

# Groton Daily Independent

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"Life is full of beauty.  
Notice it.  
Notice the bumble bee, the small  
child, and the smiling faces.  
Smell the rain, and feel the wind."  
-Ashley Smith



## Help Wanted

Want a fun job with flexible hours? We're looking for 16 year olds and older with smiling faces! Free meals and we'll work around your schedule. Are you a mom wanting some hours while your kids are in school or a teenager wanting to earn some money or an adult looking for work? Daytime – evening – week-end hours are available and we'll make the hours work for you! Stop in for an application. Dairy Queen, 11 East Hwy 12 in Groton.

## CLEANER WANTED

**SATURDAY CLEANER NEEDED IN FERNEY, SD, 830 am to 130 pm. \$15 an hour. Must be dependable and be willing to work around customers coming into the family owned business. Please call Stephanie at 605-381-1758.**

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

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

## Power Outage Tomorrow

Northwestern Energy is making a switch in the substation south of Groton that feeds all of Groton. As a result, the power will be out in Groton from 3:30 a.m. to 5:30 a.m. It would be wise to power down your computers overnight.

August 5-7: State Jr. Legion at Clark

Thursday, Aug. 4  
First allowable day of football practice

Monday, Aug. 8  
First allowable day of boys golf practice

Thursday, Aug. 11  
First allowable day of volleyball and cross country practice

## OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

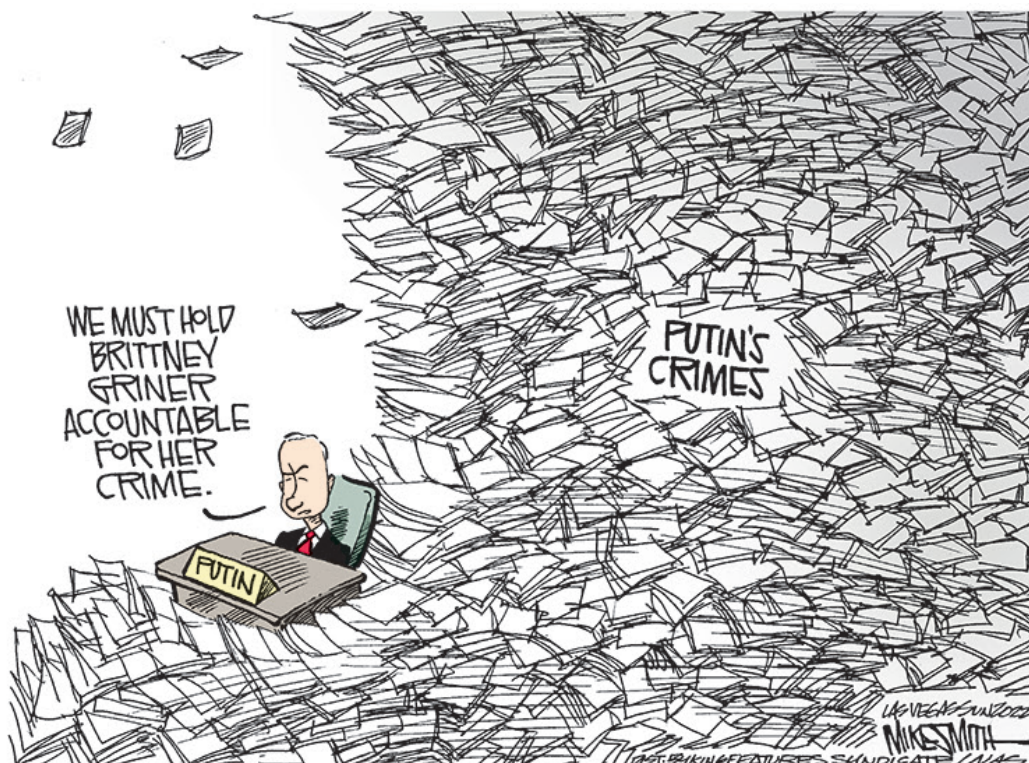


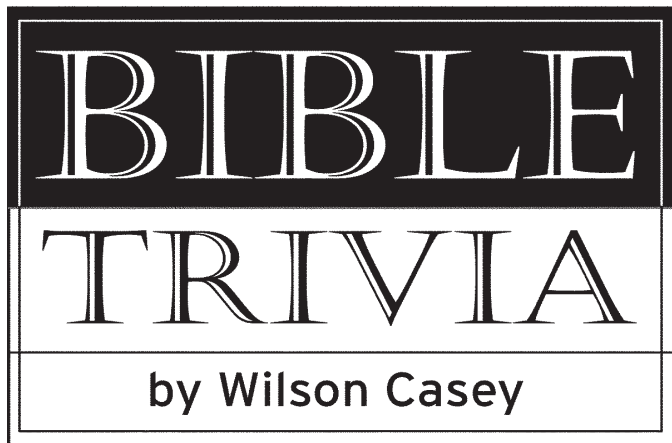
"Self-Portrait"  
by Conrad Felixmüller (1921)

*In his arrogance the wicked man hunts  
down the weak, who are caught  
in the schemes he devises. He boasts  
about the cravings of his heart;  
he blesses the greedy and reviles the Lord.  
In his pride the wicked man  
does not seek him; in all his thoughts  
there is no room for God.*

🌿 PSALM 10: 2-4 🌿

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## Summer Chicken and Pasta Salad

August ... when it's too sweltering for even the dogs to venture out into the noonday sun. Cook your macaroni early in the morning -- or better yet, simply pull some already-cooked pasta out of the freezer to thaw, and you won't have to turn on your stove for this refreshing main-dish salad.

- 2/3 cup fat-free mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons fat-free milk
- 1/4 cup grated reduced-fat Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 cup diced cooked chicken breast
- 3 cups cooked shell macaroni, rinsed and drained
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped fresh tomato
- 3/4 cup chopped green bell pepper

1. In a large bowl, combine mayonnaise, milk, Parmesan cheese and black pepper. Add chicken, macaroni and onion. Mix well to combine. Gently fold in tomato and green pepper.

2. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour. Mix gently again just before serving. Serves 6 (1 cup each).

\* Each serving equals: 178 calories, 2g fat, 10g protein, 30g carb., 355mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Starch, 1 Meat, 1/2 Vegetable.

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

2. From Proverbs 22:15, what is bound up in the heart of a child? *Foolishness, Joy, Love, Warmth*

3. Where was Paul on receiving his "Macedonian vision"? *Troas, Gilgal, Petra, Rome*

4. What Phoenician city was home to Hiram? *Endor, Patara, Tyre, Sardis*

5. From Genesis 2, what did God use to form man? *Water, Dust, Robe, Wind*

6. What was a publican in biblical times? *Priest, Laborer, Carpenter, Tax Collector*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Foolishness, 3) Troas, 4) Tyre, 5) Dust, 6) Tax Collector

*Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," now available in bookstores and online.*



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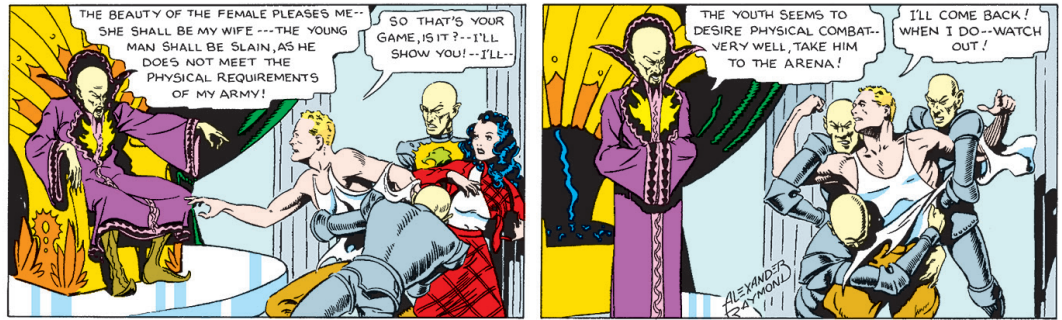
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## FLASH GORDON

FLASHBACK:

FLASH GORDON'S  
FIRST CONFRONTATION  
WITH MING  
THE MERCILESS!

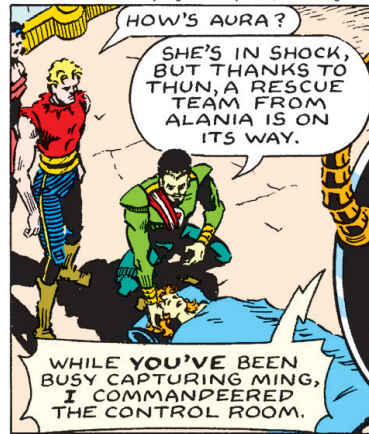
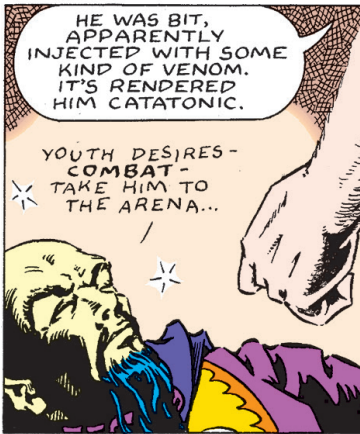
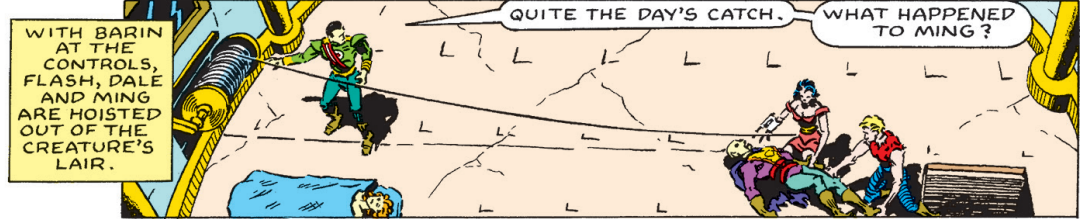
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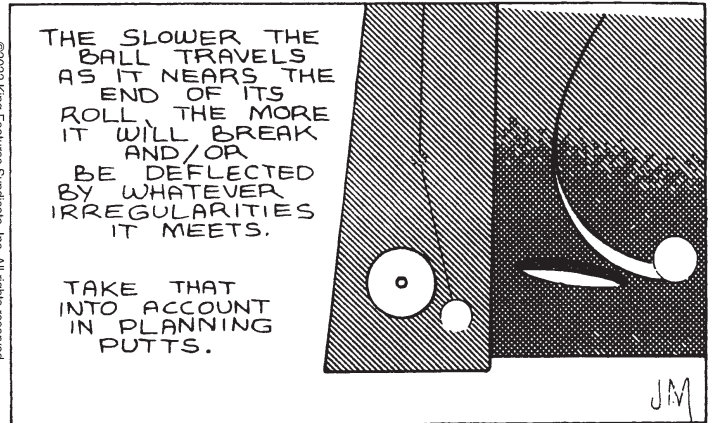
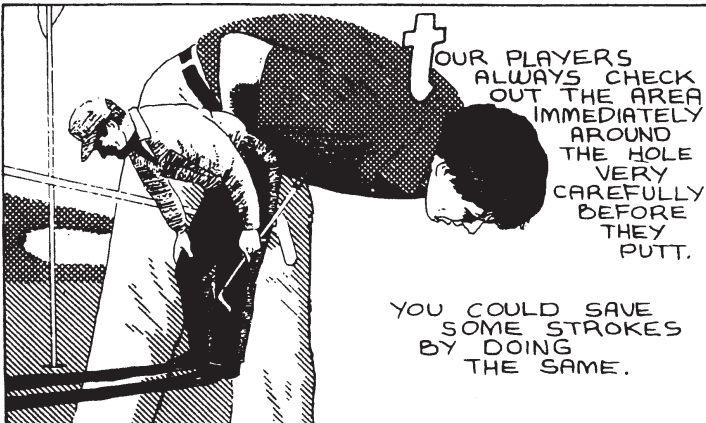
## FLASH GORDON

By JIM KEEFE

7-24



## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS







## Alarming Rate of False Positives Plagues Lung Cancer Screening

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 74-year-old female who smoked a pack a day for 40-plus years, having quit smoking about 18 years ago. As a precaution, I asked my primary doctor to order a screening CT scan, knowing that I'm a candidate for lung cancer. The results showed a 3-mm nodule in one lung, and I was advised not to worry and that my doctor would order another CT scan in six months. I can't help but wonder if this is cancer and if an oncologist, after six months, will ask me why I waited so long to see him. -- T.W.

ANSWER: Medical professionals have been attempting to screen for lung cancer for decades. Chest X-rays proved insensitive: By the time cancer could be seen on X-ray, it was usually too late to do anything about it. CT scans are much more sensitive (maybe too sensitive; see below), and studies have shown that some lives will be saved with a screening program. However, the number of people who would benefit is relatively small. 256 moderate-to-

heavy smokers would need yearly screening for three years in order to prevent one lung cancer death.

There are two other significant concerns about lung cancer screening. The first is the issue you have now: an abnormal result and what to do about it. It's extremely common. Almost 25% of scans will be abnormal, and 96% of the abnormal results will be false positives. But it will require multiple scans, and sometimes an invasive procedure, to prove it. This means a great deal of anxiety among people who get the type of result you did.

The small size of your nodule means the risk that this nodule is cancerous is much lower than 1%. A follow-up scan is the usual recommendation, and if the nodule is the same size or smaller, the chance of it being cancerous is very close to zero. You should have had a careful explanation of the likelihood of false positive results before getting the scan. You also should have been warned of the possible need for a biopsy and the possible financial costs associated with follow-up testing.

The second concern is that current smokers who consider screening should receive intensive advice and help in quitting smoking. A negative CT scan is not a "clean bill of health" for a smoker, and quitting remains to be the single most important thing most smokers can do for their overall health.

\*\*\*

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am 90 years old. My husband and I donated blood as often as needed -- over 100 times -- but last week, my doctor said I tested positive for syphilis. I about fell off my chair. I haven't slept for four nights. Have you ever heard of this? -- E.

ANSWER: The screening test for syphilis, called the VDRL or RPR test, is not particularly accurate. About 1-2% of people will have a false positive result, meaning that the test is positive, but they do not have syphilis. There are many possible causes, such as infection and autoimmune diseases like lupus, but some people, particularly older people, will have a positive test for no identifiable reason.

In your case, I am sure it is a false positive, but your doctor may do a more specific test, such as an FTA-ABS, to be 100% sure. You shouldn't let it keep you awake at night.

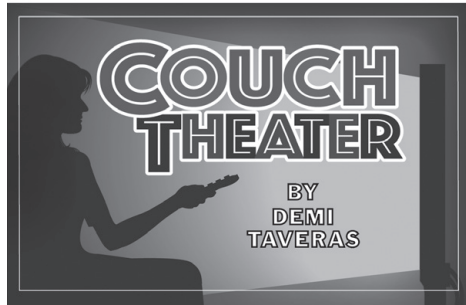
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).

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**Promo for "Purple Hearts"** Courtesy of Netflix

"Lightyear" (PG) -- As a spinoff of the "Toy Story" franchise, this movie focuses on Space Ranger Buzz Lightyear, the real astronaut who would come to serve as inspiration for the Buzz Lightyear toy that we've all come to know very well. Human Buzz and his Star Command crew have been marooned on the planet of T'Kani Prime for a year, as they attempt to find a way home with hyperspace fuel. Buzz volunteers to test the fuel, not knowing how life-altering each test will be for the future; thus, an adventure of time travel ensues, all leading up to a climatic face-off with Emperor Zurg. Chris Evans is the voice of Buzz in "Lightyear," premiering Aug. 3. (Disney+)

"A Day to Die" (R) -- If you're in the mood for high stakes and action, look no further than this new heist film out now. Kevin Dillon ("Entourage") portrays Connor, a disgraced police officer who used to be part of a ghost squad. Finding himself with a large debt to drug kingpin Tyrone Pettis, Connor is forced to take desperate measures to pay up when Tyrone kidnaps Connor's pregnant wife, Candice. So, Connor assembles his old ghost squad teammates to pull off a few drug heists to settle his debt and save Candice. Newly retired action-film legend Bruce Willis also co-stars as the police chief, Alston. (Hulu)

"Purple Hearts" (NR) -- Aspiring musician Cassie (Sofia Carson) and third-generation Marine Luke (Nicholas Galitzine) hatch an idea to get married, even though they aren't romantically involved. With Luke's military benefits, Cassie -- whose health problems have been holding her back from creating music -- is eligible to receive a year of free health insurance. So, they decide to get hitched, just before Luke gets deployed. But when Luke gets wounded in action and faces a long road of recovery, Cassie must step up to be the wife she agreed to be in his time of need. As Cassie and Luke learn to rely on each other as a true couple does, unexpected love begins to bloom, and the two must grapple with the fact that falling in love with each other wasn't in the original plan. (Netflix)

"Last Night in Soho" (R) -- The latest movie from director Edgar Wright ("Baby Driver," "Ant-Man" and "Hot Fuzz") takes on uncharted territory in Wright's repertoire as his first film in the horror/thriller genres. In the film, a young woman named Ellie (Thomasin McKenzie) moves to London to study fashion, when she begins having vivid dreams that always take place in the 1960s. Ellie's dreams also include Sandie (Anya Taylor-Joy), a fashionable woman who dreams of becoming a singer, and Jack (Matt Smith), Sandie's romantic interest. These life-like dreams quickly turn from fun to sinister, when the dreams blur into Ellie's real life as visions, and she envisions a terrifying murder. It's just a matter of time before Ellie realizes that the story unfolding before her is far from imaginary. (HBO Max)



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1. What is the whole title of the song "Exordium & Terminus"?
2. Name the three big hits that came out of the film "Grease."
3. Which group released "I Don't Want to Live Without You" in 1988?
4. Who was Casey Kasem?
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "I turn around in the still of the room, Knowing this is when I'm gonna make my move."

Answers

1. "In the Year 2525 (Exordium & Terminus)," by Zager and Evans in 1969. Oddly enough, the duo never released another song that even reached the charts.

2. Frankie Valli's "Grease," "You're the One That I Want," a duet by John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John and "Hopelessly Devoted to You," by Newton-John alone, in 1978.

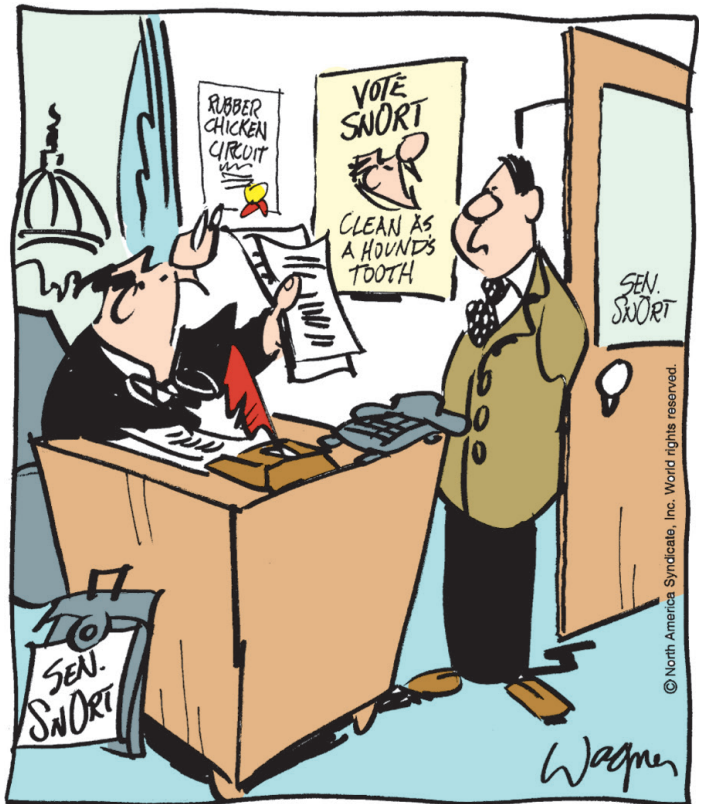
3. Foreigner, on their "Inside Information" album. It topped the Adult Contemporary chart, the group's only No. 1 hit.

4. Kasem was a DJ who hosted famous radio shows such as "American Top 40." He was on the air for nearly 40 years.

5. "Piano in the Dark," by Brenda Russell in 1988. In the song a woman tries to leave her lover, but loves his piano playing too much.

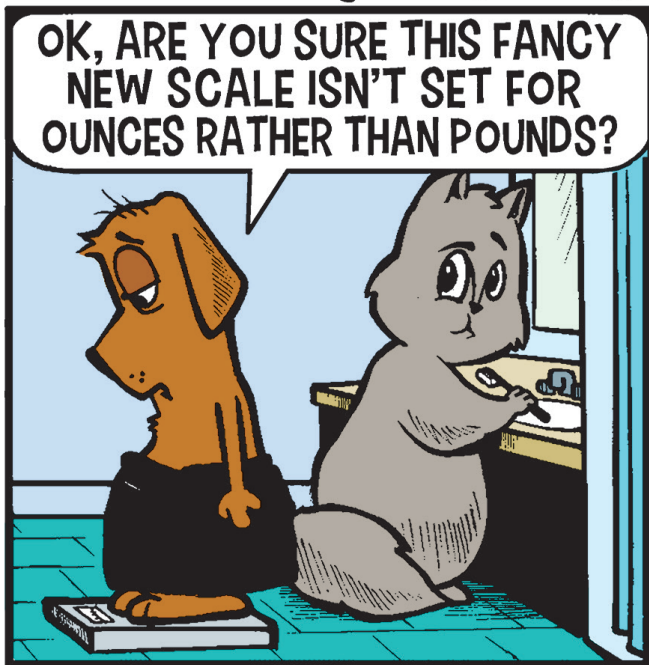
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## GRIN and BEAR IT <sup>Wagner</sup>



"How do I feel about this proposal, Figby?"

## Just Like Cats & Dogs <sup>by Dave T. Phipps</sup>

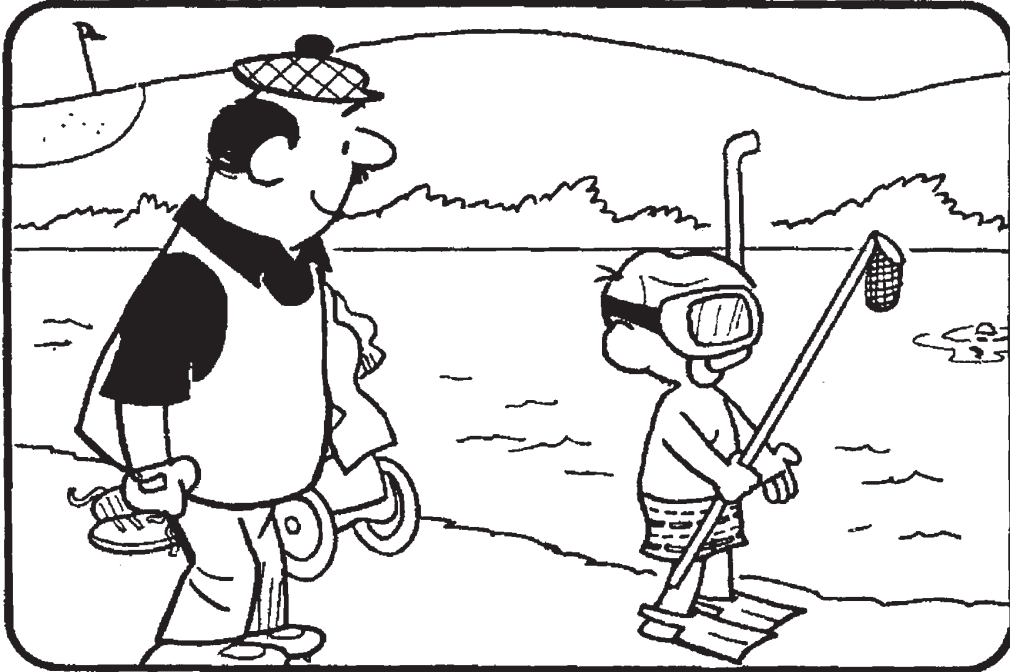


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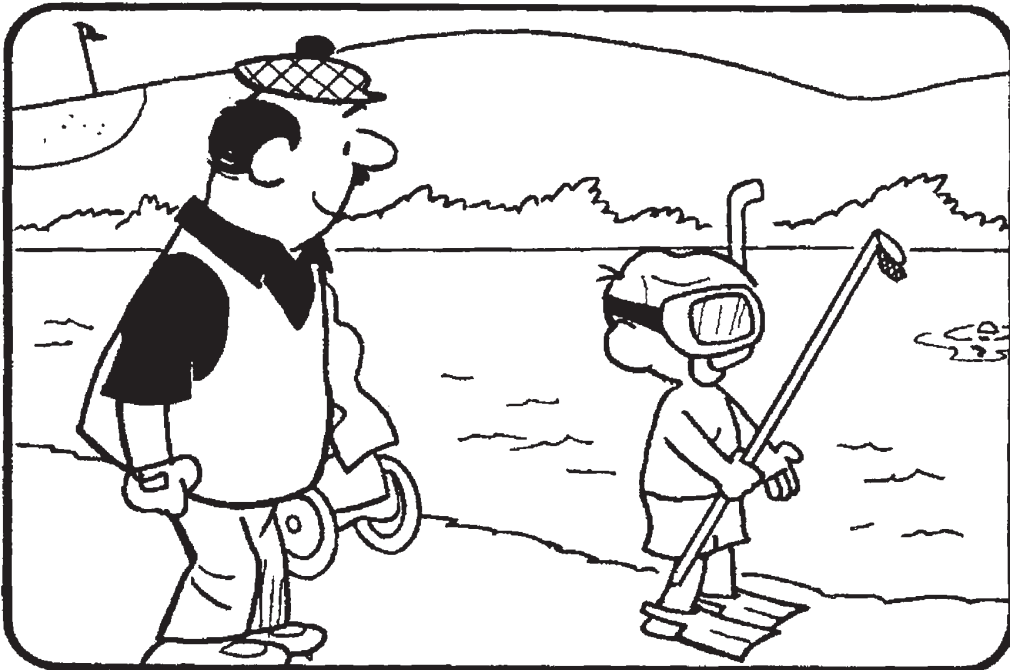
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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Neckline differs. 2. Shoes are missing. 3. Towel end is missing. 4. Snorkel is shorter. 5. Trunks differ. 6. Net is smaller.



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\* M.F. in Washington writes: "For taking to a party: Melt vanilla chips in the microwave, adding by handfuls and heating for about 15 seconds at a time. After 15 seconds, stir and repeat until chips have melted. Then dip small clusters of green grapes into the melted vanilla chips."

\* "I read your tips in a Rochelle, Illinois, newspaper. The paper is sent to me by a friend, and I love the tips. Here is mine: For homemade spray and wash, mix 2 cups of water, 2 tablespoons of white vinegar, 1 tablespoon of baking soda and 1 tablespoon of dish soap." -- K.W. in Tennessee

\* When purchasing school supplies, remember that paper, pencils, etc., typically aren't on sale mid-year, so stocking up is a good idea. Just make sure the

deal you are getting is a good one. Then put it away for distribution later!

\* I lay out my school clothes and even my hairbrush and stuff to get ready. I put my shoes and socks by the front door. I am always ready before my sister, and I get to watch TV while she is running around. -- R.G. in Florida

\* Pint-size water bottles are great for refilling with milk. The milk boxes at the grocery store are so expensive, and this way, I can control how chocolatey the chocolate milk is. -- C.C. in Oregon

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

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# Groton Daily Independent

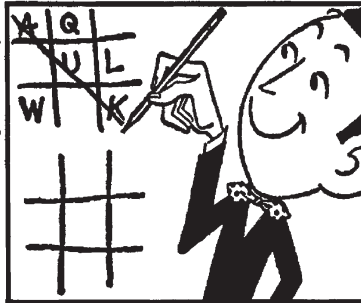
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**FIND TWINS!** Our viewer friend claims that two of the 12 fish in this tank look enough alike to be twins. Which two? One twin is at bottom left corner.

## Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



### APPLY NEW TACTICS TO TICK-TACK-TOE

YOU CAN have some fun playing this challenging variation of tick-tack-toe.

Here's how:

Two players take turns inserting letters rather than X's and O's in an attempt to complete a three-letter word in a straight or diagonal line.

Words may read either left or right, up or down.

Opponents, of course, try to block formation of words at every turn. First player to complete an acceptable three-letter word wins.

Any letter of the alphabet may be used. Proper names are excluded.

Make up your own rules if necessary.

**SAY WHAT!** Financial circles may say this or that, and folks may not pay attention. But there are financial circles to which attention is paid every day. What are they? Half dollars, quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies.

**SQUARE DEAL!** Challenge: You are asked to insert digits 0, 1, 2 and 3 in the diagram at right in such a way that each three-number row across, vertically and diagonally totals six.

0			0
	1	1	
	2	2	
3			3

Properly distributed, each of the four digits will appear in all vertical and diagonal—but not in horizontal—rows.

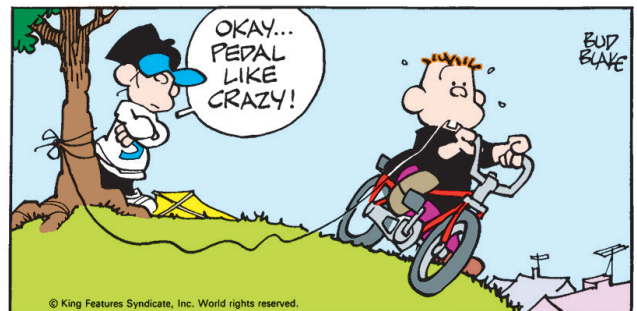
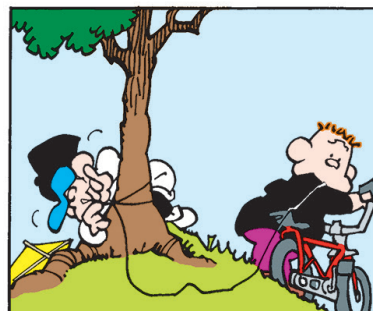
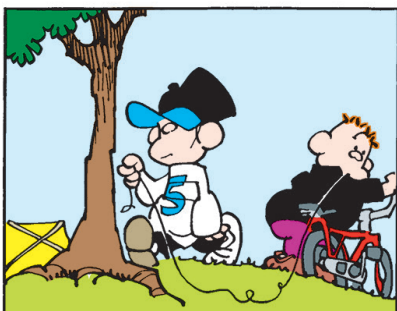
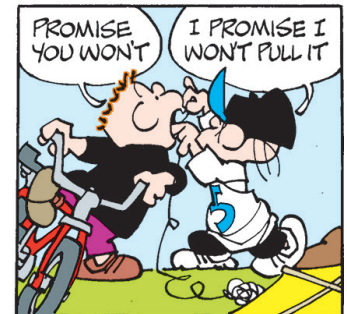
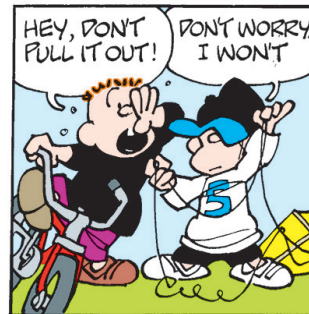
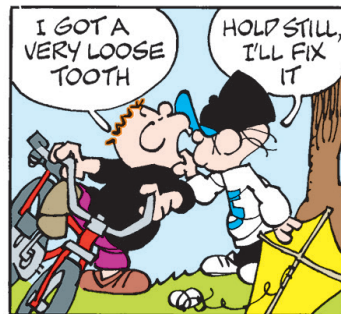
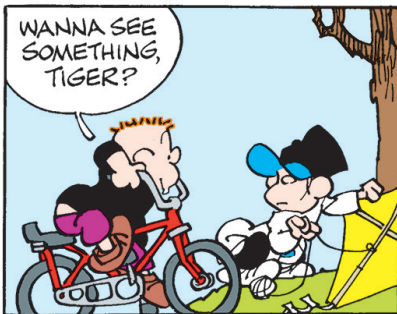
Present numbers remain in place.

Time limit: 60 seconds.

Top row, across: 0,3,3,0; next: 2,1,1,2; next: 1,2,2,1; bottom: 3,0,0,3.

## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE





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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Witty one
- 4 Brings in
- 9 Rail
- 12 Mess up
- 13 Unconventional
- 14 Quarterback Manning
- 15 Airhead
- 17 Heavy weight
- 18 Verily
- 19 Made finer, as flour
- 21 Rope parts
- 24 "Holy —!"
- 25 Prefix with gram or center
- 26 Spasm
- 28 Picture puzzle
- 31 Towering

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
15			16							17		
			18				19		20			
21	22	23					24					
25				26		27		28			29	30
31			32		33		34		35			
36				37		38		39		40		
		41			42		43		44			
45	46						47					
48				49		50				51	52	53
54				55						56		
57				58						59		

- 33 "Eureka!"
- 35 Nickelodeon's "Explorer"
- 36 Politico Stevenson
- 38 Branch
- 40 Klutz
- 41 Village People hit
- 43 Place of worship
- 45 Thief
- 47 Equal (Pref.)
- 48 Terre Haute sch.
- 49 Inflatable pool toy
- 54 Prof's degree
- 55 Point of view
- 56 Noon, on a sundial
- 57 Blue
- 58 Portals
- 59 Moray, for one
- 6 — glance
- 7 Spectrum creator
- 8 Soon-to-be grad
- 9 Cartoon vamp
- 10 Medicinal plant
- 11 Peel
- 16 Coloring agent
- 20 Skedaddled
- 21 Greek salad cheese
- 22 Apple tablet
- 23 Melville sailor
- 27 Dance syllable
- 29 Russian river
- 30 Ump's call
- 32 Gentle soul
- 34 Newspaper piece
- 37 Headache aid
- 39 Fits together
- 42 Where the action is
- 44 Unruly group
- 45 Tears
- 46 Job-safety org.
- 50 Literary rep
- 51 Chopping tool
- 52 Fish story
- 53 Dogpatch adjective

### DOWN

- 1 Entanglement
- 2 "Entourage" character
- 3 Spike's warning
- 4 Actor De Niro
- 5 Turkey is part of it

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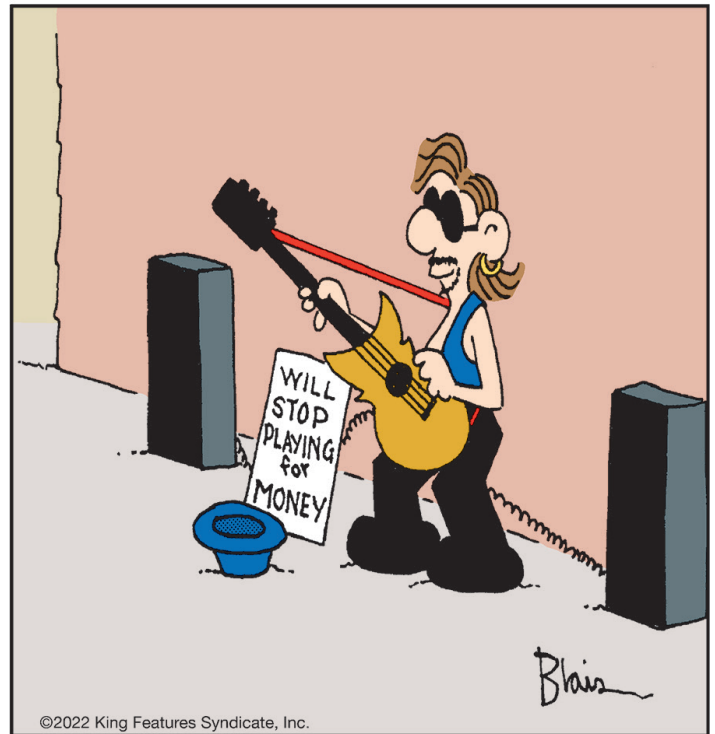
## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

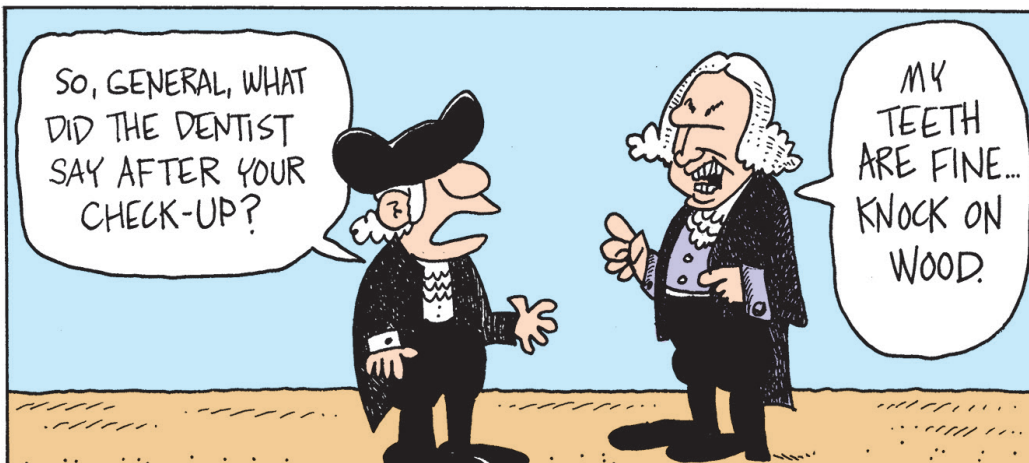
## LAFF - A - DAY



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## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



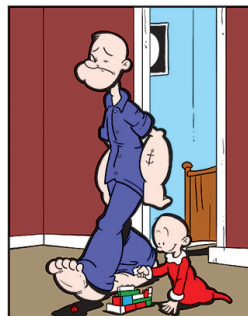
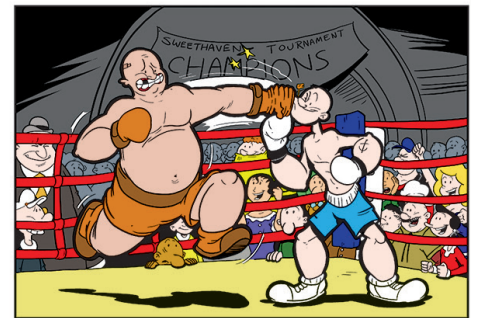
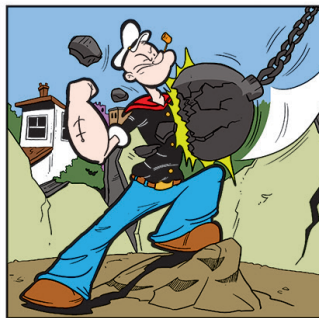
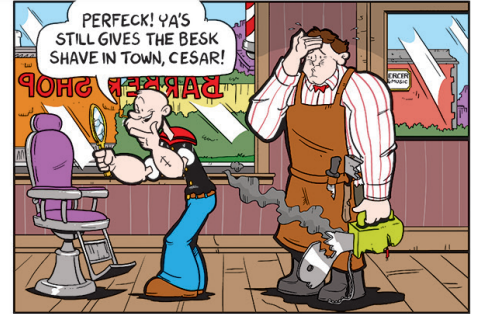
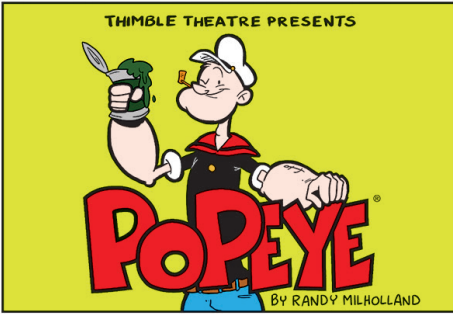
GEORGE WASHINGTON GOES TO THE DENTIST.

KOPERVAS

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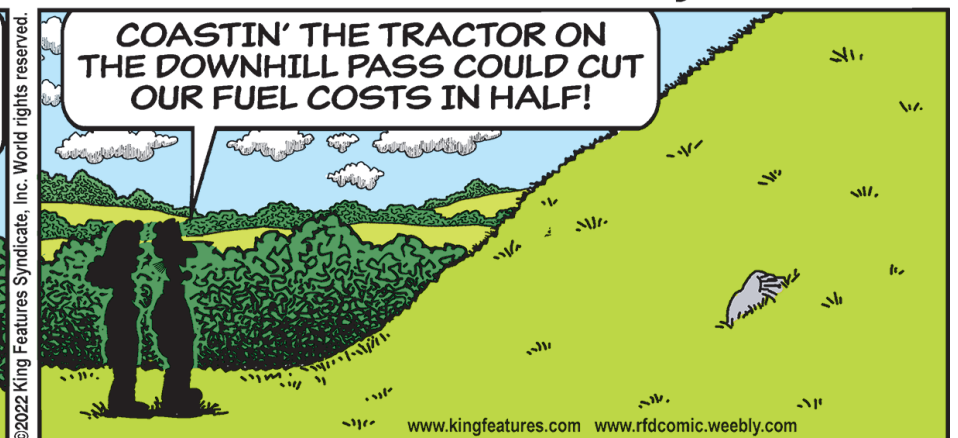
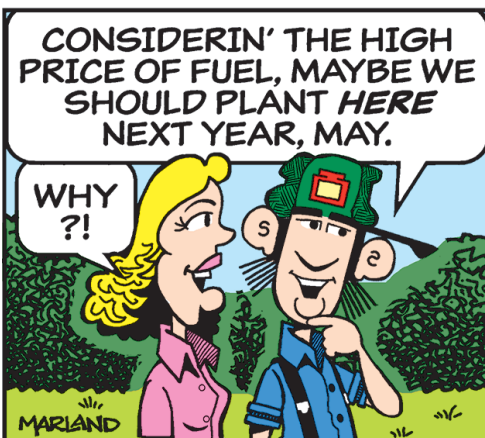
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## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



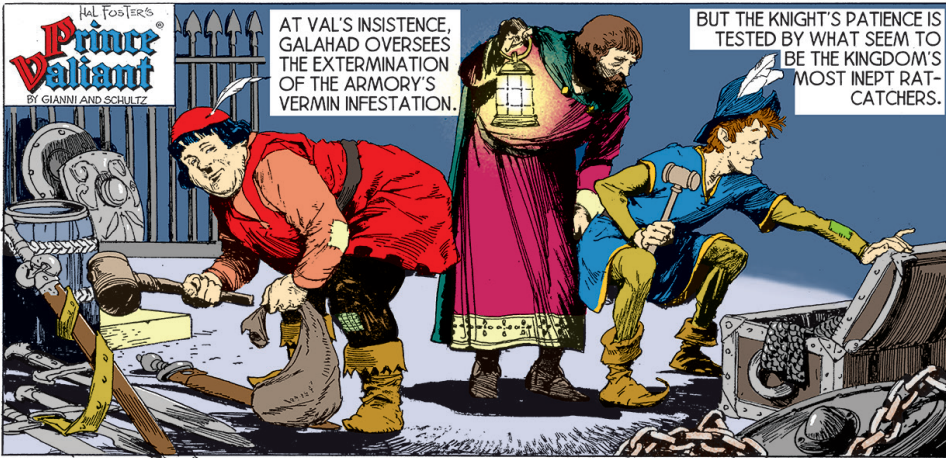
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# Groton Daily Independent

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Hal Foster's  
**Prince Valiant**  
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ

AT VAL'S INSISTENCE, GALAHAD OVERSEES THE EXTERMINATION OF THE ARMORY'S VERMIN INFESTATION.

BUT THE KNIGHT'S PATIENCE IS TESTED BY WHAT SEEM TO BE THE KINGDOM'S MOST INEPT RAT-CATCHERS.

LITTLE DOES GALAHAD KNOW THAT VAL IS SECRETLY AUGMENTING THE ARMORY'S MEAGER RAT POPULATION, AND PURPOSELY WORKING TO EXTEND THE EXTERMINATORS' EMPLOY.



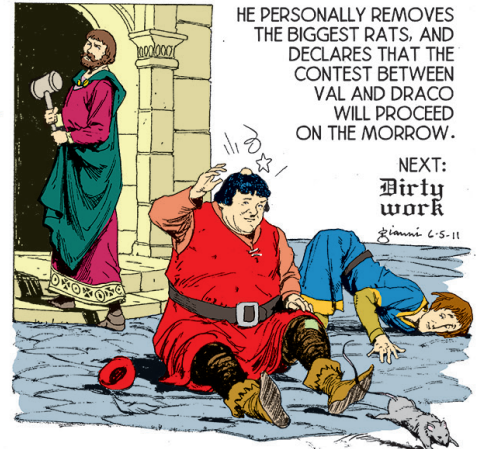
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THE BOYS ARE CERTAINLY IN NO HURRY TO TERMINATE THIS LUCRATIVE ASSIGNMENT.



AFTER SIX DAYS, AND ONE RODENT TO SHOW, GALAHAD HAS HAD HIS FILL OF DELAY.

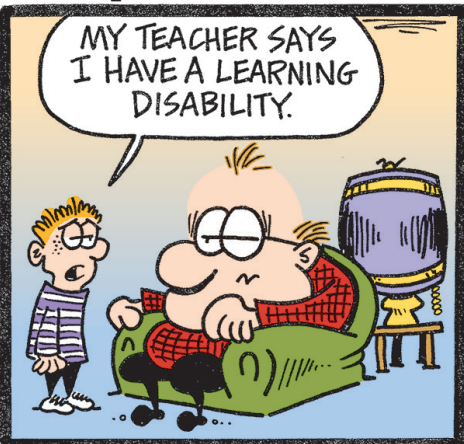


HE PERSONALLY REMOVES THE BIGGEST RATS, AND DECLARES THAT THE CONTEST BETWEEN VAL AND DRACO WILL PROCEED ON THE MORROW.

NEXT:  
**Dirty work**  
Gianni 6-5-11

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



MY TEACHER SAYS I HAVE A LEARNING DISABILITY.



WHAT DID SHE SAY I COULD DO TO HELP?



SHE SAID YOU SHOULD LET ME DO MY OWN HOMEWORK.

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Pickering

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Games for Brain Training

Cognitive brain training can keep our cognitive abilities functioning better for 10 years.

The Advanced Cognitive Training for Independent and Vital Elderly (ACTIVE) is not a new study, but it bears looking at for what it offers seniors in terms of cognitive abilities.

The government-funded study followed 2,832 seniors with an average age of 73 after they completed 10 training sessions and four booster sessions 11 and 35 months after the initial training. Participants were divided into four groups: memory training, reasoning training, speed of processing training and a control group with no training. What the study aimed to look at was cognitive abilities and performance in everyday activities, and they collected updated data at the one, two, three, five and 10-year points in the study.

What researchers concluded was that seniors reported less decline in cognitive abilities for 10 years in the reasoning and speed portions, not the memory, which dropped off after five years. All this in only 10 training sessions plus four booster sessions?

Authentic brain training programs can be found online but generally require a monthly fee. There are others, however, that we can sample for free to create our own training program. Try the dozen brain games at [www.mentalup.co/blog/free-brain-games-for-seniors](http://www.mentalup.co/blog/free-brain-games-for-seniors) to see if you like these types of challenges. Look online for "free senior brain games," and you'll find many sites with free games to play without having to give any personal information or pay a fee. The best "brain stretching" might come from doing a variety of games. Choose from crossword, jigsaw, sudoku, chess, mazes, word puzzles, logic and more, switching around from day to day. Or go to Amazon.com and look for puzzle books. Look at the sample pages to see if they look too easy or too hard.

For a great challenge, look for online Scrabble games where you play against the computer!

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1. What member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2022 was known as the "Father of Instant Replay"?

2. Name the Boston Celtics star who was stabbed 11 times at a nightclub in September 2000, but still started every game in the 2000-01 season.

3. What sports apparel and equipment company was founded in Baltimore in 1996 by Kevin Plank, a former University of Maryland football player?

4. Tadej Pogacar, winner of cycling's Tour de France in 2020 and 2021, hails from what country?

5. According to the American Cornhole Association's regulations and standards, what is the diameter of the hole in an official cornhole board?

6. Joe Sakic won two Stanley Cups (1996, 2001) as a player and one as general manager (2022) with what NHL franchise?

7. In the first round of the 1988 NBA Draft, the New York Knicks selected Rod Strickland, a star point guard from what university?



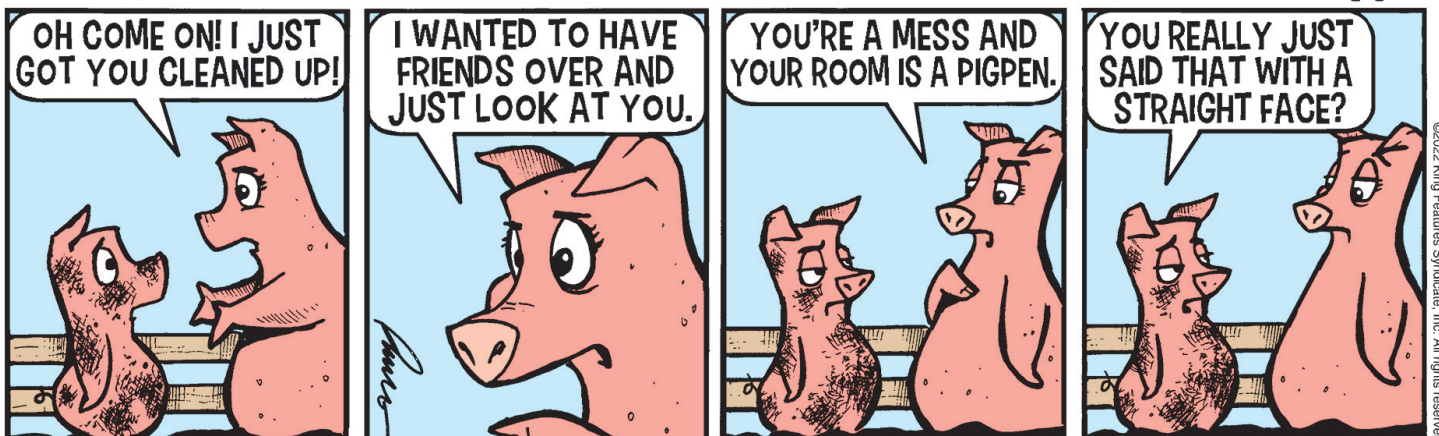
by Ryan A. Berenz

## Answers

1. Art McNally.
  2. Paul Pierce.
  3. Under Armour.
  4. Slovenia.
  5. 6 inches.
  6. The Colorado Avalanche.
  7. DePaul University.
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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps







## A Sly Solution to the Phantom Pet Pooper

DEAR PAW'S corner: I read your recent column about the homeowner who was struggling to find out which owner was allowing their dog to poop on their lawn. Your ideas were pretty good, but I have another one that they might consider.

I run a small bed and breakfast, and dog poop on the front lawn is a huge concern to me. No guest wants to see that, much less accidentally step in it! I installed cameras and caught a couple of neighbors' dogs in the act, but the problem continued. Then I noticed something. My landscaper applies a fertilizer and pest control to the lawn in the spring and fall, and he puts up a little sign that warns people not to

allow pets or children onto the grass until the application dries. When that sign is up, no neighbors come near my property. I asked the landscaper to leave the sign up year-round. I haven't had a single "deposit" since! I hope this sneaky idea helps. -- Vince in Saratoga, New York

Dear VINCE: That is a genius idea. And while it is a little sneaky, it controls the pet waste problem in a non-confrontational way. Hopefully, no one calls your bluff!

Another option is to periodically treat your front lawn with a dog-repelling scent. These products, both sprays and granules, are available at pet and home-improvement stores and online. Spritz the borders of the lawn and plants or spread the granules around on a dry day that isn't windy.

You can even make homemade repellent by mixing one part cayenne pepper with 10 parts water and spraying around the yard. (Do not spritz these repellants directly at a neighbor's dog!)

Send your tips, comments or questions to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com).

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

\* A fan of the Detroit Pistons who also happened to design the video game NBA Jam detested the Chicago Bulls so much that he embedded a special code causing them to miss last-second shots when playing the Pistons in the game.

\* Heat waves kill more Americans than tornadoes, hurricanes, or floods.

\* In nuclear physics, a "shake" (equivalent to 10 nanoseconds) is an informal unit of time measuring events in a nuclear explosion.

\* Fans of the Philadelphia Eagles have a longstanding reputation for rowdiness, but when a 1997 game between the team and the San Francisco 49ers saw around 60 fistfights in the stands, with someone even shooting a flare gun, the response from both worried families and local law enforcement prompted the installation of "Eagles Court," a functional courtroom and jail at Veterans Stadium.

\* Calling a man bald qualifies as sexual harassment in the United Kingdom.

\* When Salvador Dali bought a castle for his wife, Gala, in 1968, she accepted it with one condition -- that the artist would gain written permission from her before visiting.

\* One of the oldest recorded tattoo ink recipes consists of Egyptian pine bark, corroded bronze, vinegar, vitriol, leek juice and insect eggs.

\* The movie term "blockbuster" was originally a military term to describe bombs in World War II that could destroy an entire city block.

\* You've undoubtedly watched the Oscars at some point, but have you heard of the Pawscars? That's an annual show put on by American Humane, celebrating the "furry, winged, and scaled" actors of TV and film, both past and present.

\* As he lay dying of blood poisoning, the last words of whiskey distiller Jack Daniel were, fittingly, "One last drink, please."

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "The past is the only dead thing that smells sweet." -- Cyril Connolly

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## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

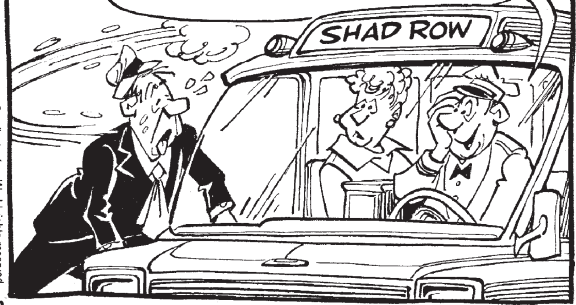
DUMB QUESTION NO. 1,521--OR  
WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE  
I'M DOING?  
DEPT--



## BY AL SCADUTO

NEVER  
IN OUR  
LIFETIME--

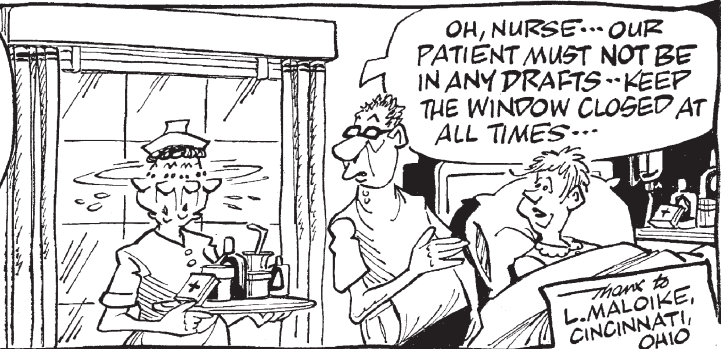
I SAW YOU TWO BLOCKS BACK  
RUNNING TO CATCH ME--SO I HELD  
UP THE BUS JUST FOR YOU--DON'T  
RUSH--TAKE YOUR TIME, MISTER--



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Thank to V. CAGGIANO, HOUSTON, TEXAS

THINGS THEY JUST  
DON'T TEACH AT  
NURSING SCHOOL--



## The Garden Bug



### Heat stress in plants

If the temperatures in your area are staying higher than normal, it's tempting to water your outdoor plants more often than you usually do to protect them from the heat. But this may not be helpful!

Heat stress is not the same as drought, and too much water in the soil can cause fungal diseases and root rot. It may be more prudent to refresh your mulch: a three-inch-thick layer over the root zone can insulate the roots against the heat and help retain moisture in the soil longer.

Heat stress is not the same as drought, and too much water in the soil can cause fungal diseases and root rot. It may be more prudent to refresh your mulch: a three-inch-thick layer over the root zone can insulate the roots against the heat and help retain moisture in the soil longer.

— Brenda Weaver

Source: [theprudentgarden.com](http://theprudentgarden.com)



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by Freddy Groves

## New Number for Suicide Crisis Line: 988

Across the country there is a new mental health suicide and crisis line phone number: 988. The Department of Veterans Affairs has merged services with that number to provide an additional resource for veterans to call when they're in crisis.

A result of the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020, the bill was passed and signed off as law. It's startling, however, to learn that this bill was first created and sponsored by 34 U.S. senators in 2019. (You can go here to learn whether your state's senators were among those supporting this legislation: [www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2661](http://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2661).)

Additionally, it was signed into law in 2020.

But these things take time. It wasn't until the middle of this year, 2022, that the 988 number was hooked up to the VA crisis line. During the two years, the VA beefed up the number of employees and responding staff by the hundreds. It hooks up 500 suicide prevention coordinators at the VA, which ensures that follow-up care is part of the care a veteran receives.

You can call that 988 number, then press 1 for the Veterans Crisis Line. Or you can call the original number: 800-273-8255. Or you can text to 838255. And you also can instantly chat at [www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat).

There are a number of options to help veterans who need suicide crisis help, and it's immediate. Somebody will answer 24/7, and you'll be asked a couple of quick questions, such as whether you are the veteran or if you're calling for a veteran who is at risk of suicide or is in immediate danger. It's all confidential and free. By the next day someone local (your suicide prevention coordinator) will contact you and get you lined up for continued support.

Go to the "Get Help Now" link above and click around, especially on "How It Works."

Remember, you don't have to be enrolled in any VA programs for health care or benefits. If you are a veteran, this service is for you. You're not alone.

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## Wishing Well®

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

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. AD SLOGANS: Which product's advertising slogan is "Look, Ma, no cavities!"?
2. MOVIES: The movie "300" is based on which famous historical battle?
3. U.S. PRESIDENTS: How many presidents have served more than two terms?
4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How far can a skunk's spray reach?
5. GEOGRAPHY: What is the southernmost major city on the continent of Africa?
6. LANGUAGE: What is a funambulist?
7. HISTORY: Who was the first woman to complete the Boston Marathon (unofficially)?
8. TELEVISION: What was the name of the cruise ship on the sitcom "The Love Boat"?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which colors make up the five-ring Olympic symbol?
10. FOOD & DRINK: Which plant produces cacao beans, which are used to make chocolate?

### Answers

1. Crest.
2. The Battle of Thermopylae.
3. One. Franklin D. Roosevelt.
4. About 10-20 feet.
5. Cape Town.
6. Tightrope walker.
7. Bobbi Gibb, 1966. The race was opened to women in 1972.
8. Pacific Princess.
9. Blue, yellow, red, green and black.
10. Cacao trees.

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South Dakota Governor

## Kristi Noem



**South Dakota:** *Under God, the People Rule*

### 50 Years of Title IX

Nostalgia can be bittersweet. Sometimes I miss playing high school basketball – working with teammates; hearing the crowd; the pride of seeing hustle pay off. I loved watching my kids play sports, and I also loved watching Bryon coach, but there’s nothing that’s quite like the thrill of competing yourself – of taking on the opponent and emerging victorious.

Sports teach us a lot of life lessons. Victory teaches us the benefit of hard work, the payoff that comes with pushing just a little bit harder for a little bit longer. Defeat teaches lessons, too. We often learn more from mistakes than from success. In both victory and defeat, sports teach our kids teamwork, which will be invaluable for the rest of their lives.

Earlier this summer, Title IX turned 50. Title IX is the law that guarantees equal opportunity for biological girls in school and in sports. Basically, it guarantees fairness and equal opportunity for girls to learn the lessons of victory, defeat, and teamwork—in the classroom and on the field.

There are some today who want to pervert that and allow biological males to compete in girls’ sports. South Dakota has been clear – there is no way we will allow that to happen.

This year, I wrote and proposed the toughest law in the nation to guarantee that only girls play in girls’ sports in South Dakota at both the K-12 and collegiate level. That bill was the first one that I signed this year, and we held a celebration in the Capitol Rotunda.

But now, the Biden Administration is attempting to undermine fairness for girls by requiring schools to allow boys to play in girls’ sports or else lose lunch money for our kids. Yes, the same Biden Administration that caused a formula shortage for our babies is now literally trying to take food off our kids’ plates. South Dakota isn’t going to stand for it.

This past week, 14 Republican Governors joined me in promising the Biden Administration that if they move forward with this ridiculous interpretation of Title IX, we will take action to protect our kids. After so many calls to “trust the science,” the Biden Administration should recognize the basic biological differences between boys and girls.

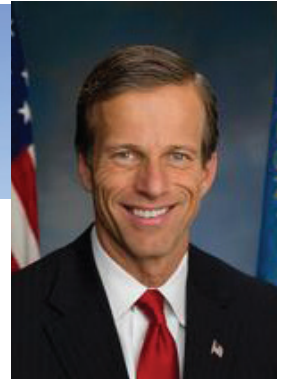
Those differences are a wonderful part of life. Some of them are subtle, others profound. And one of the places that they are most evident is on the field of competition. It isn’t complicated – it’s a matter of basic fairness.

South Dakota will always stand for our kids and grandkids. They are the future, and their sports are more than just games for children – they are the building block for lessons and skills that will last a lifetime.

In South Dakota, we believe only girls should play girls’ sports. And we are going to keep it that way.



**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## **Southern Border Crisis is a National Security Nightmare**

In June, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) encountered 207,416 individuals attempting to cross our southern border illegally – the highest June number ever recorded. April and May successively set records for the highest numbers for any month, ever. During the 2021 fiscal year, CBP encountered a record number of individuals attempting to cross our southern border illegally – 1,734,686, to be precise.

In just the first nine months of this fiscal year, we have already exceeded last year's record number of apprehensions. The situation at our southern border remains out of control, although you'd never know it to hear the president and his administration. The flood of illegal immigration is so great that huge numbers of CBP officers have been pulled off the border to process migrants, further straining enforcement.

A May article from the Economist reported that, "Around 60% of CBP agents have been assigned to process migrants, taking them away from field work." That, of course, leaves our borders wide open to illegal activity, including the drug trafficking that is flooding our country with fentanyl. It also means that even with all the apprehensions the Border Patrol has made, many more individuals are getting through unstoppped. It is a security nightmare.

This ongoing humanitarian and national security crisis is the result of a president who hasn't taken responsibility to protect our border and seriously enforce our immigration laws. On his very first day in office, President Biden rescinded the declaration of a national emergency at our southern border. He halted construction of the border wall and revoked a Trump administration order that called for the government to faithfully execute our immigration laws. Then, his Department of Homeland Security issued guidelines pausing deportations, except under certain conditions – again, all on his first day in office. President Biden effectively declared to the world that the United States' borders were open.

The president has also sought to significantly limit the ability of Immigration and Customs Enforcement to enforce immigration laws. Deportations dropped precipitously during fiscal year 2021, as did arrests in the interior of the country. Illegal immigration – especially the kind of out-of-control illegal immigration we're currently experiencing – has serious consequences. With CBP overstretched, it is easier for bad actors, including gang members, drug traffickers, and human smugglers, who prey on vulnerable migrants, to cross the border into our country. President Biden has talked about wanting to build a "fair, orderly, and humane" immigration system. There is nothing humane about our current situation.

Encouraging illegal immigration, as the president's policies have done, has contributed to a humanitarian crisis that saw at least 557 migrants die attempting to cross the southern border during fiscal year 2021. Just last month, 53 migrants died in an un-air-conditioned tractor-trailer after being smuggled across the border. It was a sobering reminder of the human cost of policies that enable illegal immigration.

Open borders also put our communities at risk. Our country is currently in the midst of a fentanyl crisis, with fentanyl overdoses now the leading cause of death for U.S. adults between the ages of 18 and 45. Most of it is being trafficked across our southern border, facilitated by this ongoing security crisis. The president may think his border policies are progressive and compassionate, but they are dangerous.

The bottom line is that the Biden administration's policies encourage individuals to undertake the often-dangerous journey from their home countries to our southern border. I will continue to hold the administration accountable for its policies that continue to fuel this dangerous and unsustainable crisis.

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CONGRESSMAN

**DUSTY JOHNSON**

Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



## **Recess, Recess, Read All About It!**

The month of August usually reminds people of the first day of school. But for the House of Representatives, August kicks off the traditional District Work Period or "August Recess". Historically, August Recess was implemented because there was no air conditioning in the Senate Chamber and members and staff couldn't handle the swampy heat of Washington. Members don't have the month "off," but we get to spend the majority of August in our states and districts. A majority of House and Senate Members come home every weekend after voting in Washington, D.C. – me included – but an extended stay in our home state is great.

I'll be spending my August talking to folks on the ground at town halls, touring businesses, meeting with constituents, and hosting roundtables for the upcoming Farm Bill. You can't represent a district, or in my case a state, well if you don't know what's going on back home. August is a great time to do that.

I love my job representing the great state of South Dakota in Washington, but there's no place like home.

I'm hosting a number of town halls across the state to hear from you and answer your questions. If you're in Rapid City, Brookings, Mobridge, or Sioux Falls, keep your eyes and ears out for when I will be hosting a town hall in your area.

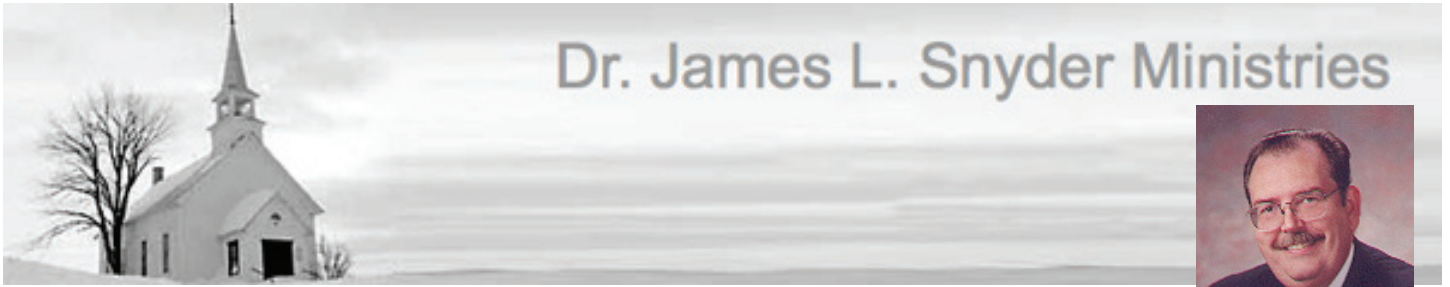
I will also be hosting Vietnam Veterans Pinning Ceremonies throughout the state to recognize, honor, and "welcome home" those who served in Vietnam. If you or someone you know would like to participate, contact my office and we would be happy to get you on the list.

There is a chance the House will get called back into session now that Senate Democrats have introduced a \$739 billion reconciliation bill – if so, I'll come back to Washington to oppose that legislation.

Make sure you are following along on social media and are signed up for my newsletter to get alerted when I will be in your area!

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## Do I Need to Repeat That?

Of all the holidays during the year that I like, my birthday is at the bottom of the list. Now that I'm at my current age, I prefer not to be reminded that I'm getting older. All a birthday does for me is tell me I'm just getting older. Who wants to be reminded of that?

Then, the worst part of a birthday is all the candles on the top of the cake.

I'm not sure who came up with the idea of putting candles on a birthday cake. They probably were having a very slow day and didn't have anything more to think about.

When I was young, a birthday cake with candles was very exciting. Now that I am older, I don't have as much excitement in celebrating my birthday. A birthday cake with candles only reminds me that I'm old. Thanks a lot!

When I was young, they would put as many candles on the cake as my birthday. Now, they can't find a cake big enough to contain all my candles. Thanks a lot!

The problem with celebrating your birthday is everybody asks you that one horrible question. "How old are you this year?"

I usually tell them I'm 12 months older than last year, but that doesn't float any balloons on my birthday.

One thing happened this year on my birthday, which was sad. My uncle, who was 91, died in the hospital. So in a sense, he did me a favor because now, on that birthday, people will talk about my uncle's death and his memories rather than how old I am. If I see him in heaven, I will shake his hand and say, "Thanks."

As usual, this year, on my birthday, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I went out to celebrate at our favorite restaurant. At first, I was afraid she would tell the waitress that it was my birthday, and then they would all gather around and sing happy birthday to me.

Fortunately for me, that did not happen. That was one birthday present that I really enjoyed.

We had a very lovely dinner together, and as we were finishing our dessert, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me rather strangely and said, "Do you feel old?"

I'm not sure what she meant by that, but looking at her, I reached out, took hold of her arm, gently squeezed it, and said, "I feel old now."

I was smiling, but she was not smiling. I'm still smiling about that.

It's not every day that I can catch her on a question like that.

When I got over that little routine, I looked at her and said, "Do you mind if I ask you a very serious question on my birthday today?"

I don't always get an opportunity to ask questions, so I thought this would be a good birthday present.

"Of course," she said, looking at me smiling. "Ask me any question you want to ask."

I should've known she was setting me up, but it was my birthday, and I thought birthdays carry certain exemptions.

"Okay," I said as seriously as possible. "I've read where the average woman speaks 20,000 words a day, and the average man speaks only 7,000 words a day. Can you tell me why?"

She looked at me very sternly and said, "Do you want to celebrate another birthday?"



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I knew I was in trouble, but then she cleared her throat and said, "I'll answer that question for you. This will be my birthday present to you this year."

Maybe, just maybe, I escaped persecution along this line.

"It is a very simple question to answer." She cleared her throat, looked at me with one of her looks, and said, "The reason a woman speaks 20,000 words a day and a man speaks only 7000 words is because the woman has to repeat herself three times before the man hears what she is saying."

With that, she stared at me and said, "Do I need to repeat myself?"

Because one of the things on my bucket list was celebrating another birthday next year, I soberly shook my head and said, "No, you don't."

Fortunately for me, the waitress came with our check, and I got up, took it to the cashier, and paid for our dinner.

I wished I had never asked that question and hoped she would also forget it.

I paid a heavy price for that question for the next several days. Every time The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage asked me anything, she always concluded by saying, "Do I need to repeat myself?"

This was the most expensive birthday present I ever received.

Thinking about this recently come to the conclusion that hearing is a very important part of any relationship. Not just hearing, but hearing what is actually being said. I wrestle with this all along.

I hear everything The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is saying, but I don't always hear it in the right context.

One verse of Scripture that emphasizes this for me is Romans 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

It is not so much hearing as it is hearing the right thing. My faith in God is based upon hearing the word of God. What is God really saying to me? That is the basis of my faith in God.

## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that koalas are on the verge of extinction? What is being done to help this species survive?

Chicago, IL

-- May Jenkins,

Despite their status as icons of biodiversity, koalas have been in steady decline for two decades. Yet the conservation status of this Australian native has only just changed from "threatened" to "endangered" in recent months following a series of bushfires that raged across Down Under during the summer of 2019 (later termed "Black Summer").

Prior to Black Summer, disease and climate change were the primary determinants of the size of koala populations. Habitat loss has also contributed to the koala's plight in recent years, including deforestation, urbanization and ecological fragmentation. Indirect factors range from animal grazing to agricultural and mining practices. However, Black Summer presented the ultimate tipping point for koalas.

According to Anne Kerle of the New South Wales (NSW) Threatened Species Scientific Committee, koala populations have declined some 50 percent across Australia due to Black Summer. To combat this, state governments such as NSW announced a commitment of AUS\$193.3 million, representing the largest financial promise by a government, to conserve koalas. The majority of funding will go toward habitat conservation and research on koalas, with the remainder dedicated to garnering community support and establishing a koala safety program.

In addition, the Queensland state government has promised more than AUS\$24 million will go beyond saving the koalas to inspire remediation efforts for other threatened species. Environment Minister Meaghan Scanlon states that Queensland promotes "one of the most biodiverse places on the planet," emphasizing the critical need to protect threatened species (especially in an area that also upholds the highest number of threatened species due to anthropogenic—i.e. human-caused—habitat loss). According to the Wilderness Society, 90,000 hectares of land was cleared for beef production alone in the span of a single year. This initiative indicates a commitment funding, researching, and creating environmental laws that restrict habitat clearing, according to Queensland Conservation Council Director Dave Copeman.

A large part of koala recovery efforts will be community-based. Along with encouraging activism that holds Australian decision-makers accountable for their actions that destroy koala habitats, education of young people will promote awareness of the need to save koalas, especially because they tend to be inconspicuous in their habitats and thus "out of sight and out of mind."

Just like any threatened species, koalas are worth saving, not just because they are beloved but also for the sake of protecting the biodiversity of Australia's flora and fauna.



**Koalas are on the ropes across Australia thanks to last year's Black Summer and ongoing threats to their habitat.** Credit: Chris

F, Pexels.com.

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## South Dakota COVID-19 Report

New Confirmed and Probable Cases

1498

Active Cases

4,390  
+214

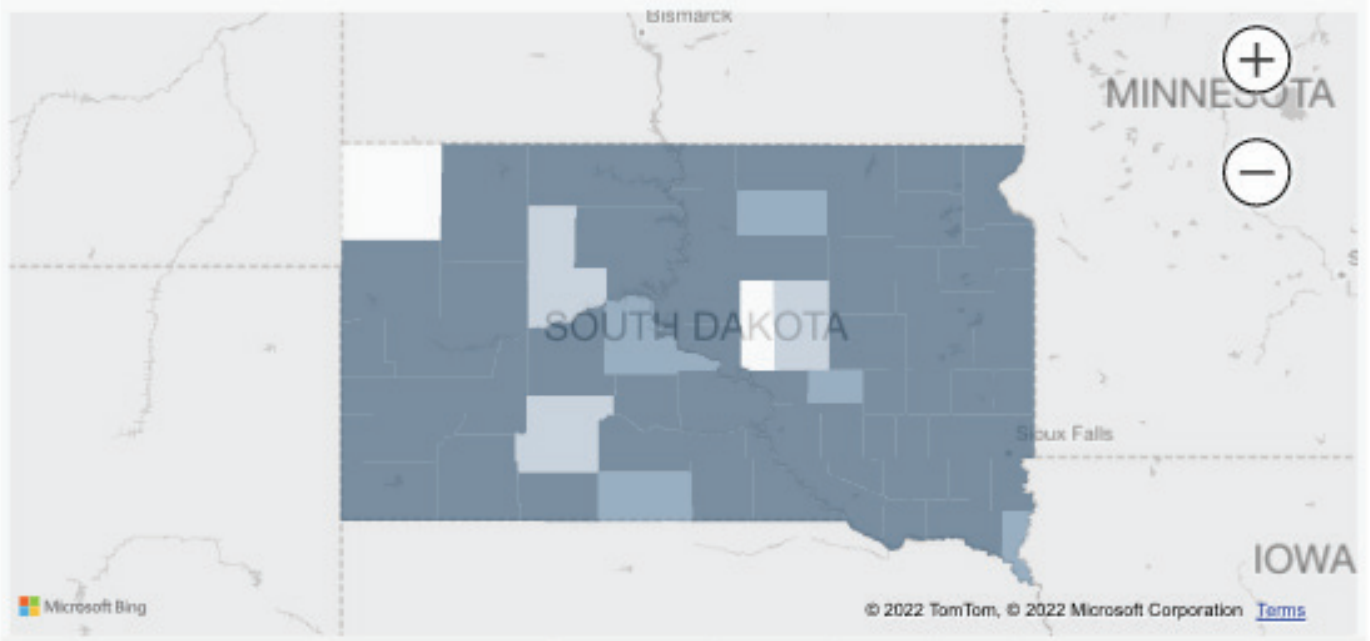
Recovered Cases

242,940

Currently Hospitalized

82

### 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

250,286

Total Tests

2,261,403

Deaths Among Cases

2,956

Ever Hospitalized

11,259

Percent of State Population with at least 1 Dose\*\*

74%



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## Brown County COVID-19 Report

New Confirmed and Probable Cases

71

Active Cases

201  
+25

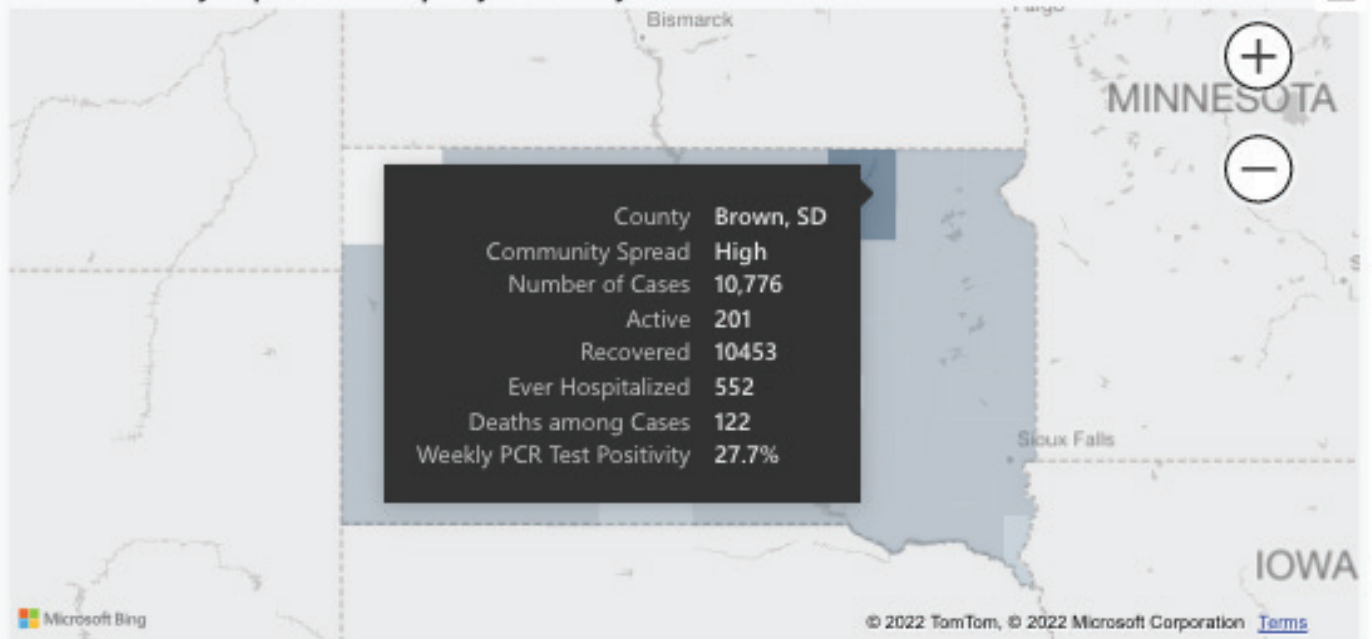
Recovered Cases

10,453

Currently Hospitalized

82

### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread Low Moderate Substantial High

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

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

Total Confirmed and Probable Cases

10,776

Total Tests

108,099

Deaths Among Cases

122

Ever Hospitalized

552

Percent of State Population with at least 1 Dose\*\*

74%

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## Day County COVID-19 Report

New Confirmed and Probable Cases

11

Active Cases

17  
+8

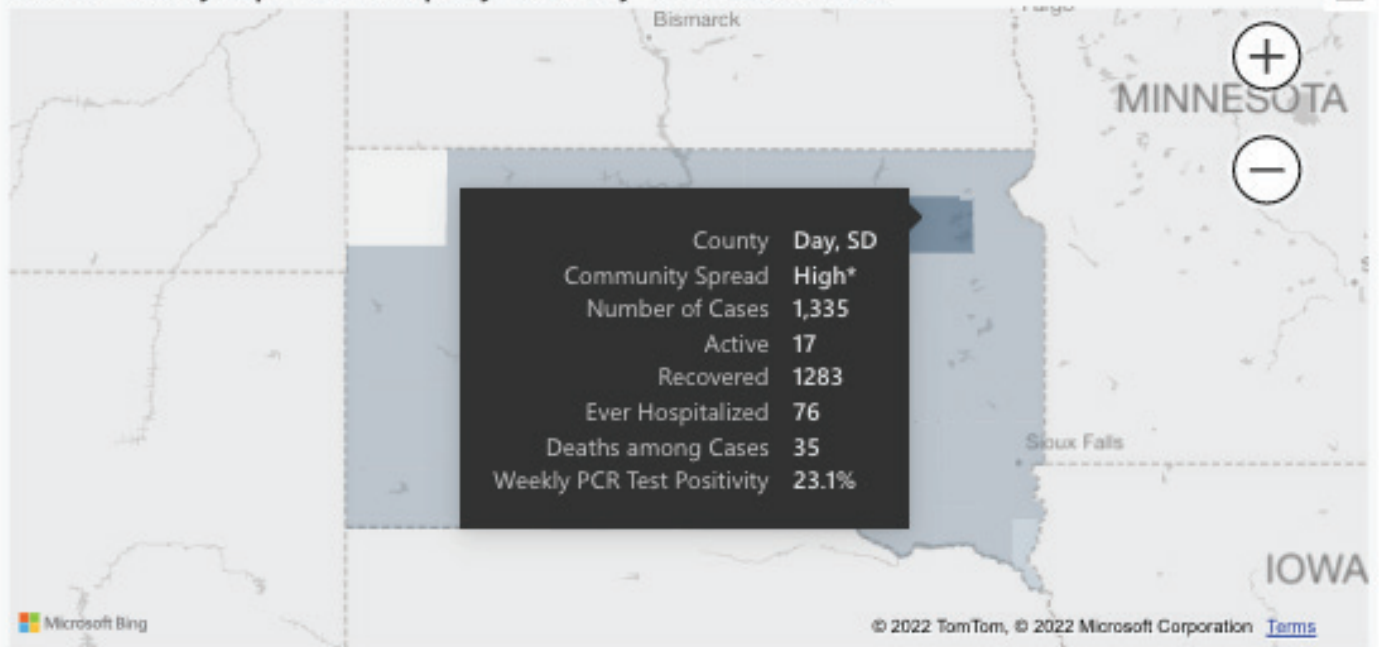
Recovered Cases

1,283

Currently Hospitalized

82

### 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

1,335

Total Tests

17,343

Deaths Among Cases

35

Ever Hospitalized

76

Percent of State Population with at least 1 Dose\*\*

74%

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Ever Hospitalized

11,259

03/07/2020 - 07/25/2022

Currently Hospitalized

82

-4

## 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)	1,310	146
Alpha (B.1.1.7)	176	3
Omicron (BA.2)	135	123
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	117,389	5,862	1,617
Female	132,897	5,397	1,339

## AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range with Years	# of Cases	# of Hospitalizations	# of Deaths Among Cases
0-9 years	16,880	158	3
10-19 years	29,553	179	2
20-29 years	43,494	602	14
30-39 years	42,036	843	54
40-49 years	34,753	978	89
50-59 years	32,067	1,506	226
60-69 years	27,036	2,271	481
70-79 years	14,722	2,400	692
80+ years	9,745	2,322	1,395

## RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

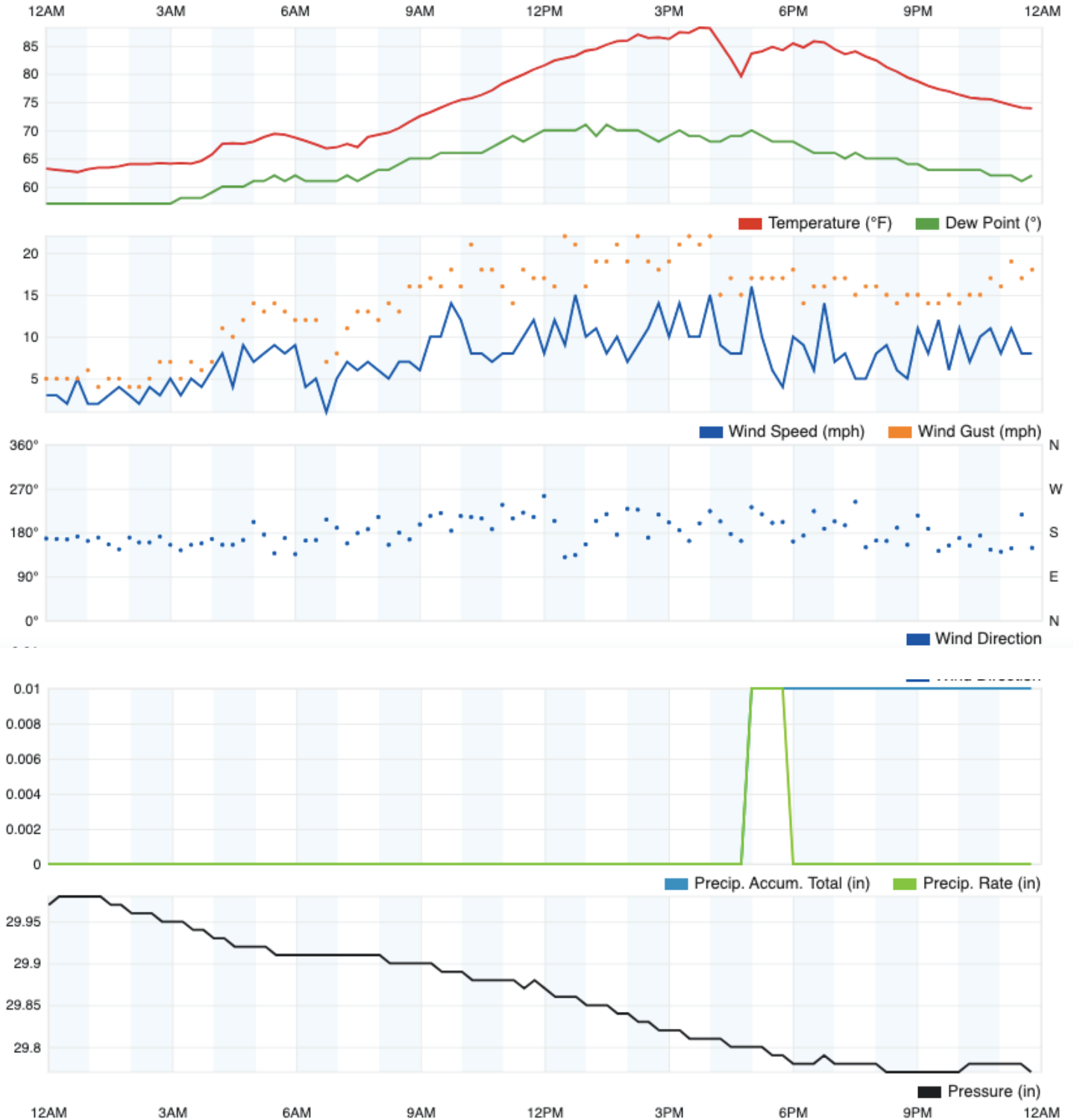
Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	# of Hospitalizations	# of Deaths
Asian / Pacific Islander	3,485	110	20
Black	6,126	211	22
Hispanic	10,693	357	39
Native American	31,589	1,938	447
Other	2,114	59	13
Unknown	5,153	73	20
White	191,126	8,511	2,395



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Sunny then  
Sunny and  
Breezy

High: 87 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 59 °F

Monday



Sunny

High: 88 °F

Monday  
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 69 °F

Tuesday



Hot

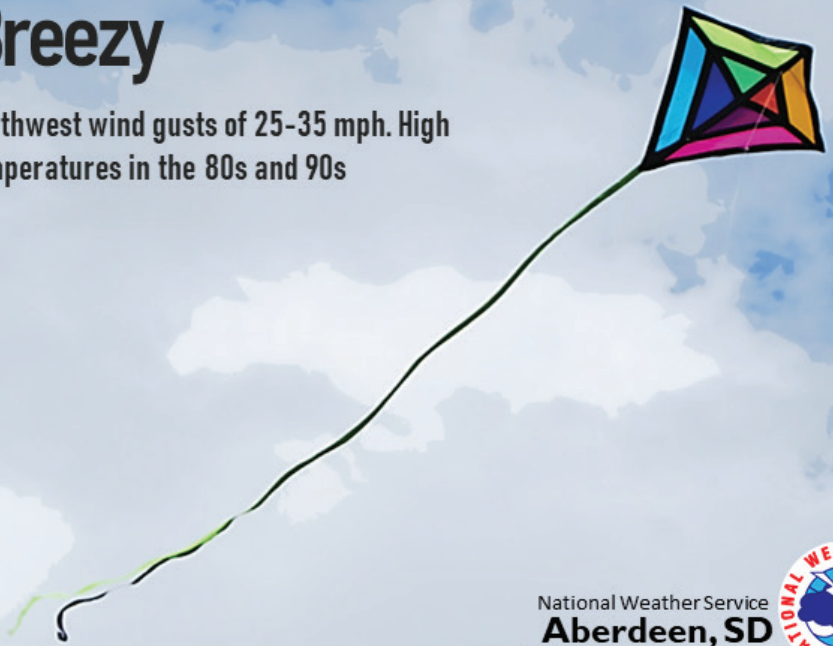
High: 100 °F

## AM Showers & Storms

Portions of northeastern SD and  
west central MN

## Afternoon Sunny & Breezy

Northwest wind gusts of 25-35 mph. High  
temperatures in the 80s and 90s



National Weather Service  
**Aberdeen, SD**  
Updated: 7/31/2022 5:25 AM Central



Following the passage of a cold front into Minnesota by this early afternoon, sunny and breezy conditions will be widespread across the area. Before then, lingering showers and storms may affect portions of northeastern SD and west central MN this morning (20-40% chance). As for the upcoming work-week, Tuesday looks to be quite hot with high temperatures in the upper 90s and 100s, and a few storms Tuesday evening could become strong to severe.

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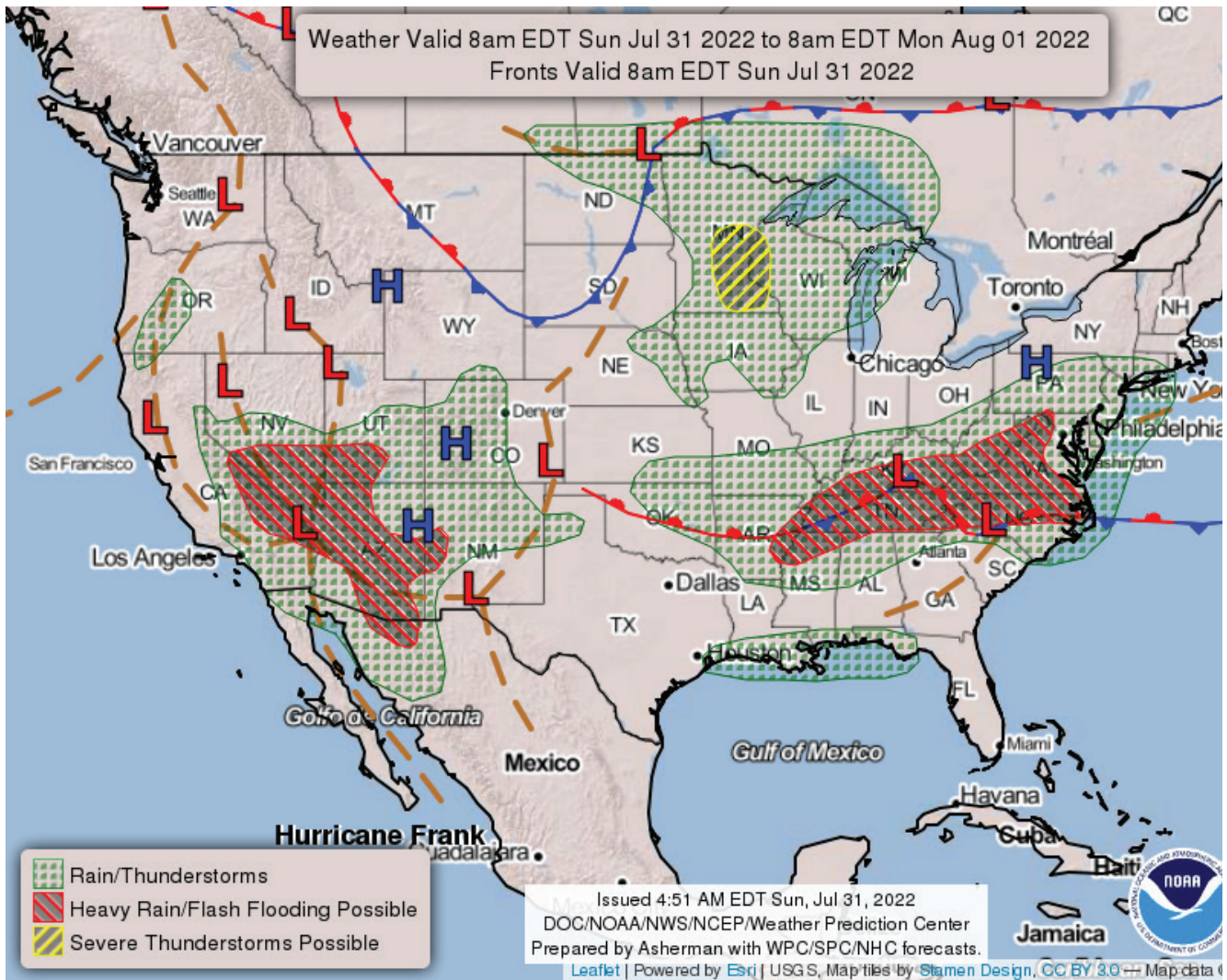
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 88 °F at 3:46 PM**  
**Low Temp: 63 °F at 12:37 AM**  
**Wind: 23 mph at 1:47 PM**  
**Precip: This morning: 0.16**

Day length: 14 hours, 49 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 106 in 1987  
Record Low: 42 in 1903  
Average High: 85°F  
Average Low: 60°F  
Average Precip in July.: 3.09  
Precip to date in July.: 2.96  
Average Precip to date: 14.10  
Precip Year to Date: 14.54  
Sunset Tonight: 9:03:28 PM  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:15:16 AM





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## Today in Weather History

July 31, 1966: A deadly, estimated F3 tornado moved southeast, passing south of Ashley, North Dakota, destroying buildings on five farms with near F4 damage to one farm house. Another tornado with F2 strength occurred north of Long Lake where two adults were killed, and three children were injured as a car was thrown 500 feet from Highway 101. A second estimated F2 tornado moved ENE just south of Aberdeen. A trailer was demolished, killing a man and injuring his wife. Seven airplanes were also had damage. Property damage was estimated at a quarter million dollars. An estimated 90 mph wind gust was also reported northeast of Aberdeen.

July 31, 2008: In the early morning hours of the 31st, a line of storms originating in North Dakota began to expand and surge southeast into northeast South Dakota. As the storms moved southeast, they started to tap into warmer, more humid air and rapidly evolve into a line of severe thunderstorms. Widespread damage occurred in a broad swath extending from Long Lake in McPherson County all the way into eastern Grant County and southern Big Stone County in Minnesota. The most extensive damage was found along and near US Highway 12 from Aberdeen to Milbank. Several observing stations in the path of this system measured wind speeds ranging from 70 mph to over 115 mph. Estimated wind speeds from damage surveys indicated even stronger winds with peak speeds of 120 mph.

Over fifty communities in northeast South Dakota and the surrounding rural areas received minor to major tree, and structural damage as straight-line winds from 70 to 120 mph raced across the area. Webster and Waubay received the most extensive damage from the storms. Thousands of trees were snapped or uprooted, hundreds of grain bins were damaged or destroyed, hundreds of homes, businesses, and outbuildings were damaged or destroyed along with many power poles and miles of power lines downed. Many mobile homes, campers, and boats were damaged or destroyed along with many road and business signs.

Fallen trees also damaged countless homes, vehicles, and campers. Thousands of acres of crops were also damaged or destroyed by the winds and hail. The most significant crop damage occurred in the Roslyn, Grenville, Eden, and Pickerel Lake areas in Marshall and Day counties. Many acres of corn were blown down and not able to come back. The large hail combined with the strong winds also broke out many windows in homes and vehicles along with damaging the siding on houses. Thousands of people were left without power for up to several days. Large hay bales were moved up to 700 yards by the high winds. A semi was overturned on Highway 12 near Webster, injuring the driver. Near Milbank on Highway 12, two other semis were blown off the road resulting in injuries to both drivers. A State Forestry Specialist said it was one of the worst tree damage events he has ever seen in the Webster area. A fifty-eight-year-old man died two miles north of Waubay during the cleanup after the storms when he was pinned between a backhoe and a tree.

1715: Spanish treasure ships, returning from the New World to Spain, encountered a hurricane during the early morning hours on this day. Eleven of the twelve ships were lost near present-day Vero Beach, Florida.

1949: Lightning struck a baseball field at Baker, Florida during a game. The shortstop and third baseman were killed instantly.

1987: The second deadliest tornado in Canadian history occurred in Edmonton, Alberta. An F4 tornado killed 27 people, injured over 300, and caused a quarter of a billion dollars in damage.

1997: South Pole, Antarctica recorded their coldest July ever. The average temperature of -86.8 degrees broke the previous record of -83.6 degrees set in July 1965.

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## WHERE DOES YOUR LIGHT COME FROM?

Little Sara came home from school and proudly said to her mother, "I learned a new song today!"

"Sing it to me," came the request.

"God bless America, land that I love: Stand beside her, and guide her, through the night with the light from a bulb," sang Sara.

There is a great difference between "light from a bulb" and "light from above." As we look at our nation today, we find that most "light" has come from education, information, training, and knowledge that enables individuals to earn a living. However, the "light" that comes from wisdom – the ability to judge what is true or right or something with lasting value or worth – appears to be in short supply. God's wisdom seems to be disappearing!!

James reminds us that if we want to have the ability to make wise decisions in troubling situations we can always pray and ask God for guidance and wisdom.

We do not have to stumble in the darkness hoping to find good answers while looking for a "bulb" to light our path. We can ask God for His directions and He will gladly tell us what to do.

God's wisdom always leads us to the right decision and guarantees us good results. But, we must have God-centered goals that come from knowing, accepting, trusting, and living His Word if we expect His wisdom. It must be within us before it can come out of us or guide us.

Prayer: Lord, fill our minds with Your wisdom as we look to You for guidance to live lives worthy of You. Help us to seek Your wisdom from Your Word to light our way. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: James 1:5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

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## 2022-23 Community Events

- 07/21/2022: Pro Am Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course  
07/22/2022: Ferney Open Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start  
07/24/2022: Moonlight Swim at the Swimming Pool 9-11pm for 9th grade to age 20  
07/27/2022: 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  
No Date Set: 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)  
No Date Set: 6th Annual Doggie Day at the Swimming Pool 3:30-5pm  
09/11/2022: Couples Sunflower Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10 a.m.  
09/02-04: Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport  
10/01/2022: Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm  
10/07/2022: Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am  
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  
12/10/2022: Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9am-12pm  
01/29/2023 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed, 10am-1pm, Community Center  
01/29/2023 85th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)  
04/01/2023 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)  
04/22/2023 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)  
04/23/2023 Princess Prom 4:30-8pm (Sunday after GHS Prom)  
05/06/2023 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)  
05/29/2023 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)  
07/04/2023 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Registration, 10am Start (4th of July)  
07/09/2023 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)  
09/09/2023 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)  
10/31/2023 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm (working day on or closest to Halloween)  
10/31/2023 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm  
11/23/2023 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm (Thanksgiving)



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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

08-14-15-20-31

(eight, fourteen, fifteen, twenty, thirty-one)

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Lotto America

17-22-24-25-36, Star Ball: 5, ASB: 3

(seventeen, twenty-two, twenty-four, twenty-five, thirty-six; Star Ball: five; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$17,510,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: 1,280,000,000

Powerball

04-17-57-58-68, Powerball: 12, Power Play: 3

(four, seventeen, fifty-seven, fifty-eight, sixty-eight; Powerball: twelve; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$187,000,000

## Drone explosion hits Russia's Black Sea Fleet HQ

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — A drone-borne explosive device detonated Sunday at the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, injuring six people, officials said.

The explosion at the headquarters in the city of Sevastopol on the Crimean peninsula that Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014 caused cancellation of observances of Russia's Navy Day holiday.

The Black Sea Fleet's press service said the drone appeared to be homemade. It described the explosive device as "low-power" but Sevastopol mayor Mikhail Razvozhaev said six people were injured in the blast.

There was no immediate information on where the drone began its flight; Sevastopol is about 170 kilometers (100 miles) south of the Ukrainian mainland and Russian forces control much of the mainland area along the Black Sea.

Fighting continued elsewhere in Ukraine. The mayor of the major port city of Mykolaiv, Vitaliy Kim, said one person died in Russian shelling that damaged a hotel and school buildings.

In the Sumy region in Ukraine's north, near the Russian border, shelling killed one person, the regional administration said.

Three people died in attacks over the past day in the Donetsk region, which is partly under the control of Russian separatist forces, said governor Pavlo Kyrylenko.

## Africa sees some artifacts returned home but seeks far more

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA, FARAI MUTSAKA and CHINEDU ASADU Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Apollo John Rwamparo speaks forlornly of the eight-legged stool, a symbol of authority for his ancient kingdom in Uganda, now glimpsed through a glass barrier at a museum thousands of miles away in Britain.

The wooden stool is permanently exhibited at the University of Oxford, one of at least 279 objects there taken from Bunyoro-Kitara kingdom during the colonial era. Oxford has resisted attempts to have the stool repatriated, saying it was donated by a royal from a breakaway kingdom.

"It's quite frustrating," said Rwamparo, a deputy prime minister and minister for tourism for the kingdom. "The best is for them to swallow their pride, like the French and the Germans have done, and return the

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artifacts.”

African countries’ efforts at restitution, after long resistance from authorities in Europe, are now blossoming with the return of treasured pieces that once were thought unattainable.

Most recently, Nigeria and Germany signed a deal for the return of hundreds of artifacts known as the Benin Bronzes. The deal followed French President Emmanuel Macron’s decision last year to sign over 26 pieces known as the Abomey Treasures, priceless artworks of the 19th century Dahomey kingdom in present-day Benin.

African officials seek much more, from the exquisite to the macabre. Some are concerned that the British government in particular has been evasive, offering no commitments on restitution.

In Uganda, which won independence from Britain in 1962, antiquities officials are preparing for a November trip to the U.K., where they will negotiate with the University of Cambridge for an unknown number of artifacts there. Cambridge, which recently gave back to Nigeria an elaborate bronze cockerel, appears forthcoming, said Rose Mwanja Nkaale, Uganda’s commissioner for museums and monuments.

London’s British Museum by comparison “is difficult to penetrate,” said Nkaale. “We can start with those that are willing to cooperate. It is not useful to fight these people.”

The British Museum, which holds an extensive collection from across Africa, is protected by a 1963 law forbidding the trustees from repatriating items except under certain circumstances, including if an object is deemed unfit or useless. Some African officials believe that stand is increasingly weak as other institutions in Europe respond more positively.

Nigeria is applying pressure so that laws in the U.K. and elsewhere are amended to allow for the repatriation of disputed collections, said Abba Isa Tijani, director-general of Nigeria’s National Commission for Museums and Monuments. But he expressed concern that while some countries are starting to open up, in Britain such efforts “have not even started.”

Many of the desirable artifacts from Africa can’t even be traced, leading an organization founded by the late Congolese art collector Sindika Dokolo to offer to buy looted African art from collections abroad. By 2020, when Dokolo died in a diving accident in Dubai, his campaign had successfully retrieved 15 items.

Restitution remains a struggle for African governments, and the African Union has put the return of looted cultural property on its agenda. The continental body aims to have a common policy on the issue.

Zimbabwe has pushed for the repatriation of about 3,000 artifacts from Britain. They include spears and swagger sticks as well as the skulls of fighters who resisted colonialism. They were decapitated and their heads shipped abroad as war trophies.

Talks between British and Zimbabwean authorities have produced no breakthrough, but the matter is so important for the southern African nation that President Emmerson Mnangagwa last year suggested an exchange: the remains of colonialist Cecil Rhodes, who’s buried in Zimbabwe, in return for the ancestral remains that mean so much to his people.

Some Zimbabwean activists have started an online campaign called #bringbackourbones, protesting last year outside the British High Commission in neighboring South Africa.

Items of funereal or ritualistic interest have no resonance outside Africa, said Raphael Chikukwa, who runs the National Gallery of Zimbabwe.

“Why should we allow those so-called museums, which in fact are crime scenes and houses of stolen goods, to dictate to us, telling us that we have to prove that the items belong to us?” he told The Associated Press. “As much as we celebrate the return of former Congolese Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba’s tooth (from Belgium), let’s not celebrate too much. Let’s remind ourselves that the work has just started.”

Similar efforts are underway in South Africa, where the Ifa Lethu Foundation seeks to repatriate a range of items taken during the apartheid era, often by diplomats or private collectors. The organization has repatriated more than 700 pieces including valuable works by South African artist Gerard Sekoto, who died in Paris in 1993.

In Rwanda, recent cooperation with former colonial master Belgium included the sharing of digital copies of over 4,000 songs and other recordings kept at the Royal Museum for Central Africa outside Brussels.

Items including royal regalia remain at large, and since the digital sound archives weren’t shared in the



context of repatriation “you cannot say Belgium has already handed them back,” said Andre Ntagwabira, a specialist in archaeological research at Rwanda Cultural Heritage Academy.

“The heritage, both tangible and intangible items, are the footprints of our ancestors and we should own them,” he said.

The whereabouts of the remains of one of Rwanda’s last monarchs, Yuhi Musinga, is a sore issue in the East African country. Many Rwandans believe the body of Musinga, who resisted the Belgians, was deposed in 1931 and died in Congo in 1944, was sent to Belgium.

There must be accountability in that case, said Antoine Nyagahene, a professor of history at Rwanda’s Gitwe University.

“We were robbed of our cultural values and, as you know, a people without roots are a people without a soul,” he said.

## Is Danish king who gave name to Bluetooth buried in Poland?

By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA Associated Press

WIEJKOWO, Poland (AP) — More than 1,000 years after his death in what is now Poland, a European king whose nickname lives on through wireless technology is at the center of an archaeological dispute.

Chronicles from the Middle Ages say King Harald “Bluetooth” Gormsson of Denmark acquired his nickname courtesy of a tooth, probably dead, that looked bluish. One chronicle from the time also says the Viking king was buried in Roskilde, in Denmark, in the late 10th century.

But a Swedish archaeologist and a Polish researcher recently claimed in separate publications that they have pinpointed his most probable burial site in the village of Wiejkowo, in an area of northwestern Poland that had ties to the Vikings in Harald’s times.

Marek Kryda, author of the book “Viking Poland,” told The Associated Press that a “pagan mound” which he claims he has located beneath Wiejkowo’s 19th-century Roman Catholic church probably holds the king’s remains. Kryda said geological satellite images available on a Polish government portal revealed a rotund shape that looked like a Viking burial mound.

But Swedish archaeologist Sven Rosborn, says Kryda is wrong because Harald, who converted from paganism to Christianity and founded churches in the area, must have received an appropriate grave somewhere in the churchyard. Wiejkowo’s Church of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary stands atop a small round knoll.

Historians at the Danish National Museum in Copenhagen say they are familiar with the “suggestion” that Wiejkowo is Harald’s burial place.

Rosborn detailed his research in the 2021 book “The Viking King’s Golden Treasure” and Kryda challenged some of the Swede’s findings in his own book published this year.

Harald, who died in 985, probably in Jomsborg — which is believed to be the Polish town of Wolin now — was one of the last Viking kings to rule over what is now Denmark, northern Germany, and parts of Sweden and Norway. He spread Christianity in his kingdom.

Swedish telecommunications company Ericsson named its Bluetooth wireless link technology after the king, reflecting how he united much of Scandinavia during his lifetime. The logo for the technology is designed from the Scandinavian runic letters for the king’s initials, HB.

Rosborn, the former director of Sweden’s Malmo City Museum, was spurred on his quest in 2014 when an 11-year-old girl sought his opinion about a small, soiled coin-like object with old-looking text that had been in her family’s possession for decades.

Experts have determined that the cast gold disc that sparked Maja Sielski’s curiosity dated from the 10th century. The Latin inscription on what is now known as the “Curmsun disc” says: “Harald Gormsson (Curmsun in Latin) king of Danes, Scania, Jomsborg, town Aldinburg.”

Sielski’s family, who moved to Sweden from Poland in 1986, said the disc came from a trove found in 1841 in a tomb underneath the Wiejkowo church, which replaced a medieval chapel.

The Sielski family came into the possession of the disc, along with the Wiejkowo parish archives that

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contained medieval parchment chronicles in Latin, in 1945 as the former German area was becoming part of Poland as a result of World War II.

A family member who knew Latin understood the value of the chronicles — which dated as far back as the 10th century — and translated some of them into Polish. They mention Harald, another fact linking the Wiejkowo church to him.

The nearby Baltic Sea island and town of Wolin cultivates the region's Viking history: it has a runic stone in honor of Harald Bluetooth and holds annual festivals of Slavs and Vikings.

Kryda says the Curmsun disc is "phenomenal" with its meaningful inscription and insists that it would be worth it to examine Wiejkowo as Harald's burial place, but there are no current plans for any excavations.

## Why Louvre's Mona Lisa keeps a smile: Paris' cooling system

By THOMAS ADAMSON and NICO GARRIGA Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The Mona Lisa may maintain her famously enigmatic smile because she benefits from one of Paris' best-kept secrets: An underground cooling system that's helped the Louvre cope with the sweltering heat that has broken temperature records across Europe.

The little-known "urban cold" network snakes unsuspecting beneath Parisians' feet at a depth of up to 30 meters (98 feet), pumping out icy water through 89 kilometers (55 miles) of labyrinthine pipes, which is used to chill the air in over 700 sites. The system, which uses electricity generated by renewable sources, is the largest in Europe — and chugs on around the clock with a deafening noise totally inaudible above ground.

Paris City Hall has now signed an ambitious contract to triple the size of the network by 2042 to 252 kilometers (157 miles). It would make it the largest urban cooling system in the world. The new contract intends to help the city to both adapt to and combat the threat of global warming. Many parts of Europe hit 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in July.

The city is extending the cooling network to hospitals, schools and metro stations over the next two decades. It's unclear how much of the system will be operational by the time of the Paris Olympics in 2024, but it's possible the systems will be used in several Olympic sites.

Unbeknown to millions of tourists, the piping currently cools the City of Light's most emblematic sites, such as the Louvre and the Quai Branly Museum. It might even help cool the tempers of agitated lawmakers as it is used to drop temperatures in the National Assembly.

The scheme is operated by the joint-venture company Fraicheur de Paris — 85% owned by the state's French energy company EDF and the rest by public transport operator RATP. The company's officials tout its benefits for the entire French capital.

"If all (Parisian) buildings get equipped with autonomous installations (such as air-conditioning), it will gradually create a very significant urban 'heat island' effect," said Maggie Schelfhaut of Fraicheur de Paris, referring to the increased heat in cities due to less vegetation, which cools, and more urban infrastructure, which absorbs the sun's rays.

But Schelfhaut said that the pipe network could make the whole of Paris one degree Celsius (1.8 Fahrenheit) cooler than if autonomous installations were put up across the city.

"One degree less in the city center is a lot," she added.

Three of the 10 high-tech cooling sites lie on the Seine river and are accessed by a retractable spiral staircase barely visible from street level — in something resembling the lair of the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles."

When the Seine's water is cold enough, a machine captures it and uses it to chill the system's water. The heat created as a byproduct is sent back into the Seine where it is absorbed. The chilled water is then pumped through the system's pipes to its 730 Parisian clients.

Paris' cooling sites all use renewable energy sources such as wind turbines and solar panels. Four new solar energy sites which will feed into this network are also earmarked for construction. French officials see this energy independence as particularly important given the threat of Russia cutting off energy sup-

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plies to Europe.

Russian energy corporation Gazprom on Wednesday cut the amount of natural gas flowing through a major pipeline from Russia to Europe to 20% of its capacity. European nations are rushing to find alternatives amid fears that Russia could completely cut off gas exports — which are used for industry, to generate electricity and to cool homes — to try to gain political leverage over the bloc.

The merits of using a cooling system which uses renewable energy to operate are already being felt by sites that use them. The world's most visited museum, the Louvre, has benefited from the network since the 1990s — with officials proud of its ecological, economic and art conservation advantages.

"It allows us to benefit from energy with a lower carbon footprint available all year round," said Laurent Le Guedart, the Louvre's Heritage Director. "The particularity of the Louvre Museum is that it needs to use iced-cold water to correctly conserve the artwork and to control the humidity."

The Louvre does not use air conditioning and officials say the cooling also wins them much needed floor space in the sprawling, yet cramped, former palace that is home to 550,000 artworks.

Le Guedart said that the system is a money-saver given the rising cost of energy linked to the Ukraine conflict. It operates notably in the State Room of the Pavillon Denon where the Mona Lisa lives. Perhaps it's why beads of sweat have never trickled down the brow painted by Leonardo da Vinci.

"The energy bill of the Louvre is around 10 million euros per year in 2021. We are trying to control this bill as much as possible, amid the evident fluctuations and increases to energy costs," Le Guedart said.

The system could save it millions by cushioning the shock as Russia continues to roil the energy market.

## Maggie's legacy: Divisive Thatcher looms over UK Tory race

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Two people are running to be Britain's next prime minister, but a third presence looms over the contest: Margaret Thatcher.

The late former prime minister dominated Britain in the 1980s, and has left a large and contested legacy. Critics see her as an intransigent ideologue whose free-market policies frayed social bonds and gutted the country's industrial communities. But for the governing Conservative Party, Thatcher is an icon, an inspiration and the presiding spirit who made Britain fit for the modern era.

In the race to replace Boris Johnson as Conservative leader and prime minister, both Foreign Secretary Liz Truss and former Treasury chief Rishi Sunak claim to embody the values of Thatcher, who died in 2013 at 87.

Asked who was Britain's greatest prime minister? Both candidates unhesitatingly say Thatcher. Sunak made a key speech in the late leader's hometown of Grantham, declaring himself a proponent of "common-sense Thatcherism," while his wife and children took selfies in front of the Iron Lady's bronze statue.

Truss talks about her own modest origins, inviting comparisons to grocer's daughter Thatcher, and adopts poses and outfits — bold blue dresses, pussy-bow blouses — that echo the distinctive style of Britain's first female prime minister.

Historian Richard Vinen of King's College London says Truss is an "Instagram Thatcher."

Victoria Honeyman, associate professor of British politics at the University of Leeds, says Thatcher is "a talisman" for Conservatives. Robert Saunders, a historian of modern Britain at Queen Mary University of London, believes "she has become a creature of myth."

"Like Thor's hammer, Thatcher's handbag can bestow godlike powers on those deemed worthy to lift it," Saunders wrote on the Unherd website.

In one sense, the Thatcher fixation is easily explained. She led the Conservatives to three successive election victories and was never defeated at the ballot box. She was eventually brought down — like Johnson — by her own party, ousted in 1990 after 11 years in power.

"Every Conservative leader since Margaret Thatcher has failed," said Vinen, author of the book "Thatcher's Britain."

John Major lost the party power in 1997, and the three leaders after him kept the Tories in opposition.



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Prime Minister David Cameron gambled on a 2016 referendum that, against his wishes, took Britain out of the European Union. His successor Theresa May was defeated by Brexit infighting, and Johnson has been given the boot by Conservative lawmakers after months of ethics scandals.

Thatcher's decade in power, through war and peace, boom and bust, also offers rich pickings for acolytes to choose from. She was a wartime leader who defeated Argentina over the Falkland Islands, a democrat who stood up to the Soviet Union and saw the Cold War end, a union-bashing capitalist who unleashed the power of the financial markets.

"You can basically cherry-pick what you want," Honeyman said.

That selective memory is at work when today's Conservatives, who are overwhelmingly pro-Brexit, say Thatcher would have supported the decision to leave the EU. Vinen says "it's almost sacrilegious" to point it out, but "Thatcher was actually pro-European for most of her time in office."

Thatcher's economic legacy is also contested. Truss and Sunak both claim to be offering Thatcherite economics, but their policies are very different. Truss says she will boost borrowing and cut taxes immediately to ease Britain's cost-of-living crisis, while Sunak says it's vital to get the country's soaring inflation rate under control first.

Both can point to decisions Thatcher made in support of their stances, although Vinen thinks Sunak's inflation-busting focus is closer to Thatcher economically.

"She (didn't) believe that you can lower tax unless you cut spending," he said.

Britain's new leader will be elected by about 180,000 members of the Conservative Party, many of whom regard Thatcher as a heroine. Millions of other British voters remember her differently.

Thatcher privatized state-owned industries, sold off public housing and defeated Britain's coal miners after a bitter, year-long strike. Under her leadership, industries shut and millions were thrown out of work, especially in the north of England.

Johnson, whose Conservative hero is Winston Churchill rather than Thatcher, secured a huge election victory in 2019 by winning over voters in northern England's post-industrial towns who had never considered supporting the Conservatives before.

Honeyman said that Johnson's successor would be wise not to laud Thatcher too loudly if they hope to hang onto those northern districts, where people still talk about the closure of factories and mines "and about the impact that that had upon their communities, about the way it fractured people's lives."

"This isn't ancient history for some of these people," she said. "This is their lived experience."

Those memories are not so vivid for the 47-year-old Truss, who was a teenager when Thatcher left office. Sunak, now 42, was just 10 years old in 1990.

But 84-year-old Conservative veteran Norman Fowler, who served in Thatcher's government and is now speaker of the House of Lords, warned the candidates against "overdoing it" with the Iron Lady worship.

"I was in her Cabinet, shadow and real, for 15 years," Fowler told Times Radio. "Even I wouldn't say that she was perfect in every way. And therefore, the party need not model itself entirely upon her. So I would give it a rest."

## Wildfires in West explode in size amid hot, windy conditions

By JULIE WATSON and REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Wildfires in California and Montana exploded in size overnight amid windy, hot conditions and were quickly encroaching on neighborhoods, forcing evacuation orders for over 100 homes Saturday, while an Idaho blaze was spreading.

In California's Klamath National Forest, the fast-moving McKinney fire, which started Friday, went from charring just over 1 square mile (1 square kilometer) to scorching as much as 62 square miles (160 square kilometers) by Saturday in a largely rural area near the Oregon state line, according to fire officials. The fire burned down at least a dozen residences and wildlife was seen fleeing the area to avoid the flames.

"It's continuing to grow with erratic winds and thunderstorms in the area and we're in triple digit temperatures," said Caroline Quintanilla, a spokeswoman at Klamath National Forest.

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California Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency Saturday as the fire intensified. The proclamation allows Newsom more flexibility to make emergency response and recovery effort decisions and access federal aid.

It also allows "firefighting resources from other states to assist California crews in battling the fires," according to a statement from the governor's office.

Meanwhile in Montana, the Elmo wildfire nearly tripled in size to more than 11 square miles (about 28 square kilometers) within a few miles of the town of Elmo. Roughly 200 miles (320 kilometers) to the south, Idaho residents remained under evacuation orders as the Moose Fire in the Salmon-Challis National Forest charred more than 67.5 square miles (174.8 square kilometers) in timbered land near the town of Salmon. It was 17% contained.

A significant build-up of vegetation was fueling the McKinney fire, said Tom Stokesberry, a spokesman with the U.S. Forest Service for the region.

"It's a very dangerous fire — the geography there is steep and rugged, and this particular area hasn't burned in a while," he said.

A small fire was also burning nearby, outside the town of Seiad, Stokesberry said. With lightning predicted over the next few days, resources from all over California were being brought in to help fight the region's fires, he said.

McKinney's explosive growth forced crews to shift from trying to control the perimeter of the blaze to trying to protect homes and critical infrastructure like water tanks and power lines, and assist in evacuations in California's northernmost county of Siskiyou.

Deputies and law enforcement were knocking on doors in the county seat of Yreka and the town of Fort Jones to urge residents to get out and safely evacuate their livestock onto trailers. Automated calls were being sent to land phone lines as well because there were areas without cell phone service.

Over 100 homes were ordered evacuated and authorities were warning people to be on high alert. Smoke from the fire caused the closure of portions of Highway 96.

The Pacific Coast Trail Association urged hikers to get to the nearest town while the U.S. Forest Service closed a 110-mile (177-kilometer) section of the trail from the Etna Summit to the Mt. Ashland Campground in southern Oregon.

Oregon state Rep. Dacia Grayber, who is a firefighter, was camping with her husband, who is also in the fire service, near the California state line when gale-force winds awoke them just after midnight.

The sky was glowing with strikes of lightning in the clouds, while ash was blowing at them, though they were in Oregon, about 10 miles (about 16 kilometers) away. Intense heat from the fire had sent up a massive pyrocumulonimbus cloud, which can produce its own weather system including winds and thunderstorms, Grayber said.

"These were some of the worst winds I've ever been in and we're used to big fires," she said. "I thought it was going to rip the roof top tent off of our truck. We got the heck out of there."

On their way out, they came across hikers on the Pacific Coast Trail fleeing to safety.

"The terrifying part for us was the wind velocity," she said. "It went from a fairly cool breezy night to hot, dry hurricane-force winds. Usually that happens with a fire during the day but not at night. I hope for everyone's sake this dies down but it's looking like it's going to get worse."

In western Montana, the wind-driven Elmo fire forced evacuations of homes and livestock as it raced across grass and timber, according to The National Interagency Fire Center, based in Idaho. The agency estimated it would take nearly a month to contain the blaze.

Smoke shut down a portion of Highway 28 between Hot Springs and Elmo because of the thick smoke, according to the Montana Department of Transportation.

Crews from several different agencies were fighting the fire on Saturday, including the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Fire Division. Six helicopters were making drops on the fire, aided by 22 engines on the ground.

In Idaho, more than 930 wildland firefighters and support staff were battling the Moose fire Saturday

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and protecting homes, energy infrastructure and the Highway 93 corridor, a major north-south route.

A red flag warning indicated that the weather could make things worse with the forecast calling for "dry thunderstorms," with lightning, wind and no rain.

In Hawaii, fire crews and helicopters have been fighting flames Saturday evening on Maui near Paia Bay. The Maui County Emergency Management Agency said roads have been closed and have advised residents and travelers to avoid the area. It is unclear how many acres have burned. A red flag warning is in effect Sunday.

Meanwhile, crews made significant progress in battling another major blaze in California that forced evacuations of thousands of people near Yosemite National Park earlier this month. The Oak fire was 52% contained by Saturday, according to a Cal Fire incident update.

As fires raged across the West, the U.S. House on Friday approved wide-ranging legislation aimed at helping communities in the region cope with increasingly severe wildfires and drought — fueled by climate change — that have caused billions of dollars in damage to homes and businesses in recent years.

The legislative measure approved by federal lawmakers Friday combines 49 separate bills and would increase firefighter pay and benefits; boost resiliency and mitigation projects for communities affected by climate change; protect watersheds; and make it easier for wildfire victims to get federal assistance.

The bill now goes to the Senate, where California Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein has sponsored a similar measure.

## Floods strike new blow in place that has known hardship

By BRUCE SCHREINER, ANDREW SELSKY and DYLAN LOVAN Associated Press

JACKSON, Ky. (AP) — Evelyn Smith lost everything in the floods that devastated eastern Kentucky, saving only her grandson's muddy tricycle. But she's not planning to leave the mountains that have been her home for 50 years.

Like many families in this dense, forested region of hills, deep valleys and meandering streams, Smith's roots run deep. Her family has lived in Knott County for five generations. They've built connections with people that have sustained them, even as an area long mired in poverty has hemorrhaged more jobs with the collapse of the coal industry.

After fast-rising floodwaters from nearby Troublesome Creek swamped her rental trailer, Smith moved in with her mother. At age 50 she is disabled, suffering from a chronic breathing disorder, and knows she won't be going back to where she lived; her landlord told her he won't put trailers back in the same spot. Smith, who didn't have insurance, doesn't know what her next move will be.

"I've cried until I really can't cry no more," she said. "I'm just in shock. I don't really know what to do now."

For many people who lost their homes, connections with family and neighbors will only grow in importance in the aftermath of the floods, which wiped out homes and businesses and engulfed small towns. Still, in a part of the state that includes seven of the 100 poorest counties in the nation, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, they may not be enough for people already living on the margins.

"People who are poor in east Kentucky are really some of the most disadvantaged people in our entire country," said Evan Smith, an attorney with the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund, which provides free legal services for low-income and vulnerable people. "And for those who have now lost vehicles, homes, loved ones, it's hard for me to see how they bounce back from this."

"I mean, people will," Smith added. "People are more resilient than we can imagine at times. But without some type of state and national help, I don't know what we're going to do."

He thinks some people who can afford to leave will do so, with younger people — less likely than their elders to try to rebuild where they are — more likely to look for jobs elsewhere.

Coal once dominated the economy of this corner of the Appalachian Mountains, offering the best-paying jobs in a place that had difficulty sustaining other kinds of work, but production has plunged by some 90% since the heyday of 1990, according to a state report. And as production declined, the jobs went away.



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The record floods "couldn't have come at a worse time," said Doug Holliday, a 73-year-old attorney in Hazard, Kentucky, who represents miners with black lung disease and other health problems.

"The coal business has been petering out and a lot of people have left," Holliday said. "The people who are left live paycheck-to-paycheck or on Social Security, and most of them live in mobile homes on the very edge of the economy."

Holliday thinks an old friend died in one of those mobile homes, which was swept away by floodwaters and hasn't been seen since. He isn't the only one trying to account for people in what Gov. Andy Beshear called "one of the worst, most devastating flooding events" in Kentucky's history.

There's a chance the legacy of the coal industry, diminished though it is, made the flooding worse. The hardest hit areas of eastern Kentucky received between 8 and 10 1/2 inches (20-27 centimeters) of rain over 48 hours, and the degradation of the land wrought by coal mining might have altered the landscape enough to help push rivers and creeks to crest at record levels.

"Decades upon decades of strip mining and mountaintop-removal mining leaves the land unable to help absorb some of that runoff during periods of high rainfall," said Emily Satterwhite, director of Appalachian Studies at Virginia Tech.

The North Fork of the Kentucky River reached 20.9 feet (6.4 meters) in Whitesburg — more than 6 feet (1.8 meters) over the previous record — and crested at a record 43.5 feet (13.25 meters) in Jackson, said National Weather Service meteorologist Brandon Bonds.

Melinda Hurd, 27, was forced from her home in Martin, Kentucky, on Thursday afternoon when the Big Sandy River rose to her front steps — and then kept coming.

"As soon as I stepped off my steps it was waist high," she said. She is staying with two of her dogs at Jenny Wiley State Park in Prestonsburg, about 20 minutes from her home.

Hurd's neighbors weren't as lucky; some were stuck on their roofs, waiting to be rescued.

"I know our whole basement is destroyed," she said. "But I feel very, very lucky. I don't think it will be a total loss."

Hurd works a cash job caring for an elderly woman, meaning she has no insurance or benefits.

Hurd's home also flooded in 2009 on Mother's Day, nearly destroying everything inside. She received financial help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency then, and will likely need more help this time around.

At a briefing with Beshear, FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell said more help is on the way. And the governor opened an online portal for donations to flood victims.

Satterwhite said many residents will want to remain, kept in place by attachments to extended families and support networks that sustain them through good times and bad.

Smith, the woman who salvaged her 2-year-old grandson's trike, said fast-rising water forced her from her trailer around 1:30 a.m. Thursday.

"Everything in it has got mud all over it," she said. "There's probably 6 to 8 inches (15 to 20 centimeters) of mud in the rooms. The walls are all water-logged all the way up."

Despite all that, she's not leaving Knott County. She doesn't think she ever could.

"It's the mountains," she said. "It's the land, it's the people that connect together to make it a home."

## New York City declares monkeypox a public health emergency

NEW YORK (AP) — Officials in New York City declared a public health emergency due to the spread of the monkeypox virus Saturday, calling the city "the epicenter" of the outbreak.

The announcement Saturday by Mayor Eric Adams and health Commissioner Ashwin Vasan said as many as 150,000 city residents could be at risk of infection. The declaration will allow officials to issue emergency orders under the city health code and amend code provisions to implement measures to help slow the spread.

In the last two days, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul declared a state disaster emergency declaration and

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the state health department called monkeypox an "imminent threat to public health."

New York had recorded 1,345 cases as of Friday, according to data compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. California had the second-most, with 799.

"We will continue to work with our federal partners to secure more doses as soon as they become available," Adams and Vasan said in the statement. "This outbreak must be met with urgency, action, and resources, both nationally and globally, and this declaration of a public health emergency reflects the seriousness of the moment."

The World Health Organization declared monkeypox a global health emergency on July 23 and San Francisco's mayor on Thursday announced a state of emergency over the growing number of cases.

The once-rare disease has been established in parts of central and west Africa for decades but was not known to spark large outbreaks beyond the continent or to spread widely among people until May, when authorities detected dozens of epidemics in Europe, North America and elsewhere.

To date, there have been more than 22,000 monkeypox cases reported in nearly 80 countries since May, with about 75 suspected deaths in Africa, mostly in Nigeria and Congo. On Friday, Brazil and Spain reported deaths linked to monkeypox, the first reported outside Africa. Spain reported a second monkeypox death Saturday.

The virus spreads through prolonged and close skin-to-skin contact as well as sharing bedding, towels and clothing. In Europe and North America, it has spread primarily among men who have sex with men, though health officials emphasize that the virus can infect anyone.

The type of monkeypox virus identified in this outbreak is rarely fatal, and people usually recover within weeks. But the lesions and blisters caused by the virus are painful.

## Some Appalachia residents begin cleanup after deadly floods

By DYLAN LOVAN and BRUCE SCHREINER Associated Press

PRESTONBURG, Ky. (AP) — Some residents of Appalachia returned to flood-ravaged homes and communities on Saturday to shovel mud and debris and to salvage what they could, while Kentucky's governor said search and rescue operations were ongoing in the region swamped by torrential rains days earlier that led to deadly flash flooding.

Rescue crews were continuing the struggle to get into hard-hit areas, some of them among the poorest places in America. Dozens of deaths have been confirmed and the number is expected to grow.

In the tiny community of Wayland, Phillip Michael Caudill was working Saturday to clean up debris and recover what he could from the home he shares with his wife and three children. The waters had receded from the house but left a mess behind along with questions about what he and his family will do next.

"We're just hoping we can get some help," said Caudill, who is staying with his family at Jenny Wiley State Park in a free room, for now.

Caudill, a firefighter in the nearby Garrett community, went out on rescues around 1 a.m. Thursday but had to ask to leave around 3 a.m. so he could go home, where waters were rapidly rising.

"That's what made it so tough for me," he said. "Here I am, sitting there, watching my house become immersed in water and you got people begging for help. And I couldn't help," because he was tending to his own family.

The water was up to his knees when he arrived home and he had to wade across the yard and carry two of his kids out to the car. He could barely shut the door of his SUV as they were leaving.

In Garrett on Saturday, couches, tables and pillows soaked by flooding were stacked in yards along the foothills of the mountainous region as people worked to clear out debris and shovel mud from driveways and roads under now-blue skies.

Hubert Thomas, 60, and his nephew Harvey, 37, fled to Jenny Wiley State Resort Park in Prestonburg after floodwaters destroyed their home in Pine Top late Wednesday night. The two were able to rescue their dog, CJ, but fear the damages to the home are beyond repair. Hubert Thomas, a retired coal miner, said his entire life savings was invested in his home.

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"I've got nothing now," he said.

Harvey Thomas, an EMT, said he fell asleep to the sound of light rain, and it wasn't long until his uncle woke him up warning him that water was getting dangerously close to the house.

"It was coming inside and it just kept getting worse," he said, "like there was, at one point, we looked at the front door and mine and his cars was playing bumper cars, like bumper boats in the middle of our front yard."

As for what's next, Harvey Thomas said he doesn't know, but he's thankful to be alive.

"Mountain people are strong," he said. "And like I said it's not going to be tomorrow, probably not next month, but I think everybody's going to be okay. It's just going to be a long process."

At least 25 have people died — including four children — in the flooding, Kentucky's governor said Saturday.

"We continue to pray for the families that have suffered an unfathomable loss," Gov. Andy Beshear said. "Some having lost almost everyone in their household."

Beshear said the number would likely rise significantly and it could take weeks to find all the victims of the record flash flooding. Crews have made more than 1,200 rescues from helicopters and boats, the governor said.

"I'm worried that we're going to be finding bodies for weeks to come," Beshear said during a midday briefing.

The rain let up early Friday after parts of eastern Kentucky received between 8 and 10 1/2 inches (20-27 centimeters) over 48 hours. But some waterways were not expected to crest until Saturday. About 18,000 utility customers in Kentucky remained without power Saturday, poweroutage.us reported.

It's the latest in a string of catastrophic deluges that have pounded parts of the U.S. this summer, including St. Louis earlier this week and again on Friday. Scientists warn climate change is making weather disasters more common.

As rainfall hammered Appalachia this week, water tumbled down hillsides and into valleys and hollows where it swelled creeks and streams coursing through small towns. The torrent engulfed homes and businesses and trashed vehicles. Mudslides marooned some people on steep slopes.

President Joe Biden declared a federal disaster to direct relief money to more than a dozen Kentucky counties.

The flooding extended into western Virginia and southern West Virginia.

Gov. Jim Justice declared a state of emergency for six counties in West Virginia where the flooding downed trees, power outages and blocked roads. Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin also made an emergency declaration, enabling officials to mobilize resources across the flooded southwest of the state.

The deluge came two days after record rains around St. Louis dropped more than 12 inches (31 centimeters) and killed at least two people. Last month, heavy rain on mountain snow in Yellowstone National Park triggered historic flooding and the evacuation of more than 10,000 people. In both instances, the rain flooding far exceeded what forecasters predicted.

Extreme rain events have become more common as climate change bakes the planet and alters weather patterns, according to scientists. That's a growing challenge for officials during disasters, because models used to predict storm impacts are in part based on past events and can't keep up with increasingly devastating flash floods and heat waves like those that have recently hit the Pacific Northwest and southern Plains.

"It's a battle of extremes going on right now in the United States," said University of Oklahoma meteorologist Jason Furtado. "These are things we expect to happen because of climate change. ... A warmer atmosphere holds more water vapor and that means you can produce increased heavy rainfall."

## **Ticket bought in Illinois wins \$1.337B Mega Millions jackpot**

By DON BABWIN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A single ticket bought in a Chicago suburb beat the odds and won a \$1.337 billion



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Mega Millions jackpot.

According to megamillions.com, there was one jackpot-winning ticket in the draw Friday night, and it was bought at a Speedway gas station and convenience store in Des Plaines.

The winning numbers were: 13-36-45-57-67, Mega Ball: 14.

"We are thrilled to have witnessed one of the biggest jackpot wins in Mega Millions history," Ohio Lottery Director Pat McDonald, the current Lead Director for the Mega Millions Consortium, said in a statement on the lottery's website. "We're eager to find out who won and look forward to congratulating the winner soon!"

The jackpot was the nation's third-largest lottery prize. It grew so large because no one had matched the game's six selected numbers since April 15. That's 29 consecutive draws without a jackpot winner.

Lottery officials had estimated the winning take at \$1.28 billion, but revised the number up to \$1.337 billion on Saturday.

The total prize is for winners who choose the annuity option, paid annually over 29 years. Most winners opt for the cash option, which for Friday night's drawing was an estimated \$780.5 million.

The odds of winning the jackpot are 1 in 302.5 million.

According to the Illinois Lottery, the store that sold the ticket is a pretty big winner, too; it will receive half a million dollars just for selling the ticket. A clerk at the Speedway store who answered the phone but declined to give his name said the store had not been officially notified that it sold the winning ticket and that he learned about it from reporters calling for comment.

Mega Millions is played in 45 states as well as Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The game is coordinated by state lotteries.

Illinois is among the states where winners of more than \$250,000 can choose to not reveal their names and Illinois Lottery spokeswoman Emilia Mazur said the vast majority of those winners do just that.

Even lottery officials may not know for a while who won because winners don't have to come forward straight away. And the winning ticket may have been bought by a group of people.

"We won't know whether it's an individual or it's a lottery pool until the winner comes forward to claim their prize," National Mega Millions spokeswoman Danielle Frizzi-Babb said.

As of Saturday afternoon, no winner had come forward, according to Mazur.

Emily Irwin, managing director, Advice & Planning, at Wells Fargo's Wealth & Investment Management, said Friday that the winner should consider keeping a low profile and resist going on an eyebrow-raising spending spree that everyone knows the winner cannot afford.

"This is not the time to start calling everybody you know, saying, 'Hey, I have a big secret. Can you keep it?'" Irwin said.

This is necessary to avoid being inundated with requests for money.

"There are scammers and others who follow big winners," she said, admitting that sudden wealth can put a lottery winner in physical danger.

"Privacy equals safety," she said.

One thing the winner must do immediately is sign the ticket. That's because if the ticket hasn't been signed then it really isn't yours. If the winner loses an unsigned ticket and another person finds it and signs it, the ticket now belongs to them.

Irwin suggests a step further to survive a legal battle over ownership.

"Take a Polaroid of you holding it and (put) it in a safe deposit box or somewhere else safe," she said.

Pratik Patel, the head of Family Wealth Strategies at BMO Family Office in Chicago, said the winner should work with a financial planner to map out their future.

"I would run a Monte Carlo market simulation," Patel said, explaining that this is an analysis of what a winner's annual income might be and what the proceeds from various investments might be. "What you're doing is using analytics to inform your spending."

Frizzi-Babb agrees that talking to a financial planner is a good idea.

"I would suggest that you do that before you even set foot in a lottery office," she said.

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One expert who has worked with past lottery winners says the winners should avoid going to the lottery office altogether, instead sending an attorney or financial adviser to preserve their anonymity — if lottery officials allow.

"There are going to be people doing everything they can to figure out who the winner is," said Kim Kamin, who was a trusts and estates attorney for 17 years and now teaches estate planning at Northwestern University's law school. "There are going to be many eyes watching."

There is also a question nobody wants to answer at that particular time: What happens to the money when you die?

Irwin said don't leave this unanswered; you must take action to ensure the bulk of your estate goes to your beneficiaries rather than the government.

"You need a manager who specializes in this and understands this world," said Patel. "Someone making \$60,000 a year might need a certain type of professional manager and they may want to switch to someone who does ultra wealth."

Whatever the winner does, it is important to do it slowly.

"You can absolutely indulge but let's be smart about it," Patel said. "It's a lot of money but until you figure out what you can afford, there are still limitations."

For example, he said, consider chartering a private jet before diving in and buying one.

"You may be interested in owning your favorite basketball team," he warned, "but maybe that isn't a good idea if it uses up all your money."

## **Biden tests positive for COVID-19, returns to isolation**

By ZEKE MILLER and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden tested positive for COVID-19 again Saturday, slightly more than three days after he was cleared to exit coronavirus isolation, the White House said, in a rare case of "rebound" following treatment with an anti-viral drug.

White House physician Dr. Kevin O'Connor said in a letter that Biden "has experienced no reemergence of symptoms, and continues to feel quite well." O'Connor said "there is no reason to reinstate treatment at this time."

In accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, Biden will reenter isolation for at least five days. He will isolate at the White House until he tests negative. The agency says most rebound cases remain mild and that severe disease during that period has not been reported.

Just as when Biden first tested positive, the White House sought to show he was still working. The president sent out a picture of himself masked and tieless on Twitter, which showed him signing a declaration that added individual assistance for flood survivors in Kentucky.

The president followed up by tweeting out a 12-second video of him on a White House balcony with his dog, Commander.

"I'm feeling fine, everything is good," said Biden, a pair of aviator sunglasses in his hand. "But Commander and I got a little work to do."

The president also took time on Saturday to have a FaceTime conversation with people camping outside the U.S. Capitol who are seeking health benefits for military veterans exposed to toxic substances from burn pits during their service, according to White House chief of staff Ron Klain. A bill to provide expanded benefits failed to clear the Senate on Wednesday. Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough brought the group pizza and the phone connection to talk with the president.

"Feel better," a member of the group told Biden in a video of the call posted to Twitter. Later, in a tweet, the president said he had planned to meet with families at the Capitol but that his positive test "got in the way."

Word of Biden's positive test came — he had been negative Friday morning — just two hours after the White House announced a presidential visit to Michigan this coming Tuesday to highlight the passage of a bill to promote domestic high-tech manufacturing. Biden had also been scheduled to visit his home in

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Wilmington, Delaware, on Sunday morning, where first lady Jill Biden has been staying while the president was positive. Both trips have been canceled as Biden has returned to isolation.

Biden, 79, was treated with the anti-viral drug Paxlovid after he first tested positive on July 21. He tested negative for the virus on this past Tuesday and Wednesday. He was then cleared to leave isolation while wearing a mask indoors. His positive tests puts him among the minority of those prescribed the drug to experience a rebound case of the virus.

White House COVID-19 coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha told reporters on Monday that data "suggests that between 5 and 8 percent of people have rebound" after Paxlovid treatment.

"Acknowledging the potential for so-called 'rebound' COVID positivity observed in a small percentage of patients treated with Paxlovid, the President increased his tested cadence, to protect people around him and to assure early detection of any return of viral replication," O'Connor wrote in his letter.

O'Connor cited negative tests for Biden from Tuesday evening, Wednesday morning, Thursday morning and Friday morning, before Saturday morning's positive result by antigen testing. "This in fact represents 'rebound' positivity," he wrote.

According to the CDC, those with rebound COVID should isolate for at least five days, ending that if a fever has resolved itself for 24 hours without medication and symptoms have improved. The patient "should wear a mask for a total of 10 days after rebound symptoms started. Some people continue to test positive after day 10 but are considerably less likely to shed infectious virus."

Both the Food and Drug Administration and Pfizer point out that 1% to 2% of people in Pfizer's original study on Paxlovid saw their virus levels rebound after 10 days. The rate was about the same among people taking the drug or dummy pills, "so it is unclear at this point that this is related to drug treatment," according to the FDA.

While Biden was testing negative, he returned to holding in-person indoor events and meetings with staff at the White House and was wearing a mask, in accordance with CDC guidelines. But the president removed his mask indoors when delivering remarks on Thursday and during a meeting with CEOs on the White House complex.

Asked why Biden appeared to be breaching CDC protocols, press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said, "They were socially distanced. They were far enough apart. So we made it safe for them to be together, to be on that stage."

Regulators are still studying the prevalence and virulence of rebound cases, but the CDC in May warned doctors that it has been reported to occur within two days to eight days after initially testing negative for the virus.

"Limited information currently available from case reports suggests that persons treated with Paxlovid who experience COVID-19 rebound have had mild illness; there are no reports of severe disease," the agency said at the time.

When Biden was initially released from isolation on Wednesday, O'Connor said the president would "increase his testing cadence" to catch any potential rebound of the virus.

Paxlovid has been proven to significantly reduce severe disease and death among those most vulnerable to COVID-19. U.S. health officials have encouraged those who test positive to consult their doctors or pharmacists to see if they should be prescribed the treatment, despite the rebound risk.

Biden is fully vaccinated, after getting two doses of the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine shortly before taking office, a first booster shot in September and an additional dose March 30.

While patients who have recovered from earlier variants of COVID-19 have tended to have high levels of immunity to future reinfection for 90 days, Jha said that the BA.5 subvariant that infected Biden has proven to be more "immune-evasive."

"We have seen lots of people get reinfected within 90 days," he said, adding that officials don't yet have data on how long those who have recovered from the BA.5 strain have protection from reinfection.

**Red Cross struggles to see prison where Ukrainian POWs died**



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By SUSIE BLANN Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian and Russian officials blamed each other Saturday for the deaths of dozens of Ukrainian prisoners of war in an attack on a prison in a separatist-controlled area. The International Red Cross asked to visit the prison to make sure the scores of wounded POWs had proper treatment, but said its request had not been granted so far.

Meanwhile, Russia kept launching attacks on several Ukrainian cities, hitting a school and a bus station.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the ICRC and the United Nations have a duty to react to the shelling of the prison complex in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk province, and he called again for Russia to be declared a terrorist state.

"Condemnation at the level of political rhetoric is not enough for this mass murder," he said.

Separatist authorities and Russian officials said the attack Friday killed 53 Ukrainian POWs and wounded another 75. Russia's Defense Ministry on Saturday issued a list naming 48 Ukrainian fighters, aged 20 to 62, who died in the attack; it was not clear if the ministry had revised its fatality count.

Satellite photos taken before and after the attack show that a small, squarish building in the middle of the Olenivka prison complex was demolished, its roof in splinters.

Both Ukraine and Russia alleged the attack on the prison was premeditated and intended to silence the Ukrainian prisoners and destroy evidence.

The ICRC, which has organized civilian evacuations and worked to monitor the treatment of POWs held by Russia and Ukraine, said it requested access to the prison "to determine the health and condition of all the people present on-site at the time of the attack."

"Our priority right now is making sure that the wounded receive lifesaving treatment and that the bodies of those who lost their lives are dealt with in a dignified manner," the Red Cross said.

But the organization said late Saturday that its request to access the prison had not been granted yet.

"Granting ICRC access to POWs is an obligation of parties to conflict under the Geneva Conventions," the ICRC said on Twitter.

Russia claimed Ukraine's military used U.S.-supplied precision rocket launchers to target the prison in Olenivka, a settlement controlled by the Moscow-backed Donetsk People's Republic.

The Ukrainian military accused the Russians of shelling the prison to cover up the alleged torture and execution of Ukrainians there.

The Institute for the Study of War, a think tank based in Washington, said the competing claims and limited information prevented assigning full responsibility for the attack but the "available visual evidence appears to support the Ukrainian claim more than the Russian."

Moscow has opened a probe into the attack and the U.N. said it also was prepared to send investigators. U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said "we stand ready to send a group of experts able to conduct an investigation, requiring the consent of the parties, and we fully support the initiatives" of the Red Cross.

Elsewhere in eastern Ukraine, Russian rockets hit a school in Kharkiv and a bus station in Sloviansk, among other strikes. In southern Ukraine, one person was reported killed and six injured in shelling in a residential area in Mykolaiv, local officials said.

Russian and separatist forces are trying to take full control of the Donetsk region, one of two eastern provinces that Russia has recognized as sovereign states.

Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk warned Saturday that Ukrainian-controlled parts of Donetsk will face severe heating problems this winter because of the destruction of gas mains. She called for a mandatory evacuation of residents before the cold weather sets in.

The prison attack reportedly killed Ukrainian soldiers captured in May after the fall of Mariupol, a Black Sea port city where troops and the Azov Regiment of the national guard famously held out against a months-long Russian siege.

On Saturday, an association of Azov fighters' relatives dressed in black demonstrated outside Kyiv's St. Sophia Cathedral and called for Russia to be designated a terrorist state for violating the Geneva Convention's rules for the treatment of war prisoners.

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A woman wearing dark glasses who gave only her first name, Iryna, was waiting for news of her 23-year-old son.

"I don't know how is he, where is he, if he is alive or no. I don't know. It's a horror, only horror," she said.

On the energy front, Russia's state-owned natural gas corporation said Saturday it has halted shipments to Latvia because of contract violations. Gas giant Gazprom said the shipments were stopped because Latvia broke "terms for extraction of gas."

The statement likely referred to a refusal to meet Russia's demand for gas payments in rubles rather than other currencies. Gazprom has previously suspended gas shipments to other EU countries, including the Netherlands, Poland and Bulgaria, because they would not pay in rubles.

EU nations have been scrambling to secure other energy sources, fearing that Russia will cut off more gas supplies as winter approaches.

## Indiana Senate narrowly passes near-total abortion ban

By ARLEIGH RODGERS and RICK CALLAHAN Associated Press/Report for America

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana state senators narrowly passed a near-total abortion ban Saturday during a rare weekend session, sending the bill to the House after a contentious week of arguments over whether to allow exceptions for rape and incest.

The Republican-controlled Senate voted 26-20 after about three hours of debate, passing the bill with the minimum 26 votes needed to send it on to the House, which Republicans also control.

The bill would prohibit abortions from the time a fertilized egg implants in a uterus. Exceptions would be allowed in cases of rape and incest, but a patient seeking an abortion for either reason would have to sign a notarized affidavit attesting to the attack.

Indiana is one of the first Republican-controlled states to debate tighter abortion laws since the U.S. Supreme Court last month overturned the precedent establishing a national right to an abortion.

But the GOP splintered after the rape and incest exceptions remained in the bill Thursday when an amendment failed that would have stripped out those exceptions.

Ten Republican senators voted against the legislation Saturday, including a handful who support abortion rights.

One of them, Republican Sen. Vaneta Becker of Evansville, said the measure will interfere with women's medical choices, their lives and free will by setting strict limits on abortion access in Indiana.

"Women deserve to have us protect their lives and free will. Senate Bill 1 destroys both. Shame on us for doing this," she said, noting that only eight of Senate's 50 members are women.

"We are considering dictating medical decisions with blinders and ignorant of the astounding, unintended consequences we are creating," Becker warned, saying the Senate is "just making a mess."

Republican Sen. Mike Young, whose amendment calling for no exceptions except for the life of the mother previously failed, said he voted against the bill not because he agrees with its opponents but because he has qualms with some aspects of the legislation he hopes are addressed.

Young said one provision that concerns him states that a doctor can perform an abortion if he believes a woman's life is in danger but it doesn't require the doctor to inform that woman that her life is in danger.

"She may never know the reasons why. I just think it's important when a person makes the most important decision of their life they ought to know if their life is in danger, and what are the reasons why it's in danger," he said.

GOP Sen. Sue Glick of LaGrange, who authored the abortion bill, said during the debate she doesn't expect the legislation approved by the Senate to be the final version the legislature passes. She called the Senate bill "an expression of where we believe the state of Indiana is right now."

The legislation's passage "is a huge step forward in protecting the life of the unborn children in our state," Glick said in a statement after the bill's approval.

"We have put together a bill that would not criminalize women and would protect the unborn whose

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voices have been silenced for the past 50 years under Roe v Wade," she added.

Ten of the Senate's 11 Democrats voted against the bill, with the 11th member absent for Saturday's debate.

Democratic Sen. Tim Lanane of Anderson condemned the bill as a product of a male-dominated Legislature that's poised to take away the control that pregnant women should have over their own bodies.

"This is the government, the male-dominated government of the state of Indiana, saying to the women of this state, you lose your choice," he said. "We've told you — papa state, big state government — is going to tell you what you will do with your body. And I don't think we're ready for that."

The bill now heads to the House, where proposed changes could come as soon as next week — the second week of lawmakers' three-week special session. Lawmakers must adjourn their session by Aug. 14.

House Speaker Todd Huston on Friday declined to discuss specifics of the Senate bill. But he said he supports the rape and incest exceptions.

Gov. Eric Holcomb said earlier this summer that he had no "red lines" on what anti-abortion measures lawmakers might consider. But on July 12 Holcomb sidestepped taking a stance on how far the Republican-dominated Legislature should go in restricting abortions in its special session.

A national poll this month found an overwhelming majority of Americans believe their state should generally allow abortion in specific cases, including if a woman's life is endangered or if the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest. Few think abortion should always be illegal, according to The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll.

## **Iraqi protesters storm parliament in Baghdad, set up sit-in**

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA and SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Thousands of followers of an influential Shiite cleric stormed into Iraq's parliament on Saturday, for the second time this week, protesting government formation efforts led by his rivals, an alliance of Iran-backed groups.

The alliance showed signs of internal division, with some calling for counter-protests — a development that would raise the specter of civil strife — while others later urged for dialogue.

Iraqi security forces initially used tear gas and stun grenades to try to repel the demonstrators, who are followers of cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. Once inside, the protesters declared an open-ended sit-in and claimed they would not disperse until their demands are answered.

As the numbers of protesters swelled, the police backed off. An expected parliament session did not take place and no lawmakers were in the hall. By late afternoon, the Ministry of Health said about 125 people were injured in the violence — 100 protesters and 25 members of the security forces.

Parliament Speaker Mohammed Halbousi suspended future sessions until further notice.

Earlier in the day and heeding al-Sadr's calls, the demonstrators used ropes and chains to pull down cement barricades leading to the gate of Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, which houses government buildings and embassies.

The development showed al-Sadr was using his large grassroots following as a pressure tactic against his rivals, after his party was not able to form a government despite having won the largest number of seats in the federal elections held last October.

With neither side appearing willing to concede, and al-Sadr intent on derailing government formation efforts led by his rivals, Iraq's limbo and political paralysis has ushered in a new era of instability in the beleaguered country.

Al-Sadr has used his followers as leverage against rivals and ordered them to occupy the parliament in the past — as in 2016, during the administration of Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi.

Now, 10 months since the last elections, the political vacuum is shaping up to be the longest since the U.S.-led 2003 invasion to oust Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein had reset the country's political order.

Al-Sadr's rivals in the Coordination Framework — an alliance of Shiite parties backed by Iran and led by former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki — showed signs of internal divisions later on Saturday.

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At first, the alliance called for “peaceful” counter-protests to defend the state, raising fears of possible street clashes and inter-ethnic violence.

“Civil peace is a red line and all Iraqis must be prepared to defend it in all possible, peaceful, means,” the alliance said. Three Shiite officials said this statement was written by al-Maliki and militia leader and political figure Qais al-Khazali.

Later, Hadi al-Amiri, also an alliance leader, issued a statement inviting our “dear brother” al-Sadr to “a serious dialogue” to find a way out of the impasse. Al-Maliki appeared to pivot also and issued a statement saying the day’s tumultuous events had prompted him to call for dialogue with al-Sadr.

Al-Maliki is al-Sadr’s chief rival and both men are powerful in their own right.

The United Nations expressed its concern of further instability and called on Iraqi leaders to de-escalate. “Voices of reason and wisdom are critical to prevent further violence. All actors are encouraged to de-escalate in the interest of all Iraqis,” the U.N. said.

In a speech, caretaker Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi called for restraint.

“The political blocs must sit down and negotiate and reach an understanding for the sake of Iraq and the Iraqis,” he said and ordered security forces to protect demonstrators.

Shiite leader Ammar al-Hakim — who is allied with the Framework but has announced he would not participate in the next government — echoed al-Kadhimi’s words and called for both sides to make concessions to avoid “the irreplaceable loss of the homeland.”

Throughout the day, al-Sadr supporters — many had come not just from Baghdad but other provinces as well in order to stage the sit-in — continued to throng the parliament building, raising the Iraqi flag and portraits of al-Sadr. They chanted against the intrusion of foreign states, a veiled reference to Iran.

It was the second time in four days that the cleric ordered his followers to take their cause inside the Green Zone. On Wednesday, after protesters stormed the parliament in a similar fashion, they left shortly after getting inside, at al-Sadr’s command.

Wednesday’s show of force came after al-Sadr’s rivals had made a step forward in their government formation efforts by naming Mohammed al-Sudani as their nominee for the premiership.

Inside the parliament, as the day unfolded, the defenses of the security forces grew less intense and many were seen sitting and conversing with demonstrators. Later, some protesters began moving from the parliament toward the Judicial Council building.

“We came today to remove the corrupt political class and prevent them from holding a parliament session, and to prevent the Framework from forming a government,” said Raad Thabet, 41. “We responded to al-Sadr’s call.”

Al-Sadr’s party left the government formation talks in June, giving his rivals in the Coordination Framework the majority they needed to move forward with the process.

Many protesters wore black to mark the days leading to Ashura, which commemorates the death of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Mohamed and one of Shiite Islam’s most important figures. Al-Sadr’s messaging to his followers has used the important day in Shiite Islam to kindle protests.

It’s unclear to what extent Saturday’s events could derail efforts to muster enough support for al-Sudani’s bid for premiership. Al-Maliki had wanted the premier post himself, but audio recordings were leaked in which he purportedly cursed and criticized al-Sadr and even his own Shiite allies, which effectively sank his candidacy.

## Overturing Roe v. Wade isn’t the end for abortion opponents

By AMY FORLITI and GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

Now that Roe v. Wade has been toppled, abortion opponents are taking a multifaceted approach in their quest to end abortions nationwide, targeting their strategies to the dynamics of each state as they attempt to create new laws and defend bans in courts.

One anti-abortion group has proposed model legislation that would ban all abortions except to prevent the death of a pregnant woman. New legal frontiers could include prosecuting doctors who defy bans,



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and skirmishes over access to medication abortions already are underway. Others hope to get more conservatives elected in November to advance an anti-abortion agenda.

"For Republicans, the post-Roe world will be significantly different, from a legal perspective," said Jonathan Turley, a professor at George Washington University Law School. "For the last 50 years, Republicans have been on the offense by chipping away on the edges of Roe. Now they are going to be playing defense in all 50 states."

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision overturning Roe v. Wade said abortion is not a right under the Constitution, creating an opening for states pushing to get more restrictions on the books. Most recently, lawmakers in West Virginia and Indiana have pushed ahead with new restrictions, with varying success.

James Bopp Jr., general counsel for National Right to Life, has worked on model legislation for states, but said with few legislatures in session "the process of adopting new laws is really just beginning."

It recommends banning all abortions except to prevent the death of a pregnant woman, though it provides language for states that want to make exceptions in cases of rape or incest. It also recommends criminal penalties for any person, including a doctor, who knowingly or intentionally causes or aids an "unlawful abortion."

The model law would not criminalize a woman who gets an abortion.

A memo attached to the model language suggests anyone who aids and abets or conspires to cause an "unlawful abortion" also could be prosecuted, including those who provide instructions on how to self-administer or get an abortion deemed unlawful under the law. That person would have to know the woman was seeking an abortion and intentionally help her to get one.

"General providing of information is protected by the First Amendment," Bopp said.

It also has language that allows for prosecution of a person — other than a pharmacist or drug manufacturer — who knows a woman plans to use an abortion-inducing drug to cause an unlawful abortion, and intentionally delivers the drug or advertises such a drug for sale.

But in the meantime, Bopp said abortion opponents are looking to November, when they hope to elect anti-abortion candidates who will enact such laws.

With that goal in mind, many conservatives are taking a "cautious pause" on the abortion issue, according to Larry Jacobs, a politics professor at the University of Minnesota.

"Republicans have a much better chance of winning competitive races around the country talking about inflation, crime and Joe Biden," Jacobs said. "When they are talking about abortion, they are doing Democrats a favor."

Conservatives also see new courtroom battles on the horizon.

Jonathan Mitchell, the former Texas solicitor general who is now a private practice attorney, came up with some of the key components of a Texas law that bans abortions after fetal cardiac activity is detected. His innovation was to make violations enforceable through lawsuits filed by citizens, rather than the government.

Mitchell, who represents Texas and South Dakota in abortion lawsuits and has helped lawmakers in multiple states develop abortion bans and restrictions, said future legal fights could center around those who pay for abortions for people living in states with bans that are not being enforced due to court injunctions.

"Abortion is still a criminal offense in every state with a trigger law or pre-Roe ban, regardless of whether a state-court injunction is in effect," Mitchell said in an email to The Associated Press. He said an injunction doesn't actually block a law as many believe, but temporarily keeps it from being enforced.

He said employers or those who help fund abortions in states such as Utah, Kentucky, Louisiana, or West Virginia are violating the law and could be prosecuted. He said if bans exist but are on hold, abortion providers could be prosecuted retroactively.

"And the mere risk of potential lawsuits may be enough to deter abortion providers from offering abortions to out-of-state residents, especially when these lawsuits can be brought," he wrote, "not only against the physician but everyone else involved."

Melissa Murray, a professor at New York University School of Law, said the question of whether those who

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pay for out-of-state abortions could be charged is “uncharted ground.” Employers and funds could argue they’re exercising their free speech rights, she said in an email. “That said, a state could argue that (the groups) are facilitating the violation of a criminal law — essentially, they’re functioning as accomplices.”

The fear of prosecution has already led to victories of sorts for abortion foes; some clinics have shut down over the confusion, reopened, then shut down again. It has also led doctors to withhold emergency treatment until it became clear that a fetus was dead or a woman’s life was at stake.

Erin Hawley, a lawyer at the conservative Alliance Defending Freedom and the wife of Republican U.S. Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri, expects continuing litigation over medication abortions.

She pointed to a court battle underway in Mississippi, where drugmaker GenBioPro is suing the state over its provisions that make it harder to get a prescription for mifepristone, a drug that can induce abortion. The state’s policies are at odds with U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations, which courts have generally found take precedence over state law.

But Hawley said that might not apply here.

“It’s always a big deal for a federal agency or law to trump state law,” Hawley said.

Some states are taking different approaches.

In Louisiana, the State Bond Commission voted last week to withhold a \$39 million line of credit for a New Orleans sewer and water project to “send a message” after city and local officials said they would not enforce that state’s abortion ban. The law is currently blocked by a court and not enforceable anyway.

Texas sued the federal government in mid-July after the Biden administration issued guidance that stated hospitals are required to provide abortions if necessary to save a mother’s life.

Next week, Kansas voters will consider the first statewide referendum on abortion since Roe was overturned. If approved, it could make Kansas the fifth state to declare its constitution doesn’t grant the right to abortion and would open the door for the Legislature to further restrict or ban abortion.

Bopp said while court battles and midterm elections are the current focus, abortion opponents would eventually like to see federal and state constitutional amendments that would explicitly protect the unborn, though he acknowledged that would be a challenge.

“A constitutional amendment has been one of our goals. But this requires a hell of a consensus,” he said.

## Jewish volunteers bond with Ukrainian kids at summer camp

By VANESSA GERA Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — A 5-year-old girl’s drawing at a summer camp in Poland’s capital caught the eye of one of her counselors. Why did she use black and white, and not red or pink, to make a heart, Rabbi Ilana Baird asked the child.

The girl, sighing heavily, said it was black like the dog she left behind in Ukraine.

Baird, who lives in California, volunteered with several other Jews originally from Russia or other parts of the former Soviet Union to mentor Ukrainian refugee children at the camp in Warsaw. The program, which ended Friday, was designed to give some joy to youngsters traumatized by war, to help prepare them for a new school year in Poland, and to give their mothers some time to themselves.

After performing puppet shows and reading stories to her group of 5- and 6-year-old campers, painting a lot of little faces and dispensing lots of big hugs, the rabbi saw another heart drawing. This one was pink.

“Happiness,” the girl explained.

Baird, 48, was happy to see cheerful colors and rainbows also emerging in the artwork of other children under her care at the Kef Be Kayitz camp, a Hebrew name that means Fun in the Summer.

For the volunteers, the decision to take time off from their usual jobs in the United States and fly to Poland to work with the Ukrainian children was driven by a desire to help those in need, a value that is universal and a central part of Jewish religious teachings.

“Jewish people have suffered so much in the past. We suffered pogroms, we suffered the Holocaust and we suffered antisemitism,” Baird said. “And we have a sense of obligation to help people who are suffering right now.”

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After Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, people across Poland sprang into action to welcome and help refugees from the neighboring country. Poland has accepted more of the war's refugees than any other nation.

Local and international Jewish organizations also wasted no time in trying to meet the most urgent needs: to house and feed the Ukrainians, most of whom are women and children.

With the war about to enter its sixth month, the camp at the Lauder Morasha School in Warsaw reflects the type of programming being developed to meet the changing needs of refugees. Many Ukrainians realize they won't be able to go home soon, or perhaps ever, said Helise Lieberman, the director of the Taube Center for Jewish Life and Learning.

Mornings were devoted to Polish, English and math lessons so the children will be in a stronger position to adapt to school. Many of the Ukrainian kids who arrived in Poland since February finished the Ukrainian academic year remotely but will be entering Polish schools in September.

Campers spent afternoons doing arts and crafts, playing sports and making excursions to city museums and parks. About a third of the 90 children who attended the camp are Jewish, according to Marta Saracyn, the head of the Jewish Community Center of Warsaw.

"It's a lovely bubble for kids to be kids," Saracyn said.

Some of the Ukrainian refugee mothers need to look for jobs, and some are severely depressed after being separated from partners and relatives back home, organizers said.

The Taube Center and the Jewish Community Center of Warsaw organized the camp in conjunction with the Jewish Federations of North America, the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Joint Distribution Committee.

The Jewish Federations of North America recruited nearly 90 Russian-speaking educators and rabbinic leaders to help Ukrainian refugees in Poland and Hungary, and 10 helped out at the Warsaw camp, said Hannah Miller, who runs the volunteer program.

The 10 camp volunteers are Russian-speaking immigrants who left the Soviet Union decades ago, or the children of Russian Jewish immigrants. Only a couple spoke Ukrainian, so they mostly spoke to the children in Russian, which is also widely used in much of Ukraine.

Baird recalled painting the face of a boy who became upset when he realized she wasn't from Ukraine. "Why did you come here?" he asked her.

"Because you don't need to be from Ukraine to help others," the rabbi answered, "you just need to be human."

The Jewish school where the camp took place is located blocks from the former Warsaw Ghetto, where Jews were imprisoned by German forces, killed and starved during the Holocaust before they were sent to concentration and extermination camps.

Poland was home to nearly 3.5 million Jews before World War II, most of whom were killed by German Nazi forces. But Jewish life has reemerged in the country since the fall of Moscow-backed communism in 1989.

"If this had happened 30 years ago, there would not have been Jewish communal institutions to provide relief and care," said Lieberman, an American who was the founding principal of the Lauder Morasha School.

## Dems seem headed for climate, health win after ups and downs

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's been more than a year in the making and has seen plenty of ups and downs. Now, a Democratic economic package focused on climate and health care faces hurdles but seems headed toward party-line passage by Congress next month.

Approval would let President Joe Biden and his party claim a triumph on top priorities as November's elections approach. They have not forgotten that they came close to approving a far grander version of the bill last year, only to see Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., one of their most conservative and contrarian members, torpedo it at the eleventh hour.

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This time, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., has crafted a compromise package with Manchin, to the surprise of everyone, transforming the West Virginian from pariah to partner. The measure is more modest than earlier versions but still checks boxes on issues that make Democrats giddy.

Here's what they face:

WHAT'S IN IT?

The measure would raise \$739 billion in revenue over 10 years and spend \$433 billion. More than \$300 billion would be left for trimming federal deficits.

Those are meaningful cuts in red ink. But they're tiny compared with the \$16 trillion in new debt the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates will accumulate over the next decade.

The package would save consumers and the government money by curbing prescription drug prices, and it would subsidize private health insurance for millions of people. It would bolster the IRS budget so the tax agency can collect more unpaid taxes.

The plan would foster clean energy and offshore energy drilling, a balance demanded by Manchin, a champion of fossil fuels. It also would collect new taxes from the largest corporations and wealthy hedge fund owners.

It's a fraction of the \$3.5 trillion package that Biden proposed early in his presidency, which also envisioned sums for initiatives such as paid family leave and universal preschool. It's also smaller than the roughly \$2 trillion alternative the House passed last November after Manchin demanded cuts then derailed the deal anyway, citing inflation fears.

IT'S NOW CALLED THE "INFLATION REDUCTION ACT," BUT ...

... will it do that? It certainly could, but there are dissenters.

First, some context.

By one inflation measure the Federal Reserve studies closely, prices jumped 6.8% in June from a year ago, the biggest increase in four decades. That followed government figures showing the economy shrank anew last quarter, fueling recession worries.

"Improved tax collection, drug savings, and deficit reduction would put downward pressure on inflation," the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget said Friday. In what passes for a rave review, the bipartisan fiscal watchdog group called the legislation "exactly the kind of package lawmakers should put in place to help the economy in a number of ways."

"Deficit reduction is almost always inflation-reducing," Jason Furman, a Harvard University economics professor who was a top economic adviser to President Barack Obama, wrote Friday in *The Wall Street Journal*. He said the measure would also "reduce inflation by slowing the growth of prescription-drug prices."

A more sobering assessment came from the University of Pennsylvania's Penn Wharton Budget Model, which analyzes economic issues.

"The act would very slightly increase inflation until 2024 and decrease inflation thereafter," the group wrote Friday. "These point estimates are statistically indistinguishable from zero, thereby indicating low confidence that the legislation will have any impact on inflation."

A chorus of Republicans say Democrats' bill would be widely damaging. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., calls it "a giant package of huge new job-killing tax hikes, Green New Deal craziness that will kill American energy, and prescription drug socialism that will leave us with fewer new life-saving medicines."

CHANGES AHEAD

The 725-page measure will probably still change somewhat.

Schumer said this past week that Democrats planned to add language aimed at reducing patients' costs of insulin, the diabetes drug that can cost hundreds of dollars monthly.

Insulin price curbs were a highlight of Democrats' bigger package last year, including a \$35 monthly cap for patients who get the drug through Medicare or private insurers. But that fell out this year as the



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measure was trimmed.

Sens. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., and Susan Collins, R-Maine, have produced a bill capping insulin's price. That measure's prospects diminished after the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated it would cost about \$23 billion and actually increase the price of insulin. The two lawmakers also haven't produced the 10 Republicans who would be needed to succeed in the 50-50 Senate, where most bills need 60 votes.

It's unclear what the Democrats' new insulin language would do. Prior language that required private insurers to set a \$35 monthly insulin cap may violate the chamber's rules, which only allow provisions primarily affecting the federal budget.

In addition, under the process Democrats are using to move the measure through the chamber by a simple majority, with Vice President Kamala Harris' tiebreaking vote, it would face multiple amendments in a voting session that can run through the night, and there is no telling whether some will pass.

## PROSPECTS

Every Republican seems poised to vote "no."

Democrats will need all 50 of their own votes in the Senate, where unpredictable Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., has yet to state her view.

Democrats can lose no more than four House votes to succeed there. Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Friday that when the Senate approves the package, "We'll pass it."

Schumer wants Senate passage next week. He acknowledged that timeline is "going to be hard" because it will take time for the chamber's parliamentarian to make sure the bill conforms to Senate rules.

This will also take luck. All 50 Democrats, including both independents who support them, will have to be healthy enough to show up and vote.

That's not guaranteed. The latest, extremely contagious COVID-19 variant is spreading around the country. And the chamber has 33 senators who are 70 years old or more, including 19 Democrats.

Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., 77, was the latest senator to announce he'd contracted the disease. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., 82, has been out after hip surgery. Both are expected back next week.

## Trolling along: Fetterman going big on social media vs. Oz

By MARC LEVY Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — In one of this year's most competitive U.S. Senate races, the biggest moments aren't playing out on the campaign trail. They're unfolding on social media.

For one stunt, Democrat John Fetterman of Pennsylvania rolled out an online petition to get his Republican rival, celebrity heart surgeon Dr. Mehmet Oz, enshrined in New Jersey's Hall of Fame — a nod to Oz moving from his longtime home in New Jersey to run in neighboring Pennsylvania.

For another, Fetterman paid \$2,000 for an airplane to haul a banner over weekend beachgoers on the Jersey Shore welcoming Oz back home to the Garden State. And in particularly viral posts, Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi, star of the infamous MTV show "Jersey Shore," and "Little" Steven Van Zandt of "The Sopranos" and Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band recorded videos telling Oz to come home.

"Nobody wants to see you get embarrassed," Van Zandt says. "So come on back to Jersey where you belong."

For a campaign that could ultimately cost more than \$100 million, the stunts are cheap ways for Fetterman, Pennsylvania's lieutenant governor, to generate attention. The millions of views are helpful for a candidate who has largely been sidelined from personal appearances after suffering a stroke in May.

And it's about more than getting laughs: The social media strategy could prove potent in defining Oz as a carpetbagger disconnected from the state's residents and culture.

"The reason it stands out is he seems to be doing the best job of anyone this election cycle at contrasting his personality versus that of his opponent," said Dante Atkins, a Democratic campaign strategist based in Washington, who has not done any work for Fetterman.

Republicans acknowledge that Fetterman's social media game is top-notch. But they question the value.

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Even at a time when most Americans use social media, many Pennsylvania voters on social media don't see Fetterman's material and, anyway, elections aren't about who's got the best troll game, they say.

Republicans also argue that Fetterman's greatest hits are missing the issues that voters are most likely to consider when making up their minds: inflation, gas prices and the economy, for instance.

"People don't really care where I'm from," Oz said in an interview. "They care what I stand for."

A lot of the material comes from Fetterman himself, said campaign spokesperson Joe Calvello. He does a lot of the posting on Twitter and if Fetterman himself doesn't post it, he helps originate ideas.

He'll shoot texts to campaign staff saying, "Hey what about this," or "did you see this," Calvello said. "He's still very involved."

Other material comes from campaign staff who develop ideas that stay on-brand for Fetterman and on turf that the candidate has staked out, Calvello said. That includes accusing oil companies of jacking up gas prices.

The concept of trolling Oz, and a lot of the memes, also came from Fetterman, Calvello said. The idea for the video by Snooki emerged from a brainstorm by a couple members of the staff, Calvello said.

Campaign staff wrote the script and Snooki — who was paid less than \$400 through the video-sharing Cameo website — ad-libbed some of it, but was not in on the joke until afterward.

With 3.2 million views, it scored the most engagement on Twitter ever on Fetterman's account, "and that's a high bar," Calvello said.

Van Zandt did his video for free and ad-libbed his script after the campaign contacted him directly to see if he'd cooperate, Calvello said.

It is difficult to know how much this will help Fetterman in a year when Democrats face stiff political headwinds, including high inflation and a traditional mid-term backlash against the party of the president.

Political scientists have had a hard time isolating the forces that affect how voters make up their minds, said Christopher Borick, an assistant professor of political science at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

In addition, voters tend to be older than the average social media user, Borick said.

Still, Pew Research Center last year estimated that seven in 10 Americans use social media, and it is unquestionable that the medium is becoming more important to reaching voters.

"The proof in the pudding is that campaigns have increasingly turned to it, and so they're going on the belief that it is a necessary and key component," Borick said.

Maggie McDonald, a post-doctoral fellow who studies social media in congressional campaigns at New York University's Center for Social Media and Politics, said Fetterman's social media game is among the best, if not the best, she's seen.

"I imagine in future years people will try to emulate this," McDonald said.

In addition to making people laugh, she said she thinks Fetterman's stunts could motivate appreciative viewers to contribute money to his campaign and push apathetic Democrats to get off the sidelines to vote for him.

Oz has tried to harness the power of social media for his campaign, and tried to respond to Fetterman online. He has drawn particular focus to Fetterman's absence from traditional retail campaigning in the aftermath of his stroke, including using a meme from the TV series "Lost."

In response to a Fetterman tweet about high gas prices, Oz retorted, "Curious as to why you have to fill up your tank so often when you're not out on the campaign trail meeting with Pennsylvanians."

Fetterman responded, "Dude, you're literally from Jersey," before he referred to a New Jersey state law that requires gas station attendants to pump gas for motorists. "I bet you don't even know how to pump your own gas."

Fetterman's campaign argues that its trolling of Oz is on point with issues that matter to voters. Some elements of it — such as a "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" parody video — try to ask whether a man who is worth nine figures can advocate for regular people who are pinched by high gas prices.

Besides contrasting himself with Oz, Fetterman is well versed in internet culture.

"He's extremely online, he knows his memes, he knows his internet subcultures, his campaign knows

how to make things go viral and obliterate his opponent with online owns," Atkins said.

Don't expect the posts to stop anytime soon.

Fetterman now says he'll put up a billboard on the Betsy Ross Bridge connecting the states over the Delaware River that reminds motorists that they are leaving New Jersey for Pennsylvania "just like Dr. Oz."

## In race for monkeypox vaccines, experts see repeat of COVID

By MARIA CHENG AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — Moves by rich countries to buy large quantities of monkeypox vaccine, while declining to share doses with Africa, could leave millions of people unprotected against a more dangerous version of the disease and risk continued spillovers of the virus into humans, public health officials are warning.

Critics fear a repeat of the catastrophic inequity problems seen during the coronavirus pandemic.

"The mistakes we saw during the COVID-19 pandemic are already being repeated," said Dr. Boghuma Kabisen Titanji, an assistant professor of medicine at Emory University.

While rich countries have ordered millions of vaccines to stop monkeypox within their borders, none have announced plans to share doses with Africa, where a more lethal form of monkeypox is spreading than in the West.

To date, there have been more than 22,000 monkeypox cases reported in nearly 80 countries since May, with about 75 suspected deaths in Africa, mostly in Nigeria and Congo. On Friday, Brazil and Spain reported deaths linked to monkeypox, the first reported outside Africa. Spain reported a second monkeypox death Saturday.

"The African countries dealing with monkeypox outbreaks for decades have been relegated to a footnote in conversations about the global response," Titanji said.

Scientists say that, unlike campaigns to stop COVID-19, mass vaccinations against monkeypox won't be necessary. They think targeted use of the available doses, along with other measures, could shut down the expanding epidemics that were recently designated by the World Health Organization as a global health emergency.

Yet while monkeypox is much harder to spread than COVID-19, experts warn if the disease spills over into general populations — currently in Europe and North America it is circulating almost exclusively among gay and bisexual men — the need for vaccines could intensify, especially if the virus becomes entrenched in new regions.

On Thursday, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention called for the continent to be prioritized for vaccines, saying it was again being left behind.

"If we're not safe, the rest of the world is not safe," said Africa CDC's acting director, Ahmed Ogwel.

Although monkeypox has been endemic in parts of Africa for decades, it mostly jumps into people from infected wild animals and has not typically spread very far beyond the continent.

Experts suspect the monkeypox outbreaks in North America and Europe may have originated in Africa long before the disease started spreading via sex at two raves in Spain and Belgium. Currently, more than 70% of the world's monkeypox cases are in Europe, and 98% are in men who have sex with men.

Catherine Smallwood, a senior emergencies officer at WHO Europe, said the deaths in Spain did not change the agency's assessment of the outbreak.

"Although the disease is self-limiting in most cases, monkeypox can cause severe complications," she said in an email, adding that about 8% of infections reported had required hospitalization and that monkeypox could sometimes lead to life-threatening complications like encephalitis.

"With the continued spread of monkeypox in Europe, we will expect to see more deaths," Smallwood said.

WHO is developing a vaccine-sharing mechanism for affected countries, but has released few details about how it might work. The U.N. health agency has made no guarantees about prioritizing poor countries in Africa, saying only that vaccines would be dispensed based on epidemiological need.

Some experts worry the mechanism could duplicate the problems seen with COVAX, created by WHO and partners in 2020 to try to ensure poorer countries would get COVID-19 shots. That missed repeated targets to share vaccines with poorer nations.

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"Just asking countries to share is not going to be enough," said Sharmila Shetty, a vaccines adviser for Medecins Sans Frontieres. "The longer monkeypox circulates, the greater chances it could get into new animal reservoirs or spread to" the human general population, she said.

At the moment, there's only one producer of the most advanced monkeypox vaccine: the Danish company Bavarian Nordic. Its production capacity this year is about 30 million doses, with about 16 million vaccines available now.

In May, Bavarian Nordic asked the U.S. to release more than 215,000 doses it was due to receive "to assist with international requests the company was receiving," and the U.S. complied, according to Bill Hall, a spokesman for the department of Health and Human Services. The U.S. will still receive the doses but at a later date.

The company declined to specify which countries it was allocating doses for.

Hall said the U.S. has not made any other promises to share vaccines. The U.S. has ordered by far the most number of doses, with 13 million reserved, although only about 1.4 million have been delivered.

Some African officials said it would be wise to stockpile some doses on the continent, especially given the difficulties Western countries were having stopping monkeypox.

"I really didn't think this would spread very far, because monkeypox does not spread like COVID," said Salim Abdool Karim, an infectious diseases epidemiologist at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. "Africa should procure some vaccines in case we need them, but we should prioritize diagnostics and surveillance so we know who to target."

Dr. Ingrid Katz, a global health expert at Harvard University, said the monkeypox epidemics were "potentially manageable" if the limited vaccines were distributed appropriately. She believed it was still possible to prevent monkeypox from turning into a pandemic but "we need to be thoughtful in our prevention strategies and rapid in our response."

In Spain, which has Europe's biggest monkeypox outbreak, the demand for vaccines far exceeds supply.

"There is a real gap between the number of vaccines that we currently have available and the people who could benefit," said Pep Coll, a medical director at a Barcelona health center that was dispensing shots this week.

Daniel Rofin, 41, was more than happy to be offered a dose. He said he decided to get vaccinated for the same reasons he was immunized against COVID-19.

"I feel reassured it is a way to stop the spread," he said. "We (gay men) are a group at risk."

## Federal tourism aid funds gas stations, trash cans, jazz

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

Located along a remote stretch of Highway 395, the Fort Independence Travel Plaza touts a dozen gas pumps, clean restrooms and made-to-order meals for travelers visiting California's Eastern Sierra.

The facility, which provides revenue for a Paiute Indian tribe, is about to quadruple in size thanks to an \$8 million federal grant that will help build a new gas station with room for cultural displays and locally made products.

It's one of hundreds of tourism-related projects nationwide that are collectively getting about \$2.4 billion from the American Rescue Plan, according to an Associated Press analysis of funds flowing from last year's wide-ranging coronavirus relief law.

The money is paying for graffiti-resistant trash cans in Portland, Oregon, culturally diverse music festivals in Nashville, Tennessee, sports facilities in various cities and new marketing campaigns to attract tourists to particular states — sometimes in direct competition with one another.

"Our goal is to get people traveling again. Period," said Dave Lorenz, chairman of the National Council of State Tourism Directors and the Michigan travel director.

Despite high fuel prices, Americans do seem to be hitting the road. After a plunge at the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak, U.S. travel spending this year is projected to top \$1 trillion — up 45% from its 2020 low point, according to the U.S. Travel Association.



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That corresponds with a similar increase in state tourism office budgets, which have rebounded to pre-pandemic levels thanks to the federal aid.

A coronavirus relief law signed by former President Donald Trump opened the potential for federal money to be used for local tourism projects.

The subsequent pandemic relief law signed by President Joe Biden expanded that. The American Rescue Plan contained \$750 million for grants for tourism, travel and outdoor recreation through the federal Economic Development Authority. It also included the tourism, travel and hospitality sector among dozens of eligible uses — alongside health care, housing and unemployment programs — for a \$350 billion pool of flexible aid sent to state, local, territorial and tribal governments.

Those governments had budgeted more than \$1.6 billion from those flexible funds for about 550 tourism, travel and hospitality projects as of the end of March, according to an Associated Press analysis of recently released data from the U.S. Treasury.

Those tourism projects include \$425,000 in Portland to replace 200 trash cans with ones that have larger openings and harder-to-deface surfaces made of such things as metal slats or wire mesh. The city cited “a substantial increase in the amount of trash, graffiti, and vandalism” during the pandemic, asserting that new garbage cans will “create a safer, more welcoming environment for visitors to our parks,” according to a description in the Treasury Department data.

Nashville, known for its country music scene, allotted \$750,000 to reach “culturally diverse visitors.” That’s helping fund renovations at a once-prominent Black music venue, subsidize choir concerts at Fisk University and pay for an annual jazz and blues festival occurring in July, among other things.

The goal is to “build up the other genres without pushing country music down,” said Butch Spyridon, CEO of the Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp.

Of the tourism grants awarded through the Economic Development Authority, \$510 million was divided among states and territories according to a formula that took into account job losses in their leisure and hospitality sectors. An additional \$240 million was set aside for competitive grants, which are still being doled out.

One of those grants went to the Fort Independence Indian Reservation, a 220-member tribe that plans to add more than 60 jobs at its enlarged travel center.

“Part of tourism is getting from A to B, and one of the stops along the way is our reservation,” explained tribal vice chair Alisa Lee. “When we have been able to educate people about our community, our tribe and our culture, that is a form of tourism.”

Other competitive grants included \$2.2 million to help replace old snowmaking equipment at Frost Fire Park ski resort in North Dakota, \$1.6 million to help build a new Mardi Gras museum in Louisiana and \$1.2 million to build locker rooms, concession facilities and a pavilion for a cross-country course at Middle Georgia State University.

University President Christopher Blake said in a statement that the project has the potential “to transform it into a recreational dynamo” that generates nearly \$1 million a year in economic activity.

Several states also projected big returns on their federal tourism dollars, according to grant plans obtained by the AP through an open-records request.

Alabama plans to spend nearly \$2.7 million to build three boat piers at reservoirs along the Coosa River. The state said regional fishing tournaments can lure \$200,000 into an economy and national tournaments up to \$1 million.

Oregon used a \$9.1 million grant to help produce promotional videos and pictures of scenery that could be embedded into TV broadcasts of the World Athletics Championships that occurred this month in Eugene. The international broadcasts could yield between \$224 million and \$374 million in visitor spending and “spur economic development and opportunity for decades to come,” the Oregon Tourism Commission said in a grant plan submitted to federal officials.

Tourism projects generally seem like an appropriate use of the federal pandemic relief funds because the industry initially was one of the hardest hit, said Sean Moulton, a senior policy analyst at the nonprofit

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Project on Government Oversight.

But "as you give more flexibility," Moulton said, "you run the risk of the money being used in ways that in retrospect you say that wasn't the most effective."

The city of Fort Worth, Texas, has directed \$52 million of its flexible American Rescue Plan money for an expansion of its convention center. Of that, \$40 million was categorized as tourism aid in a 2021 year-end report submitted to the Treasury Department.

The Treasury revised its rules in January to discourage big spending on convention centers and stadiums, stating that large capital expenditures to aid the travel and tourism industries are "not reasonably proportional to addressing the negative economic impacts of the pandemic."

Fort Worth is moving ahead with the project anyway. The city reclassified the aid as a replacement for revenue lost during the pandemic — a category with the broadest flexibility under Treasury rules.

California got the largest tourism grant allocation, about \$46 million. The state directed all of that — plus an additional \$95 million of flexible federal pandemic aid — to its nonprofit tourism entity, which conducts national and international marketing.

Other states also have used the federal aid to try to draw visitors to their parks, shopping areas, restaurants and resorts.

While Michigan targets tourists in the neighboring Great Lakes region, Ohio is countering by expanding advertising into 11 new markets, including additional Michigan cities.

Missouri, meanwhile, is casting a broader net into the upper Midwest and the South. Thanks to a two-thirds increase in its tourism budget, Missouri is planning to expand advertising beyond its bordering states to reach potential travelers from Alabama, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin.

"In order to stay competitive with the states that we consider competition, it was going to be important for us to up our game," Missouri Tourism Director Stephen Foutes said.

## **Biden no longer shy in singling out Trump, the 'former guy'**

By SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — One month into his presidency, Joe Biden made clear his distaste for even naming the man he had ousted from the Oval Office, declaring, "I'm tired of talking about Trump."

"The next four years, I want to make sure all the news is the American people," he said in a CNN town hall.

But now, Biden is eagerly naming and singling out the erstwhile "former guy" in prepared remarks and on social media, elevating Donald Trump in a way that Biden and White House aides didn't do during the first 18 months of his term.

Speaking virtually to a group of Black law enforcement executives this past week, Biden accused the former president of stoking a "medieval hell" for police officers who fended off Jan. 6 rioters, adding that "Donald Trump lacked the courage to act."

Biden's Twitter feed repeated those words -- a jarring sight for a White House that has tried to expunge any references to the former president and, in particular, his name.

And when Biden emerged from isolation after a bout with COVID-19, he pointedly noted that he could continue working from the White House residence while Trump had to be airlifted to the hospital for treatment after his own diagnosis, at a time when vaccines were not available and the then-president took a cavalier approach to mitigation measures.

For some Democrats, Biden's willingness to engage directly with Trump was overdue.

"It's like Lord Voldemort, right? You gotta say his name and show that you're not afraid of him," said Rep. Jamaal Bowman, D-N.Y. "It's good to see that the president is naming Donald Trump, as we all should."

Biden's increasingly combative posture comes as a stream of revelations pour out about Trump and his conduct during the Capitol riot on Jan. 6, 2021, and amid growing speculation that the Republican will launch a comeback bid as early as this fall.

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Despite Biden's sinking approval ratings, even among members of his own party, he still consolidates the vast majority of Democratic voters behind him when presented as the party's choice against Trump in a hypothetical 2024 campaign.

The first major effort from Biden to zero in on Trump came Jan. 6, 2022, when he delivered a speech on the one-year anniversary of the riot. Biden condemned his predecessor for holding a "dagger at the throat of democracy" by spreading repeatedly disproven lies that Trump did not lose in 2020.

But even then, Biden refused to call out Trump by name, inviting questions about why.

"I did not want to turn it into a contemporary political battle between me and the president," Biden explained after his remarks at the Capitol. "It's way beyond that."

Other Democrats say Biden, who campaigned on unifying a country riven by partisanship, was right to steer the spotlight away from Trump at a time when Democrats had regained control of Washington for the first time in a decade and were set to embark on an ambitious agenda and move on from the chaotic Trump years.

Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., said he, too, struggled how much to focus on the former president once Trump left office.

"I think a lot of us just hoped he would go away and if we stopped talking about him, everybody else would stop talking about him," he said. "But that's not how it's turned out. He's running for president and he still runs the Republican Party, and I don't think we can disengage anymore."

This past week, Biden left no doubt he was prepared — perhaps even eager — to directly challenge Trump in a way he hadn't before.

In prerecorded remarks to the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives' annual conference, Biden made repeated references to the "defeated" former president who did nothing as law enforcement officers worked for hours to protect the Capitol as lawmakers met to certify Biden's victory.

"The police were heroes that day. Donald Trump lacked the courage to act," Biden said in his remarks. "The brave women and men in blue all across this nation should never forget that."

Biden's Twitter feeds amplified those words and promoted his repeated references to Trump. A tweet a day later noted that the "ex-president" opposes limiting "military-style weapons" that Biden says need to be barred.

On Wednesday, Biden's release from isolation and his celebratory remarks in the Rose Garden offered him another chance to invoke Trump and their differences on a separate issue.

"When my predecessor got COVID, he had to get helicoptered to Walter Reed Medical Center. He was severely ill. Thankfully, he recovered," Biden said. "When I got COVID, I worked from upstairs of the White House." Biden emphasized that the vaccines, at-home tests and anti-viral treatments he enjoyed during his recovery were readily available to the American public.

White House aides believe those two topics — law and order, and management of the pandemic — are among the areas where Biden can make the strongest contrast with the previous administration. Biden himself has made no secret he is hungry to run against Trump again, telling an Israeli television station recently that he "would not be disappointed" about a potential rematch.

As for the former president, Biden's tweets and comments have not come up in recent conversations between Trump advisers, according to two people familiar with the talks who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private discussions.

"Joe Biden and the Democrats are destroying America, just like President Trump predicted," Trump spokesman Taylor Budowich said. "From a recession at home to wars abroad, there's nothing Joe Biden can say that will distract from the suffering he has inflicted on the American people. His interns should stop writing lame Tweets and start writing a resignation letter."

Biden's new, more confrontational stance is another way that the White House has tried to draw a clearer contrast with Republicans before the November elections as Democrats are battered with the traditional headwinds faced by the incumbent party and contending with voter discontent over inflation and the general direction of the country.

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Republicans are skeptical the strategy will work, even as Trump flirts with formally announcing a 2024 bid before the fall vote. They also worry his candidacy could tear away focus from the GOP's effort to make the elections a referendum on the Democrats' stewardship of Washington.

"I get it. If I was being held responsible for 9.1% inflation and a wobbly economy and southern border disarray, I'd probably try and change the subject too," said Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate.

Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, said Biden's largely tempered public persona and his careful tendencies were what made him appealing to a broad swath of voters.

"But I think he's coming to the same conclusion that the majority of the country has come to, which is that the former president attempted a coup d'état," Schatz said. "Although President Biden tries to avoid inflammatory rhetoric, I think he's found that there's no other way to say it."

## Today in History: July 31, Lafayette becomes a major-general

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 31, the 212th day of 2022. There are 153 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 31, 1777, during the Revolutionary War, the Marquis de Lafayette, a 19-year-old French nobleman, was made a major-general in the American Continental Army.

On this date:

In 1715, a fleet of Spanish ships carrying gold, silver and jewelry sank during a hurricane off the east Florida coast; of some 2,500 crew members, more than 1,000 died.

In 1919, Germany's Weimar (VY'-mahr) Constitution was adopted by the republic's National Assembly.

In 1945, Pierre Laval, premier of the pro-Nazi Vichy government, surrendered to U.S. authorities in Austria; he was turned over to France, which later tried and executed him.

In 1953, Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio, known as "Mr. Republican," died in New York at age 63.

In 1957, the Distant Early Warning Line, a system of radar stations designed to detect Soviet bombers approaching North America, went into operation.

In 1970, "The Huntley-Brinkley Report" came to an end after nearly 14 years as co-anchor Chet Huntley signed off for the last time; the broadcast was renamed "NBC Nightly News."

In 1971, Apollo 15 crew members David Scott and James Irwin became the first astronauts to use a lunar rover on the surface of the moon.

In 1972, Democratic vice-presidential candidate Thomas Eagleton withdrew from the ticket with George McGovern following disclosures that Eagleton had once undergone psychiatric treatment.

In 1981, a seven-week-old Major League Baseball strike ended.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush and Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty in Moscow.

In 2003, the Vatican launched a global campaign against gay marriages, warning Catholic politicians that support of same-sex unions was "gravely immoral" and urging non-Catholics to join the offensive.

In 2020, a federal appeals court overturned the death sentence of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev in the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, saying the judge who oversaw the case didn't adequately screen jurors for potential biases. (The Supreme Court later reimposed the sentence.) Mexico became the country with the third most COVID-19 deaths in the world, behind the United States and Brazil.

Ten years ago: Three Indian electric grids collapsed in a cascade, cutting power to 620 million people in the world's biggest blackout. At the London games, the team of Gabby Douglas, McKayla Maroney, Aly Raisman (AL'-ee RAYS'-mihn), Kyla Ross and Jordyn Wieber won the first U.S. Olympic team title in women's gymnastics since 1996. Michael Phelps broke the Olympic medals record with his 19th as the United States romped to a dominating win in the 4x200-meter freestyle relay. Author, playwright, politician and commentator Gore Vidal, 86, died in Los Angeles.



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Five years ago: Retired Marine Gen. John Kelly was sworn in as White House chief of staff, replacing Reince Priebus. Hours later, White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci was let go, just 11 days after he was appointed to the job. Former Arizona sheriff Joe Arpaio was convicted of a criminal charge for refusing to stop traffic patrols that targeted immigrants. (Arpaio was later pardoned by President Donald Trump.) The Trump administration slapped financial sanctions on Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro after a weekend election that gave his ruling party virtually unlimited powers. Los Angeles reached a deal with international Olympic leaders to host the 2028 Summer Games.

One year ago: American swimmer Katie Ledecky closed out her Tokyo Olympics with another gold medal, becoming the first female swimmer to capture six individual golds in her career with a victory in the 800-meter freestyle. Elaine Thompson-Herah broke Florence Griffith Joyner's 33-year-old Olympic record in the women's 100 meters, crossing the line in 10.61 seconds. Florida reported its highest one-day total of new COVID-19 cases since the start of the pandemic, 21,683, as more theme park resorts again started asking visitors to wear masks indoors. A nationwide ban on evictions, put in place in response to the COVID-19 crisis as many workers lost income, expired, leaving millions of Americans at risk of being forced from their homes. (The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reimposed the moratorium within days, but the Supreme Court later found that the agency lacked the authority to do so.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Don Murray is 93. Jazz composer-musician Kenny Burrell is 91. Actor France Nuyen is 83. Actor Susan Flannery is 83. Singer Lobo is 78. Actor Geraldine Chaplin is 78. Former movie studio executive Sherry Lansing is 78. Singer Gary Lewis is 77. Actor Lane Davies is 72. Actor Susan Wooldridge is 72. International Tennis Hall of Famer Evonne Goolagong Cawley is 71. Actor Barry Van Dyke is 71. Actor Alan Autry is 70. Jazz composer-musician Michael Wolff is 70. Actor James Read is 69. Actor Michael Biehn is 66. Rock singer-musician Daniel Ash (Love and Rockets) is 65. Actor Dirk Blocker is 65. Entrepreneur Mark Cuban is 64. Rock musician Bill Berry is 64. Actor Wally Kurth is 64. Actor Wesley Snipes is 60. Country singer Chad Brock is 59. Musician Fatboy Slim is 59. Rock musician Jim Corr is 58. Author J.K. Rowling (ROHL'-ing) is 57. Actor Dean Cain is 56. Actor Jim True-Frost is 56. Actor Ben Chaplin is 53. Actor Loren Dean is 53. Actor Eve Best is 51. Actor Annie Parisse (pah-REES') is 47. Actor Robert Telfer is 45. Country singer-musician Zac Brown is 44. Actor-producer-writer B.J. Novak is 43. Actor Eric Lively is 41. Singer Shannon Curfman is 37. NHL center Evgeni Malkin is 36. Hip-hop artist Lil Uzi Vert is 28. Actor Reese Hartwig is 24. Actor Rico Rodriguez is 24.

