban users might be successful in the short term, they're bound to fail as those users flee to other platforms with less moderation.

"If we want to reduce the size of the movement, de-platforming is really effective," Cooter said. "But if we want to de-radicalize it, it is not. The most extreme elements will find other ways to stay connected."

Backed from frontlines, Ukraine tries to seal World Cup spot

By ROB HARRIS AP Global Soccer Writer

CARDIFF, Wales (AP) — Far from battlefields and Russian invaders, the Ukrainian footballers exempted from military service are trying to complete the mission to lead their country to the World Cup.

When they prepare to face Wales on Sunday in a playoff final, they will have a little extra inspiration in their Cardiff locker room from a yellow and blue flag sent by soldiers on the frontlines in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, signed with messages.

It was there inside Hampden Park, Glasgow, on Wednesday when Scotland was beaten in the playoff semifinals. Since then, the players have continued to exchange messages with friends who have been defending their homeland in a war that has passed 100 days.

"We all hope that very soon Ukraine will be liberated and will return to being an independent country," Ukraine midfielder Oleksandr Karavayev said through a translator in the Welsh capital.

"This is a great positive stimulus and brings positive emotions because everyone believes and sees how the whole world is united around us."

The Dynamo Kyiv player has family still in the southern city of Kherson, which was captured early in the war by Russia.

"They cannot watch the match because there is no connection and internet," Karavayev said. "But they communicate by messages and they read the news."

Keeping Ukraine high in the headlines can be partly achieved by the men qualifying for a first World Cup since 2006. But it might take time for their compatriots on the frontlines to discover the result in Wales.

"It is a really hard situation in Ukraine and not everyone has the chance to watch football," coach Oleksandr Petrakov said through a translator.

"I don't communicate with any soldiers but the team writes to soldiers and even received a flag from the war which they promised to hang in the dressing room."

From there they will step out on the field to face a Wales team trying to return to the FIFA showpiece after an even longer wait, having last appeared in the finals in 1958. Wales is expected to be carried, as usual, by its highly partial and emotional fans.

"Sport is sport and we don't expect presents or an unfair win," Karavayev said. "We know how hard it is and this is the most important game in our lives. But we wish to win and we will do everything possible to do that."

There is much sympathy for Ukraine from Wales captain Gareth Bale, but also a ruthless sporting determination to qualify.

So would Bale apologize to Ukraine for snatching away its own World Cup dream?

"As horrible as it sounds, no," Bale responded.

"It is a game of football and it is a competition that we want to get to as well. Everyone in the world feels for Ukraine but for this game, it's a game of football. It is sport, it unites everybody. We understand what it will do for Ukraine but we want to get to the World Cup. It is not coming from a horrible place, but it is coming from our country, our hearts. We want to deliver for our own fans."

13-time champ Nadal meets newcomer Ruud in French Open final

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — Rafael Nadal truly has nothing more to do to make clear his greatness on a tennis court. The 21 Grand Slam titles. The 13 championships on the red clay of the French Open alone.

That's not to say he doesn't want to achieve more, of course. Still, it's not why he is still out there, at age 36, bothered by chronic pain that flares up in his left foot every so often, and ready to face 23-year-old Casper Ruud of Norway in the men's final at Roland Garros on Sunday.

"It's not about things that you need to prove. It's about how much you enjoy doing what you are doing — or, if you don't enjoy, then it's another story," said Nadal, who advanced when his semifinal opponent, third-seeded Alexander Zverev, needed to stop playing late in the second set after hurting his right ankle.

"But if you like what you are doing, you keep going. ... I keep playing because I like what I do. So that's it," Nadal continued. "Of course I enjoy (it). And if I am healthy enough to play, I like the competition, honestly."

Nadal, whose birthday was Friday, is the second-oldest man to get to the title match in Paris; Don Budge was 37 when he was the runner-up in 1930. The oldest champion in tournament history was Andres Gimeno, 34 when he won in 1972.

"I like to play in the best stadiums of the world and feel myself, at my age, still competitive. Means a lot to me." Nadal said. "That makes me feel in some way proud and happy about all the work that we did."

While he is not showing any obvious signs of slowing, the past year or so has not been easy.

Nadal sat out most of the last half of 2021 — missing Wimbledon, the Tokyo Olympics and the U.S. Open — because of his foot problem.

He was able to win the Australian Open in January to break a three-way tie at 20 major trophies with Novak Djokovic (who wasn't there because he isn't vaccinated against COVID-19) and Roger Federer (who is sidelined after a series of knee operations). But after that, Nadal missed time with a rib injury, then was clearly hobbled by the foot as he limped around during the Italian Open last month.

"I was not very positive after that about my foot, but I was positive that I will be able to play here. And here I am. I played, I (fought), I did all the things possible to give myself at least a chance to be where I am," said Nadal, who brought his personal doctor with him to Paris, "and happy, of course, to be able to give myself another chance to play on the (last) Sunday here."

If Nadal has plenty of past success and "been there, done that" in his favor going into the final, Ruud does have youth on his side. Not to mention an impressive recent track record on clay, with tour highs of 66 match wins and seven titles on the surface since the start of the 2020 season.

"I will need to play my best tennis ever," said Ruud, who never had been past the fourth round of a major until this week. "But I still have to believe that I can do it."

Nadal is 13-0 in French Open finals, capturing the trophy in his teens, his 20s and his 30s — and Ruud was paying close attention.

"I could probably tell you all the finals and who he has played and who he has beaten, because I watched them all on TV," Ruud said, and then proved it by going through a list of the opponents. "To be a part of that group myself is something I can always brag about after my career. I will, of course, give it a shot at the title, and would be nicer to be able to brag about the title, as well, after my career."

Ruud, whose father, Christian, was a professional tennis player from 1991 to 2001, calls Nadal his idol and has trained over the past four years at the Spaniard's academy in Mallorca.

And while Nadal and Ruud never have met in an official match, they have spent many a day playing practice sets against each other.

"He always, pretty much, has always beaten me," Ruud said with a smile, then joked that, as a guest at the academy, he felt he needed to let his host win.

"This is a special occasion for both of us. He's playing for his 22nd; I'm playing for my first. Big contrast," Ruud said. "I'm the underdog, and we will just enjoy the moment."

Abbott restarts baby formula plant linked to contamination

By MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Abbott Nutrition has restarted production at the Michigan baby formula factory that has been closed for months due to contamination, the company said Saturday, taking a step toward easing a nationwide supply shortage expected to persist into the summer.

The February shutdown of the largest formula factory in the country led to the supply problems that have forced some parents to seek formula from food banks, friends and doctor's offices.

Abbott said it initially will prioritize production of its EleCare specialty formulas for infants with severe food allergies and digestive problems who have few other options for nutrition. The company said it will take about three weeks before new formula from the plant begins getting to consumers.

"We will ramp production as quickly as we can while meeting all requirements," Abbott said in a statement.

The plant's reopening is one of several federal actions that are expected to improve supplies in the weeks ahead. President Joe Biden's administration has eased import rules for foreign manufacturers, airlifted formula from Europe and invoked federal emergency rules to prioritize U.S. production.

Abbott closed the Sturgis, Michigan, factory in February after the Food and Drug Administration began investigating four bacterial infections among infants who consumed powdered formula from the plant. Two of the babies died. The company continues to state that its products have not been directly linked to the infections, which involved different bacterial strains.

FDA inspectors eventually uncovered a host of violations at the plant, including bacterial contamination, a leaky roof and lax safety protocols. The FDA has faced intense scrutiny for taking months to close the plant and then negotiate its reopening. Agency leaders recently told Congress they had to enter a legally binding agreement with Abbott to assure all the problems were fixed.

Abbott's February recall of several leading brands, including Similac, squeezed supplies that had already been strained by supply chain disruptions and stockpiling during COVID-19 shutdowns.

The shortage has been most dire for children with allergies, digestive problems and metabolic disorders who rely on specialty formulas. The Abbott factory is the only source of many of those products, providing nutrition to about 5,000 U.S. babies, according to federal officials.

Abbott is one of just four companies that produce about 90% of U.S. formula. The company's recalls and shutdown triggered a cascade of effects: Retailers have limited customer purchasing to conserve supplies and parents have been told to switch brands to whatever formula is in stock.

FDA Commissioner Robert Califf recently told lawmakers it could be about two months before formula supplies return to normal levels. The agency has waived many of its regulatory requirements to accept more formula from the United Kingdom, Australia and other nations.

U.S. manufacturers, including Reckitt and Gerber, have also stepped up production, running plants 24/7 and sourcing more formula from alternate facilities.

Russian agent Kovtun, accused in spy poisoning, dead at 57

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian agent Dmitry Kovtun, who was accused by the U.K. authorities in the poisoning death of former spy Alexander Litvinenko in London in 2006, has died at 57.

Russian lawmaker Andrei Lugovoi, who also was accused by the U.K. in the spy's killing, announced Kovtun's death on his messaging app channel. Lugovoi said that Kovtun died Saturday of a COVID-19-induced illness. Russian news reports said he died at a hospital in Moscow.

A British inquiry concluded that Kovtun and Lugovoi had killed Litvinenko and that Russian President Vladimir Putin had "probably approved" the operation. The European Court of Human Rights backed the British conclusion.

The Kremlin has fiercely denied any involvement.

Kovtun and Lugovoi also denied playing any role in Litvinenko's death.

A former agent for the KGB and its post-Soviet successor agency FSB, Litvinenko defected from Russia in 2000 and fled to London. He became involved in exposing corruption and links to organized crime in

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the Russian intelligence service.

He fell violently ill in November 2006 after drinking tea with two Russian men in a London hotel and died three weeks later. His tea was found to have been laced with radioactive polonium-210.

High-profile candidates try to break Dem, GOP control

By ANDREW SELSKY Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — A former lawmaker in Oregon who as a young woman flew a helicopter around an erupting Mount St. Helens is aiming to shake up state politics by running as an unaffiliated candidate for governor.

Betsy Johnson, who served in both the Oregon Senate and House and who once belonged to — and then quit — both the Republican and Democratic parties, sees a path to victory with the increasing polarization of the two major parties.

And so do candidates running as independents in major races in at least two other states.

In California, Anne Marie Schubert, the Sacramento County district attorney whose office led the prosecution of the Golden State Killer, is running as an independent for state attorney general, having left the Republican Party in 2018. She needs to survive California's primary on Tuesday. The top two vote-getters move on to the general election.

"I've been told a million times that I have to be a Republican or a Democrat to win the race for Attorney General. I'll say it a million more times: No I don't," Schubert tweeted confidently last month.

And in Utah, former CIA case officer Evan McMullin is running as an independent in a U.S. Senate race. Astonishingly, Utah Democrats are backing McMullin instead of one of their own in hopes of defeating incumbent Sen. Mike Lee, a Republican, in the decidedly red state.

Among Republican voters McMullin is wooing are those who don't support former President Donald Trump. McMullin recently tweeted his opponent "aligns himself with Donald Trump time and time again. That includes working behind the scenes to help overturn the 2020 election and keep Donald Trump in power."

The Republican and Democratic parties have dominated politics in America since the 1850s. These days, they've staked out sharply opposing positions on gun control, abortion rights, policing, climate change and much more, leaving a lot of middle-ground opportunities for independent and third-party candidates.

As of one year ago, 31% of registered voters identified themselves as independents or members of third parties in states that allow them to indicate partisan affiliation on registration forms, according to an analysis by Ballotpedia. A total of 40% registered as Democrats and 29% as Republicans in those 31 states, Washington, D.C. and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

But when it comes to the ballot box, that slice of unaffiliated/third-party voters hasn't translated into independents claiming many victories.

Trump's election as president in 2016 arguably widened the divide between liberals and conservatives. But that didn't cause large numbers of unaffiliated voters to abandon the two big parties in either the 2018 or 2020 elections in favor of alternative candidates, analysts say.

"What ends up happening with voters is they typically respond to surveys or in focus groups, talking about how they want somebody outside of the two parties, but then in practice they tend to vote and behave mostly like (Democratic or Republican) partisans," said Jake Grumbach, an assistant professor of political science at the University of Washington.

There are only two independents in the U.S. Senate, Angus King, a former governor of Maine who won a landslide victory in 2012, and Bernie Sander of Vermont, who was first elected to the Senate in 2006. Both caucus with Democrats.

Retired professional wrestler Jesse Ventura's winning run as a Reform Party candidate for governor of Minnesota, in 1998, is a distant memory.

Former radio personality Cory Hepola made a stab this year at following Ventura's footsteps, as part of Andrew Yang's new Forward Party.

But Hepola dropped out of the Minnesota governor race on Wednesday, saying it is "unlikely that 2022

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will be the breakthrough year.”

Johnson, though, is betting on dissatisfaction among voters to boost her run in Oregon. Her campaign war chest already tops \$8.6 million, including \$1.75 million from Nike co-founder Phil Knight. Her reported total was more than the Democratic and Republican candidates combined. Johnson has garnered endorsements from a former Democratic governor and from a former Republican U.S. senator.

Under Oregon election rules, Johnson could start collecting signatures last Wednesday. Her campaign must deliver at least 23,744 registered voters’ signatures to the secretary of state’s office by Aug. 16 to get her on the ballot.

Johnson said the volunteers are “ready to hit the ground running.”

“We have Betsy brigades in every county, and we will have chairpersons in those counties responsible for explaining the intricacies of signature gathering,” Johnson said.

Paul Rummell, who traditionally votes Democratic, is the Johnson chairperson in Clackamas County, near Portland, and sees her as a “great counter-balance between the two ideologies.”

“I’m looking for somebody that can help bridge the divide in our state,” said the 51-year-old, who works in the alternative fuels industry. “I think that, unfortunately, there’s a chasm ... between rural Oregon and the metro area. And I think that Betsy is the perfect example of a leader who can help lead the dialogue that needs to happen to repair that divide.”

If she gets on the ballot, the 71-year-old will be running against Democratic nominee Tina Kotek, a former Oregon House speaker and a staunch liberal, and Republican nominee Christine Drazan, a former House minority leader.

Johnson, who wears huge eyeglasses and colorful scarves, used to run a helicopter company that helped fight forest fires and got aerial shots for movies. Her company also set up seismometers at Mount St. Helens. On the morning of May 18, 1980, her head mechanic called to say the volcano was erupting.

“I jumped in my car and drove like a bat out of hell ... jumped in a helicopter and we were flying that day,” Johnson said, recalling risky flights over lava flows. “We were out of our minds, in hindsight.”

That maverick attitude is evident in her stances on issues that are front-page news again because of recent horrific mass shootings and the pending U.S. Supreme Court decision on *Roe v. Wade*.

To liberals who want more gun safety measures, she is unapologetically pro-gun rights. She sees even attempts to ban bump-stocks and high-capacity ammunition magazines as chipping away at Second Amendment rights on gun ownership. Kotek denounced Johnson’s stance, saying: “As the nation reels from one of the deadliest school shootings in history, Betsy continues to spout the talking points of the NRA.”

To conservatives who want to ban or restrict abortions, Johnson is unapologetically in favor of a woman’s right to choose.

Johnson is running against the odds — the last time an unaffiliated candidate was elected governor in Oregon was about 90 years ago. She could also be a spoiler for Democrats or Republicans, depending which candidate she draws votes away from.

Kotek could be vulnerable if enough moderate Democrats and unaffiliated voters go for Johnson. While Oregon hasn’t elected a Republican governor since 1982, Democrat Kate Brown — who’s now term-limited — edged Republican Knute Buehler by only 6% in the 2018 election.

James Foster, professor emeritus of political science at Oregon State University-Cascades in Bend, expects Kotek to win. But he’s not ruling out a Johnson victory or a spoiler. Foster said if inflation continues to soar, voters might become alienated from “status quo politicians,” giving Johnson some traction.

“A whole lot can happen between now and November in this crazy upside-down world we’ve got,” Foster said. “My wife and I listened to a speech by Betsy Johnson. She’s one hell of an orator.”

Officials at airport seize cocaine stashed in wheelchair

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Federal authorities say a man has been arrested in Charlotte, North Carolina, after he was stopped in the city’s airport with more than 23 pounds (more than 10 kilograms) of cocaine concealed in the seat cushions of a motorized wheelchair.

U. S. Customs and Border Protection officers encountered the traveler as he was arriving at Charlotte

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Douglas International Airport from the Dominican Republic this week, according to a Friday news release.

"His answers didn't match up. His physical purported handicap did not match up. That was a tell-tale sign that there was something suspicious," Mike Prado, a Homeland Security Investigations deputy special agent, told WSOC-TV.

The four packages containing cocaine were discovered within the seat cushions and had an estimated street value of \$378,000, according to the news release.

The 22-year-old man was charged with trafficking in cocaine. Officials say he was a lawful, permanent U.S. resident.

Teachers after Texas attack: 'None of us are built for this'

By JOHN RABY Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Teacher Jessica Salfia was putting up graduation balloons last month at her West Virginia high school when two of them popped, setting off panic in a crowded hallway between classes.

One student dropped to the floor. Two others lunged into open classrooms. Salfia quickly shouted, "It's balloons! Balloons!" and apologized as the teenagers realized the noise didn't come from gunshots.

The moment of terror at Spring Mills High School in Martinsburg, about 80 miles (124 kilometers) northwest of Washington happened May 23, the day before a gunman fatally shot 19 children and two teachers in a classroom in Uvalde, Texas. The reaction reflects the fear that pervades the nation's schools and taxes its teachers — even those who have never experienced such violence — and it comes on top of the strain imposed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Salfia has a more direct connection to gun threats than most. Her mother, also a West Virginia teacher, found herself staring down a student with a gun in her classroom seven years ago. After talking to him for some two hours, she was hailed for her role in helping bring the incident to a peaceful end.

For any teacher standing in front of a classroom in 21st century America, the job seems to ask the impossible. Already expected to be guidance counselors, social workers, surrogate parents and more to their students, teachers are sometimes called on to be protectors, too.

The U.S. public school landscape has changed markedly since the Columbine school shooting in Colorado in 1999, and Salfia said teachers think about the risks every day.

"What would happen if we go into a lockdown? What would happen if I hear gunshots?" she said. "What would happen if one of my students came to school armed that day? This is a constant thread of thought."

George Theoharis was a teacher and principal for a decade and has spent the past 18 years training teachers and school administrators at Syracuse University. He said teachers are stretched more now than ever — even more than last year, "when the pandemic was newer."

"We're sort of left in this moment where we do expect teachers and schools to solve all our problems and do it quickly," he said.

Schools nationwide have been dealing with widespread episodes of misbehavior since the return to in-person learning, which has been accompanied by soaring student mental health needs. In growing numbers, teens have been turning to gun violence to resolve spur-of-the-moment conflicts, researchers say.

In Nashville, Tennessee, three Inglewood Elementary School staffers sprang into action last month to restrain a man who had hopped a fence. After children on the playground were directed inside, the man followed them, but he was tackled by kindergarten teacher Rachel Davis.

At one point, secretary Katrina "Nikki" Thomas held him in a headlock. They and school bookkeeper Shay Patton cornered the man, who didn't have a gun, inside the school until authorities arrived. All three employees were hurt.

"For me, it was just like, these kids are innocent," Patton said. "I just knew that they couldn't protect themselves, so it was on us to do it. And I didn't think twice."

The three employees watched in horror less than two weeks later as news of the Uvalde shooting unfolded.

"In my head, immediately I thought, 'That could have been me and my kids,'" Davis said. "That could

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have been us out there on that playground with this ... guy if he had had a gun on him."

Adding to frustration for some educators was the scapegoating of a teacher initially blamed for propping open the door a gunman used to enter the Uvalde, Texas elementary school. Days later, officials said the teacher had closed the door, but it didn't lock.

Kindergarten teacher Ana Hernandez said Texas educators are anxious after a rough patch that has lasted years and shows no sign of ending. She and a group of colleagues from Dilley drove an hour to Uvalde to do all they could, delivering donated stuffed animals and cases of water. She said more is needed.

"Changes have to be done for us to feel secure in a classroom as a teacher (and) for students also to feel secure and safe in a classroom," she said.

Tish Jennings, a University of Virginia education professor specializing in teacher stress and social-emotional learning, said teacher stress becomes contagious.

"It interferes with their ability to function, and it also interferes with students' ability to learn," Jennings said. "So when things like this happen, the school shootings, it shuts everybody down. It's very hard to learn when you're afraid for your life."

Salfia says the load teachers carry is daunting.

"You're a first responder. You're a first reporter. If there's an issue in the home, you are sometimes the only chance a kid has at love, at getting food that day, at maybe getting a warm and safe place to be that day. The scope of the job is huge right now."

The pandemic added the challenge of remote learning, classroom sanitizing and finding enough substitute teachers to keep schools running.

There's also a sense that tragedies continue to happen, and politicians rarely do anything about it.

"It is so hard to know that, at any moment, that reality could also be your reality, or the reality of your children," said Salfia, a mother of three students. "My youngest is the same age as the kids who were killed in Texas. It sharpens everything, I think, especially when you're in a classroom."

In August 2015, the new school year had barely started for Salfia's mother, teacher Twila Smith, when a freshman entered Smith's world studies class at Philip Barbour High School and drew a gun he had taken from his home.

For about 45 minutes, Smith said, no one outside the room knew the class was being held hostage. She diverted his attention from other students and tried to keep him talking while she walked around the room with him.

Eventually, police persuaded the boy to let everyone go. After at least another hour and a half, his pastor helped convince the boy to surrender. A few months later, he was sentenced to a juvenile facility until he turns 21.

Smith, who has a background in dealing with students with behavior problems, was among those hailed as heroes, a label she deflected.

"I think my training just came into play," Smith said. "And then I had 29 freshmen sitting there looking at me, and I would have to say that they were the heroes. Because they did everything I told them to do, and they did everything he told them to do. And they stayed fairly calm."

Smith saw those freshmen through to graduation in 2019. Then she retired.

Back at Spring Mills High, one of Salfia's former students now works in her department as a first-year English teacher. When asked what she tells others hoping to go into her field, Salfia repeated the ex-pupil's description of what today's teachers go through: "None of us are built for this." But their commitment to the profession is such that they "are only built for it," and could scarcely consider any other career.

"This is the only job I can imagine doing," Salfia said. "But it is also the hardest job I can imagine doing."

After the balloons popped, "kids were visibly rattled," she recalled. "Some people were a little bit angry at me, I think, in reaction to that fear that everyone had experienced momentarily."

She knows that's the world she and her students live in now.

"We are all, at any moment, prepared to run from that sound."

Ann Turner Cook, original Gerber baby, dies at 95

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Ann Turner Cook, whose cherubic baby face was known the world over as the original Gerber baby, has died. She was 95.

Gerber announced Cook's passing in an Instagram post on Friday.

"Many years before becoming an extraordinary mother, teacher and writer, her smile and expressive curiosity captured hearts everywhere and will continue to live on as a symbol for all babies," the company said.

Cook was 5 months old when a neighbor, artist Dorothy Hope Smith, drew a charcoal sketch of her that was later submitted for a contest Gerber was holding for a national marketing campaign for baby food.

The image was a hit, so much so that it became the company's trademark in 1931 and has been used in all packaging and advertising since.

For decades, though, the identity of the baby was kept secret, spurring rumors about who it was with guesses including Humphrey Bogart and Elizabeth Taylor.

In the late 1970s, it was revealed to be Cook, who grew up to be an English teacher in Tampa, Florida, and later a mystery novelist.

Cook told The Associated Press in a 1998 interview that her mother had told her when she was young that she was the baby in the illustration.

She said, "If you're going to be a symbol for something, what could be more pleasant than a symbol for baby food?"

As for the image itself, she said, "All babies are appealing. The reason that drawing has been so popular is the artist captured the appeal that all babies have."

Tulsa shooting puts focus on waiting periods for gun buyers

By GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — When he was sentenced for killing three teenagers and gravely wounding another at a house party north of Seattle, Allen Ivanov said he was sorry and that he couldn't explain why he did it.

But he noted one factor that allowed him to carry out the shooting — "the ease of acquiring a gun." The then-19-year-old bought the assault-style rifle a week earlier and was so unfamiliar with the weapon that he sat in his car outside the party and studied the owner's manual before opening fire on his ex-girlfriend and others.

That theme has repeated itself, yet again, in America's latest spate of mass shootings — in Buffalo, New York; Uvalde, Texas; and Tulsa, Oklahoma — which claimed 35 lives in a span of less than three weeks. It is renewing the debate over whether restrictions such as waiting periods and bans on young adults buying semiautomatic rifles could have saved lives.

"If those had been in place, it would have made a difference," said Paul Kramer, who led a successful 2018 effort to impose a 10-day waiting period on semiautomatic rifle purchases in Washington state, as well as a ban on young adults buying such weapons, after his son Will was gravely wounded during Ivanov's shooting spree two years earlier. "Those mass shootings would not have unfolded the way that they did, and very likely, lives would have been saved."

Just nine states and Washington, D.C., have explicit waiting periods before people can purchase at least some types of firearms. The restrictions can give authorities more time to conduct background checks and keep impulsive, emotional people from immediately accessing weapons they might use to kill themselves or others, according to the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

The federal government has no waiting period. A bill that passed the Democrat-led U.S. House last year would extend the review period for background checks from three days to 10, but it's opposed by Republicans and is not part of current negotiations in the Senate over how Congress can respond to the recent massacres.

In Tulsa, authorities said the gunman who killed his surgeon, another doctor and two other people

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Wednesday bought an AR-style rifle just hours beforehand, as well as a handgun on May 29. The shooter, Michael Louis, 45, of Muskogee, Oklahoma, had recently had an operation and blamed his doctor for continuing back pain.

In Uvalde, Texas, the 18-year-old shooter who killed 21 people at Robb Elementary School had purchased two rifles in the preceding week.

California, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Rhode Island and the District of Columbia have waiting periods for purchases of all types of weapons, ranging from three to 14 days. Minnesota and Washington impose waiting periods for handguns and semiautomatic rifles, while Maryland and New Jersey have waiting periods only for handguns.

In addition, several other states, including Connecticut, Maryland and Massachusetts, require buyers of at least some types of guns to obtain permits first, sometimes including completion of safety classes. Those restrictions can function like waiting periods.

Oklahoma has no law mandating a waiting period, but some Democratic lawmakers called for a special session of the Legislature to address it among other gun violence measures after the Tulsa shooting.

"Oklahoma students will be in school in two months," said House Minority Leader Emily Virgin. "If we fail to act before then, it will be because the Legislature has no will to do so. That's something that I hope all Oklahomans are paying attention to."

They suggested a waiting period on firearms purchases, raising the state's minimum age for purchasing weapons from 18 to 21, and a "red flag" law, allowing guns to be temporarily seized from people who might pose a danger to themselves or others. Those proposals are likely to go nowhere in a GOP-controlled Legislature that has for years pushed for loosening state gun laws.

Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt, who is running for reelection, said last week after the Texas shooting that it was too soon to talk about firearms policy.

Florida stands out as a Republican-led state that imposed gun restrictions after a mass shooting. In 2018, after a shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland left 14 students and three staff members dead, then-Gov. Rick Scott signed legislation that included a three-day waiting period and raising the minimum age to buy rifles from 18 to 21.

Scott, now a U.S. senator, "encourages all states to look at the action he took in Florida to determine what works best for their state," his communications director, McKinley Lewis, said in an email Friday.

Nationally, about one-third of mass shooters purchased a gun within a month of their crimes, said James Densley, co-founder of The Violence Project, a nonpartisan research group that tracks mass shootings dating back to 1966.

According to a 2017 Harvard Business School review, waiting period laws that delay the purchase of firearms by a few days reduce gun homicides by roughly 17%. But Sam Paredes, executive director of Gun Owners of California, called waiting periods "an ineffective policy to try to affect gun crime."

"The big concern we have is when people want to exercise their right to bear arms, especially when they're a first-time gun user, they're delayed in their ability to get the tools that they need to protect themselves," Paredes said.

Daniel Webster, co-director of the Center for Gun Violence Solutions at Johns Hopkins' Bloomberg School of Public Health, said waiting periods are important, and it's obvious to him why more states don't require them: Many firearm laws, he said, are "written by people who sell guns."

Supporters say requiring several days or even a week or more between the purchase and delivery of a gun provides an important "cooling off" time for someone who is angry or contemplating suicide.

"If you get, for whatever reason, a person who is purchasing the gun to use it to harm others, the fact that they can't get the gun in their hands immediately may give an opportunity for the circumstances to change by the time they do get it, assuming they're entitled to get it in the first place," said Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Neronha.

Giving law enforcement enough time to complete a thorough background check is another advantage of extending the waiting period, he said.

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Hawaii has the longest waiting period in the U.S., at 14 days. Alan Beck, an attorney representing residents who are challenging various aspects of the state's gun laws, said the two-week period seems arbitrary. If it's meant as a cooling off period for someone who is angry, he said it won't have an effect on potential gun buyers if they already own a firearm.

But state Sen. Karl Rhoads said he believes the waiting period combined with other strict gun control laws have worked, noting that Hawaii has a low homicide rate.

"If you're really angry about something and you can go buy a gun and you can get it immediately, then you may act on your impulse," Rhoads said. "If you have to wait a couple of weeks, you may calm down and think better of it."

Former Florida state Rep. Jared Moskowitz, a Democrat who represented Parkland in 2018 and is now running for Congress, said waiting periods alone aren't enough. Raising the purchase age, adopting red flag laws, increasing mental health spending and boosting school security are all essential, he said.

"No one change is going to make a big difference," Moskowitz said. "But every change added together is."

American spy agencies review their misses on Ukraine, Russia

By NOMAAN MERCHANT and MATTHEW LEE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The question was posed in a private briefing to U.S. intelligence officials weeks before Russia launched its invasion in late February: Was Ukraine's leader, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, made in the mold of Britain's Winston Churchill or Afghanistan's Ashraf Ghani?

In other words, would Zelenskyy lead a historic resistance or flee while his government collapsed?

Ultimately, U.S. intelligence agencies underestimated Zelenskyy and Ukraine while overestimating Russia and its president, even as they accurately predicted Vladimir Putin would order an invasion.

But Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, did not fall in a few days, as the the United States had expected. And while American spy agencies have been credited with supporting Ukraine's resistance, they now face bipartisan pressure to review what they got wrong beforehand — especially after their mistakes in judging Afghanistan last year.

Intelligence officials have begun a review of how their agencies judge the will and ability of foreign governments to fight. The review is taking place while U.S. intelligence continues to have a critical role in Ukraine and as the White House ramps up weapons deliveries and support to Ukraine, trying to predict what Putin might see as escalatory and seeking to avoid a direct war with Russia.

President Joe Biden's administration announced it would give Ukraine a small number of high-tech, medium-range rocket systems, a weapon that Ukraine has long wanted. Since the war began on Feb. 24, the White House has approved shipping drones, anti-tank and anti-aircraft systems, and millions of rounds of ammunition. The U.S. has lifted early restrictions on intelligence-sharing to provide information that Ukraine has used to strike critical targets, including the flagship of the Russian navy.

Lawmakers from both parties question whether the U.S. could have done more before Putin invaded and whether the White House held back some support due to pessimistic assessments of Ukraine. Sen. Angus King, an independent from Maine, told officials at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing last month that "had we had a better handle on the prediction, we could have done more to assist the Ukrainians earlier."

Ohio Rep. Mike Turner, the top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, said in an interview that he thought the White House and top administration officials had projected "their own bias on the situation in a way that lends itself to inaction."

The Senate Intelligence Committee sent a classified letter last month to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence asking about how intelligence agencies assessed both Ukraine and Afghanistan. CNN first reported the letter.

Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines told lawmakers in May that the National Intelligence Council would review how the agencies assess both "will to fight" and "capacity to fight." Both issues are "quite challenging to provide effective analysis on and we're looking at different methodologies for doing so,"

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Haines said.

While there is no announced timetable on the review, which began before the committee's letter, officials have identified some errors. Several people familiar with prewar assessments spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence.

Despite its vast advantages, Russia failed to establish air superiority over Ukraine and failed at basic tasks such as securing its battlefield communications. It has lost thousands of soldiers and at least eight to 10 generals, according to U.S. estimates. Russian and Ukrainian forces are now fighting in fierce, close quarters combat in eastern Ukraine, far from the swift Russian victory forecast by the U.S. and the West.

While Russia has entered recent proxy wars, it had not directly fought a major land war since the 1980s. That meant many of Russia's projected and claimed capabilities had not been put to the test, posing a challenge for analysts to assess how Russia it would perform in a major invasion, some of the people said. Russia's active weapons export industry led some people to believe Moscow would have many more missile systems and planes ready to deploy.

Russia has not used chemical or biological weapons, as the U.S. publicly warned it might. One official noted that the U.S. had "very strong concerns" about a chemical attack, but that Russia may have decided that would cause too much global opposition. Fears that Russia would use a wave of cyberattacks against Ukraine and allies have not materialized so far.

Other Russian problems were well-known, including low troop morale, a prevalence of drug and alcohol abuse among troops, and the lack of a noncommissioned officer corps to oversee forces and deliver instructions from commanders.

"We knew all of those things existed," said retired Lt. Gen. Robert Ashley, the former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. "But it just became a cascading effect of how overwhelming all of that became when they tried to do even the most simple of operations."

Sue Gordon, the former principal deputy director of national intelligence, said analysts may have relied too much on counting Russia's inventory of military and cyber tools.

"We're going to learn a little bit about how we think about capability and use as not one and the same when you assess outcome," she said at a recent event sponsored by The Cipher Brief, an intelligence publication.

Zelenskyy has received worldwide acclaim for refusing to flee as Russia sent teams to try to capture or kill him. Britain's Churchill, throughout the yearlong blitz of London by German fighter aircraft during World War II, often watched the bombing raids from rooftops and he made special effort to walk the streets in places where thousands were killed.

In contrast, Afghanistan's Ghani slipped out of his country on Sunday last August, lonely and isolated, a few months after America's top diplomat had urged him to forge a united stand as the American military pullout neared. Ghani did not even tell other political leaders who had been negotiating a peaceful transition of power with the Taliban that he was heading for the exit. His sudden and secret departure left Kabul, the capital, rudderless as U.S. and NATO forces were in the final stages of their chaotic withdrawal from the country after 20 years.

For Zelenskyy, before the war there were tensions, too, with Washington about the likelihood of a Russian invasion and whether Ukraine was prepared. One flashpoint, according to people familiar with the dispute, was that the U.S. wanted Ukraine to move forces from its west to bolster defenses around Kyiv.

Until shortly before the war, Zelenskyy and top Ukrainian officials discounted warnings of an invasion, in part to tamp down public panic and protect the economy. One U.S. official said there was a belief that Zelenskyy had never been tested in a crisis of the level his country was facing.

Lt. Gen. Scott Berrier, the current director of the DIA, testified in March that "my view was that, based on a variety of factors, that the Ukrainians were not as ready as I thought they should be. Therefore, I questioned their will to fight. That was a bad assessment on my part because they have fought bravely and honorably and are doing the right thing."

In May, Berrier distanced his own view from that of the entire intelligence community, which he said

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never had an assessment “that said the Ukrainians lacked the will to fight.”

There was ample evidence of Ukraine’s determination before the war. Russia’s 2014 annexation of Crimea and the eight-year conflict in the Donbas region had hardened public attitudes against Moscow. Ukrainian forces had received years of training and weapons shipments from the U.S. across several administrations along with help bolstering its cyber defenses.

U.S. intelligence had reviewed private polling suggested strong support in Ukraine for any resistance. In Kharkiv, a mostly Russian-speaking city near the border, citizens were learning to fire guns and training for guerrilla warfare.

Rep. Brad Wenstrup, a member of the House Intelligence Committee, saw that determination firsthand during a December trip. Wenstrup, R-Ohio, witnessed a military ceremony where participants would read the names of every Ukrainian soldier who had died the previous day on the front lines in the Donbas, the region in eastern Ukraine where Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian government forces since 2014.

“It showed to me that they had a will to fight,” he said. “This has been brewing for a long time.”

College athletes push mental health to the forefront

By HANK KURZ Jr. and ERICA HUNZINGER AP Sports Writers

Cailin Bracken arrived at Vanderbilt to play lacrosse already well aware of the importance of athlete mental health. She knew of at least two female college athletes, including one from near where she grew up, who had taken their own lives.

Bracken was overwhelmed by college life, especially when she had to isolate upon testing positive for COVID-19 after just a few days on campus. She decided to leave the team.

“I was so self-aware. I was just so trusting of my intuition in a way, and it sounds cliché, but the idea that I’m like, I need to go home even if it doesn’t feel like the right decision to make in terms of my career path or my reputation or whatever else,” she said. “... I felt when I got to college, like my nervous system was deregulated. I couldn’t process anything. I constantly felt overwhelmed. I never felt safe.”

Then came the first death of at least five college athletes — Stanford soccer goalkeeper Katie Meyer — all of whom took their own lives this spring. It sparked concerns that colleges were not doing enough for some of their higher-profile students.

Bracken wrote an open letter to college sports, calling on coaches and administrators to become more cognizant of the challenges athletes face in navigating not only their competitive side, but also their social and academic responsibilities.

It isn’t clear whether U.S. college athletes are taking their lives at a higher rate than others in their age range; the NCAA declined to share with The Associated Press whether it tracks athlete suicides. But universities are starting to pay closer attention to the mental health of their athletes — in varying degrees — and it’s partly because athletes are advocating for themselves and their teammates.

“Mental health support has to be treated just like academic support and injury prevention and injuries,” said Michael Mominey, the athletic director at Nova Southeastern.

For many schools, the focus began before the pandemic. That includes James Madison, where sophomore softball player Lauren Bennett took her life on April 25.

“What we have seen is over the last decade ... (is a) significant increase in mental health concerns, lots more students coming to college with mental health concerns,” said Tim Miller, vice president of student affairs at James Madison, which canceled the rest of the softball season after Bennett’s death. “And what we saw really in the last two and a half, three years of the pandemic is exponential increase. So if you imagine it as a graph, it has gone uphill very quickly.”

Suicides in the U.S. among ages 15-24 rose from 4,600 in 2010 to 6,062 in 2020, according to federal data. An analysis published in the journal *Sports Health* in 2015 found 35 NCAA athletes took their own lives over a nine-year period (2003-04 to 2011-12), and there were several other similar deaths of college athletes reported in the years following.

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This year, Meyer, whose two saves in a shootout helped the Cardinal win the 2019 national championship, took her life March 1. A month later, it was Robert Martin, a graduate student goalie on the Binghamton lacrosse team. A day later, Northern Michigan track athlete Jayden Hill died. Sarah Shulze, a junior who ran cross country and track at Wisconsin, died April 13. Then there was Bennett, followed by Southern University freshman cheerleader Ariana Miller on May 4.

Only half of the 9,808 NCAA athletes who took a survey in late 2021 said they believe mental health is a priority to their athletics department. The survey, which included athletes in all three divisions, showed 63% believed their teammates took mental health concerns seriously, and 56% know how to help a teammate experiencing a mental health issue.

Athletes have less faith in their coaches taking mental health concerns seriously, with 53% believing that's the case.

Division II Nova Southeastern has a program within its athletics department that integrates mental health alongside other important pieces of athletes' lives. Mominey, who has been at the school for two decades and also coached baseball there, pointed to 2016 as a turning point.

He said there were instances of athletes who were trying to hurt themselves and "acting out in a way that they were looking for help" — things that needed more than just "mental skills training." As part of the rollout of the Academic, Injury and Mental Health Program, Mominey and his leadership team had candid talks with coaches, getting both immediate buy-in and immediate pushback.

"We think we're with them all the time, 20-plus hours a week. We're always in touch. We recruit," Mominey said. "But you really don't know them until you know them. You don't know what's going on with mom or dad."

Nova Southeastern didn't increase its budget when it made mental health a priority, he said, and doesn't believe the NCAA is doing enough to help member schools with mental health programs, suggesting even grant money would be helpful.

"We find ways to get it done," he said of DII schools. "It's a priority, we'll make it work, whether it's funding or not funding ... and I would hope to think that the NCAA does make it a priority."

Brian Hainline has been the NCAA chief medical officer since 2013. He said athletes immediately told him mental health was their top priority.

"I had hardly been on the job, and the student-athletes were clearly not just concerned, but that they were speaking in earnest, saying that they saw this as important as anything else," he said. "I think in that regard, they were in some ways ahead of others because that certainly was not always the sentiment in sports medicine."

Hainline oversees the NCAA's Sport Science Institute, which offers resources like mental health best practices, workshop templates and planning tools. He said SSI also talks to the people in athletic departments who ensure recommendations are being followed and that everyone knows who the mental health providers are and what the protocols are for mental health access.

"For every campus to (follow recommendations exactly), we would be way ahead of the game," Hainline said. "But it's sometimes challenging, and I think mental health is not in the same vocabulary as ankle sprains and knee/ACL injuries and things like that."

Erik Price, the Pac-12 associate commissioner for compliance and governance, worked with athletes, the conference's mental health task force and Hainline on a 2019 proposal to codify mental health as part of the NCAA's medical expenses bylaws. While mental health services already fell under medical expenses, Price said he thinks the "declarative statement" destigmatized mental health for athletes and "large inter-collegiate athletic departments."

In early May, the AP requested from the 10 Pac-12 Conference public universities itemized budgets for mental health resources or the athletic departments' mental health programs. Utah and Oregon both said they don't have such budgets; private schools Southern California and Stanford declined to provide the information to the AP.

At Colorado, the Psychological Health and Performance office within the athletic department increased

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its budget by about \$128,000 between the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years, and roughly \$16,000 more for the school year that just ended. A CU spokesman said the extra money went toward costs for a new 24/7 crisis hotline and software in 2019, as well as hiring new staffers.

The other seven public Pac-12 universities had not provided budgetary information as of June 2.

Price said the current generation of college students deserve a lot of credit for bringing mental health to the forefront.

"I do believe it's a generational shift going on in college athletics, which, like any generational shift, has caused the older generation some angst," he said, adding later that Gen Z is "not shy about talking to each other about their emotions — and they're wondering how and when their coaches and the adults in the room will join them, and join them more."

Bracken's coach, Beth Hewitt, supported her decision to leave the team and assured her she would still have a place if she returns. Hewitt believes it's a "really big mistake" if athletic departments aren't thinking about the pressures athletes deal with.

"Unfortunately, we've had so many athletes take their own life in the last few years ... if that's not your wake-up call, then you really are in the wrong profession because unfortunately, we can't just worry about the wins and forget about the person," she said.

Woman buoyed by support after viral pastor confrontation

By PETER SMITH Associated Press

Bobi Gephart hadn't planned to go to church that Sunday — not to the worship service where the pastor intended to make a confession about the oppressive secret she had carried for so long.

But she quickly changed her mind, realizing she couldn't trust the pastor — the man she says began sexually preying on her as a teenager — to share the whole truth.

Gephart hurried to New Life Christian Church & World Outreach in Warsaw, Indiana, arriving mid-service, and made sure her story was told.

Nearly a million viewers have witnessed what happened next in that May 22 confrontation, captured on video and posted on Facebook.

John B. Lowe II, the congregation's longtime pastor, confessed on stage to "adultery" 20 years earlier. "I sinned," he said, acknowledging he never previously admitted it publicly "to protect myself."

Bobi and her husband, Nate Gephart, who had been watching from the congregation, then walked onto the stage and took the microphone.

"If you love us, please let us talk," Nate said, handing the mic to his wife.

It was 27 years, she said, not 20, that she had "lived in a prison of lies and shame."

"For years, I thought I was a horrible person, having suicidal thoughts, not realizing what had truly been done to me, that I was a victim," she told him. "I was just 16 when you took my virginity on your office floor. Do you remember that? I know you do."

She told Lowe "you kept me in your prison," but "I'm a prisoner no longer."

Bobi Gephart, now 43, told The Associated Press she wanted the church community to know the truth and had no idea the video, recorded by a family member in the congregation, would generate such a viral response. She's received "overwhelming support," she said.

"I didn't realize how much this is helping and will help people," she said. People "not just in this area but all over the world are reaching out to me. Their stories are so heartbreaking."

Lowe resigned as pastor, the church said in a statement on May 23. The church said no one on staff had previously known about what happened, and it offered to help Gephart with "healing in any way in which we are able."

In the church's May 29 service, Lowe's son, associate pastor Bryan Lowe, read a statement saying the church would be restructuring and holding meetings with members.

Indiana State Police, in a statement, asked anyone with "information as a victim or a witness" about the situation to contact investigators.

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Bobi Gephart said she spoke with police but acknowledged prosecution of Lowe may be unlikely because of the passage of time and because Indiana law defines the age of sexual consent at 16. She said she's aware of other past abuse within the church.

She did say Lowe began "grooming" — in which a sexual predator gains the trust of a victim through favors and other means — before she was 16. The sexual relationship continued into her early 20s. Lowe, now 65, was more than 20 years older than her.

Gephart said from the time she was young, her family's life "revolved around the church and the Lowes." "We were like family with them," she said, and when one set of parents was traveling, the other would often watch over the children.

She said a few people in the church had known what happened, but it remained secret to most of the congregation, and no one helped her get counseling. She said she felt obligated to protect the reputation of the pastor and the church and hadn't even told her husband.

Things changed recently when her brother told her he was haunted by a memory from when they were teens. She said he recalled seeing "his pastor in bed with his younger sister, T-shirt and underwear on."

When she told him what had happened, she said her brother immediately confronted Lowe by text, calling on him to resign.

She said Lowe began to talk to some in the church, confessing to adultery but not telling the whole story. The church formed an advisory committee, which said in a later statement it hadn't finished investigating, couldn't verify the accuracy of Lowe's version and had advised him not to make the May 22 confession. Ages of consent vary between 16 and 18 in U.S. states.

Victim advocates say such sexual activity by clergy is beyond "adultery," which implies consent among equals. They say it amounts to an abuse of power by a spiritual authority. Some denominations, such as the Catholic Church, define clergy sexual abuse as involving any victim under 18.

New Life is an independent church. After Bobi Gephart confronted Lowe at the service, Nate Gephart tossed a necklace Lowe had given Bobi onto the podium, followed by her "covenant purity ring," which many churches have given to youths to promote virginity before marriage.

"We are working through love and forgiveness," Nate said. "But people have to be held accountable, and they can't just bamboozle people and say, 'Well, I just committed adultery.' It was far beyond adultery. So here's the covenant purity ring back. I don't want it in my home."

Some in the congregation voiced support for the couple and questioned Lowe, who admitted that Bobi was 16 when the sexual relationship began. Later, some circled around him in prayer.

Pageant participants in queen's jubilee celebrate diverse UK

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — As designer Clary Salandy pushes open the kitchen door at a nondescript community center in west London, her visitors pause, astonished by what they find.

A dozen giraffe heads, crafted in shades of orange and brown with top hats and flowing eyelashes, smile in a tidy row atop the commercial-grade stove, while a pair of zebras peer out from a corner near the refrigerator.

That sense of surprise is exactly what Salandy hopes people will experience on Sunday, when the giraffes and zebras join a troupe of dancing elephants and flamingos outside Buckingham Palace as part of the pageant that will cap off four days of festivities celebrating Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years on the throne. In the meantime, the plastic foam beasts will remain locked in the kitchen for safekeeping.

Salandy and her team at Mahogany Carnival Arts want their playful reimagining of the setting where the young Princess Elizabeth learned she was queen in 1952, while on a wildlife expedition in Kenya, to spark a sense of fun and fantasy in a nation recovering from the coronavirus pandemic.

They want, in short, to inspire joy.

"When you see it, you should go, 'Wow! You know, that's amazing!'" Salandy said. "We're going to lift

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people out of COVID and take them forward when they finish. People should feel positive that life is coming back and we're going to move forward and back into enjoying our lives."

That message will be delivered by a group of 250 artists and performers from the African-Caribbean community, which was particularly hit hard by the pandemic and is now being squeezed by the cost-of-living crisis.

But the performers want to reach out to everyone with a presentation that celebrates the diversity of Britain and the Commonwealth.

Children will become swans, older people will zoom around in mobility scooters decked out as flamingos and dancers will bring the giraffes and zebras to life, perhaps even to mingle with the crowds.

Another group of dancers will unite to form the queen's coronation robe, with the symbols of every major faith and nods to all 54 Commonwealth nations woven into its purple and white fabric.

The dances and costumes — really wearable sculptures — grow out of the traditions of Carnival as it is celebrated in the Caribbean. That heritage inspired the Notting Hill Carnival, a celebration of Caribbean culture that has grown into Europe's largest street festival. The end of summer party was canceled the last two years because of the pandemic.

Artist Carl Gabriel, who is collaborating with Mahogany, is still putting the finishing touches on an 85-kilogram (nearly 200-pound) bust of the queen, complete with crown and diamond necklace, that will form the centerpiece of the performance. On its plinth, it is four meters (13 feet) tall.

Gabriel has spent months building the sculpture using the traditional technique of wire-bending together with his own innovations. Created by painstakingly bending bits of wire around a metal frame using an assortment of pliers and hammers, the almost finished work resembles a giant macrame project. After he donned safety glasses and a leather apron at his studio on London, he said he wants the work to have meaning for the queen — and many others besides.

"I feel a lot of people are suffering," Gabriel said. "The least I could do is provide those who suffered a hard time some enjoyment by presenting the work to them."

At its heart, the performance is a celebration of the queen's 70 years of service, said Nicola Cummings, a costumer maker and a teacher at Queen's Park Community School, who is working with 24 young dancers. The queen is at the heart of it all.

"Every visit that she's ever been on, every time that she's come out, she's always represented the country at its best. We've never seen her looking scruffy," Cummings said. "For that alone, you know, we've got to give back now. Here we are. We're showing her our best."

But the performance also carries a message of rejuvenation.

Mahogany's community was an epicenter of the first outbreak of COVID-19, and the months of preparation for the jubilee have lifted the performers, many of whom lost family members during the pandemic.

Just as the queen promised the nation at the height of the pandemic that people would meet their friends and families again, so the performers are celebrating the ability to dance again as part of a community — a group even tighter now than before.

Cummings will be thinking about her father, who was also involved in carnivals. He died of COVID-19 last year.

"I feel like I'm representing him in a way," she said, unable to hold back the tears. "This is almost like tribute to him."

US, S. Korean navies end key exercise amid N. Korea tension

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The U.S. aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan concluded a naval exercise with South Korea in the Philippine Sea on Saturday, the two militaries said, amid signs that North Korea is possibly preparing to conduct its first nuclear test explosion since 2017.

The three-day exercise that began Thursday in international waters off the Japanese island of Okinawa was apparently the allies' first joint drill involving a U.S. aircraft carrier since November 2017.

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The Ronald Reagan then joined the USS Theodore Roosevelt and Nimitz in a rare three-carrier exercise with South Korean naval vessels during North Korea's last provocative run in nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests.

The latest drill came weeks after President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in a summit in Seoul vowed to upgrade defense exercises and discuss ways to for Washington to protect its ally in the face of growing North Korean threats.

The U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet said that the exercise was aimed at strengthening the interoperability of the two navies.

On Friday, Biden's special envoy for North Korea, Sung Kim, said Washington is "preparing for all contingencies" in close coordination with South Korea and Japan as it monitors North Korean arrangements for a possible nuclear test that could be imminent.

Kim, who was in Seoul for a trilateral meeting with his South Korean and Japanese counterparts to discuss the nuclear standoff with North Korea, said Washington assesses that the North is pressing ahead with preparations at its nuclear testing ground in the northeastern town of Punggye-ri.

The North's next test would be its seventh since 2006 and the first since September 2017, when it claimed to have detonated a thermonuclear bomb to fit on its intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang have stalled since 2019 over disagreements in exchanging the release of crippling U.S.-led sanctions for the North's disarmament steps.

North Korea has already conducted missile tests 17 times this year, including its first ICBM demonstrations in nearly five years.

At 83, Japanese becomes oldest to sail solo across Pacific

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — An 83-year-old Japanese adventurer returned home Saturday after successfully completing his solo, nonstop voyage across the Pacific, becoming the oldest person to reach the milestone.

Kenichi Horie arrived in the Kii Strait off Japan's western coast, completing his trans-Pacific voyage in 69 days after leaving a yacht harbor in San Francisco in March.

It was the latest achievement for the octogenarian adventurer, who in 1962 became the first person in the world to successfully complete a solo nonstop voyage across the Pacific from Japan to San Francisco.

Sixty years later, he traveled the opposite route.

"I just crossed the finish line. I'm tired," he wrote in his blog after reaching Japan in the early hours of Saturday.

He said that his sailing boat, Suntory Mermaid III, was to be toed after the sunrise for an expected arrival at his home port of Shin Nishinomiya yacht harbor in the evening. Local media said a welcome ceremony will be held Sunday.

His achievement came after three days of struggle with the pushback from a strong tide. He wrote in his blog Friday that he succeeded but was exhausted and took a nap after feeling assured that his yacht was now on the right track to the finish line.

Horie's return to Japan makes him the world's oldest person to complete a solo, nonstop crossing of the Pacific, according to his sponsors.

Horie has also achieved a number of other long distance solo voyages, including sailing around the world in 1974. His latest expedition was the first since his 2008 solo non-stop voyage on a wave-powered boat from Hawaii to the Kii Strait.

Scouts sell off camps under strain from sex abuse suits

By PAT EATON-ROBB Associated Press

KILLINGWORTH, Conn. (AP) — As the financially struggling Boy Scouts sell off a number of campgrounds, conservationists, government officials and others are scrambling to find ways to preserve them as open space.

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A \$2.6 billion proposed bankruptcy settlement designed to pay thousands of victims of child sexual abuse has added pressure to an organization beset by years of declining enrollment, and the Scouts and their local councils have been cashing in on their extensive holdings, including properties where some of the abuse took place. Developers have bought up some. Preservation groups hope others can be protected and some legislators have taken notice.

"I am emphasizing to my colleagues that there is a clear urgency here," said U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Connecticut Democrat who thinks there may be federal funds available to buy Scout properties. "We have no time to waste."

For over a century the Scouts and their local councils have acquired properties across the country where generations have learned to appreciate the outdoors through camping, swimming and canoeing.

In Blumenthal's state of Connecticut, the Scouts' Yankee Council is considering a \$4.6 million offer from developers for a 252-acre property, Deer Lake, near Long Island Sound that offers camping, fishing, and hiking. The council has rejected offers from two conservation groups but is negotiating with one of them that offered a revised bid.

Sen. Blumenthal has said he's looking into the possible use of money from the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund to help in the purchase of the Connecticut camp and the other Boy Scout properties for sale across the nation. Individual states decide which projects to pay for with that money.

Other properties targeted for preservation include 96 acres of what was the Boy Scouts' Camp Barton, on the west shore of Cayuga Lake in New York's Finger Lakes region. It includes woodlands, streams, trails and a 75-foot (23-meter) waterfall.

"They are not making any more lakefront property," said Fred Bonn, regional director for the Finger Lakes State Parks system. "Access to the lake is challenging, both with its topography and what is owned privately."

Several local towns and New York state's Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is working with the Baden-Powell Council of the Boy Scouts to try to preserve the land. A nearby 41-acre parcel already was sold by the Scouts to private interests.

It's unclear exactly how much land across the United States belongs to the Boy Scouts, partly because it is owned by local scout councils. But evidence in the bankruptcy trial indicated the local councils own close to 2,000 properties that could be worth between \$8 billion and \$10 billion, said Timothy Kosnoff, an attorney who represents more than 12,000 claimants in the bankruptcy.

The proposed bankruptcy settlement with Boys Scouts of America would have its more than 250 councils contribute at least \$515 million in cash and property and a \$100 million interest-bearing note. Kosnoff said the Scouts will need to sell much of their land to contribute to the national settlement or, if it fails, to pay for continuing legal battles.

"I can't predict how long it will take for all these properties to be liquidated, but I think it's inevitable," he said.

Some abuse victims have mixed feelings about the camps' sale.

Joe, a victim who did not want his last name used because his family is unaware of his experience, was abused by his scout master starting at the age of 8 in the 1970s at a Connecticut camp that was sold years ago to make way for housing on Candlewood Lake. He's not sure he wants people camping on land where scouts were once abused.

"I don't have those warm feelings about those places," he said. "It's almost like 'Poltergeist.' Do you want your house on land where those things happened? So, I don't know what to do with those places."

The Boy Scouts of America said in a statement that selling the camps may be necessary in some instances to compensate victims.

"Every decision must take into account the finances, viability of potential buyers, sustainability and meeting the obligations to provide the best service to youth within their respective council," the organization said.

Councils in states including Arizona, Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin have all recently sold or announced plans to sell camps.

Sen. Blumenthal said selling camps to developers goes against the tenants of an organization that is supposed to teach environmental stewardship.

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"Unfortunately, local Boy Scout councils are selling to the highest bidder," he said. "So, I think it is a national challenge, but it goes to the core of what scouting means and the ethos and ethic of scouting, which they may be betraying."

In Michigan, a consolidation of local Boy Scout councils that began a decade ago has led to the sale of numerous properties, including Silver Trails, a 269-acre camp about 20 miles (32 kilometers) northwest of Port Huron. A group called the Thumb Land Conservancy tried to buy it in 2019, but lost out when the scouts sold it to a gravel-mining company.

"They've sold off, I think 15 camps statewide," said Bill Collins, the conservancy group's executive director and a former Boy Scout, who used to camp at Silver Trails. "So, people now have to drive sometimes a couple of hundred miles across the state to go to camp. Well, that makes most of day camp activities unfeasible and things like weekend camp outs much more of a chore for everyone involved."

In Maine, the Androscoggin Land Trust has a purchase agreement to buy the 95-acre Boy Scout Camp Gustin near Lewiston, which includes a large pond and a bog that is filled with wildlife. Aimee Dorval, the trust's executive director, said the state government's Land for Maine's Future program has agreed to chip in half of the \$415,000 appraised value of the property. The rest is being raised through private donations.

The purchase would be part of the trust's larger effort to preserve about 1,000-acres of open space along the Androscoggin River near Lewiston, land that also has been targeted by developers. The trust plans to continue allowing Boy Scouts to use the land while opening it up to the larger community for camping and other activities.

Dorval said it's important for groups like hers to step up as these camps are put up for sale.

"There are accredited land trusts all across the nation that can take this on," she said. "I think it would be foolish if people stayed away from this because of the (Boy Scout abuse) controversy. To us, it's not about that. It is about conservation and about trying to preserve an area for youth and nature-based activities and historic scouting access."

Today in History: June 5, Robert F. Kennedy assassinated

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, June 5, the 156th day of 2022. There are 209 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 5, 1968, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was shot and mortally wounded after claiming victory in California's Democratic presidential primary at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles; assassin Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was arrested at the scene.

On this date:

In 1794, Congress passed the Neutrality Act, which prohibited Americans from taking part in any military action against a country that was at peace with the United States.

In 1950, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Henderson v. United States*, struck down racially segregated railroad dining cars.

In 1967, war erupted in the Middle East as Israel, anticipating a possible attack by its Arab neighbors, launched a series of pre-emptive airfield strikes that destroyed nearly the entire Egyptian air force; Syria, Jordan and Iraq immediately entered the conflict.

In 1975, Egypt reopened the Suez Canal to international shipping, eight years after it was closed because of the 1967 war with Israel.

In 1976, 14 people were killed when the Teton Dam in Idaho burst.

In 1981, the Centers for Disease Control reported that five homosexuals in Los Angeles had come down with a rare kind of pneumonia; they were the first recognized cases of what later became known as AIDS.

In 2002, 14-year-old Elizabeth Smart was abducted from her Salt Lake City home. (Smart was found alive by police in a Salt Lake suburb in March 2003. One kidnapper, Brian David Mitchell, is serving a prison sentence; the other, Wanda Barzee, was released in September 2018.)

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In 2004, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, died in Los Angeles at age 93 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

In 2006, more than 50 National Guardsmen from Utah became the first unit to work along the U.S.-Mexico border as part of President George W. Bush's crackdown on illegal immigration.

In 2013, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, accused of killing 16 Afghan civilians, many of them sleeping women and children, pleaded guilty to murder at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, to avoid the death penalty; he was sentenced to life in prison.

In 2016, Novak Djokovic (NOH'-vak JOH'-kuh-vich) became the first man in nearly a half-century to win four consecutive major championships and finally earned an elusive French Open title to complete a career Grand Slam, beating Andy Murray 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

In 2020, Minneapolis banned chokeholds by police, the first of many changes in police practices to be announced in the aftermath of George Floyd's death; officers would also now be required to intervene any time they saw unauthorized force by another officer. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said the league had been wrong for not listening to players fighting for racial equality.

Ten years ago: Wisconsin Republican Gov. Scott Walker beat back a recall challenge, winning both the right to finish his term and a voter endorsement of his strategy to curb state spending. Jury selection began in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, in the trial of Jerry Sandusky, the former Penn State assistant football coach charged with child sexual abuse. (Sandusky was later convicted of 45 counts and sentenced to 30 to 60 years in prison.) Science-fiction author Ray Bradbury, 91, died in Los Angeles.

Five years ago: The White House said President Donald Trump would not assert executive privilege to block fired FBI Director James Comey from testifying on Capitol Hill. Bill Cosby went on trial in Norristown, Pennsylvania, on charges he drugged and sexually assaulted Andrea Constand, a former employee of Temple University's basketball program, at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in 2004. (The jury deadlocked, resulting in a mistrial, but Cosby was convicted in a second trial; Pennsylvania's highest court later tossed out that conviction.)

One year ago: The Justice Department said it would no longer secretly obtain reporters' records during leak investigations. Favored Essential Quality won the Belmont Stakes in New York over Hot Rod Charlie.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-singer Bill Hayes is 97. Broadcast journalist Bill Moyers is 88. Former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark is 83. Author Dame Margaret Drabble is 83. Country singer Don Reid (The Statler Brothers) is 77. Rock musician Freddie Stone (AKA Freddie Stewart) (Sly and the Family Stone) is 75. Rock singer Laurie Anderson is 75. Country singer Gail Davies is 74. Author Ken Follett is 73. Financial guru Suze Orman is 71. Rock musician Nicko McBrain (Iron Maiden) is 70. Jazz musician Peter Erskine is 68. Jazz musician Kenny G is 66. Rock singer Richard Butler (Psychedelic Furs) is 66. Actor Beth Hall is 64. Actor Jeff Garlin is 60. Actor Karen Sillas is 59. Actor Ron Livingston is 55. Singer Brian McKnight is 53. Rock musician Claus Norreen (Aqua) is 52. Actor Mark Wahlberg is 51. Actor Chad Allen is 48. Rock musician P-Nut (311) is 48. Actor Navi Rawat (ROH'-waht) is 45. Actor Liza Weil is 45. Rock musician Pete Wentz (Fall Out Boy) is 43. Rock musician Seb Lefebvre (Simple Plan) is 41. Actor Chelsey Crisp is 39. Actor Amanda Crew is 36. Electronic musician Harrison Mills (Odesza) is 33. Musician/songwriter/producer DJ Mustard is 32. Actor Sophie Lowe is 32. Actor Hank Greenspan is 12.