

Groton Daily Independent

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In the cookies of life, sisters are the chocolate chips.

Author Unknown



State Jr. Legion in state title game

Groton's Junior Legion team defeated Clark, 21-2, to advance to the state title game. The State Jr. Legion Tournament is being played in Clark. Groton will take on Lake Norden. The fifth place game will start at noon. Then 30 minutes after the completion of that game, the third place game will be played. And 30 minutes after that game, the championship game will be played.

August 5-7: State Jr. Legion at Clark

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

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

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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

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



*Then you will call,
and the Lord will answer;
you will cry for help,
and He will say:
Here am I.*

ISAIAH 58:9

"Job Praying" by Marc Chagall (1960)

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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. Psalms 2:4, 37:13 and 59:8 are the only verses that mention God doing what? *Mourning, Dancing, Laughing, Fishing*

3. Shechem, Hananeel, Babel and Siloam are perhaps best described as? *Temples, Towers, Wells, Harlots*

4. From 2 Corinthians 7:10, what does the sorrow of the world produce? *Salvation, Truth, Anger, Death*

5. Which prophet had a son named Shearjashub? *Isaiah, Elijah, Nathan, Ahijah*

6. What moved Noah to prepare the ark? *Repentance, Godly fear, Stubbornness, An Angel*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Laughing, 3) Towers, 4) Death, 5) Isaiah, 6) Godly fear

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

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Comfort foods

Made fast and healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

Peach-Strawberry Pudding

I don't know which is best: strawberries or peaches -- so I used them both in this ultra-easy (and delightful) dessert.

1 (4-serving) package sugar-free strawberry gelatin

1 1/2 cups boiling water

3/4 cup plain fat-free yogurt

1 cup peeled and chopped fresh peaches

1 cup chopped fresh strawberries

In a medium bowl, combine dry gelatin and boiling water. Add yogurt. Mix well using a wire whisk. Fold in peaches and strawberries. Evenly pour mixture into 4 dessert dishes. Refrigerate until set, about 2 hours. Makes 4 servings.

* Each serving equals: 56 calories, 0g fat, 3g protein, 11g carb., 40mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Fruit.

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Artist Spotlight:
BRIAN BILTER



AN ALUMNUS OF THE JOE KUBERT SCHOOL OF CARTOON AND GRAPHIC ART, BRIAN BILTER'S HAND CAN BE SEEN IN A NUMBER OF FLASH GORDON STRIPS OVER THE YEARS.

RECOGNIZED FOR HIS OUTSTANDING WORK IN THE GRAPHIC ART FIELD, HIS INFLUENCES INCLUDE HAL FOSTER, ALEX RAYMOND AND BRIAN BOLLAND.



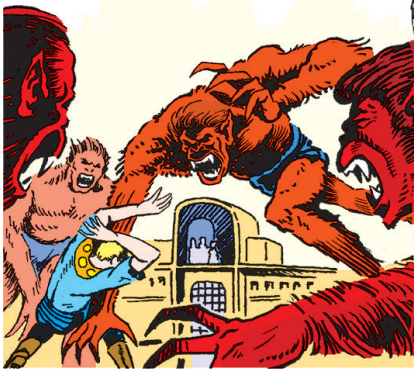
FLASH GORDON

By
JIM KEEFE

7-31

Artwork: **BRIAN BILTER**

THROWN INTO THE ARENA BY MING, FLASH FALLS BENEATH THE ONSLAUGHT OF THE RED MONKEY MEN OF MONGO!



EARTHLINGS...HOW WEAK AND PITIFUL THEY ARE.

NO..!

YO... YOU'VE KILLED FLASH GORDON!



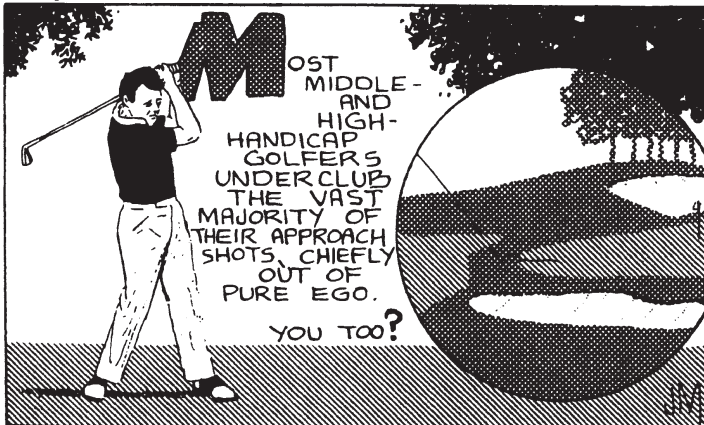
THE AMOUNT OF VENOM HE TOOK SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM...



...INSTEAD HE LIES COMATOSE.

I WONDER WHAT A SICK, TWISTED MIND LIKE HIS DREAMS ABOUT?

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



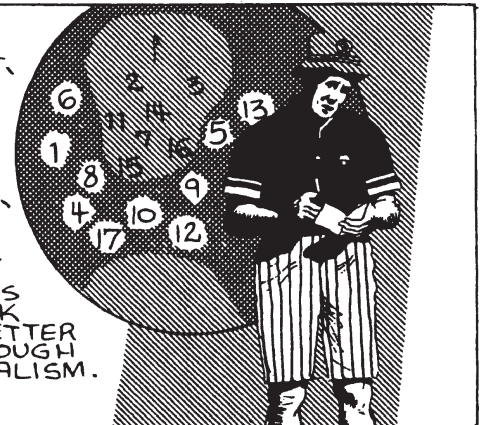
MOST MIDDLE- AND HIGH-HANDICAP GOLFERS UNDER CLUB THE VAST MAJORITY OF THEIR APPROACH SHOTS, CHIEFLY OUT OF PURE EGO.

YOU TOO?

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TO FIND OUT, RECORD HOW MANY TIMES YOU FINISH SHORT OF THE CUP, OR EVEN THE ENTIRE GREEN, ON YOUR NEXT TWO ROUNDS.

THE RESULTS MAY SHOCK YOU INTO BETTER SCORES THROUGH GREATER REALISM.





Length of Hormone Treatment Depends on the Individual

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 60-year-old woman at the end of a five-year regimen of hormone therapy. My doctor has advised me to eventually stop the use of estrogen and progesterone by this summer, as she says women have an advanced risk of breast cancer at this age. Another friend a few years younger than me was told by her doctor that she could continue with hormone-replacement therapy until she is 70.

Which doctor is correct? I am experiencing constant hot flashes again and am able to snatch only little bits of sleep each night, along with all of the other issues that come with the loss of estrogen (inability to regulate temperature, hair falling out, flaccid skin, vaginal dryness, etc.). My other question is, am I able to use other herbal compounds, specifically saw palmetto and/or St. John's wort, without any risk of breast cancer? Or are these and other estrogen-mimicking compounds also a contributor to breast cancer? -- R.N.

ANSWER: There is no one-size-fits-all answer to the first question about how long to continue hormone treatment for symptoms of menopause. I disagree with any absolute rule, such as stopping at five years or waiting until 70, because any woman may place a different value on her well-being, and a woman's individual risk for breast cancer also needs to be considered. You haven't told me about any particular risk, but my answer would be very different for a woman with average risk compared with a woman with increased risk due to family history, for example.

About 40% of women will have symptomatic hot flashes until age 65, and continuing estrogen is reasonable in women who are willing to accept the increase in risk. The risk is not just breast cancer. Women taking combined estrogens and progestins have a small increase in the risk of heart disease, stroke and pulmonary embolism (blood clot to the lung), but a decreased risk of colon cancer and hip fracture. That all sounds scary, but the increase in risk of any of these is less than 0.5%. Overall, women on combined hormones were slightly LESS likely to die than those who were not. Many women choose to continue taking their hormones when their symptoms are significantly affecting their quality of life. I feel very strongly that it's the physician's job to advise so a woman can make the best decision for herself.

Saw palmetto is not commonly used for menopausal symptoms (it's used very frequently by men with prostate issues), and there is inconsistent evidence on its contribution for breast cancer. Similarly, there is no consensus on the risk of St. John's wort for breast cancer, and only limited evidence that it helps menopausal symptoms. St. John's wort can interact with many medicines, so it's wise to discuss its use with a pharmacist if you are taking other medication.

Many women ask about phytoestrogens (such as in soy protein or red clover) and other herbs with estrogenic activity (such as black cohosh). There is a theoretical risk, and although there are some studies suggesting they may be safe, many experts advise against these for women at high risk. That group would include women with a history of an estrogen-sensitive tumor.

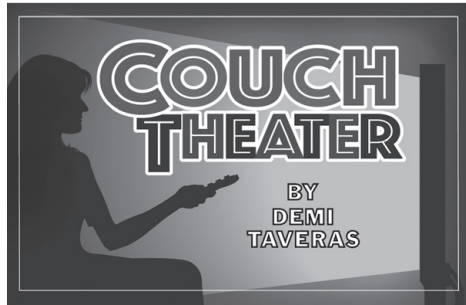
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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"The Last Movie Stars" (TV-MA) -- In this limited docuseries executive produced by Martin Scorsese and directed by Ethan Hawke, viewers get a peek into Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward's legendary Hollywood marriage. The six-episode series starts with the couple's breakthrough into the acting industry with the Broadway play "Picnic" and stretches into the decades of performances that both Oscar-winning actors gave over their lifetimes (as well as their personal love story). Told uniquely by assigning actors to dramatize and read old interview transcripts, this is the perfect watch for film lovers or anyone looking to learn more about the history behind two of America's greatest actors. (HBO Max)



Promo for "Day Shift" Courtesy of Netflix

"Licorice Pizza" (R) -- The ninth film from director Paul Thomas Anderson is out on streaming now! The peculiarly titled "Licorice Pizza" stars Alana Haim (most notably known from the band she's in with her sisters called Haim) and Cooper Hoffman (son of late actor Philip Seymour Hoffman) in both of their film debuts. Taking place in '70s Los Angeles, Haim plays a photographer's assistant in her 20s also named Alana -- opposite Hoffman's character, Gary, a 15-year-old actor still in high school. Gary and Alana form a rare bond that Alana tries to fight off at first, but as their friendship grows, Alana must come to terms with her feelings for Gary and the extraordinary circumstances that keep bringing them together. (Prime Video)

"Day Shift" (R) -- Movie watchers have had ample action movies to choose from lately. This week's major film release in the action genre is none other than the action-comedy "Day Shift," starring Jamie Foxx. Foxx plays Bud Jablonski, who's just another father out there trying to provide for his family. But, when his wife and daughter think about leaving their old lives behind and moving out of state, Bud realizes he needs to come up with some money -- and quick. How does he do it, you may wonder? By hunting vampires! Operating under the guise of a pool-cleaning business, Bud and his fellow hunters are cornering vampires, "cutting necks and cashing checks." See it for yourself when "Day Shift" premieres on Aug. 12. (Netflix)

"The Addams Family 2" (PG) -- The sequel to the 2019 animated film "The Addams Family," starring Oscar Isaac and Charlize Theron, is out on streaming Aug. 11, and all the creepy and kooky family members are back! Worried that his children are drifting apart from their family, Gomez has an idea to embark on a road trip across the U.S. so that the family can spend some time bonding together, but little does he know of the chaos that will surround his family as soon as they leave for this journey. Will it bring the Addams together or just drive them further apart? (Paramount+)

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FLASH BACK POP, ROCK & SOUL TRIVIA BY MICK HARPER

1. Why did Michael Jackson's "You Are Not Alone" end up in court?
2. What was the first No. 1 hit by Christopher Cross?
3. Name the artist who wrote and released "Katmandu."
4. Which former Beatle released the "All Things Must Pass" album?
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "While she lays sleeping, I stay out late at night and play my songs, And sometimes all the nights can be so long."

Answers

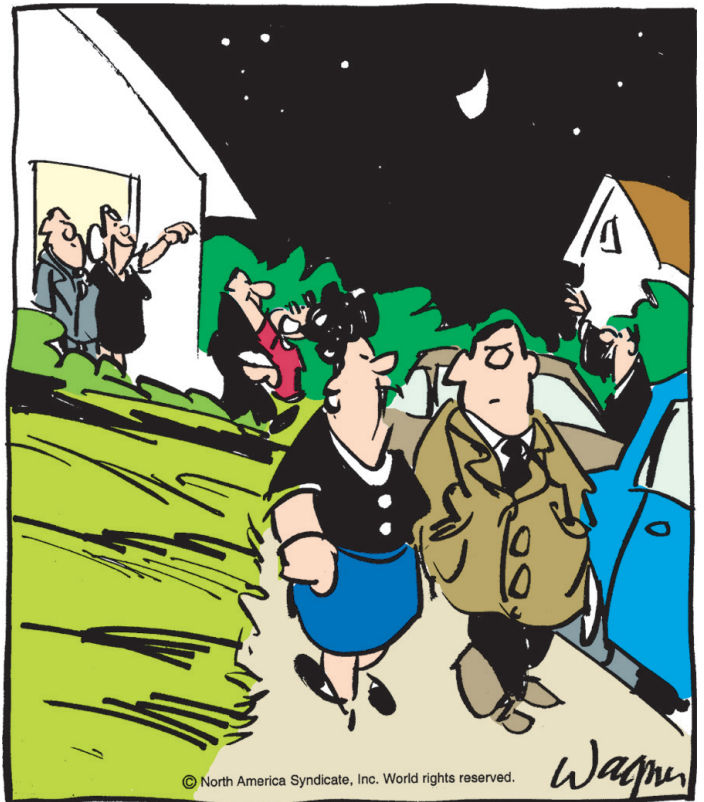
1. It had been written by R. Kelly. But two brothers in Belgium sued for plagiarism, saying it was taken from their song "If We Can Start All Over." The first Belgian court rejected the claim in 2003, but a second court in

2007 agreed it was plagiarism because the two melodies were virtually the same.

2. "Sailing," in 1980. He had another one the same year with "Never Be the Same."
3. Bob Seger, in 1975. The song was used in the soundtrack for "Mask," the 1985 Cher film.
4. George Harrison, in 1970.
5. "She Believes in Me," by Kenny Rogers in 1979. The song appeared on his "The Gambler" album and topped both the country and adult contemporary charts, making it a big crossover song for Rogers.

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GRIN and BEAR IT Wagner



"We need to have them over to get even with them."

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

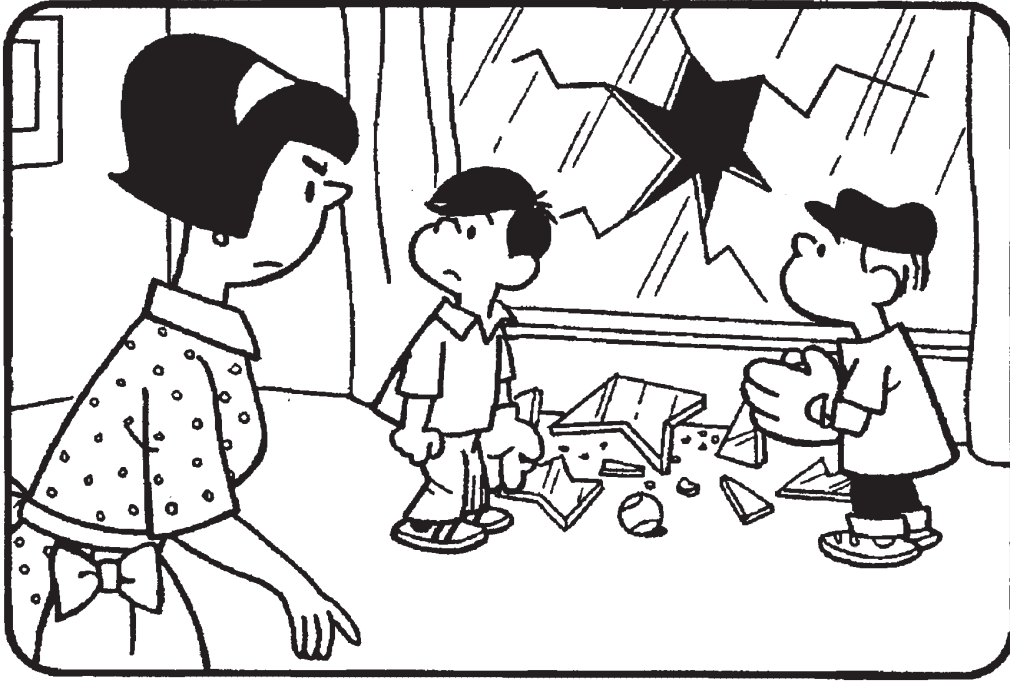


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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hair is shorter. 2. Sleeve is shorter. 3. Bow is missing. 4. Bat is added. 5. Cap is reversed. 6. Shirt is shorter.

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* You can whiten chopping boards with lemon juice. Just use the cut side of a lemon to scrub the board, let it sit for up to 10 minutes, and rinse clean.

* If you are stuffing pillows or a child's toy with foam rubber chips, rub a bit of fabric softener over your hands first. The tiny pieces won't get stuck to your hands with static, and it will smell nice to boot!

* Here's a fun activity for the kids: Let them "paint" cookies. Using clean craft brushes or watercolor brushes, the kids can use food coloring to paint designs on cookies. They can even paint the dough before it's been cooked and see how the design spreads and settles.

* "We made our own umbrella stand by taking the bottoms off of two large coffee cans, and then stacking them on top of a third can with only the top removed. We taped the cans together and covered the whole thing with leftover wallpaper, which we sealed where it overlapped." -- I.D. in Ohio

* If you have stubborn shellac on your paintbrush, try dissolving it by soaking in alcohol. Make sure you do this in a ventilated area.

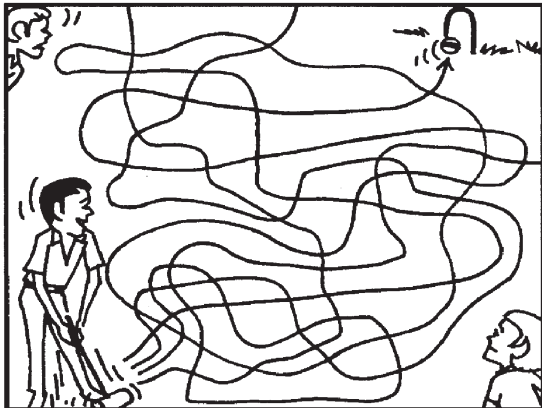
* Need a funnel quickly? Double a sheet of aluminum foil and roll into a funnel shape. It works!

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

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WICKET SHOT! Pick a line at bottom left and see if it carries ball through the wicket at top right. Yes, or no?

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

1	A	
2	---	
3	----	
4	-----	
5	-----	
6	-----	

DETECTIVE DOG'S WORD HUNT

"ONE POLECAT leads to another of sorts," says Detective Dog, at left, in a sum-up of the last word in this add-a-letter word test.

Let's see if you can fill the blanks. Here's how:

Simply, start with A and add a letter in each step, rearranging letters as necessary, to form new words in accord with the following definitions:

1. Letter A (in place).
2. Like-so preposition.
3. Black, Yellow or Red, perhaps.
4. Life of Riley.
5. Artist's stand.
6. Polecat's relative.

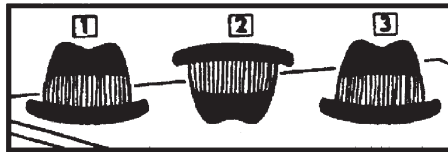
Remember, letters in one word lead to another.

TALLYHO! Seven is regarded as a lucky number, and perhaps to a cat, so is nine. But a Latin proverb observes: "Seven is a banquet, nine is a —." Fill blank with a five-letter word. "The missing word is 'banquet'."

HATS OFF! When the hats of three diplomats were placed on a table with the center hat upside down, as shown here, they provided the basis for an interesting test.

The question posed in this test is this: How is it possible to turn two of the hats over each time for three consecutive times and finish turning with all three hats upside down?

Remember, two hats are inverted each time. The hats are turned three times.



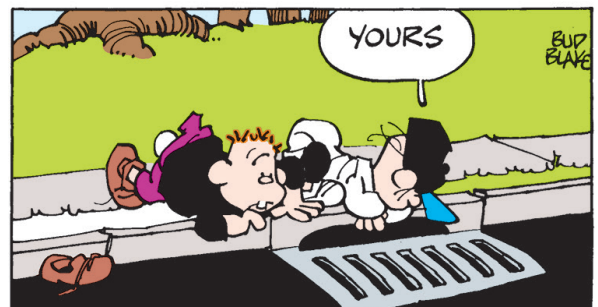
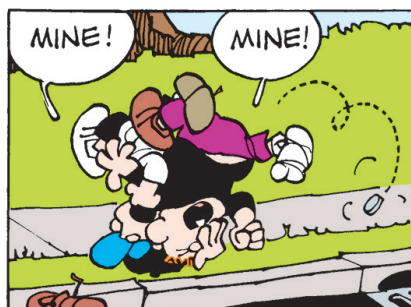
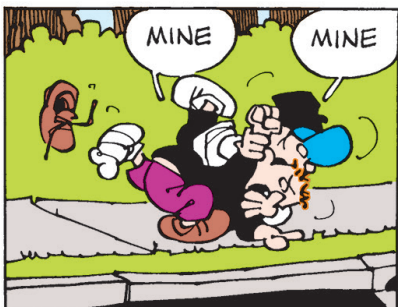
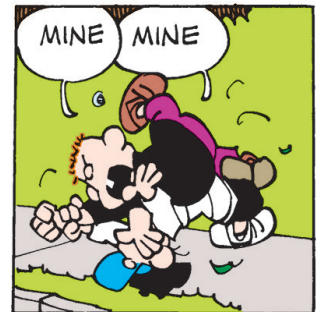
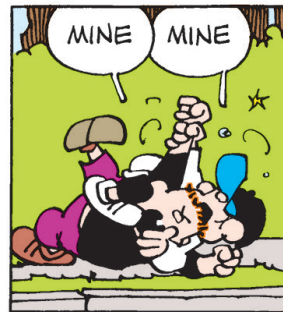
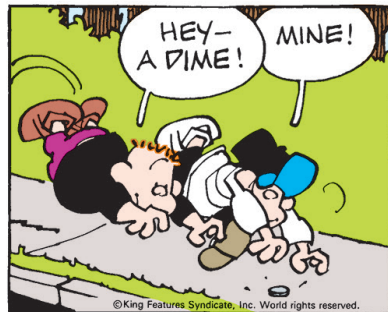
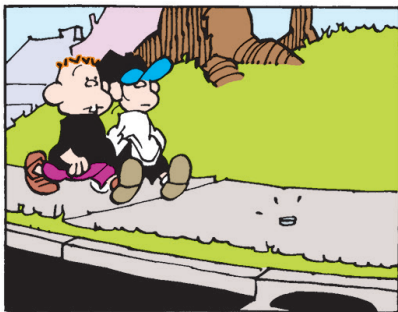
P.S.: It is not permissible to turn the same two hats in consecutive turns.

First turn—turn over hats 1 and 3; next—turn hats 2 and 3; next—turn hats 1 and 3; next—hats 2 and 3 again. Other answers are possible.

1. A. 2. As. 3. Sea. 4. Ease. 5. Easel. 6. Weasel.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Mimics
- 5 Satchel
- 8 Blue hue
- 12 Tibetan monk
- 13 Crew tool
- 14 Galoots
- 15 Spring flower
- 17 Marathon fraction
- 18 Vagrant
- 19 Nearsighted
- 21 Pie-in-the-face sound
- 24 Blueprint
- 25 San — Obispo, CA
- 26 Lose weight
- 30 Web address
- 31 April forecasts
- 32 Pi follower
- 33 Pained expressions

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			

- 35 Egyptian deity
- 36 911 responders
- 37 Garden statuette
- 38 Shrimp recipe
- 41 Gloomy guy
- 42 Horseback game
- 43 Record holder?
- 48 Sharif of "Funny Girl"
- 49 Melody
- 50 Long tale
- 51 Theater award
- 52 Texter's chuckle
- 53 Yon folks
- 8 Candy bar nut
- 9 Witticism
- 10 Wrinkled fruit
- 11 In — (shortly)
- 16 Trench
- 20 Orange veggies
- 21 Punch
- 22 Kitten's sound
- 23 Leslie Caron film
- 24 Snoops
- 26 Strategic
- 27 Guesser's words
- 28 Caprice
- 29 Proboscis
- 31 Wheelchair access
- 34 "Cats" show-stopper
- 35 Demand
- 37 Wrigley product
- 38 Espy
- 39 Lake of Lombardy
- 40 Arkin or Alda
- 41 Lass
- 44 2016 Olympics city
- 45 "Unh-unh"
- 46 Census stat
- 47 Non-clerical

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

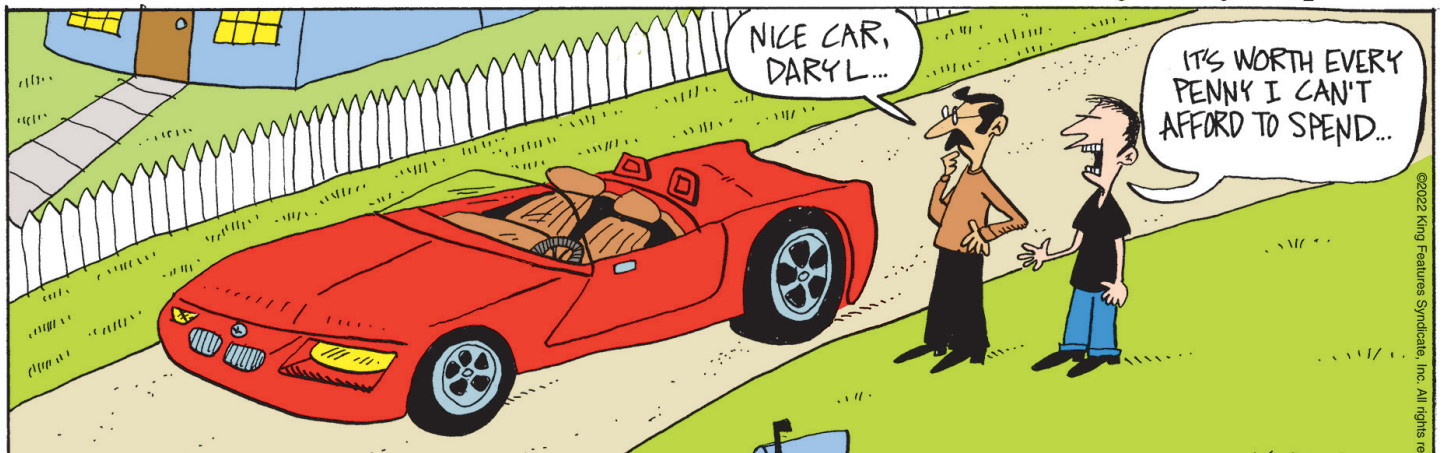
LAFF - A - DAY



"This is a small museum. We couldn't afford his mother".

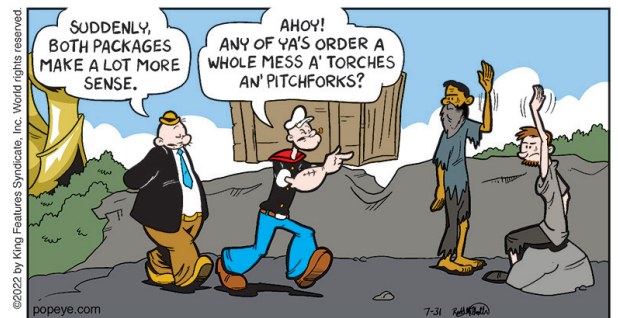
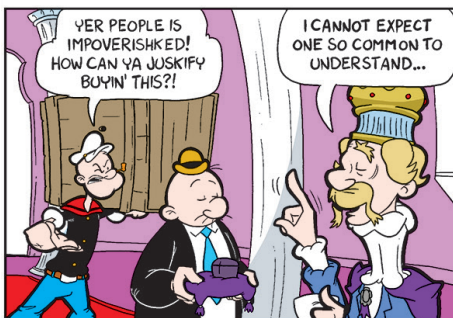
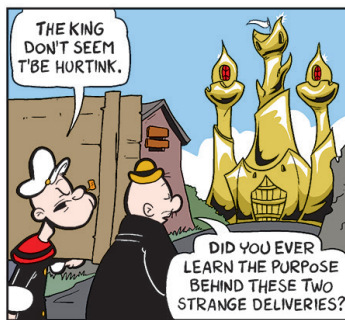
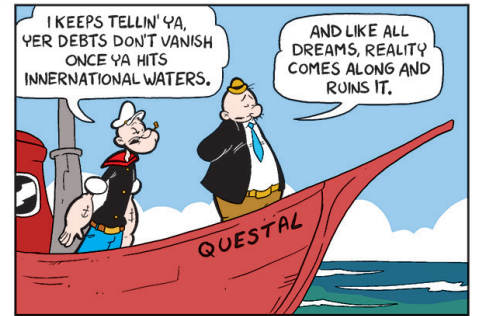
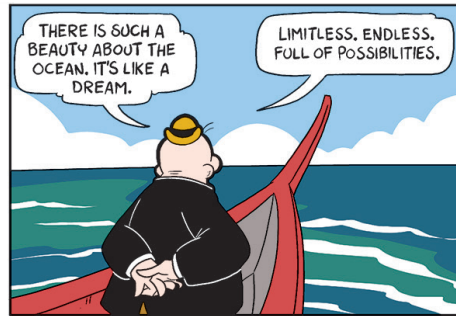
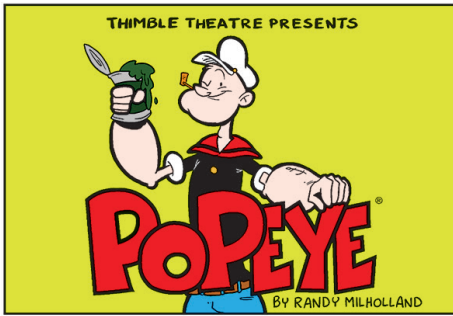
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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R.F.D.

WOODFIELD NEWS
AUGUST 8, 2022 ALL THE NEWS THAT MOOS 75c

FARMER'S MARKET ADDS NEW FEATURE

I'LL HAVE A SMALL SQUASH, THREE MEDIUM CUKES AND A LARGE ORDER OF RADISHES!
YOU WANT SOME POTATOES FOR FRIES WITH THAT?

www.kingfeatures.com www.rfdcomic.weebly.com

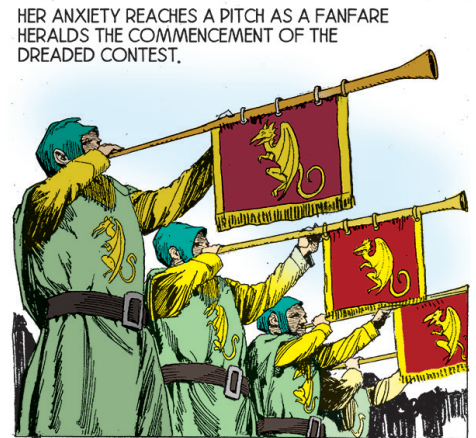
by Mike Marland

Old McDonald's Farm DRIVE THRU

Radishes \$1	Beets 50c
Cukes 50c	Peas \$1
Lettuce 75c	Spinach 75c
Corn \$4 doz	Turnip 50c
Carrots \$2	Squash 50c
Peppers 75c	Onions \$1
Tomatoes 50c	Garlic 75c ea
Zucchini 50c	Eggplant 75c
Potatoes \$5	Celery 50c

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ON THE FIELD OF HONOR, GALAHAD BRIEFS VAL AND DRACO ON THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT. THEY WILL BEGIN THEIR ACTIONS WITH MOUNTED COMBAT, AND CONTINUE AFOOT IF BOTH SURVIVE.



ON A NEARBY HILLOCK, MALDUBH PREPARES HER SORCERIES IN DIABOLICAL SUPPORT OF HER HUSBAND.

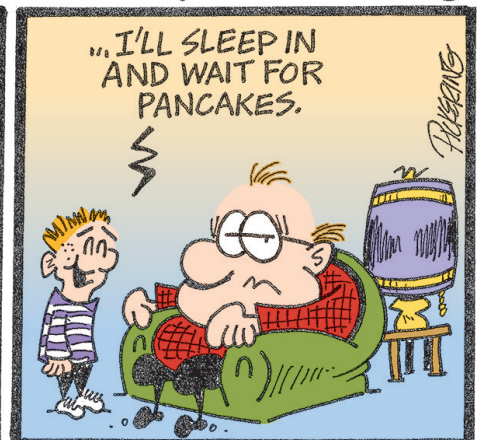
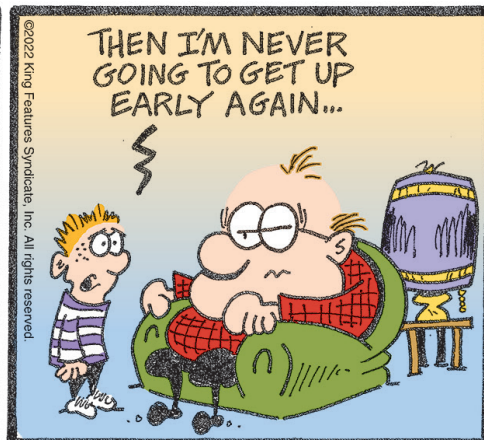
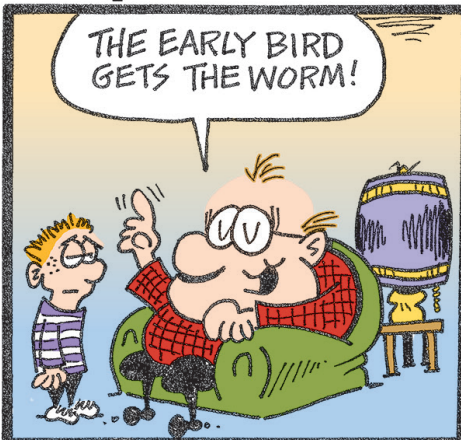


MAEVE CAN SENSE MALDUBH'S DARK FORCES BUILDING. THEN TWO HOODED PRESENCES APPEAR BESIDE HER...



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Another Covid Winter

We're in our third summer of the Covid pandemic and another winter is coming.

Think about that statement for a minute. Did any of us imagine, back in the summer of 2020, that the problems would still be with us in 2022? I for one was betting that once the vaccines started coming out, Covid would surely be vanquished. Oh, how wrong I was.

Many of us settled in during that first year of Covid isolation, missing meetings, dinners out and friends. We just didn't dare go out, even if we had been the first to qualify for the vaccines. We didn't host family during the holidays, and some of us had ham sandwiches for Thanksgiving dinner.

But it hasn't been all bad. We learned how to attend meetings and talk to family on Zoom, we checked in with friends by phone and we figured out how to place curbside grocery orders on the computer. During warm weather we took walks and saw outdoor concerts and sometimes even dared to visit certain businesses when they weren't busy.

Already, however, upon realizing that this is our third summer with Covid and with the vaccine boosters continuing to show iffy results for long-term efficacy, I'm no longer taking bets about when it will all go away. I'm thinking ahead to winter when everyone goes back inside and the risk of infection increases.

Some thoughts on getting through this coming winter: Increase the level of exercise you get. Hunt for interesting YouTube videos of exercise and yoga for seniors. Find ways to address anxiety. Double up on communication with others to avoid isolation. Find a new hobby. Buy a few new houseplants. Splurge on home delivery of groceries now and then, instead of curbside pickup.

What do you think? Can we do it again? Can we make it through another Covid winter?

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1. Paul McBeth, Ricky Wysocki, Paige Pierce and Catrina Allen are all elite competitors in what pro sports league?

2. In 2019, English football club Wigan Athletic introduced what new mascot created in a competition for primary school students?

3. Name the Brazilian tennis great who won seven Grand Slam women's singles titles during her pro career from 1950-1977.

4. What Japanese pitcher was named 1995 NL Rookie of the Year and threw two no-hitters during his Major League Baseball career from 1995-2008?

5. Jack Nicklaus, Tom Weiskopf and Ted Tryba are among the notable alumni of what university's golf team?

6. How many consecutive wins did Boston Red Sox pitcher Roger Clemens have to start the 1986 season?

7. American Bob Seagren won a gold medal at the 1968 Mexico City Summer Olympics competing in what event?



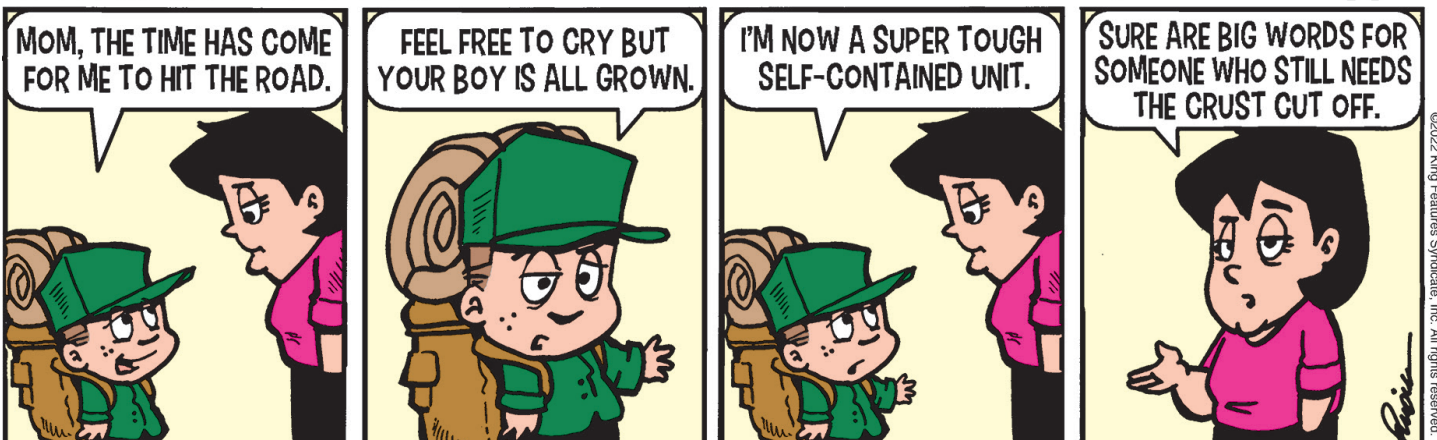
by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. The Disc Golf Pro Tour.
 2. Crusty the Pie.
 3. Maria Bueno.
 4. Hideo Nomo.
 5. Ohio State University.
 6. 14.
 7. The pole vault.
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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Helping a Cat With a Traumatic Past

DEAR PAW'S corner: Three months ago, I adopted a beautiful orange striped cat. Felicia is a darling but has a traumatic past. Her previous owner declawed her front paws and later abandoned her to the street. She was rescued, fostered and then adopted by me. But she still suffers from that trauma, and she walks gingerly on her front paws. Can I do anything to relieve her suffering? -- Janine C., Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Janine: She sounds like a real beauty! I'm so glad you two were brought together through pet adoption, and I know you'll do your best for her.

Talk with Felicia's veterinarian about the way she's walking. Declawed cats not only are traumatized by the removal of their claws -- it's similar to amputating a limb -- they often suffer pain throughout their life and can develop complications like arthritis. Declawed cats often exhibit signs of chronic pain, walking gingerly or limping, squirming out of your lap when you touch their front paws, or even showing increased aggression.

The vet should look for any possible injury to the paw that she's limping on, because it's clear that she has more pain in one paw than the other. From there, a treatment can be developed that addresses the limp and the possible chronic pain that she may be suffering from. Often, pain medication alone does not solve the problem. A combination of therapies to help "reset" pain receptors can be very effective for declawed cats.

Follow the vet's recommended therapies, and keep giving Felicia lots of love and good food so that she can continue to recover from the trauma she experienced.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* In 2008, Nestle played an April Fool's joke on Butterfinger fans by announcing that the candy bar's name had been changed to "The Finger." The company even distributed 200,000 bars with "The Finger" wrapper to 7-Eleven stores.

* Modern body armor was created by pizza delivery man and former Marine Richard Davis, who was wounded after a delivery turned into a shootout.

* Japanese honeybees destroy hornets by enclosing them in a ball of bees then vibrating their flight muscles so fast that carbon dioxide levels increase

and the ball's temperature rises enough to kill the hornet.

* Mastercard's global headquarters is located on Purchase Street in Purchase, New York.

* Talk about a novel way to make a statement! Teenage art student Demi Barnes created a wedding dress made of 1,500 divorce papers to heighten awareness of rushing into matrimony only to end up in divorce court.

* The "Emergency Bra" can be unhooked and split into two face masks that filter out harmful chemicals.

* Nail polish remover will outlive us all! It has no expiration.

* Recycling one ton of paper will save 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space, 17 mature trees, 682.5 gallons of oil and 7,000 gallons of water.

* In a now-banned practice called "boosting," wheelchair athletes with spinal injuries would intentionally harm the lower parts of their bodies to increase their blood pressure, thereby enhancing their performance.

* A study conducted at the University of Pavia in Italy showed that music promotes a healthy cardiovascular system by triggering physiological changes that modulate blood pressure, heart rate and respiratory functions.

Thought for the Day: "I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have." -- Abraham Lincoln

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THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

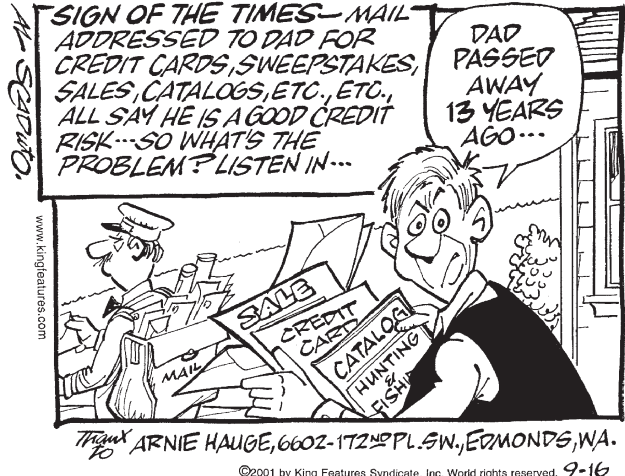
FAMOUS LAST WORDS—"I JUST WANT A FRIEND..I'M NOT LOOKING FOR A HUSBAND!"



BY AL SCADUTO

SIGN OF THE TIMES— MAIL ADDRESSED TO DAD FOR CREDIT CARDS, SWEEPSTAKES, SALES, CATALOGS, ETC., ETC., ALL SAY HE IS A GOOD CREDIT RISK...SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? LISTEN IN...

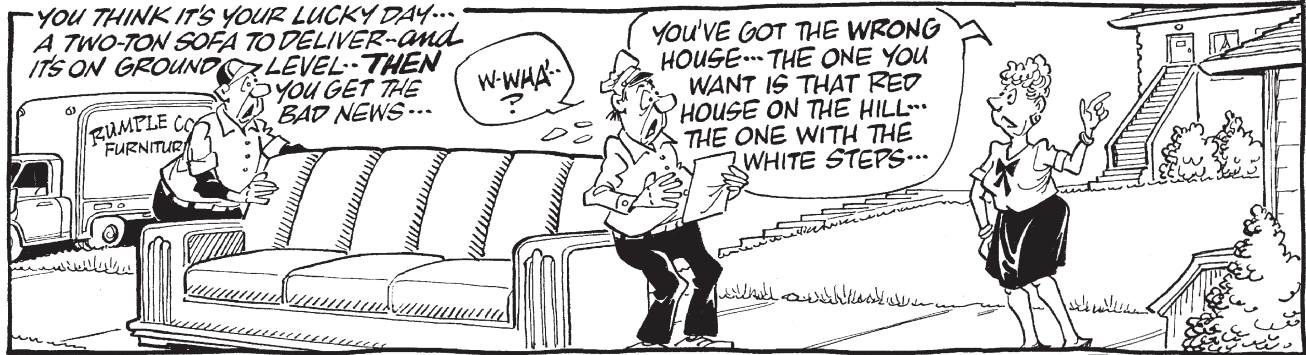
DAD PASSED AWAY 13 YEARS AGO...



YOU THINK IT'S YOUR LUCKY DAY... A TWO-TON SOFA TO DELIVER--AND IT'S ON GROUND LEVEL-- THEN YOU GET THE BAD NEWS...

W-WAA-?

YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG HOUSE... THE ONE YOU WANT IS THAT RED HOUSE ON THE HILL... THE ONE WITH THE WHITE STEPS...



It's easy to see why this Brazil native has become popular in nurseries, flower shops and garden centers around the world. Gloxinia has bell-shaped,

Gloxinia

upright flowers that come in a range of striking, cheery colors. It likes bright, indirect light and should be planted in loose, well-draining, slightly-acidic soil. Feed your gloxinia once a month with houseplant fertilizer diluted to half strength, and keep its soil evenly moist, but not soggy.

— Brenda Weaver

Source: www.mydomaine.com

Could it be PTSD?



by Freddy Groves

Do you ever wonder if you possibly have PTSD? The Department of Veterans Affairs has created a very short PTSD screening webpage designed to see whether any symptoms you have could be related to post-traumatic stress disorder.

The screening test consists of five short questions. At the end you'll click to submit and get your score.

It's worth doing the screening if you have any doubts or concerns after going through a traumatic or life-threatening event. PTSD can arrive either immediately after an event or later, or even come and go. It can

affect anyone of any age. There's no set pattern, but there are certain symptoms, and that's where this short screening comes into play.

Go online to www.ptsd.va.gov/screen and click to "Start Screen." No, you don't need to give any personal information or even sign in.

When you get to the end of the questions, click on "Next Steps" and see the information that's offered, including the phone number for immediate help: 800-273-8255. Press 1 if you're a veteran. Or you can text 838255.

The instructions suggest you take a screenshot or print the score page to take with you to a health-care provider. Probably not a bad idea, because it gives your provider a place to begin.

For more information about PTSD, go to www.ptsd.va.gov/understand/what/ptsd_basics.asp. Scroll down to the three information blocks and explore what they offer. "Understanding PTSD and PTSD Treatment" (PDF) is a 16-page guide to PTSD basics and is a good place to get a handle on it.

Remember that this screening isn't a true diagnosis. Only a real provider can diagnose PTSD, but this can give you a start in the right direction if you have concerns. Remember, too, that there are quite a few different treatments for PTSD, and the sooner you begin, the sooner you'll feel better.

You're not alone.

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Wishing Well®

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

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. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the only vowel on a computer keyboard's middle row of letters?
2. LANGUAGE: What is the diacritical mark used over the first "a" in "chateau"?
3. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of the Czech Republic?
4. MOVIES: Where was the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy filmed?
5. MEASUREMENTS: What is 4 ounces of liquid equal to in cups?
6. U.S. STATES: Which is the only American state that begins with the letter P?
7. LANGUAGE: What is the word that stands for the letter Y in the international radio alphabet?
8. CHEMISTRY: What is the symbol for the element zinc?
9. TELEVISION: What is Kramer's first name in the sitcom "Seinfeld"?
10. MUSIC: Which country is home to the rock group AC/DC?

Answers

1. A.
2. Circumflex.
3. Prague.
4. New Zealand.
5. 1/2 cup.
6. Pennsylvania.
7. Yankee.
8. Zn.
9. Cosmo.
10. Australia.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Starting the Conversation

Hope has power – it drives us to achieve incredible things that we never thought possible or endure difficulties that previous seemed insurmountable. Unfortunately, for the same reasons, hopelessness can hold tremendous power over a person’s life, too. Too often, that loss of hope leads to suicide, a suicide that is entirely preventable. Suicide is a growing public health issue in our country and in South Dakota, and it affects each of our lives in some way.

I want everyone who has struggled with hopelessness or thoughts of suicide to have access to the help and resources they need. We can restore hope – we just need to start the conversation. Together, we can restore hope to the hopeless, and that’s exactly what I have tasked state government to help me do.

In South Dakota, when we truly care about an issue or problem, we work together to take action. That’s what we did in the summer of 2019 when I tasked five state agencies to develop a comprehensive statewide plan to prevent suicide. Together, the departments of Health, Social Services, Education, Tribal Relations, and Agriculture & Natural Resources, as well as the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen’s Health Board have committed to spotlighting this issue to reduce suicides in South Dakota. This group is working hard to get people talking more about suicide and how to prevent it.

Last summer, a data-to-action group from these agencies began meeting to identify counties experiencing high rates of suicide. The group has been proactively reaching out to communities with these high rates and offering assistance in areas like healthcare, behavioral health, school counseling, and community supports.

To date, eight high risk counties have been identified through this process, and we’ve taken action to restore hope. Multiple agencies have worked together to provide training and awareness resources to those counties, including social media messaging and print materials to help jumpstart the conversation about suicide prevention.

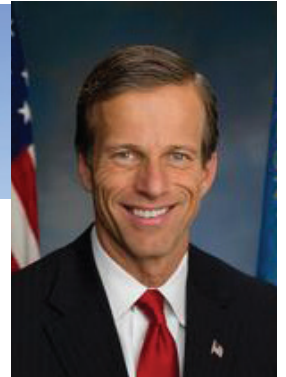
With this added support and collaboration, we are hoping to see suicide rates in these high-risk counties turn around. But our work isn’t done, and we need your help. Suicide is not an easy topic to discuss, but we cannot be afraid to talk about it.

We will be hosting the “Start the Conversation” statewide suicide prevention conference on August 11-12 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. Sometimes people just need the right tools to start the conversation. The conference will be an opportunity for individuals to access training and resources to help prevent suicide in South Dakota. Key speakers and sessions will focus on prevention strategies for veterans, ag producers, youth, tribal communities, and the general population. Training opportunities are also available, and you can attend the conference at no cost.

Suicide prevention is everyone’s concern. Take time to check in with your family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors to see how they are doing. Learn the risk factors and watch for the warning signs. Find the words and offer help. You may help save a life.

You are not alone in helping someone. If you need help with thoughts of suicide, please call 988. Help is available 24/7. Or, visit SDSuicidePrevention.org or BeThe1SD.com for numerous resources for those needing help for themselves or others.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Democrats Double Down on Reckless Tax-and-Spending Spree

Record-high inflation is the number-one issue impacting Americans right now. From soaring gas prices to food prices – and just about everything in between – a nearly 41-year high inflation rate is forcing families to dig deeper into their pocketbooks as they try to make ends meet. I continue to hear from folks across the state who tell me about the sacrifices they are making, and it's abundantly clear that they need some relief.

Unfortunately, instead of pursuing policies that would grow our economy and drive down prices for families and small businesses, Democrats continue to pursue the policies that helped lead to record-high inflation in the first place. Democrats are pursuing their so-called "Inflation Reduction Act," a bill that would do nothing to reduce inflation but would double down on wasteful government spending and impose hundreds of billions of dollars in tax hikes on American businesses – tax hikes that would result in higher prices for consumers in nearly every income bracket.

Our economy has posted negative economic growth for the past two quarters – the textbook definition of a recession – and Democrats think now is an ideal time to raise taxes on American businesses. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that raising taxes in the middle of a recession is a very, very bad idea. Bottom line, Democrats are failing Economics 101.

Increasing the tax burden on American businesses and consumers doesn't end there. The Democrats' bill would also impose a methane fee and a new tax hike on U.S. refiners importing crude oil and petroleum products, which are intended to make conventional energy prohibitively more expensive. Regardless of the wishful thinking Democrats engage in, Americans still need conventional energy – now and into the near future. The Democrats' energy tax hikes are setting everyday Americans up to continue to suffer under high energy prices for the foreseeable future, as the cost for gas far exceeds the \$2.38 price per gallon when President Biden took office.

The Democrats' bill – that they bizarrely claim is going to lower inflation – happens to be chock-full of radical, Green New Deal-esque policies. There's billions of dollars for a grant program to plant trees and things like identifying gaps in tree canopy coverage. There are billions of dollars going to purchase heavy-duty electric vehicles like garbage trucks and even more money for the U.S. Postal Service to purchase zero-emission delivery vehicles – to name a few.

Among other egregious policies, there are tax credits for folks who purchase electric vehicles and even more write-offs for refitting windows, skylights, and doors to meet Democrats' required level of energy efficiency. The icing on the cake, of course, is the fact that the wealthiest Americans in our country are the ones who are purchasing electric vehicles, and Democrats want to give these high-income earners a tax break. This bill is wasteful and irresponsible and would create a lot of economic pain for hardworking Americans and job creators.

The Democrats' \$1.9 trillion spending spree in early 2021 helped plunge our economy into an inflation crisis that has left Americans struggling. If anything, Democrats should have learned that dumping unnecessary dollars into the economy is a recipe for disaster. Their new partisan tax-and-spending spree, unfortunately, tees up even more economic pain for families. As we have seen time and time again, economic common sense is taking a back seat to Democrats' big-spending, big-government ideology. I will continue to fight back against these radical, out-of-touch policies and focus on solutions that put more money into the pocketbooks of hardworking South Dakotans.

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CONGRESSMAN

DUSTY JOHNSON

Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



China's Takeover of American Farmland

The 360,000 acres of American land owned by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is just the start. The CCP is purchasing more and more farmland and has a plan to drastically increase their ownership in the next few years. It's become a growing concern of mine, and I'm working to put an end to it.

In our global economy, I understand there is a time and place to work internationally on issues. But we cannot give our foreign adversaries – like China – access to our food supply. Food security is national security.

I'm not just worried about our farmland and food supply. Recently, the Chinese food manufacturer Fufeng Group bought 300 acres of land near Grand Forks, North Dakota, to set up a milling plant. This piece of land is located about 20 minutes from the Grand Forks Air Force Base, which is home to some of the nation's most sensitive military drone technology. This has raised national security concerns because the Fufeng Group's passive receiving equipment could intercept sensitive drone and space-based communications to and from the base. The communication that happens at Grand Forks AFB is the backbone of all U.S. military communications across the globe. We cannot allow one of our greatest adversaries potential control over our military technology or our food supply.

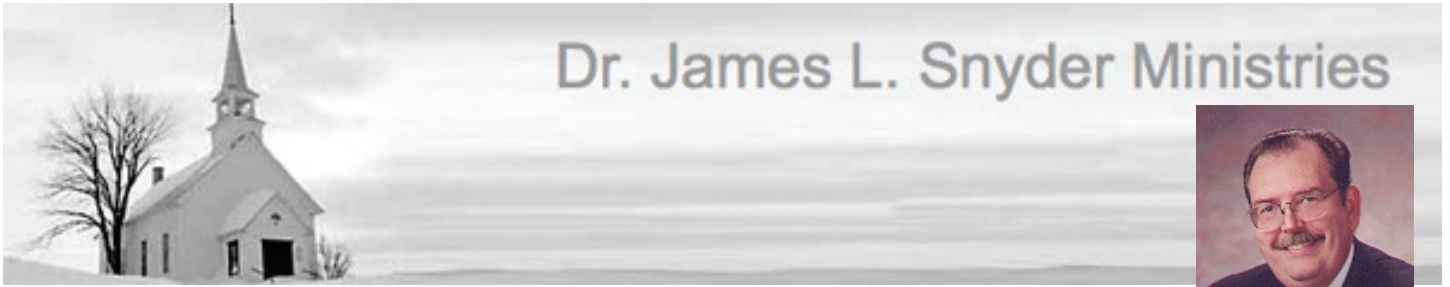
I am co-leading two bills—the Prohibition of Agricultural Land for the People's Republic of China Act and the Promoting Agriculture Safeguards and Security (PASS) Act—to prohibit China's purchase of American farmland and agriculture businesses. Thankfully, these bills are gaining traction in Congress, at least among conservatives.

The PASS Act won't just prohibit China from purchasing our agriculture businesses, but also blacklists Russia, Iran, North Korea, and those acting on behalf of those countries from taking control of any American ag business.

The last few years our supply chain has seen continuous disruptions – our country can't afford to let China get a hold of more American business and land.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



When Is It Okay to Be Snarly?

Normally, whatever normal means, I don't get agitated by many things. I can keep my cool under the most bizarre circumstances. Nothing gets under my skin, and I can take everything with a grin.

I can't remember the last time I lost my temper and got mad. I've been married for over 50 years, so I have experienced everything that I possibly can experience. After making it through these many years of marital bliss, I can handle anything.

My week was going rather well, and I was close to completing my projects for the week. Then about halfway through the week, things began to go awry. I was getting behind on my projects, and I didn't think I would ever catch up.

I like to have my work done on time, and I work very hard to do just that. But for some reason, I lost the rhythm of my work, and it wasn't going like I would like it to go. So I must say, I was getting agitated for the first time in a long time.

It was a moment of frustration as I tried to unwind from some of the problems that had developed in my projects. In the middle of that, the telephone rang.

For a moment, I thought of not answering the phone and just letting it ring. If it was something important, they would leave a message, and I could get back to them.

For some reason, my autopilot kicked in, and without much thought, I answered the phone.

"The warranty on your car is just about to expire," the person on the phone said. Then he began the long speech about what he could do to renew my auto warranty.

When I came to, I realized it was some kind of a scam, so I told him I wasn't interested and then hung up the phone.

It wasn't going very well, and I couldn't straighten out the problem, but I thought I was close. It took me much longer, and I didn't know what else to do.

Then the telephone rang again. I tried not to answer, but in my state of mind at the time, I wasn't in control, and I automatically answered the phone.

The person on the phone was introducing me to my updated Medicare options. At first, I couldn't follow what he was talking about. Instead, my mind was focused on the projects I was working on.

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According to the person on the phone, all I had to do was answer a few questions, and they could sign me up for additions to my Medicare at no cost to me.

I replied as calmly as possible and told him I was not the least bit interested in what he had to offer. Then I hung up the phone and went back to my job.

It took me a few moments to get back into my routine and sort out some problems I was having. I still couldn't figure out what was wrong.

Then the telephone rang. Again!

At this point, my agitation level was beginning to rise. It's been a long time since I've experienced this kind of thing.

As I answered the phone, the person on the other end asked me a whole lot of questions about my health. Do you have diabetes? Do you have arthritis? Do you have pain in your back? And he went on and on and on.

I asked why he was so interested in my physical well-being, and he said that it was part of Medicare and he wanted to ensure I had all the coverage I deserved.

"Why are you calling me now?" I said as angrily as I could control.

"I am just responding to your inquiry online." When he said that, something flipped in my head.

At that point, I let loose all my snarly attitudes at the time. I was at the point where I could not control my snarlyitis. I gave him a piece of my mind that I hadn't used in a long time.

I angrily hung up the phone, turned around, and there was The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looking at me with both hands on her hips.

"You sure had a snarly attitude on that phone call. Who in the world were you talking to?"

I then explained the phone calls I had been getting that had disrupted my working environment that morning. "I think they are all scams," I explained to her.

That brought me to a point of wondering when it is okay to be snarly. After all, I did not call them; they called me. And they called me about something I had no interest in whatsoever. And they kept calling me.

As far as I know, this situation was the perfect situation to express a snarly attitude. I don't always have such situations, so I'm an amateur when it comes to being snarly.

Thinking about this it occurred to me that sometimes people need to be responded to with a snarly attitude.

I then remembered what Jesus said in John 8:44, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

Sometimes people just need to hear the truth.

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EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: What on Earth is a “macrogrid” and how do proponents of the concept think it will improve energy efficiency?

-- T. Mc-

Graw, Houston, TX

The term macrogrid simply refers to a power distribution network that spans many regions and connects smaller producers together to maximize efficiencies of scale. Macrogrids transmitting power produced cheaply in remote rural areas to electricity-hungry users in population centers enhances grid reliability and can save billions in energy costs while creating “green” jobs and helping to reduce carbon emissions.

According to the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE), which works to accelerate the transition to a renewable energy economy, looping neighboring electricity suppliers together in a macrogrid increases resilience and threat mitigation, decreases energy supply/demand variability and improves system performance. Five macrogrids are in use now across North America, connecting power lines from coast-to-coast. Texas, Alaska and Quebec each have their own macrogrids, while larger grids cross multiple state/provincial lines.

Despite their cost and environmental efficiencies, macrogrids aren’t always the best choice. When Puerto Rico’s island-wide macrogrid failed in September 2017 due to Hurricane Maria’s 15-20 inches of rain and wind gusts topping 133 miles per hour, power was out across the entire island for weeks on end. Electricity wasn’t fully restored there for 11 months. Meanwhile, a deep freeze across Texas in February 2021 cut off power for some 10 million Texans reliant on that state’s macrogrid.

Some scientists say these kinds climate-change-driven severe weather events don’t help the case for developing ever larger and larger macrogrids, but instead encourage a return to microgrids that, while still able to connect to the larger grid, can also disconnect and operate independently in so-called “island mode” if the overall system is compromised. As such, microgrids can optimize for supplying power locally no matter what’s happening miles and miles away.

Microgrids can also be more efficient depending on their design. Larger macrogrid systems convert the electricity they transmit to alternating current (AC) to go long distances and change direction quickly across hundreds of miles of transmission lines. But there’s an efficiency loss in the conversion from the direct current (DC) of the power source. “Some microgrids are designed to use the direct current power directly from the generation source, which has the potential for an additional seven to 30 percent energy savings,” Jean Redfield, CEO of NextEnergy, tells Microgrid Knowledge. Microgrids utilize alternative methods for receiving energy such as through wind turbines and hydropumps allowing for the direct conversion of power from these sources. In fact, programs to encourage the development of microgrids are already in the works in several states including California, Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts.

But we don’t have to wait for our communities to convert themselves to microgrids to start doing something to save energy. We can all contribute energy conservation by refining our day-to day behaviors, whether by turning off appliances when they aren’t needed or limiting our time in the shower. The future will certainly contain macrogrids and microgrids, but it’s how each and every one of us uses the energy coming in that will determine whether we can conserve our way out of the climate crisis.



The debate rages on among environmentalists and other about whether macrogrids or microgrids are a better bet in a climate-compromised world.

Credit: Pexels.com.

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South Dakota COVID-19 Report

New Confirmed and Probable Cases

1574

Active Cases

4,433
+43

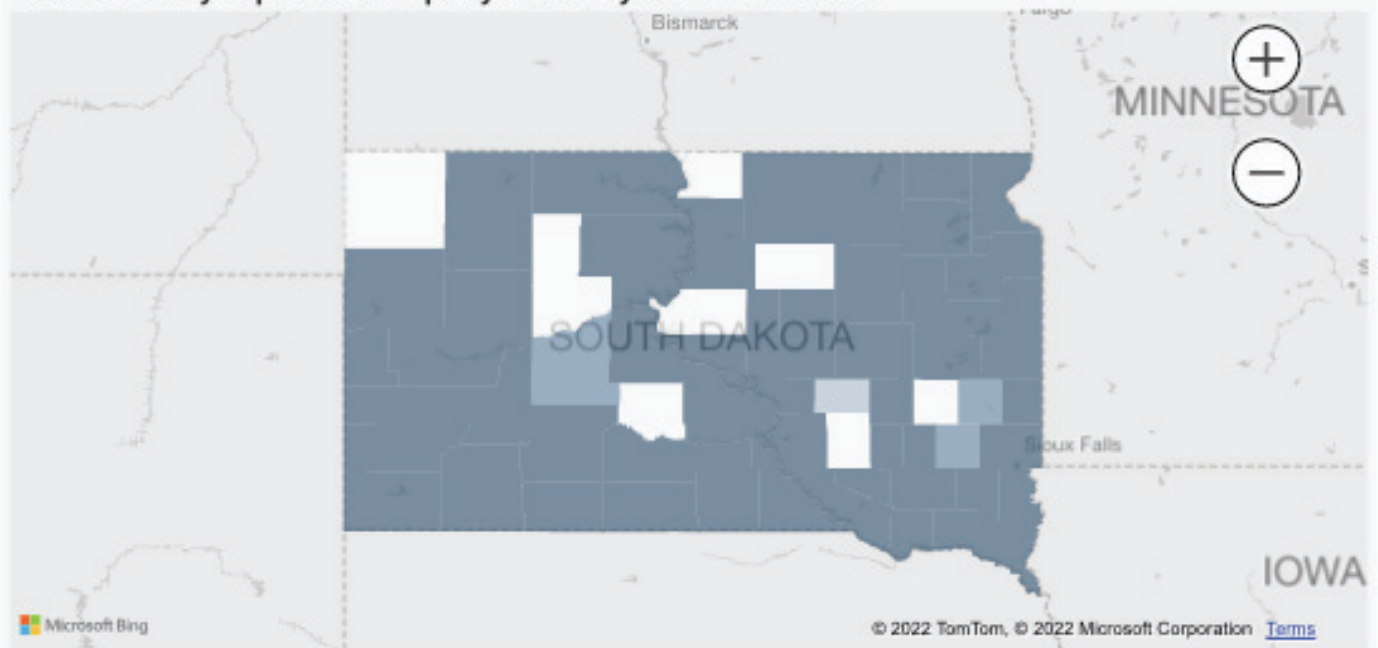
Recovered Cases

244,464

Currently Hospitalized

89

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

251,860

Total Tests

2,269,857

Deaths Among Cases

2,963

Ever Hospitalized

11,314

Percent of State Population with at least 1 Dose**

74%

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Brown County COVID-19 Report

New Confirmed and Probable Cases

84

Active Cases

216
+15

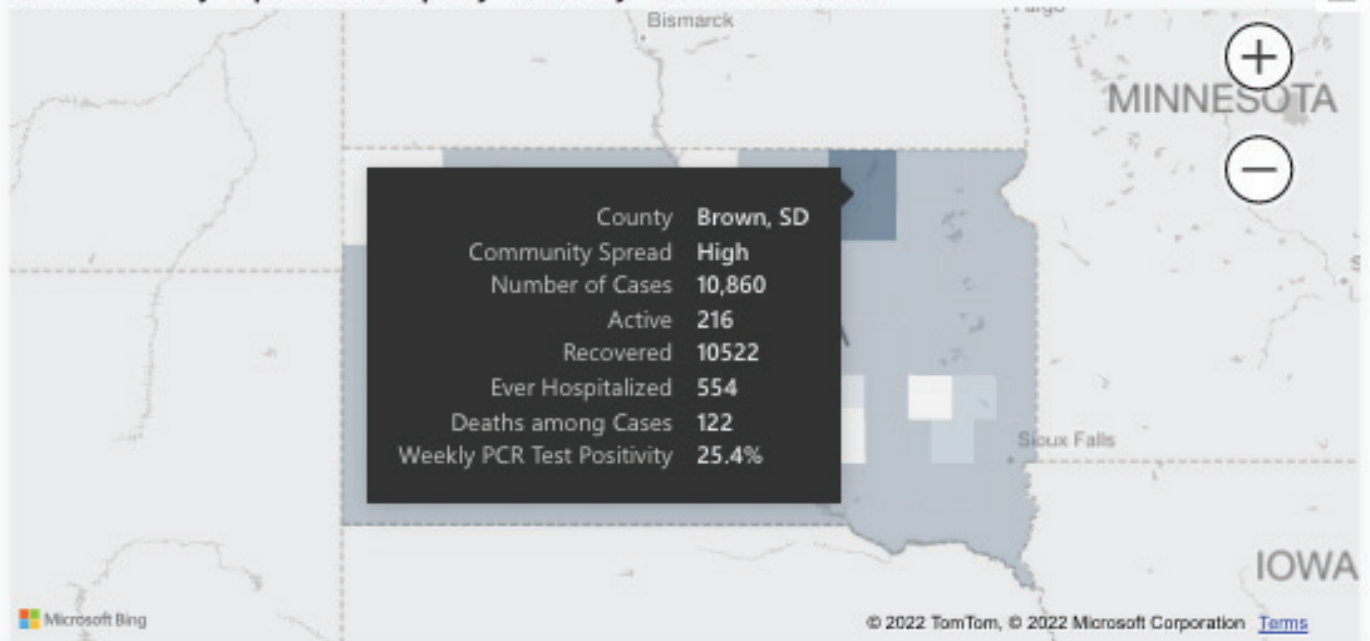
Recovered Cases

10,522

Currently Hospitalized

89

Community Spread Map by County of Residence



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

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

Total Confirmed and Probable Cases

10,860

Total Tests

108,415

Deaths Among Cases

122

Ever Hospitalized

554

Percent of State Population with at least 1 Dose**

74%

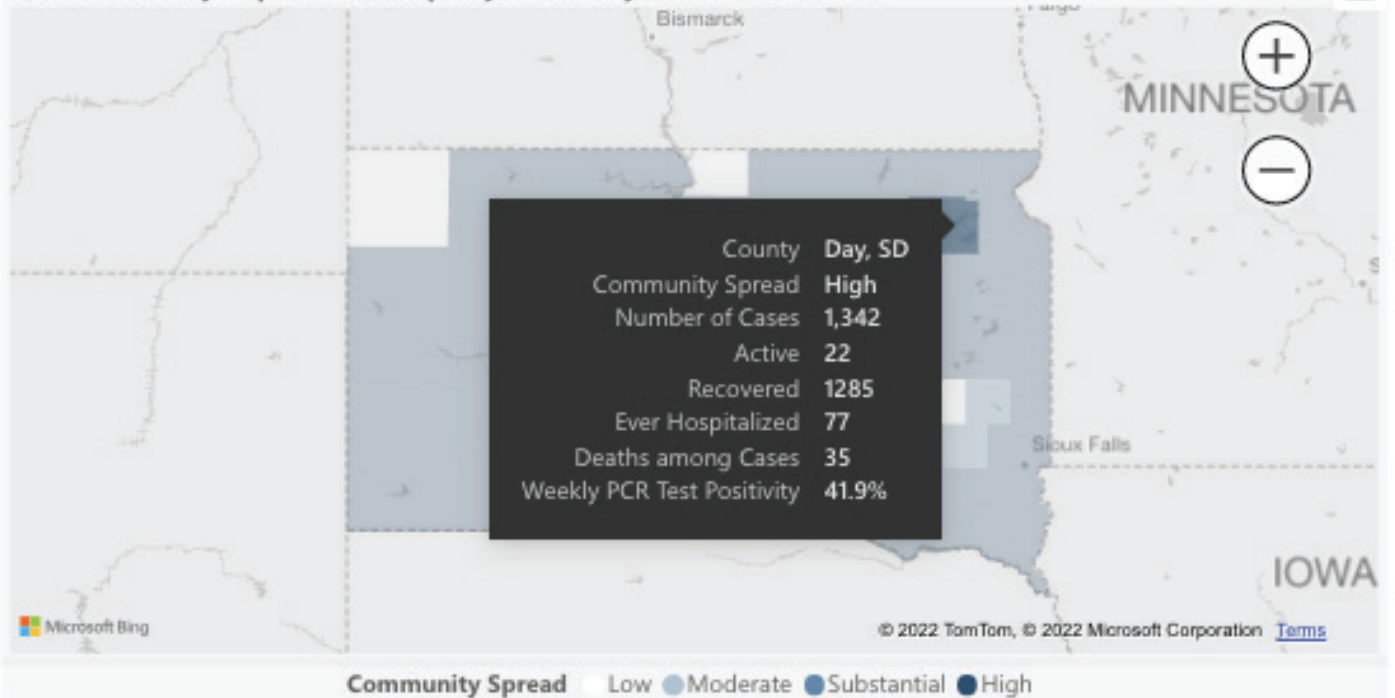
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Day County COVID-19 Report



Community Spread Map by County of Residence



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

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



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Ever Hospitalized

11,314

03/07/2020 - 08/01/2022

Currently Hospitalized

89
+7

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)	1,367	203
Alpha (B.1.1.7)	176	3
Omicron (BA.2)	143	131
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	118,023	5,896	1,618
Female	133,837	5,418	1,345

AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range with Years	# of Cases	# of Hospitalizations	# of Deaths Among Cases
0-9 years	17,027	159	3
10-19 years	29,672	179	2
20-29 years	43,709	608	14
30-39 years	42,248	845	54
40-49 years	34,926	978	89
50-59 years	32,241	1,509	226
60-69 years	27,217	2,284	481
70-79 years	14,896	2,415	693
80+ years	9,924	2,337	1,401

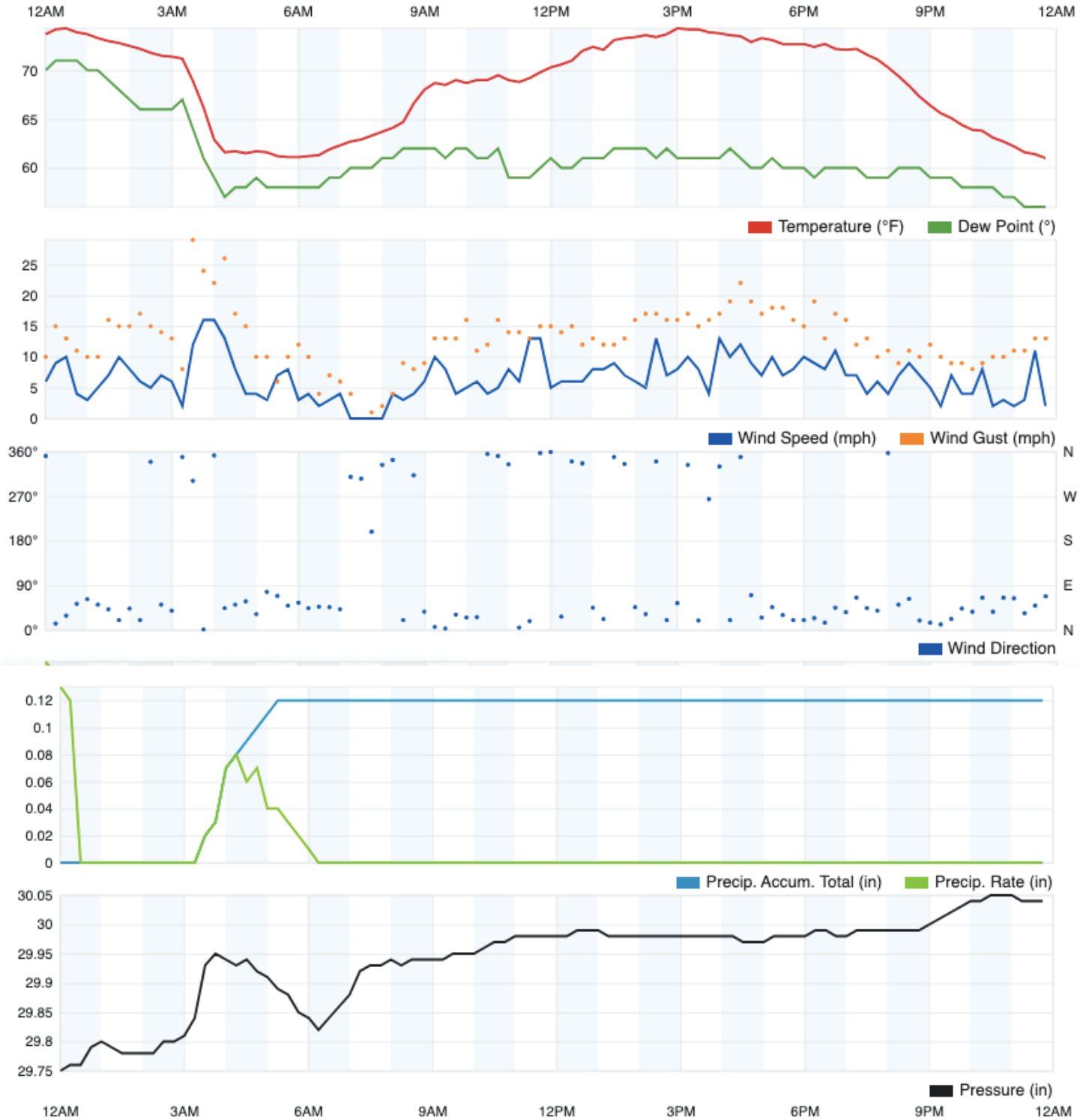
RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	# of Hospitalizations	# of Deaths
Asian / Pacific Islander	3,499	111	20
Black	6,157	213	22
Hispanic	10,763	357	39
Native American	31,848	1,943	447
Other	2,143	59	13
Unknown	5,219	74	20
White	192,231	8,557	2,402

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs




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Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
 40%				
Chance Showers	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Clear	Sunny
High: 70 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 88 °F

Today



Highs: 66-74°


Scattered Showers & Thunderstorms Through the Day



Temps remain mild to start the week with heat and humidity building by mid-late week



Tonight Into Monday



Lows: 50s Highs: 80s

Shower & Storm chances end tonight in the East. Skies gradually clear with more sunshine returning on Monday.

Scattered showers and thunderstorms will remain possible today. This will hold especially true through the morning hours. This activity will shift eastward through the afternoon with a gradual end to the precip expected from west to east late in the day and tonight. Temperatures will remain on the cooler side of normal today with highs in the mid 60s to mid 70s. Skies will clear overnight as temps fall into the 50s. More sunshine and warmer temps can be expected for Monday with highs in the upper 70s to upper 80s. Much warmer air will be moving in by the middle of the week with temps then back in the 90s.

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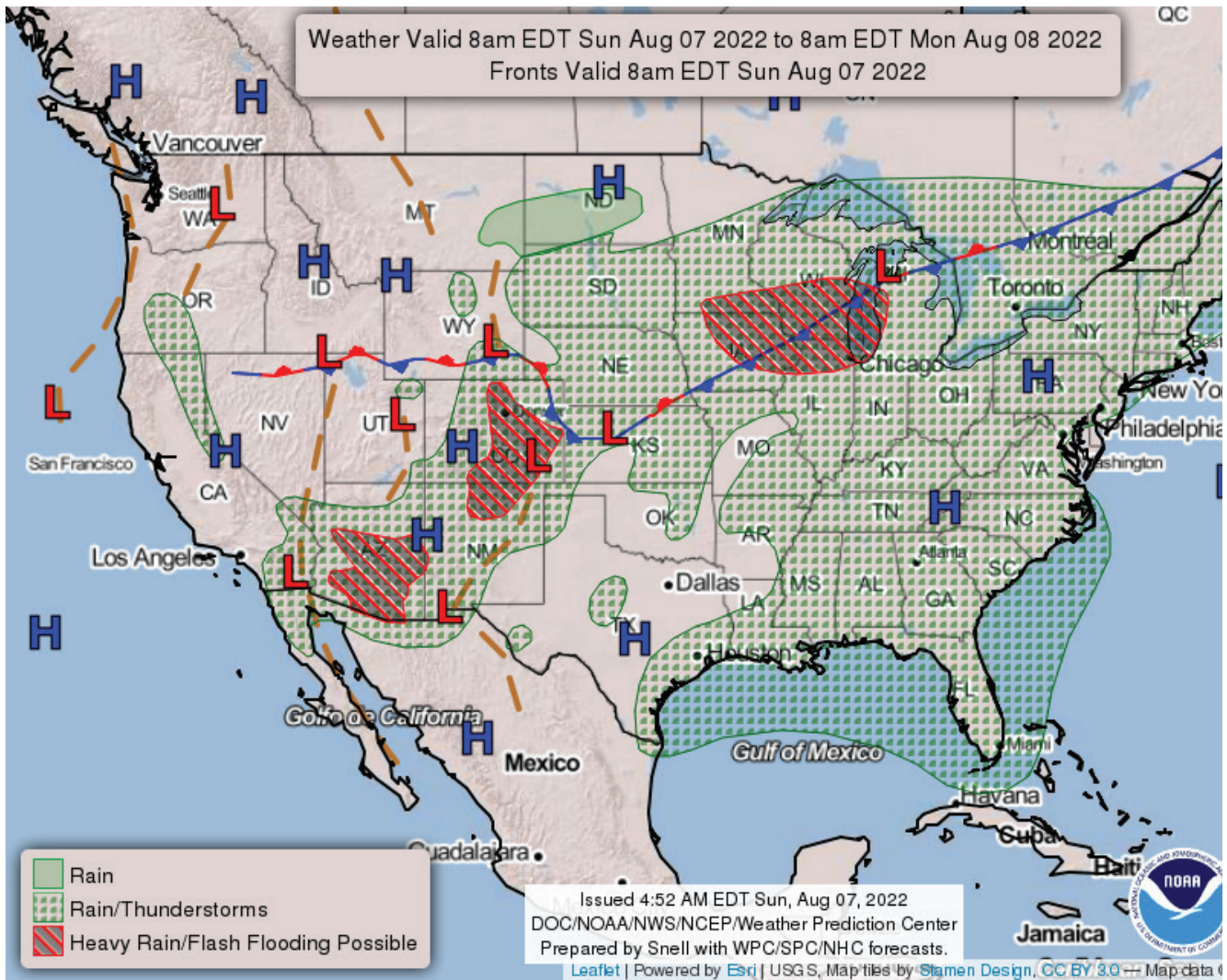
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 74 °F at 3:34 PM
Low Temp: 60 °F at 11:57 PM
Wind: 29 mph at 3:26 AM
Precip: : 0.12

Day length: 14 hours, 31 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 102 in 1949
Record Low: 42 in 1921
Average High: 84°F
Average Low: 59°F
Average Precip in Aug.: 0.51
Precip to date in Aug.: 0.62
Average Precip to date: 14.61
Precip Year to Date: 15.16
Sunset Tonight: 8:53:56 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:23:33 AM



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Today in Weather History

August 7, 1968: From 9 miles north of Isabel, hail up to golf ball size was observed with a severe thunderstorm. This storm continued moving in a southeast direction, causing extensive damage to crops, trees, utility lines, and structures. A radio tower was blown over near Huron, and a wind gust of 115 mph was reported at Huron. A woman was swept from a roof in Huron and was critically injured.

August 7, 2009: A supercell thunderstorm developed across the northern Black Hills and moved eastward across the Sturgis area, southern Meade County, northeastern Pennington County, Haakon County, and northeastern Jackson County. The storm produced baseball sized hail near Sturgis, then high winds and hail larger than baseball sized developed as the storm moved across the plains. The storm hit Sturgis during the annual motorcycle rally and caused extensive damage to motorcycles, vehicles, and property. Minor injuries from the hail were also reported.

August 7, 2010: An EF4 tornado touched down south of Tyler in Richland County North Dakota and tracked to the northeast for roughly 2.5 miles before crossing the Bois de Sioux River into Wilkin County, Minnesota. In Wilkin County, the tornado continued for another 2.5 miles and lifted about 650 pm CDT. The total track length was about 5 miles, and peak winds were estimated at 175 mph.

1904 - A flash flood near Pueblo, CO, washed a train from the tracks killing 89 passengers. A bridge, weakened by the floodwaters sweeping through the valley below, gave way under the weight of the train dashing all but the sleeping cars into the torrent drowning the occupants. Rail service was frequently interrupted in the Rocky Mountain Region and southwestern U.S. that summer due to numerous heavy downpours which washed out the railroad beds delaying trains as much as five days. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1918 - Philadelphia, PA, established an all-time record with a high of 106 degrees. New York City experienced its warmest day and night with a low of 82 degrees and a high of 102 degrees. Afternoon highs of 108 degrees at Flemington NJ and Somerville NJ established state records for the month of August. (The Weather Channel) (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1924: A tornado caused estimated F4 damage moved southeast from south of Osseo, WI to Black River Falls, WI. One person was killed as a home was leveled and a boy was killed running to the storm cellar near the start of the path. Two people died as farm homes were swept away near the northeast edge of Black River Falls. Damage totaled \$200,000 as 50 farms were hit and buildings were unroofed in the town of Northfield. The tornado followed the present route of Interstate 94. Click [HERE](#) for storm damage from the Wisconsin Historical Society.

1980: Hurricane Allen bottomed out at 899 millibars (26.55 inches of mercury) while moving through the Yucatan Channel in the southeastern part of the Gulf of Mexico. Allen was the second lowest pressure ever recorded in the Western Hemisphere up to that time. Allen's winds at the time were sustained at 190 mph.

1986 - A rare outbreak of seven tornadoes occurred in New England. One tornado carved its way through Cranston RI and Providence RI causing twenty injuries. Rhode Island had not reported a tornado in twelve years, and three touched down in 24 hours. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1987 - Morning thunderstorms drenched Goldsboro, NC, with 3.37 inches of rain. Late morning thunderstorms in Arizona produced dime size hail, wind gusts to 50 mph, and two inches of rain, at Sierra Vista. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A dozen cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Waco, TX, with a reading of 107 degrees. The record high of 88 degrees at Marquette, MI, was their twenty-third of the year. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in Nebraska, Minnesota and Wisconsin, with wind gusts to 81 mph reported at McCool, NE. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Forty cities in the central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Valentine, NE, with a reading of 40 degrees, and Belcourt ND with a low of 37 degrees. Martin SD was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 30 degrees. Unseasonably hot weather prevailed over Florida and Washington State, with record highs of 100 degrees at Daytona Beach, FL, 101 degrees at Walla Walla, WA, and 103 degrees at Hanford, WA. (The National Weather Summary)



Strength to Let Go

Scripture: Isaiah 40:28-31 (English Standard Version)

28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

29 He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

30 Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;

31 but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Insight By: Alyson Kieda

The people of the Bible repeatedly found strength through their relationship with God. In Exodus, after the Israelites miraculously crossed the Red Sea, Moses sang, "The Lord is my strength and my defense" (15:2). When David's men talked of stoning him, he "found strength in the Lord his God" (1 Samuel 30:6). Later, after God delivered him from Saul, David declared, "It is God who arms me with strength" (2 Samuel 22:33; see Psalm 18:32). Likewise, Asaph proclaimed, "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever" (Psalm 73:26). The prophet Isaiah declared, "Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense" (Isaiah 12:2). We too can find strength in God, who assures us, "Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you" (41:10).

Comment By: Karen Pimpo

Once known as the World's Strongest Man, American weightlifter Paul Anderson set a world record at the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne, Australia, despite a severe inner-ear infection and a 103-degree fever. Falling behind frontrunners, his only chance for a gold medal was to set a new Olympic record in his last event. His first two attempts failed badly.

So, the burly athlete did what even the weakest among us can do. He called on God for extra strength, letting go of his own. As he later said, "It wasn't making a bargain. I needed help." With his final lift, he hoisted 413.5 pounds (187.5 kg) over his head.

Paul, the apostle of Christ, wrote, "When I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10). Paul was speaking of spiritual strength, but he knew that God's power was "made perfect in weakness" (v. 9).

As the prophet Isaiah declared, "[The Lord] gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak" (Isaiah 40:29).

What was the path to such strength? Abiding in Jesus. "Apart from me you can do nothing," He said (John 15:5). As weightlifter Anderson often said, "If the strongest man in the world can't get through one day without the power of Jesus Christ—where does that leave you?" To find out, we can release our dependence on our own illusive strength, asking God for His strong and prevailing help.

Reflect and Prayer: When you depend on God's strength, and not your own, what's the outcome? How does abiding in Jesus give you strength?

All-powerful God, my life's burdens feel heavy and overwhelming, but abiding in You gives me Your strength to carry on and overcome.

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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  Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

01-04-05-17-20

(one, four, five, seventeen, twenty)

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Lotto America

01-08-13-18-40, Star Ball: 1, ASB: 3

(one, eight, thirteen, eighteen, forty; Star Ball: one; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$18,070,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: 52,000,000

Powerball

08-15-46-56-68, Powerball: 3, Power Play: 2

(eight, fifteen, forty-six, fifty-six, sixty-eight; Powerball: three; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$26,000,000

Israeli airstrike kills 2nd top Islamic Jihad commander

By FARES AKRAM and ILAN BEN ZION Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel said Sunday that it killed a senior Islamic Jihad commander in a crowded Gaza refugee camp, the second such targeted attack since it launched its high-stakes military offensive against the militant group just before the weekend.

The Iran-backed militant group has fired hundreds of rockets at Israel in response, and the risk of the cross-border fighting turning into a full-fledged war remained high.

Gaza's ruling Hamas group, which fought an 11-day war with Israel in May 2021, appeared to stay on the sidelines for now, possibly because it fears Israeli reprisals and undoing economic understandings with Israel, including Israeli work permits for thousands of Gaza residents, that bolster its control.

The Islamic Jihad commander, Khaled Mansour, was killed in an airstrike on an apartment building in the Rafah refugee camp in southern Gaza late Saturday.

Two other militants and five civilians were also killed in the attack, bringing the Palestinian death toll to 31 since the start of the Israeli offensive on Friday. Among the dead were six children and four women. The Palestinian Health Ministry said more than 250 people were wounded since Friday.

Israel says some of the deaths were caused by errant rocket fire, including one incident in the Jebaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza in which six Palestinians were killed Saturday. On Sunday, a projectile hit a home in the same area of Jebaliya, killing two men. Palestinians held Israel responsible, while Israel said it was investigating whether the area was hit by an errant rocket.

Mansour, the Islamic Jihad commander for southern Gaza, was in the apartment of a member of the group when the missile struck, flattening the three-story building and badly damaging nearby houses.

"Suddenly, without warning, the house next to us was bombed and everything became black and dusty with smoke in the blink of an eye," said Wissam Jouda, who lives next to the targeted building.

Ahmed al-Qaissi, another neighbor, said his wife and son were among the wounded, suffering shrapnel injuries. To make way for rescue workers, al-Qaissi agreed to have part of his house demolished.

The Rafah strike was the deadliest so far in the current round of fighting, which was initiated by Israel on Friday with the targeted killing of Islamic Jihad's commander for northern Gaza.

Israel has said it took action against the militant group because of concrete threats of an imminent at-

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tack, but has not provided details. Caretaker Prime Minister Yair Lapid, who is an experienced diplomat but untested in overseeing a war, unleashed the offensive less than three months before a general election in which he is campaigning to keep the job.

In a statement Sunday, Lapid said the military would continue to strike targets in Gaza "in a pinpoint and responsible way in order to reduce to a minimum the harm to noncombatants." Lapid said the strike that killed Mansour was "an extraordinary achievement."

"The operation will continue as long as necessary," Lapid said.

Israel estimates its airstrikes have killed about 15 militants.

Islamic Jihad has fewer fighters and supporters than Hamas, and little is known about its weapons arsenal. Both groups call for Israel's destruction, but have different priorities, with Hamas constrained by the demands of governing.

The Israeli army said militants in Gaza fired some 580 rockets toward Israel. The army said its air defenses had intercepted many of them, with two of those shot down being fired toward Jerusalem. Islamic Jihad has fewer fighters and supporters than Hamas.

Air raid sirens sounded in the Jerusalem area for the first time Sunday since last year's Israel-Hamas war.

Jerusalem is typically a flash point during periods of cross-border fighting between Israel and Gaza. On Sunday, hundreds of Jews, including firebrand ultra-nationalist lawmaker Itamar Ben Gvir, visited a sensitive holy site in Jerusalem, known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary. The visit, under heavy police protection, ended without incident, police said.

Such demonstrative visits by Israeli hard-liners seeking to underscore Israeli claims of sovereignty over contested Jerusalem have sparked violence in the past. The holy site sits on the fault line of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and is central to rival narratives of Palestinians and Israeli Jews.

In Palestinian cities and towns in the West Bank, Israeli security forces said they detained 19 people on suspicion of belonging to the Islamic Jihad during overnight raids.

The fighting began with Israel's killing of a senior Islamic Jihad commander in a wave of strikes Friday that Israel said were meant to prevent an imminent attack.

By Sunday, Hamas still appeared to stay out of the battle. The group has a strong incentive to avoid another war. Last year's Israel-Hamas war, one of four major conflicts and several smaller battles over the last 15 years, exacted a staggering toll on the impoverished territory's 2.3 million Palestinian residents.

Since the last war, Israel and Hamas have reached tacit understandings based on trading calm for work permits and a slight easing of the border blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt when Hamas overran the territory 15 years ago. Israel has issued 12,000 work permits to Gaza laborers, and has held out the prospect of granting another 2,000 permits.

The lone power plant in Gaza ground to a halt at noon Saturday due to a lack of fuel. Israel has kept its crossing points into Gaza closed since Tuesday. With the new disruption, Gazans can use only four hours of electricity a day, increasing their reliance on private generators and deepening the territory's chronic power crisis amid peak summer heat.

Shift in war's front seen as ships cleared to leave Ukraine

By SUSIE BLANN Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Four more ships carrying agricultural cargo held up by the war in Ukraine received authorization Sunday to leave the country's Black Sea coast as analysts warned that Russia was moving troops and equipment in the direction of the ports to stave off a Ukrainian counteroffensive.

The body overseeing an international deal intended to get some 20 millions of grain out of Ukraine and to feed millions of impoverished people who are going hungry in Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia said the loaded vessels were expected to depart Chornomorsk and Odesa on Monday.

Ukraine, Russia, Turkey and the United Nations signed agreements last month to create a sea channel that would allow cargo ships to travel safely out of ports that Russia's military had blockaded and through waters that Ukraine's military had mined. Implementation of the deal, which is in effect for four months,

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has proceeded slowly since the first ship embarked last Monday.

For the last four months of the war, Russia has concentrated on capturing the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine, where pro-Moscow separatists have controlled some territory as self-proclaimed republics for eight years. Russian forces have made gradual headway in the region bordering Russia while launching missile and rocket attacks to curtail the movements of Ukrainian fighters elsewhere.

Over the past day, five civilians were killed in Russian and separatist firing on cities in the Donetsk region, the part of Donbas still under Ukrainian control, the regional governor, Serhiy Haidai, reported. He and Ukrainian government officials repeatedly have urged civilians to evacuate the province.

In a weekend analysis, Britain's Defense Ministry said the Russian invasion that started Feb. 24 "is about to enter a new phase" in which the fighting shifting would shift west and south to a roughly 350-kilometer (217-mile) front line that extends from near the city of Zaporizhzhia to Russian-occupied Kherson.

Kherson, located on the Dnieper River near its mouth with the Black Sea, came under Russian control early in the war and Ukrainian officials have vowed to retake it. Kherson is located 227 kilometers (141 miles) from Odesa, home to Ukraine's biggest port, so the conflict escalating there could have repercussions for the international grain deal.

The city of Mykolaiv, an important shipbuilding center that comes under daily rocketing from Russian forces, is even closer to Odesa. The Mykolaiv region's governor, Vitaliy Kim, said an industrial facility on the regional capital's outskirts came under fire early Sunday.

On Saturday, Russian forces launched airstrikes, fired artillery and redistributed other weaponry as part of attempts to defend their positions in occupied areas, according to the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington think tank.

Citing local Ukrainian officials, the institute said the Russians "are continuing to accumulate large quantities of military equipment" in a town across the Dnieper River from Kherson. The preparations appeared designed to defend logistics routes to the city and to establish defensive positions on the river's left bank, the think tank said.

Ukrainian officials were initially skeptical of a grain export deal, citing suspicions that Moscow would try to exploit shipping activity to mass troops offshore or to send long-range missiles from the Black Sea, as it has done multiple times during the war. The agreements approved last month call for ships to leave Ukraine under military escort and to undergo inspections.

Under the agreements, ships leaving Ukraine are inspected by teams made up of officials from the three countries and the U.N. to make sure they carry only grain, fertilizer or food and not any other commodities. Inbound vessels are checked to ensure they are not carrying weapons.

The Joint Coordination Center, which is responsible for managing the deal, said three cargo ships that left Friday were expected to pass through Turkey's Bosphorus Strait on Sunday after clearing inspections. The Panama-flagged Navi Star, which is carrying 33,000 tons of grain to Ireland, completed its inspection and was preparing to sail.

The Turkish-flagged Polarnet, which was headed for Turkey, and the Maltese-flagged Rojen, bound for the United Kingdom were waiting to be checked. The ships carried over 25,000 tons of corn between them, were waiting to be checked. T

The Joint Coordination Center said three of the carriers cleared to leave Ukraine on Monday – the Glory, the Star Helena and the Riva Wind, all flagged in the Marshall Islands – were transporting more than 171,000 tons of corn combined. The Glory is destined for Istanbul, the Star Helena to Nantong in China and the Riva Wind to Turkey's Iskenderun port on the Mediterranean.

The fourth ship cleared for departure, the Liberia-flagged tanker Mustafa Necati is carrying more than 6,600 tons of sunflower oil to Monopoli, Italy.

The center also authorized the first inbound ship under the agreement, saying the Liberia-flagged Osprey S would head Monday to Ukraine's Chornomorsk port. Marine traffic tracking sites showed the ship north of the Black Sea entrance to the Bosphorus, where ships have waited for inspection teams to board.

Ukraine grain headed for Lebanon under wartime deal delayed

By BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The scheduled arrival Sunday of the first grain ship to leave Ukraine and cross the Black Sea under a wartime deal has been delayed, a Lebanese Cabinet minister and the Ukraine Embassy said.

The cause of the delay was not immediately clear and Marine Traffic, which monitors vessel traffic and the locations of ships at sea, showed the Sierra Leone-flagged Razoni at anchor in the Mediterranean Sea near Turkey.

Lebanon's transportation minister, Ali Hamie, tweeted the ship "that was supposed, according to what was rumored, to reach Tripoli port in Lebanon" changed its status. Hamie refused to comment further when contacted by The Associated Press.

The ship left Odesa last Monday carrying Ukrainian corn and later passed inspection in Turkey. It was supposed to arrive in the northern port of Tripoli at about 10 a.m. Sunday. According to Marine Traffic, the ship Saturday changed its status to "order" meaning the ship was waiting for someone to buy the corn.

The Ukrainian embassy in Beirut said the arrival of the ship has been postponed adding that an "update for the ceremony will be sent later when we get information about exact day and time of the arrival of the ship."

The shipment that was supposed to arrive in Lebanon comes at a time when the tiny Mediterranean nation is suffering from a food security crisis, with soaring food inflation, wheat shortages and bread lines. The ship is carrying some 26,000 tons of corn for chicken feed.

The passage of the vessel was the first under a breakthrough deal brokered by Turkey and the United Nations with Russia and Ukraine. The four sides signed deals last month to create safe Black Sea shipping corridors to export Ukraine's desperately needed agricultural products as Russia's war upon its neighbor grinds on.

Lebanon's worst economic crisis in its modern history that began in late 2019 has left three-quarters of its population living in poverty while the Lebanese pound has lost more than 90% of its value.

The economic meltdown rooted in decades of corruption and mismanagement was made worse by a massive blast in August 2020 that destroyed Beirut's port and the country's main grain silos inside the sprawling facility. Large parts of the silos collapsed in recent days after fire caused by remnants of grain that started fermenting and ignited in the summer heat last month.

Lebanese officials said last week that the Razoni was supposed to leave Ukraine and head to Lebanon on Feb. 24 but the departure was delayed by the war that broke out days later.

On Friday, three more ships carrying thousands of tons of corn left Ukrainian ports and traveled through mined waters toward inspection of their delayed cargo, a sign that the international deal to export grain held up since Russia invaded Ukraine was slowly progressing.

Four more ships carrying agricultural cargo held up by the war in Ukraine received authorization Sunday to leave the country's Black Sea ports.

Dems push Biden climate, health priorities toward Senate OK

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats drove their election-year economic package toward Senate approval early Sunday, debating a measure with less ambition than President Joe Biden's original domestic vision but that touches deep-rooted party dreams of slowing global warming, moderating pharmaceutical costs and taxing immense corporations.

The legislation cleared its first test in the evenly divided chamber when Democrats burst past unanimous Republican opposition and voted to begin debate 51-50, riding Vice President Kamala Harris' tiebreaking vote. The House planned to return Friday for what Democrats hope will be final congressional approval.

"It will reduce inflation. It will lower prescription drug costs. It will fight climate change. It will close tax loopholes and it will reduce and reduce the deficit," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said of the package. "It will help every citizen in this country and make America a much better place."

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Republicans said the measure would undermine an economy that policymakers are struggling to keep from plummeting into recession. They said the bill's business taxes would hurt job creation and force prices skyward, making it harder for people to cope with the nation's worst inflation since the 1980s.

"Democrats have already robbed American families once through inflation, and now their solution is to rob American families a second time," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., argued. He said spending and tax increases in the legislation would eliminate jobs while having insignificant impact on inflation and climate change.

Nonpartisan analysts have said Democrats' "Inflation Reduction Act" would have a minor effect on surging consumer prices. The bill is barely more than one-tenth the size of Biden's initial 10-year, \$3.5 trillion rainbow of progressive aspirations and abandons its proposals for universal preschool, paid family leave and expanded child care aid.

Even so, the new measure gives Democrats a campaign-season showcase for action on coveted goals. It includes the largest ever federal effort on climate change — close to \$400 billion — hands Medicare the power to negotiate pharmaceutical prices and extends expiring subsidies that help 13 million people afford health insurance.

Biden's original measure collapsed after conservative Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., opposed it, saying it was too costly and would fuel inflation.

In an ordeal imposed on all budget bills like this one, the Senate descended into an hourslong "vote-arama" of rapid-fire amendments. Each tested Democrats' ability to hold together a compromise negotiated by Schumer, progressives, Manchin and the inscrutable centrist Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz.

Progressive Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., offered amendments to further expand the legislation's health benefits, and those efforts were defeated. But most proposed changes were fashioned by Republicans to unravel the bill or force Democrats into votes on dangerous political terrain.

One GOP proposal would have forced the Biden administration to continue Trump-era restrictions that cited the pandemic for reducing the flow of migrants across the Southwest border.

Earlier this year, Democrats facing tough reelections supported such an extension, forcing the party to drop its push for COVID-19 spending when Republicans conjoined the two issues. This time, with their far larger economic legislation at stake and elections approaching, Democrats rallied against the border controls.

Other GOP amendments would have required more gas and oil leasing on federal lands and blocked a renewal of a fee on oil that helps finance toxic waste cleanups. All were rejected on party-line votes. Republicans accused Democrats of being soft on border security and opening the door to higher energy and gas costs.

Before debate began Saturday, the bill's prescription drug price curbs were diluted by the Senate's non-partisan parliamentarian. Elizabeth MacDonough, who referees questions about the chamber's procedures, said a provision should fall that would impose costly penalties on drug makers whose price increases for private insurers exceed inflation.

It was the bill's chief protection for the 180 million people with private health coverage they get through work or purchase themselves. Under special procedures that will let Democrats pass their bill by simple majority without the usual 60-vote margin, its provisions must be focused more on dollar-and-cents budget numbers than policy changes.

But the thrust of their pharmaceutical price language remained. That included letting Medicare negotiate what it pays for drugs for its 64 million elderly recipients, penalizing manufacturers for exceeding inflation for pharmaceuticals sold to Medicare and limiting beneficiaries out-of-pocket drug costs to \$2,000 annually.

The bill also caps patients' costs for insulin, the expensive diabetes medication, at \$35 monthly.

The measure's final costs were being recalculated to reflect late changes, but overall it would raise more than \$700 billion over a decade. The money would come from a 15% minimum tax on a handful of corporations with yearly profits above \$1 billion, a 1% tax on companies that repurchase their own stock, bolstered IRS tax collections and government savings from lower drug costs.

Sinema forced Democrats to drop a plan to prevent wealthy hedge fund managers from paying less

than individual income tax rates for their earnings. She also joined with other Western senators to win \$4 billion to combat the region's drought.

It was on the energy and environment side that compromise was most evident between progressives and Manchin, a champion of fossil fuels and his state's coal industry.

Clean energy would be fostered with tax credits for buying electric vehicles and manufacturing solar panels and wind turbines. There would be home energy rebates, funds for constructing factories building clean energy technology and money to promote climate-friendly farm practices and reduce pollution in minority communities.

Manchin won billions to help power plants lower carbon emissions plus language requiring more government auctions for oil drilling on federal land and waters. Party leaders also promised to push separate legislation this fall to accelerate permits for energy projects, which Manchin wants to include a nearly completed natural gas pipeline in his state.

Ukrainian risks her life to rescue wild animals from war

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

CHUBYNSKE, Ukraine (AP) — Natalia Popova has found a new purpose in life: Rescuing wild animals and pets from the devastation wrought by the war in Ukraine.

"They are my life," says the 50-year-old, stroking a light-furred lioness like a kitten. From inside an enclosure, the animal rejoices at the attention, lying on her back and stretching her paws up toward her caretaker.

Popova, in cooperation with the animal protection group UA Animals, has already saved more than 300 animals from the war; 200 of them went abroad and 100 found new homes in western Ukraine, which is considered safer. Many of them were wild animals who were kept as pets at private homes before their owners fled Russian shelling and missiles.

Popova's shelter in the Kyiv region village of Chubynske now houses 133 animals. It's a broad menagerie, including 13 lions, a leopard, a tiger, three deer, wolves, foxes, raccoons and roe deer, as well as domesticated animals like horses, donkeys, goats, rabbits, dogs, cats and birds.

The animals awaiting evacuation to Poland were rescued from hot spots such as eastern Ukraine's Kharkiv and Donetsk regions, which see daily bombardments and active fighting. The Ukrainian soldiers who let Popova know when animals near the front lines need help joke that she has many lives, like a cat.

"No one wants to go there. Everyone is afraid. I am also scared, but I go anyway," she said.

Often she is trembling in the car on her way to rescue another wild animal.

"I feel very sorry for them. I can imagine the stress animals are under because of the war, and no one can help them," Popova said.

In most cases, she knows nothing about the animals she rescues, neither their names and ages nor their owners.

"Animals don't introduce themselves when they come to us," she joked.

For the first months of the war, Popova drove to war hot spots alone, but a couple from UA Animals recently offered to transport and help her.

"Our record is an evacuation in 16 minutes, when we saved a lion between Kramatorsk and Sloviansk," Popova said. An economist by education with no formal veterinary experience, she administered anesthesia on the lion because the animal had to be put to sleep before it could be transported.

Popova says she has always been very attached to animals. In kindergarten, she built houses for worms and talked to birds. In 1999, she opened the first private horse club in Ukraine. But it wasn't until four years ago that she saved her first lion.

An organization against slaughterhouses approached her with a request for help saving a lion with a broken spine. She did not know how she could help because her expertise was in horses. But when she saw a photo of the big cat, Popova could not resist.

She built an enclosure and took in the lion the next morning, paying the owner. Later, Popova created

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a social media page titled "Help the Lioness," and people began to write asking for help saving other wild animals.

Yana, the first lioness she rescued, has become a family member since she could not find a new home due to a disability. Popova took care of her until she died two weeks ago.

The shelter is just a temporary stop for the animals. Popova rehabilitates them and then looks for new homes for them. She feels a special connection with each big cat, but says she does not mind letting them go.

"I love them, and I understand that I do not have the resources to provide them with the comfortable life they deserve," says Popova.

At first, she bankrolled the shelter with her own funds from the horse business. But since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, the horse business has not been profitable. With more than \$14,000 a month needed to keep animals healthy and fed, she has turned to borrowing, and seen her debt grow to \$200,000.

She gets some money from UA Animals and from donations, but worries about how to keep everything together have kept her up at night.

"But I will still borrow money, go to hot spots and save animals. I can't say no to them," she said.

Popova sends all her animals to the Poznań Zoo in Poland, which helps her evacuate them and find them new homes. Some animals have already been transported to Spain, France and South Africa. Her next project is sending 12 lions to Poland this week.

With no end to the fighting in sight, Popova knows she will still be needed.

"My mission in this war is to save wild animals," she says.

Dems' climate, energy, tax bill clears initial Senate hurdle

By ALAN FRAM and FARNOUSH AMIRI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats pushed their election-year economic bill toward Senate approval early Sunday, starting the sprawling collection of President Joe Biden's priorities on climate, energy, health and taxes on a pathway that the party hopes will end in final congressional passage by the end of this week.

The evenly divided Senate voted Saturday to begin debating the legislation 51-50, with Vice President Kamala Harris breaking the tie and overcoming unanimous Republican opposition. A dwindled version of earlier multitrillion-dollar measures that Democrats failed to advance, the package has become a partisan battleground over inflation, gasoline prices and other issues that polls show are driving voters.

The House, where Democrats have a slender majority, could give the legislation final approval next Friday.

"The time is now to move forward with a big, bold package for the American people," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. "This historic bill will reduce inflation, lower costs, fight climate change. It's time to move this nation forward."

Republicans said the measure would damage the economy and make it harder for people to cope with sky-high inflation. They said the bill's business taxes would hurt job creation and force prices upward and urged voters to remember that in November.

"The best way to stop this tax and spend inflationary madness is to fire some of the 50 so they can't keep doing this to your family," said South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, top Republican on the Senate Budget Committee.

Nonpartisan analysts have said the legislation, which Democrats have named the Inflation Reduction Act, would have a minor impact on the nation's worst inflation bout in four decades. Even so, it would take aim at issues the party has longed to address for years including global warming, pharmaceutical costs and taxing immense corporations.

Before reaching final passage, senators plodded through a nonstop pile of amendments called a "vote-a-rama" that seemed certain to last hours.

In early votes, the chamber rejected an effort by progressive Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., to require Medicare to pay the same lower prescription drug prices paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Another, by Graham, was defeated; it would have erased a fee Democrats want to renew on barrels of

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oil that raises money for hazardous waste cleanups. Republicans said Democrats' proposal would boost gasoline prices, a sore point for voters after this summer's record pump prices.

Earlier, the Senate parliamentarian gave a thumbs-up to most of Democrats' revised 755-page bill. But Elizabeth MacDonough, the chamber's nonpartisan rules arbiter, said Democrats had to drop a significant part of its plan for curbing drug prices.

MacDonough said Democrats violated Senate budget rules with language imposing hefty penalties on pharmaceutical companies that boost prices beyond inflation for drugs sold in the private insurance market. Those were the bill's chief drug pricing protections for the roughly 180 million people whose health coverage comes from private insurance, either through work or bought on their own.

Other pharmaceutical provisions were left intact, including giving Medicare the power to negotiate what it pays for drugs for its 64 million elderly recipients, a longtime Democratic aspiration. Penalties on manufacturers for exceeding inflation would apply to drugs sold to Medicare, and there is a \$2,000 annual out-of-pocket cap on drug costs and free vaccines for Medicare beneficiaries.

Democrats are using special procedures that would let them pass the measure without having to reach the 60-vote majority that legislation often needs in the Senate. To do that, they must abide by rules that include a requirement that provisions be chiefly aimed at affecting the federal budget, not imposing new policy.

The weekend debate capped a startling 10-day turnabout that saw Democrats resurrect top components of Biden's agenda that had seemed dead. In rapid-fire deals with Democrats' two most unpredictable senators — first conservative Joe Manchin of West Virginia, then Arizona centrist Kyrsten Sinema — Schumer pieced together a package that would give the party an achievement against the backdrop of this fall's congressional elections.

The measure is a shadow of Biden's initial 10-year, \$3.5 trillion proposal, which funded a rainbow of progressive dreams including paid family leave, universal preschool, child care and bigger tax breaks for families with children. The current bill, barely over one-tenth that size, became much narrower as Democratic leaders sought to win the votes of the centrists Manchin and Sinema, yet it has unified a party eager to declare victory and show voters they are addressing their problems.

The bill offers spending and tax incentives favored by progressives for buying electric vehicles and making buildings more energy efficient. But in a bow to Manchin, whose state is a leading fossil fuel producer, there is also money to reduce coal plant carbon emissions and language requiring the government to open more federal land and waters to oil drilling.

Expiring subsidies that help millions of people afford private insurance premiums would be extended for three years, and there is \$4 billion to help Western states combat drought. A new provision would create a \$35 monthly cap for insulin, the expensive diabetes medication, for Medicare and private insurance patients starting next year. It seemed possible that language could be weakened or removed during debate.

Reflecting Democrats' calls for tax equity, there would be a new 15% minimum tax on some corporations with annual profits exceeding \$1 billion but that pay well below the 21% corporate tax. Companies buying back their own stock would be taxed 1% for those transactions, swapped in after Sinema refused to support higher taxes on hedge fund managers. The IRS budget would be pumped up to strengthen its tax collections.

While the bill's final costs were still being determined, it would spend close to \$400 billion over 10 years to slow climate change, which analysts say would be the country's largest investment in that effort, and billions more on health care. It would raise more than \$700 billion in taxes and from government drug cost savings, leaving about \$300 billion for deficit reduction over the coming decade — a blip compared to that period's projected \$16 trillion in budget shortfalls.

Ex-rebel sworn in as Colombia's president in historic shift

By MANUEL RUEDA Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's first leftist president will be sworn into office Sunday, promising

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to fight inequality and heralding a turning point in the history of a country haunted by a long war between the government and guerrilla groups.

Sen. Gustavo Petro, a former member of Colombia's M-19 guerrilla group, won the presidential election in June by beating conservative parties that offered moderate changes to the market-friendly economy, but failed to connect with voters frustrated by rising poverty and violence against human rights leaders and environmental groups in rural areas.

Petro is part of a growing group of leftist politicians and political outsiders who have been winning elections in Latin America since the pandemic broke out and hurt incumbents who struggled with its economic aftershocks.

The ex-rebel's victory was also exceptional for Colombia, where voters had been historically reluctant to back leftist politicians who were often accused of being soft on crime or allied with guerrillas.

A 2016 peace deal between Colombia's government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia turned much of the focus of voters away from the violent conflicts playing out in rural areas and gave prominence to problems like poverty and corruption, fueling the popularity of leftist parties in national elections.

Petro, 62, has promised to tackle Colombia's social and economic inequalities by boosting spending on anti-poverty programs and increasing investment in rural areas. He has described U.S.-led antinarcotics policies, such as the forced eradication of illegal coca crops, as a "big failure." But he has said he would like to work with Washington "as equals," building schemes to combat climate change or bring infrastructure to rural areas where many farmers say coca leaves are the only viable crop.

Petro also formed alliances with environmentalists during his presidential campaign and has promised to turn Colombia into a "global powerhouse for life" by slowing deforestation and taking steps to reduce the country's reliance on fossil fuels.

The incoming president has said Colombia will stop granting new licenses for oil exploration and will ban fracking projects, even though the oil industry makes up almost 50% of the nation's legal exports. He plans to finance social spending with a \$10 billion a year tax reform that would boost taxes on the rich and do away with corporate tax breaks.

Petro has also said he wants to start peace talks with remaining rebel groups that are currently fighting over drug routes, gold mines and other resources abandoned by the FARC after their peace deal with the government.

"He's got a very ambitious agenda," said Yan Basset, a political scientist at Bogota's Rosario University. "But he will have to prioritize. The risk Petro faces is that he goes after too many reforms at once and gets nothing" through Colombia's congress.

At least 10 heads of state are expected to attend Petro's inauguration, which will take place at a large colonial-era square in front of Colombia's Congress. Stages with live music and big screens will also be placed in parks across Bogota's city center so that tens of thousands of citizens without invitations to the main event can also join in the festivities. That's a big change for Colombia where previous presidential inaugurations were more somber events limited to a few hundred VIP guests.

"We want the Colombian people to be the protagonists," Petro's press chief, Marisol Rojas, said in a statement. "This inauguration will be the first taste of a new form of governing, where all forms of life are respected, and where everyone fits in."

17 missing, 121 hurt, 1 dead in fire at Cuban oil facility

By ANDREA RODRÍGUEZ Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — A fire set off by a lightning strike at an oil storage facility raged uncontrolled in the Cuban city of Matanzas, where four explosions and flames injured 121 people and left 17 firefighters missing. Cuban authorities said a unidentified body had been found late Saturday.

Firefighters and other specialists were still trying to quell the blaze at the Matanzas Supertanker Base,

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where the fire began during a thunderstorm Friday night, the Ministry of Energy and Mines tweeted. Authorities said about 800 people were evacuated from the Dubrocq neighborhood closest to the fire,

The government said it had asked for help from international experts in "friendly countries" with experience in the oil sector.

Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Fernández de Cossío said the U.S. government had offered technical help to quell the blaze. On his Twitter account, he said the "proposal is in the hands of specialists for the due coordination."

Minutes later, President Miguel Díaz-Canel thanked Mexico, Venezuela, Russia, Nicaragua, Argentina and Chile for their offers of help. A support flight from Mexico arrived Saturday night.

The official Cuban News Agency said lightning hit one tank, starting a fire, and the blaze later spread to a second tank. As military helicopters flew overhead dropping water on the blaze, dense column of black smoke billowed from the facility and spread westward more than 100 kilometers (62 miles) toward Havana.

Roberto de la Torre, head of fire operations in Matanzas, said firefighters were spraying water on intact tanks trying to keep them cool in hopes of preventing the fire from spreading.

Cuba's Health Ministry reported that 121 people were injured with five of them in critical condition. The Presidency of the Republic said the 17 people missing were "firefighters who were in the nearest area trying to prevent the spread."

Later Saturday, the Health Ministry said in a statement that a body had been found and officials were trying to identify it.

The accident comes as Cuba struggles with fuel shortages. There was no immediate word on how much oil had burned or was in danger at the storage facility, which has eight giant tanks that hold oil used to fuel electricity generating plants.

"I was in the gym when I felt the first explosion. A column of smoke and terrible fire rose through the skies," resident Adiel Gonzalez told The Associated Press by phone. "The city has a strong smell of sulfur."

He said some people also decided to leave the Versailles district, which is a little farther from the tank farm than Dubrocq.

Many ambulances, police and fire engines were seen in the streets of Matanzas, a city with about 140,000 inhabitants that is on Matanzas Bay.

Local meteorologist Elier Pila showed satellite images of the area with a dense plume of black smoke moving from the point of the fire westward and reaching east to Havana.

"That plume can be close to 150 kilometers long," Pila wrote on his Twitter account.

Anne Heche in hospital, 'stable' after fiery car crash

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actor Anne Heche was in the hospital Saturday following an accident in which her car smashed into a house and flames erupted, a spokeswoman said.

"Anne is currently in stable condition. Her family and friends ask for your thoughts and prayers and to respect her privacy during this difficult time," Heather Duffy Boylston, Heche's friend and podcast partner, said in a statement.

Heche's speeding car came to a T-shaped intersection and ran off the road and into the house in the Mar Vista section of Los Angeles' westside shortly before 11 a.m. Friday, Los Angeles police Officer Tony Im said.

The car came to a stop inside the two-story house and started a fire that took nearly 60 firefighters more than an hour to douse, the Los Angeles Fire Department said.

Television news video showed a blue Mini Cooper Clubman, badly damaged and burned, being towed out of the home, with a woman sitting up on a stretcher and struggling as firefighters put her in an ambulance.

No other injuries were reported, and no arrests have been made. Police detectives are investigating.

A native of Ohio, Heche first came to prominence on the NBC soap opera "Another World" from 1987 to 1991. She won a Daytime Emmy Award for the role.

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In the late 1990s she became one of the hottest actors in Hollywood, a constant on magazine covers and in big-budget films. She co-starred with Johnny Depp in 1997's "Donnie Brasco"; with Tommy Lee Jones in 1997's "Volcano"; with Harrison Ford in 1998's "Six Days, Seven Nights"; with Vince Vaughn and Joaquin Phoenix in 1998's "Return to Paradise," and with an ensemble cast in the original 1997 "I Know What You Did Last Summer."

Her relationship with Ellen DeGeneres from 1997 to 2000 heightened her fame and brought immense public scrutiny.

In the fall of 2000 soon after the two broke up, Heche was hospitalized after knocking on the door of a stranger in a rural area near Fresno, California. Authorities said she had appeared shaken and disoriented, and spoke incoherently to the residents.

In a memoir released the following year, "Call Me Crazy," Heche talked about her lifelong struggles with mental health and a childhood of abuse.

She was married to camera operator Coleman Laffoon from 2001 to 2009. The two had a son together. She had another son during a relationship with actor James Tupper, her co-star on the TV series "Men In Trees."

Heche has worked consistently in smaller films, on Broadway, and on TV shows in the past two decades. She recently had recurring roles on the network series "Chicago P.D." and "All Rise," and in 2020 was a contestant on "Dancing With the Stars."

"Better Together," the podcast hosted by Heche and Duffy Boylston, is described online as a celebration of friendship.

In wake of floods, typical barbs at Kentucky political event

By BRUCE SCHREINER Associated Press

FANCY FARM, Ky. (AP) — While Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear was consoling families displaced by historic flooding in the mountains of eastern Kentucky, Republicans at the state's premier political event on the other side of the state were campaigning to oust him from office in 2023.

GOP candidates speaking at the Fancy Farm picnic in western Kentucky bashed the Democratic governor's record earlier in this term, especially his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. But they also offered support for recovery efforts that Beshear is leading in the wake of historic flooding and tornadoes.

While his challengers aimed zingers at him, Beshear spent the day meeting with families displaced by flash flooding that swamped the Appalachian region more than a week ago, killing 37. Beshear visited two state parks where some of the suddenly homeless took refuge.

"Today I'm at our state parks, spending time with our eastern Kentucky families who have been displaced from the catastrophic flooding," Beshear posted on social media. "These Kentuckians have been through the unimaginable. My priority is being there for them."

Last December, deadly tornadoes tore through parts of western Kentucky. The political speaking at the annual Fancy Farm picnic — the traditional start of the fall campaign in Kentucky — took place about 10 miles (16 kilometer) from Mayfield, which took a direct hit from a tornado.

Living up to the event's reputation for edgy attacks, Republicans wanting to unseat Beshear took aim at restrictions that the governor imposed on businesses and gatherings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The governor has said his actions saved lives at a perilous time when vaccines were not available. The state's GOP-dominated legislature reined in the governor's virus policymaking power in a case settled by the state's Supreme Court.

GOP gubernatorial hopeful Ryan Quarles referred to Beshear as the "shutdown governor."

"He shut down our economy," said Quarles, the state's agriculture commissioner. "He shut down our 'mom and pop' stores. He killed countless jobs and kept the big box stores open.

"Folks, just because we lived through a global pandemic doesn't mean that our rights, our freedoms and liberties should be tossed out the window," he added.

In his speech, Kentucky Democratic Party Chairman Colmon Elridge came to the defense of Beshear,

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who consistently receives strong approval ratings from Kentuckians in polls. Elridge praised Beshear's efforts in leading recovery efforts in tornado-ravaged western Kentucky and said he'll do the same for flood victims in the state's Appalachian region.

"Once again, our governor is showing through his actions how we show up in moments of devastation and embrace our fellow Kentuckian, not as Democrats or Republicans, but as Kentuckians," Elridge said.

The governor is highlighting his management of the state's economy in asking voters for a second term. Kentucky has posted records for job creation and investments during his term and recently posted its lowest-ever unemployment rates.

Beshear was already a committed no-show for the state's premiere political event. The governor initially planned a visit to Israel that coincided with the Fancy Farm picnic. He canceled that trip after the massive flooding hit eastern Kentucky.

The Fancy Farm stage was dominated by Republican officeholders — reflecting the GOP's electoral dominance. The event is a rite of passage for statewide candidates, who are tested in stump-style speeches in the August heat while facing taunts and shouts from partisans from the other party.

The political attacks were punctuated by calls for continued public support for people rebuilding from tornadoes and facing the same daunting task in flood-ravaged areas.

"We might be sharing a few laughs today, but whether we're Republican or Democrat, know that we are with you," said GOP gubernatorial hopeful Daniel Cameron. "When natural disasters strike, we take off our partisan hats and we root for each other. We help repair and we help rebuild."

Cameron then shifted into promoting his candidacy. He touted his endorsement from former President Donald Trump and his work as the state's attorney general in defending Kentucky's anti-abortion laws and fighting Biden administration policies in court.

"I am the best candidate and the only candidate that can beat Andy Beshear next fall," Cameron said.

Two other GOP gubernatorial candidates also made pitches to the crowd and a statewide television audience that watched — state Auditor Mike Harmon and state Rep. Savannah Maddox.

The still-emerging 2023 governor's race already is overshadowing the state's top-of-the-ticket race this year — the contest between Republican U.S. Sen. Rand Paul and Democratic challenger Charles Booker. Paul was unable to attend the picnic because of Senate duties.

Also missing from the political speaking Saturday was Kentucky's most powerful Republican, Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell. A picnic mainstay for decades, McConnell relishes the verbal combat but also missed the event because of Senate duties. In a Senate speech Saturday, McConnell said the federal role in the long recovery for flood-damaged areas in his home state will grow once the rebuilding begins.

"Soon I'll visit the region myself to meet with flood victims and listen to their concerns," McConnell said. "Then I'll take what I hear from my constituents back to Washington and ensure we stand by their side as we rebuild bigger and better than before."

Biden declared a federal disaster to direct relief money to hard-hit Kentucky counties.

Alex Jones' \$49.3M verdict and the future of misinformation

By MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

Alex Jones is facing a hefty price tag for his lies about the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre — \$49.3 million in damages, and counting, for claiming the nation's deadliest school shooting was a hoax — a punishing salvo in a fledgling war on harmful misinformation.

But what does this week's verdict, the first of three Sandy Hook-related cases against Jones to be decided, mean for the larger misinformation ecosystem, a social media-fueled world of election denial, COVID-19 skepticism and other dubious claims that the Infowars conspiracy theorist helped build?

"I think a lot of people are thinking of this as sort of a blow against fake news, and it's important to realize that libel law deals with a very particular kind of fake news," said Eugene Volokh, a First Amendment professor at the UCLA School of Law.

U.S. courts have long held that defamatory statements — falsehoods damaging the reputation of a per-

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son or a business — aren't protected as free speech, but lies about other subjects, like science, history or the government, are. For example, saying COVID-19 isn't real is not defamatory, but spreading lies about a doctor treating coronavirus patients is.

That distinction is why Jones, who attacked the parents of Sandy Hook victims and claimed the 2012 shooting was staged with actors to increase gun control, is being forced to pay up while Holocaust deniers, flat-earthers and vaccine skeptics are free to post their theories without much fear of a multimillion-dollar court judgment.

"Alex Jones was attacking individuals," said Stephen D. Solomon, a law professor and founding editor of New York University's First Amendment Watch. "And that's important. A lot of disinformation does not attack individuals."

Lawyers for the plaintiffs, the parents of one of 20 first graders killed at the Connecticut school in 2012, said they hoped a big-money verdict against Jones would serve as a deterrent to him and others who peddle misinformation for profit.

"I am asking you to take the bullhorn away from Alex Jones and all of the others who believe they can profit off of fear and misinformation," Wesley Ball said in his closing argument Friday. "The gold rush of fear and misinformation must end, and it must end today."

Jones, who has since acknowledged that the shooting was real, has claimed his statements about Sandy Hook were protected by the First Amendment. He even showed up to court with "Save the 1st" scrawled on a piece of tape over his mouth.

But despite the public theatrics, Jones never got to make that argument in court. After Jones failed to comply with orders to hand over critical evidence, a judge entered a default judgment for the plaintiffs and skipped right to the punishment phase.

Jones' lawyer Andino Reynal told the jury during closing arguments that a large judgment would have a chilling effect on people seeking to hold governments accountable.

"You've already sent a message. A message for the first time to a talk show host, to all talk show hosts, that their standard of care has to change," Reynal told jurors.

Free speech experts say any chilling effect should be limited to people who wantonly disseminate false information, not journalists or other citizens making good-faith efforts to get at the truth of a matter.

"You have to look at this particular case and ask yourself, what exactly are you chilling?" Solomon said.

"The kind of speech that defames parents who have lost their children in a massacre is maybe the kind of speech you do want to deter. You do want to chill that speech," Solomon said. "That's the message that potentially the jury wanted to send here, that this is unacceptable in a civilized society."

As for Jones, Reynal said he isn't going away any time soon. He'll remain on the air while they appeal the verdict, one of the largest and highest-profile decisions in a defamation case in recent years.

Among others: a gadfly ordered in February to pay \$50 million to a South Carolina mayor after accusing her in emails of committing a crime and being unfit for office; a former tenant ordered in 2016 to pay \$38.3 million for posting a website accusing a real estate investor of running a Ponzi scheme; and a New Hampshire mortgage provider ordered in 2017 to pay \$274 million to three businessmen after he posted billboards accusing them of drug dealing and extortion.

"These kinds of damages and verdicts do have a chilling effect," Volokh said. "They're intended to have a chilling effect on lies that damage people's reputations."

Longtime AP correspondent, editor Marcus Eliason dies at 75

By CHARLES J. HANLEY Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Marcus Eliason, an international journalist whose insightful reporting, sparkling prose and skillful editing graced Associated Press news wires for almost a half-century, has died. He was 75.

He had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, developed pneumonia earlier this week at a nursing home, and died on Friday in a New York hospital, his family said.

From Israel and the 1967 Six-Day War to apartheid-era South Africa and on to Afghan battlegrounds,

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bloody Belfast, the Iron Curtain's fall, the handover of Hong Kong and countless other datelines and stories, Eliason witnessed and reported on some of the great world events of the 20th century's final decades. And when that century drew to a close, it was the Eliason touch that greeted the new one.

"From East to West and North to South, the world welcomed the new millennium in a shimmering tapestry of song and light that rippled around the globe," he led off AP's main article on January 1, 2000.

By then he had moved on to his final posting, from which he retired in 2014, as a New York-based editor of some of AP's biggest stories and projects — and, finally, as chief editor for international feature stories, a valued guiding hand for scores of AP reporters worldwide.

"A classic AP go-to guy is gone," said former AP President and CEO Louis D. Boccardi. "Even a quick look at the outline of his assignments, both abroad and here at home, says it all. If there was a tough assignment that needed a steady hand, Marcus was often the choice."

"Marcus was a wonderful writer and editor, erudite, wise and supporting," said former AP International Editor John Daniszewski, now the AP's vice president and editor-at-large for standards. Observed Claude Erbsen, a longtime correspondent and global AP executive: "He could make words sing and dance."

Jack Marcus Eliason was born on Oct. 19, 1946, in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, to Jewish immigrant parents from Europe, grew up in Bulawayo, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and moved as a teenager with his parents to Israel. At age 20, after a brief apprenticeship at The Jerusalem Post, Eliason joined the AP bureau in Tel Aviv as a messenger and trainee "puncher," or operator of the Telex machine used to transmit stories.

A month later, on June 6, 1967, the Arab-Israeli conflict known as the Six-Day War broke out. When the new hire arrived at work and was chastised for not rushing in earlier, he told of having to buy emergency groceries for his mother, dig a backyard bomb shelter, pick up stranded hitchhikers, and so on.

"Don't stand there talking about it, kid," an old hand growled. "Write it down."

He did, launching a sterling career in news and being promoted to staff reporter a year later. Once asked how he learned to write so well, he replied, "By punching the great copy of journalists in the AP bureau in Tel Aviv."

Through the 1970s, the Eliason byline topped some of the biggest stories from the Middle East: terror attacks and Israeli government turmoil, another Arab-Israeli war, Anwar Sadat's history-making 1977 visit to Jerusalem.

"Anwar Sadat, president of Egypt, had landed in Israel on a mission of peace. The time was 7:59 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 19," he reported. "For Israelis, and doubtlessly for Egyptians, too, it was more stupendous than Neil Armstrong's foot touching the moon."

In 1978, Eliason was posted to the AP bureau in Paris, where among many other assignments he covered the exiled Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as he led, from afar, the Islamist revolution in Iran.

After a stint back in Israel, Eliason transferred to London, where he rose to news editor. His astute reporting and masterful prose stood out in one of AP's premier "writing bureaus," whether covering the bloodshed of the "Troubles" in Northern Ireland or having fun with British eccentrics like "the world's worst poet," William McGonagall.

"Scotland does its poets proud, and no town is without its statue to Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott or Robert Louis Stevenson," Eliason wrote from Dundee. "But mention The Great McGonagall in his hometown and reactions range from a fond chuckle to pained silence."

He next returned to Israel, this time as chief of bureau, leading a staff of prize-winning reporters and photojournalists in the 1990s, overseeing the nonstop flow of news of Palestinian uprisings, intermittent Arab-Israeli peace talks, Israeli political battles and Scud missile attacks from Saddam Hussein's Iraq. From there, he moved on to his final international assignment, in Hong Kong, where he ran coverage of the 1997 handover of the British colony to Chinese control, writing all the while.

Throughout the decades, the AP also tapped the talents of the big, gregarious Israeli with the South African accent — a high school graduate whose insatiable reading and store of knowledge often amazed colleagues — for temporary assignments in some of the world's hottest spots, on some of the era's most important stories.

He reported from Afghanistan after the Soviet invasion of that country in 1979 and from his southern

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African homeland during the worst of its anti-apartheid upheavals. After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the AP dispatched Eliason to travel along the former Iron Curtain border to interview ordinary citizens and write an in-depth report on the meaning of that epic chapter of 20th-century history.

In 1997, he left Hong Kong for AP headquarters in New York and a job as lead editor for feature articles from around the world, an acknowledged master becoming an understanding mentor for a cadre of younger foreign correspondents, from Beijing to Berlin to Buenos Aires.

"He was one of those journalism heroes I had as a young writer — those fascinating, unattainable by-lines," said one of those correspondents, Ted Anthony, now AP's director of new storytelling and newsroom innovation. "Then he became the greatest editor I've ever had, an astonishing mix of encourager and enforcer. And a dear friend."

When he retired after 47 unbroken years with the AP, Eliason remarked that "I'm a guy who has worked all his life. No fellowships, no sabbaticals, no parental leaves. I was having way too much excitement for that."

Leaving his desk for the last time, he heard the vast AP New York newsroom burst into applause. "It was a gracious, spontaneous gesture that reminded me once again how lucky I have been," he later wrote. Said Boccardi: "It was the AP that was lucky."

Eliason is survived by Eva, his wife of 44 years and countless house moves and adventures; a daughter, Avital, of Tel Aviv, Israel, and a son, David, of New York. The family said he will be buried in Kadima, Israel.

Israel, militants trade fire as Gaza death toll climbs to 24

By FARES AKRAM and TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli airstrikes flattened homes in Gaza on Saturday and Palestinian rocket barrages into southern Israel persisted for a second day, raising fears of another major escalation in the Mideast conflict. Gaza's health ministry said 24 people had been killed so far in the coastal strip, including six children.

The fighting began with Israel's killing of a senior commander of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant group in a wave of strikes Friday that Israel said were meant to prevent an imminent attack.

So far, Hamas, the larger militant group that rules Gaza, appeared to stay on the sidelines of the conflict, keeping its intensity somewhat contained. Israel and Hamas fought a war barely a year ago, one of four major conflicts and several smaller battles over the last 15 years that exacted a staggering toll on the impoverished territory's 2 million Palestinian residents.

Whether Hamas continues to stay out of the fight likely depends in part on how much punishment Israel inflicts in Gaza as rocket fire steadily continues.

The Israeli military said an errant rocket fired by Palestinian militants killed civilians late Saturday, including children, in the town of Jabaliya, in northern Gaza. The military said it investigated the incident and concluded "without a doubt" that it was caused by a misfire on the part of Islamic Jihad. There was no official Palestinian comment on the incident.

A Palestinian medical worker, who was not authorized to brief media and spoke on condition of anonymity, said the blast killed at least six people, including three children.

An airstrike in the southern city of Rafah destroyed a home and heavily damaged surrounding buildings. The Health Ministry said at least two people were killed and 32 wounded, including children. A teenage boy was recovered from the rubble, and the other slain individual was identified by his family as Ziad al-Mudalal, the son of an Islamic Jihad official.

The military said it targeted Khaled Mansour, Islamic Jihad's commander for southern Gaza. Neither Israel nor the militant group said whether he was hit. The Civil Defense said responders were still sifting through the rubble and that a digger was being sent from Gaza City.

Another strike Saturday hit a car, killing a 75-year-old woman and wounding six other people.

In one of the strikes, fighter jets dropped two bombs on the house of an Islamic Jihad member after Israel warned people to evacuate the area. The blast flattened the two-story structure, leaving a large

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rubble-filled crater, and badly damaged surrounding homes.

Women and children rushed out of the area.

"Warned us? They warned us with rockets and we fled without taking anything," said Huda Shamalakh, who lived next door. She said 15 people lived in the targeted home.

Among the 24 Palestinians killed were six children and two women, as well as the senior Islamic Jihad commander. The Gaza Health Ministry said more than 200 people have been wounded. It does not differentiate between civilians and fighters. The Israeli military said Friday that early estimates were that around 15 fighters were killed.

The lone power plant in Gaza ground to a halt at noon Saturday for lack of fuel as Israel has kept its crossing points into Gaza closed since Tuesday. With the new disruption, Gazans can get only 4 hours of electricity a day, increasing their reliance on private generators and deepening the territory's chronic power crisis amid peak summer heat.

Throughout the day, Gaza militants regularly launched rounds of rockets into Israel. The Israeli military said Saturday evening that nearly 450 rockets had been fired, 350 of which made it into Israel, but almost all were intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome missile-defense system. Two people suffered minor shrapnel wounds.

One rocket barrage was fired toward Tel Aviv, setting off sirens that sent residents to shelters, but the rockets were either intercepted or fell into the sea, the military said.

Sunday could be a critical day in the flare-up, as Jews mark Tisha B'av, a somber day of fasting that commemorates the destruction of the biblical temples. Thousands are expected at Jerusalem's Western Wall, and Israeli media reported that the Israeli leadership was expected to allow lawmakers to visit a key hilltop holy site in the city that is a flashpoint for violence between Israelis and Palestinians.

The violence poses an early test for Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid, who assumed the role of caretaker prime minister ahead of elections in November, when he hopes to keep the position.

Lapid, a centrist former TV host and author, has experience in diplomacy having served as foreign minister in the outgoing government, but has thin security credentials. A conflict with Gaza could burnish his standing and give him a boost as he faces off against former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a security hawk who led the country during three of its four wars with Hamas.

Hamas also faces a dilemma in deciding whether to join a new battle barely a year after the last war caused widespread devastation. There has been almost no reconstruction since then, and the isolated coastal territory is mired in poverty, with unemployment hovering around 50%. Israel and Egypt have maintained a tight blockade over the territory since the Hamas takeover in 2007.

Egypt on Saturday intensified efforts to prevent escalation, communicating with Israel, the Palestinians and the United States to keep Hamas from joining the fighting, an Egyptian intelligence official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

The latest round of Israel-Gaza violence was rooted in the arrest earlier this week of a senior Islamic Jihad leader in the occupied West Bank, part of a monthslong Israeli military operation.

Israel then closed roads around Gaza and sent reinforcements to the border, bracing for retaliation. On Friday, it killed Islamic Jihad's commander for northern Gaza, Taiseer al-Jabari, in a strike on a Gaza City apartment building.

An Israeli military spokesman said the strikes were in response to an "imminent threat" from two militant squads armed with anti-tank missiles.

Hamas seized power in Gaza from rival Palestinian forces in 2007, two years after Israel withdrew from the coastal strip. Its most recent war with Israel was in May 2021. Tensions soared again earlier this year following a wave of attacks inside Israel, near-daily military operations in the West Bank and tensions at a flashpoint Jerusalem holy site.

Iran-backed Islamic Jihad is smaller than Hamas but largely shares its ideology. Both groups oppose Israel's existence and have carried out scores of deadly attacks over the years.

Tourists find safety after floods close Death Valley roads

By JACQUES BILLEAUD and MICHAEL R. BLOOD Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hundreds of hotel guests trapped by flash flooding at Death Valley National Park were able to drive out after crews cleared a pathway through rocks and mud, but roads damaged by floodwaters or choked with debris were expected to remain closed into next week, officials said Saturday.

The National Park Service said Navy and California Highway Patrol helicopters have been conducting aerial searches in remote areas for stranded vehicles, but had found none. However, it could take days to assess the damage — the park near the California-Nevada state line has over 1,000 miles (1,609 kilometers) of roadway across 3.4 million acres (1.3 million hectares).

No injuries were reported from the record-breaking rains Friday. The park weathered 1.46 inches (3.71 centimeters) of rain at the Furnace Creek area. That's about 75% of what the area typically gets in a year, and more than has ever been recorded for the entire month of August.

Since 1936, the only single day with more rain was April 15, 1988, when 1.47 inches (3.73 centimeters) fell, park officials said.

Nikki Jones, a restaurant worker who is living in a hotel with fellow employees, said rain was falling when she left for breakfast Friday morning. By the time she returned, rapidly pooling water had reached the room's doorway.

"I couldn't believe it," Jones said. "I hadn't seen water rising that fast in my life."

Fearful the water would come into their ground-floor room, Jones and her friends put their luggage on beds and used towels at the bottom of doorways to keep water from streaming in. For about two hours, they wondered whether they would get flooded.

"People around me were saying they had never seen anything this bad before — and they have worked here for a while," Jones said.

While their room was spared, five or six other rooms at the hotel were flooded. Carpet from those rooms was later ripped out.

Most of the rain — just over an inch — came in an epic downpour between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. Friday, said John Adair, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Las Vegas.

The flooding "cut off access to and from Death Valley, just washing out roads and producing a lot of debris," Adair said.

Highway 190 — a main artery through the park — is expected to reopen between Furnace Creek and Pahrump, Nevada, by Tuesday, officials said.

Park employees also stranded by the closed roads were continuing to shelter in place, except for emergencies, officials said.

"Entire trees and boulders were washing down," said John Sirlin, a photographer for an Arizona-based adventure company who witnessed the flooding as he perched on a hillside boulder, where he was trying to take pictures of lightning as the storm approached.

"The noise from some of the rocks coming down the mountain was just incredible," he said in a phone interview Friday afternoon.

In most areas water has receded, leaving behind a dense layer of mud and gravel. About 60 vehicles were partially buried in mud and debris. There were numerous reports of road damage, and residential water lines in the park's Cow Creek area were broken in multiple locations. About 20 palm trees fell into the road near one inn, and some staff residences also were damaged.

"With the severity and wide-spread nature of this rainfall it will take time to rebuild and reopen everything," park superintendent Mike Reynolds said in a statement.

The storm followed major flooding earlier this week at the park 120 miles (193 kilometers) northwest of Las Vegas. Some roads were closed Monday after they were inundated with mud and debris from flash floods that also hit western Nevada and northern Arizona.

Friday's rain started around 2 a.m., according to Sirlin, who lives in Chandler, Arizona, and has been visiting the park since 2016.

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"It was more extreme than anything I've seen there," said Sirlin, the lead guide for Incredible Weather Adventures who started chasing storms in Minnesota and the high plains in the 1990s.

"A lot of washes were flowing several feet deep. There are rocks probably 3 or 4 feet covering the road," he said.

Musk says Twitter deal could move ahead with 'bot' info

Elon Musk said Saturday his planned \$44 billion takeover of Twitter should move forward if the company can confirm some details about how it measures whether user accounts are 'spam bots' or real people.

The billionaire and Tesla CEO has been trying to back out of his April agreement to buy the social media company, leading Twitter to sue him last month to complete the acquisition. Musk countersued, accusing Twitter of misleading his team about the true size of its user base and other problems he said amounted to fraud and breach of contract.

Both sides are headed toward an October trial in a Delaware court.

"If Twitter simply provides their method of sampling 100 accounts and how they're confirmed to be real, the deal should proceed on original terms," Musk tweeted early Saturday. "However, if it turns out that their SEC filings are materially false, then it should not."

Musk, who has more than 100 million Twitter followers, went on to challenge Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal to a "public debate about the Twitter bot percentage."

Twitter declined comment Saturday. The company has repeatedly disclosed to the Securities and Exchange Commission an estimate that fewer than 5% of user accounts are fake or spam, with a disclaimer that it could be higher. Musk waived his right to further due diligence when he signed the April merger agreement.

Twitter has argued in court that Musk is deliberately trying to tank the deal and using the bot question as an excuse because market conditions have deteriorated and the acquisition no longer serves his interests. In a court filing Thursday, it describes his counterclaims as an imagined story "contradicted by the evidence and common sense."

"Musk invents representations Twitter never made and then tries to wield, selectively, the extensive confidential data Twitter provided him to conjure a breach of those purported representations," company attorneys wrote.

While Musk has tried to keep the focus on bot disclosures, Twitter's legal team has been digging for information about a host of tech investors and entrepreneurs connected to Musk in a wide-ranging subpoena that could net some of their private communications with the Tesla CEO.

Tony Boselli becomes 1st Jaguars player in Hall of Fame

By ROB MAADDI AP Pro Football Writer

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — Tony Boselli looked out at all the teal-colored jerseys in the crowd and screamed: "Duuuuval!"

Finally, the Jacksonville Jaguars have a player in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Boselli, the first pick in Jaguars history, was among eight members of the Class of 2022 enshrined Saturday at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium.

"I thank God for football and I thank God for the people of Jacksonville," Boselli said before shouting the fans' rallying cry, the name of their county.

The Jaguars played the Las Vegas Raiders in the NFL preseason opener Thursday night, so No. 71 Boselli jerseys filled the seats.

A five-time Pro Bowl selection and three-time All-Pro left tackle in seven seasons in Jacksonville, Boselli saw his career cut short by injuries. But his dominant performance earned him a gold jacket.

"It's a profound honor," Boselli said.

Linebacker Sam Mills, defensive back LeRoy Butler, defensive linemen Bryant Young and Richard Seymour, wide receiver Cliff Branch, coach Dick Vermeil and longtime head of officiating Art McNally joined Boselli in a class of guys who waited several years — some decades — to get the call.

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Young delivered the most emotional speech when he broke down honoring his son, Colby, who died of pediatric cancer at age 15 in 2016.

"We assured Colby we would keep his memory alive and we would continue speaking his name," Young said. "Colby, you live long in our hearts."

Young, who excelled at defensive tackle in an era filled with talented players at the position, had 89 1/2 sacks and earned four Pro Bowl selections in a 14-year career spent entirely with the San Francisco 49ers.

Vermeil gave the longest speech, blowing past the 8-minute limit by 15. The former Philadelphia Eagles, St. Louis Rams and Kansas City Chiefs coach seemed to thank everyone who helped him reach the stage.

He credited players for his success and specifically pointed out fellow Hall of Famers Kurt Warner and Isaac Bruce, who were on Vermeil's "Greatest Show on Turf" Super Bowl championship team in St. Louis.

"Gosh darn, I just wish I had time to go through everyone," Vermeil said.

And then he did, anyway.

Vermeil wrapped up the ceremonies. Butler kicked everything off.

The four-time All-Pro safety leaped in with the same enthusiasm he celebrated big plays at Lambeau Field.

"DJ Khaled said it best: 'God did,'" Butler began, referencing the song. "When you play for the Green Bay Packers, a lot of doors open up. When you win a Super Bowl, more doors open up. When you're picked for the Hall of Fame, football heaven opens up. It's rare company."

Butler drew cheers from Jaguars fans in attendance to see Boselli's induction when he mentioned growing up in Jacksonville.

"Thank you, Duval," Butler said. "My mom, growing up in poverty, she made us think rich every day because it's not about what you have on or what you have, it's how you act."

Butler helped restore Green Bay's glory days during a 12-year career. His versatility as a safety set the standard for a new wave at the position and earned him a spot on the league's All-Decade team of the 1990s.

Butler originated the "Lambeau Leap" and had a key sack in Green Bay's Super Bowl victory over New England. He fell just short of becoming the first player in league history to finish his career with 40 interceptions and 20 sacks.

Mills, the 5-foot-9 linebacker nicknamed "Field Mouse" during his 12-year career with the New Orleans Saints and Carolina Panthers, and Branch were inducted posthumously. An inspirational figure, Mills overcame tremendous odds to even reach the NFL.

Mills played Division III college football and was not drafted. He was cut by the Cleveland Browns and Toronto Argonauts of the CFL and began his professional career with the USFL's Philadelphia Stars. Jim Mora, who coached the Stars, brought him to New Orleans in 1986 and Mills never looked back.

"He was told he wasn't good enough to play college football or big enough to play professional football and at the age of 27, he wasn't young enough to play in the NFL and yet here we are today celebrating," said Melanie Mills, Sam's widow.

Mills became an assistant coach with the Panthers after his retirement. He was diagnosed with intestinal cancer before the 2003 season but kept coaching during his treatment and made what is known as his "Keep pounding" speech on the eve of the club's Super Bowl matchup with New England at the end of that season.

Mills died in April 2005 at age 45. His "Keep pounding" remains the Panthers' tag line.

Branch, who died just over three years at age 71 of natural causes, was one of the best deep threats of his era with some of his biggest performances coming on the game's biggest stages, helping the Raiders win three Super Bowls.

Branch made the first of his three straight All-Pro teams in his first season as a starter in 1974 and scored 67 touchdowns through the air.

"Clifford was delayed. He was not denied," said his sister and presenter, Elaine Anderson.

In a year with no first-ballot candidates, the inductees endured long waits to make the Hall.

Defensive tackle Richard Seymour didn't wait too long to taste success in the NFL. He was part of three

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Super Bowl championship teams in his first four seasons with the New England Patriots.

Seymour pointed out the defensive stalwarts on those teams but didn't mention Tom Brady by name. "We had a young quarterback, but we made it work," Seymour said, drawing chuckles from the crowd.

Seymour had 57 1/2 career sacks in 12 seasons, the first eight in New England before finishing his career with the Oakland Raiders.

"I'm overwhelmed with humility because it's not about what this says about me but what it says about we and what we can do together," he said. "I'm overwhelmed with gratitude because I didn't get here alone. None of us did. None of us could have."

The 42-year-old Seymour choked up thanking his wife, Tanya.

"Football is what I do, but family is who I am," he said. "Thank you for everything you added to my life. This day belongs to my family. Scripture teaches your riches are in your family."

Seymour called his three children his "greatest joy."

"Of everything I accomplished, there's no greater honor than being your dad," he said.

Seymour praised Patriots owner Robert Kraft and former Raiders owner Al Davis and his son, Mark Davis. He credited his success to the lessons he learned from Patriots coach Bill Belichick: work hard, be meticulous in your preparation, support your teammates and respect your opponents.

"This wouldn't have happened if it weren't for Coach Belichick," Seymour said.

McNally gave a video speech after he was inducted as a contributor.

Biden team, Eli Lilly condemn new Indiana abortion ban

By KEN KUSMER Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The administration of President Joe Biden and one of Indiana's largest employers have condemned the state's new ban on abortions, with the White House calling it another extreme attempt by Republicans to trample women's rights.

Indiana on Friday became the first state in the nation to approve such legislation since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a 1973 landmark case that had protected the right to abortion nationwide.

"The Indiana Legislature took a devastating step as a result of the Supreme Court's extreme decision to overturn Roe v. Wade and eliminate women's constitutionally protected right to abortion," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement Saturday. "And, it's another radical step by Republican legislators to take away women's reproductive rights and freedom, and put personal health care decisions in the hands of politicians rather than women and their doctors."

The ban, which takes effect Sept. 15, includes some exceptions. Abortions will be permitted in cases of rape and incest, before 10-weeks post-fertilization; to protect the life and physical health of the mother; and if a fetus is diagnosed with a lethal anomaly. Victims of rape and incest won't be required to sign a notarized affidavit attesting to an attack, as had once been proposed.

Under the bill, abortions can only be performed in hospitals or outpatient centers owned by hospitals, meaning all abortion clinics will lose their licenses. A doctor who performs an illegal abortion or fails to file required reports will lose their medical license.

Pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly and Co., which employs 10,400 people at its headquarters in Indianapolis, warned that the ban could lead it to reassess its presence in Indiana.

"We are concerned that this law will hinder Lilly's — and Indiana's — ability to attract diverse scientific, engineering and business talent from around the world," the company said in a statement Saturday. "While we have expanded our employee health plan coverage to include travel for reproductive services unavailable locally, that may not be enough for some current and potential employees."

"Given this new law, we will be forced to plan for more employment growth outside our home state," it said.

Lilly has research and development hubs in New York City and the California cities of San Diego and San Francisco, and this year announced it would build a \$700 million genetic medicine hub in Boston.

Lilly was not among the more than 250 businesses that opposed abortion restrictions in a letter released

July 21 by the American Civil Liberties Union, The Indianapolis Star reported.

IU Health, Indiana's largest health care system, said it was studying the new law.

"IU Health's priority remains ensuring our physicians and patients have clarity when making decisions about pregnancy within the limits of the law. We will take the next few weeks to fully understand the terms of the new law and how to incorporate the changes into our medical practice to protect our providers and care for the people seeking reproductive healthcare," it said in a statement.

The Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce urged the General Assembly to proceed with caution.

"Over the last two weeks, the Indiana General Assembly has debated a substantial policy change on the issue of abortion in a compressed timeframe," the chamber said in a statement Thursday. "Such an expedited legislative process — rushing to advance state policy on broad, complex issues — is, at best, detrimental to Hoosiers, and at worst, reckless."

Biden tests negative for COVID, isolating until 2nd negative

By CHRIS MEGERIAN and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden tested negative for COVID-19 on Saturday but will continue to isolate at the White House until a second negative test, his doctor said.

Dr. Kevin O'Connor wrote in his latest daily update that the president, "in an abundance of caution," will abide by the "strict isolation measures" in place since his "rebound" infection was detected July 30, pending a follow-up negative result.

Biden, 79, came down with the virus a second time three days after he had emerged from isolation from his initial bout with COVID-19, reported on July 21. There have been rare rebound cases documented among a small minority of those, who like Biden, were prescribed the anti-viral medication Paxlovid, which has been proved to reduce the risk of serious illness and death from the virus among those at highest risk.

O'Connor wrote that Biden "continues to feel very well."

Biden's travel has been on hold as he awaited a negative test. He plans to visit Kentucky on Monday to view damage from catastrophic flooding and meet with families.

Biden was "doing great," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Saturday when asked about his health during her appearance in Las Vegas at a joint conference of the National Association of Black Journalists and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. She said that when she speaks to the president, he tells her to "tell folks I've been working eight-plus hours a day."

During his first go-around with the virus, Biden's primary symptoms were a runny nose, fatigue and a loose cough, his doctor said at the time. During his rebound case, O'Connor said only Biden's cough returned and had "almost completely resolved" by Friday.

Regulators are still studying the prevalence and virulence of rebound cases, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 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.

Boy at heart of UK court battle dies after life support ends

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A 12-year-old boy who had been in a coma for four months died Saturday at a London hospital after doctors ended the life-sustaining treatment his family had fought to continue.

Archie Battersbee's mother, Hollie Dance, said her son died at 12:15 p.m., about two hours after the hospital began withdrawing treatment. British courts had rejected both the family's effort to extend treatment and a request to move Archie to a hospice, saying neither move was in the child's best interests.

"I'm the proudest mum in the world," Dance said as she stood outside the hospital and wept. "Such a beautiful little boy and he fought right until the very end."

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The legal battle is the latest in a series of very public British cases in which parents and doctors have sparred over who is better qualified to make decisions about a child's medical care. That has sparked a debate about whether there's a more appropriate way to settle such disagreements away from the courts.

Archie was found unconscious at home with a ligature over his head on April 7. His parents believe he may have been taking part in an online challenge that went wrong.

Doctors concluded Archie was brain-stem dead soon after the accident and sought to end the long list of treatments that kept him alive, including artificial respiration, medication to regulate his bodily functions and round-the-clock nursing care. But his family objected, claiming Archie had shown signs of life and wouldn't have wanted them to give up hope.

The disagreement triggered weeks of legal arguments as Archie's parents sought to force the hospital to continue life-sustaining treatments. Doctors at the Royal London Hospital argued there was no chance of recovery and he should be allowed to die.

After a series of courts ruled it was in Archie's best interest that he be allowed to die, the family asked for permission to move him to a hospice. The hospital said Archie's condition was so unstable that moving him would hasten his death.

On Friday, High Court Judge Lucy Theis rejected the family's request, ruling that Archie should remain in the hospital while treatment was withdrawn.

"Their unconditional love and dedication to Archie is a golden thread that runs through this case," Theis wrote in her decision. "I hope now Archie can be afforded the opportunity for him to die in peaceful circumstances, with the family who meant so much to him as he clearly does to them."

That ruling was carried out Saturday after both the U.K. Court of Appeal and the European Court of Human Rights refused to take up the case.

But Archie's family said his death was anything but peaceful.

Ella Carter, fiance of Archie's eldest brother, Tom, said Archie was stable for about two hours after the hospital stopped all medication. That changed when the ventilator was turned off, she said.

"He went completely blue," she said. "There is absolutely nothing dignified about watching a family member or a child suffocate. No family should ever have to go through what we've been through. It's barbaric."

Carter put her head on Dance's shoulder and sobbed as the two women hugged.

The hospital expressed its condolences and thanked the doctors and nurses who had looked after Archie.

"They provided high quality care with extraordinary compassion over several months in often trying and distressing circumstances," said Alistair Chesser, chief medical officer of Barts Health NHS Trust, which runs the hospital. "This tragic case not only affected the family and his carers but touched the hearts of many across the country."

Legal experts insist cases like that of Archie are rare. But some disputes pitting the judgment of doctors against the wishes of families have been fought in the public eye, such as the 2017 legal battle over Charlie Gard, an infant with a rare genetic disorder. The parents unsuccessfully fought for him to have experimental treatment before he died.

Under British law, it is common for courts to intervene when parents and doctors disagree on a child's medical treatment. The best interests of the child take primacy over the parents' right to decide what they believe is best.

Ilora Finlay, a professor of palliative medicine at Cardiff University and member of the House of Lords, said this week she hopes the Conservative government will hold an independent inquiry into different ways of handling these cases. Deciding such disputes through an adversarial court process doesn't help anybody, she said.

"The parents don't want to go to court. The doctors don't want to go to court. The managers don't want to go to court," Finlay told Times Radio. "My worry is that these cases are going forward to court too quickly and too early, and that we need an alternative way of managing the communication between the doctors and the parents."

The difficulty for parents is that they are in shock and often want to deny that there has been a catastrophic brain injury, Finlay said.

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"When there's brain injury, often their child looks intact, so their face looks as it always did," she said. "So understanding what has gone on inside the brain and the amount of injury is something that needs to be sensitively explained to parents, and that takes time."

Archie's family was supported by the Christian Concern, which campaigns on end-of-life issues and the role of religion in society. The group said it was a "privilege" to stand beside the family.

"The events of the last few weeks raise many significant issues including questions of how death is defined, how those decisions are made and the place of the family," Christian Concern Chief Executive Andrea Williams said.

Russian forces begin assault on two eastern Ukraine cities

By SUSIE BLANN Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian forces began an assault Saturday on two key cities in the eastern Donetsk region and kept up rocket and shelling attacks on other Ukrainian cities, including one close to Europe's largest nuclear power plant, Ukraine's military and local officials said.

Both cities of Bakhmut and Avdiivka have been considered key targets of Russia's ongoing offensive across Ukraine's east, with analysts saying Moscow needs to take Bakhmut if it is to advance on the regional hubs of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk.

"In the Donetsk direction, the enemy is conducting an offensive operation, concentrating its main efforts on the Bakhmut and Avdiivka directions. It uses ground attack and army aviation," the Ukrainian General Staff said on Facebook.

The last Russian strike on Sloviansk was July 30, but Ukrainian forces are fortifying their positions around the city in expectation of new fighting.

"I think it won't be calm for long. Eventually, there will be an assault," Col. Yuri Bereza, head of the volunteer national guard regiment, told The Associated Press.

Russian shelling killed five civilians and injured 14 others in the Donetsk region in the last day, Donetsk governor Pavlo Kyrylenko wrote Saturday on Telegram, saying two people were killed in Poprosny, and one each in Avdiivka, Soledar and Pervomaiskiy.

The governor of the eastern Dnipropetrovsk region said three civilians were injured after Russian rockets fell on a residential neighborhood in Nikopol, a city across the Dnieper River from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power station. The nuclear plant has been under Russian control since Moscow's troops seized it early in the war.

"After midnight, the Russian army struck the Nikopol area with (Soviet-era) Grad rockets, and the Kryvyi Rih area from barrel artillery," Valentyn Reznichenko wrote on Telegram.

Another Russian missile attack overnight damaged unspecified infrastructure in the regional capital of Zaporizhzhia. On Thursday, Russia fired 60 rockets at Nikopol, damaging 50 residential buildings in the city of 107,000 and leaving residents without electricity.

Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, warned this week that the situation was becoming more perilous day by day at the Zaporizhzhia plant.

"Every principle of nuclear safety has been violated" at the plant, he said. "What is at stake is extremely serious."

He expressed concern about the way the plant is being operated and the danger posed by the fighting going on around it. Experts at the U.S.-based Institute for the Study of War said Russia is shelling the area intentionally, "putting Ukraine in a difficult position."

The Ukrainian company operating the nuclear power station said Saturday that Russian troops are using the plant's basement to hide from Ukrainian shelling and have barred its Ukrainian staff from going there.

"Ukrainian personnel do not yet have access to these premises, so in the event of new shelling, people have no shelter and are in danger," Enerhoatom, a Ukrainian state enterprise, said on its Telegram channel.

Enerhoatom said Friday that Russian rockets had damaged the plant's facilities, including a nitrogen-oxygen unit and a high-voltage power line. Local Russian-appointed officials acknowledged the damage,

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but blamed it on the Ukrainians.

In other developments:

___ In Ukraine's south, two civilians were seriously injured Saturday after Russian forces fired rockets on the Black Sea port of Mykolaiv before dawn, according to regional authorities. That followed a Friday afternoon attack on Mykolaiv that killed one person and wounded 21 others.

___ In the Kherson region south of Mykolaiv, the deputy mayor of the Russia-occupied city of Nova Kakhovka was in critical condition after an assassination attempt, the Russian state news agency RIA-Novosti said, citing the deputy head of the Kherson region, most of which is under Russian control.

___ The first of three more ships carrying thousands of tons of corn from Ukraine anchored north of Istanbul on Saturday awaiting inspection, the Turkish Defense Ministry said. The Panama-flagged Navi Star, which is carrying 33,000 tons of grain to Ireland, left Odesa on Friday. It is being followed by the Turkish-flagged Polarnet and the Maltese-flagged Rojen, carrying over 25,000 tons of corn between them from Chornomorsk. The joint inspection center was set up to get grain blocked in Ukraine by the war to the world. On Friday, the center inspected its first north-bound ship as it headed for Chornomorsk.

___ In the north, Ukraine's second-largest city of Kharkiv and its surrounding area also came under Russian rocket fire again overnight, according to regional governor Oleh Syniehubov. A 18-year-old in Chuhuiv, a town near Kharkiv, had to be hospitalized Saturday after he picked up an unexploded shell. Both Chuhuiv and Kharkiv are near the Russian border and have endured sustained Russian shelling in recent weeks.

___ The neighboring Sumy region, which also borders Russia, has also seen near-constant shelling and missile strikes. Its governor said Saturday the region was hit more than 60 times from Russian territory over the previous day, and one wounded civilian had to be hospitalized.

___ On the ammunition front, Russia has begun using Iranian combat drones in the war, Ukrainian presidential adviser Oleksiy Arestovych said in a YouTube adding that Tehran had transferred 46 drones to the Russian army.

New Pompeii finds highlight middle-class life in doomed city

By FRANCES D'EMILIO Associated Press

ROME (AP) — A trunk with its lid left open. A wooden dishware closet, its shelves caved in. Three-legged accent tables topped by decorative bowls. These latest discoveries by archaeologists are enriching knowledge about middle-class lives in Pompeii before Mount Vesuvius' furious eruption buried the ancient Roman city in volcanic debris.

Pompeii's archaeological park, one of Italy's top tourist attractions, announced the recent finds on Saturday. Its director, Gabriel Zuchtriegel, said the excavation of rooms in a "domus," or home, first unearthed in 2018 had revealed precious details about the domestic environment of ordinary citizens of the city, which was destroyed in 79 A.D.

In past decades, excavation largely concentrated on sumptuous, elaborately frescoed villas of the Pompeii's upper-class residents. But archaeology activity in the sprawling site, near modern-day Naples, has increasingly focused on the lives of the middle class as well as of servants and other enslaved people.

"In the Roman empire, there was an ample chunk of the population that struggled with their social status and for whom 'daily bread,' was anything but a given," Zuchtriegel said. "A vulnerable class during political crises and food shortages, but also ambitious about climbing the social ladder."

The finds unveiled on Saturday include furnishings and household objects in the domus, which was dubbed the House of the Larario for an area of a home devoted to domestic spirits known as lares. The home unearthed in 2018 has one in the courtyard.

Zuchtriegel noted that while the courtyard also had an exceptionally well-adorned cistern, "evidently, the (financial) resources weren't enough to decorate the five rooms of the home." One room had unpainted walls and an earthen floor apparently used for storage.

In a bedroom, archeologists found the remains of a bed frame with a trace of fabric from the pillow. The kind of bed is identical to three, cot-like beds unearthed last year in a tiny room in another residence that archaeologists believe doubled as a storeroom and sleeping quarters for a family of enslaved inhabitants

of Pompeii.

The bedroom findings announced Saturday also included the remains of a wooden trunk with an open lid. Although the weight of beams and ceiling panels that crashed down in the wake of the volcanic explosion heavily damaged the trunk, among the objects found inside was an oil lamp decorated with a bas relief depicting the ancient Greek deity Zeus being transformed into an eagle. Nearby was a small, three-legged round table, similar to the accent tables in vogue today.

Exposing the storeroom revealed a wooden closet, its backboard still intact but the shelves caved in. Archaeologists believe the closet had at least four panel doors and held cookware and dishes for the nearby kitchen. The excavators found a hinge from the enclosure.

Other objects found in the house include a large fragment of what had been a translucent, rimmed plate in brilliant hues of cobalt blue and emerald, and a well-preserved incense burner, shaped like a cradle.

'Quasi-preneurs' see opportunity, challenges in franchising

By MAE ANDERSON AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In 2020, Kelly Jackson and Davina Arceneaux wanted to leave their company jobs and become business owners. They were looking for something both COVID-proof and recession-resistant.

Instead of completely stepping out from under a corporate umbrella, they looked at franchising. The two worried about the notoriously tight margins for restaurants. They looked at a drug testing franchise, but the initial investment was too steep.

A franchising mentor told them about Motto Mortgage Home Services, and Jackson and Arceneaux opened one in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, in July of 2020 with an initial investment of \$35,000.

"People always need new places to live and are always buying and selling houses," Jackson said. He takes rising interest rates in stride. "Interest rates move up and down, that's what they do, that's part of the industry."

Jackson and Arceneaux, who had been a senior IT program and project manager and an assistant director of catering, respectively, had no experience with mortgages, but Motto Mortgage provided training and support.

"You don't necessarily need experience in that industry in order to go into that category, the brand will train you," said Matt Haller, president and CEO of the International Franchise Association.

In the months after the pandemic hit, many people with corporate jobs decided to strike out on their own, in what's referred to as the "Great Resignation." They looked for alternatives, including opening up a franchise with an established brand.

The "quasi-preneurs" opening franchises say they like the ability to buy into a proven brand name and the access to tools and operations that you wouldn't get if you started your own small business. But franchising has plenty of challenges, too. There are a lot of rules and regulations to abide by. Contracts are lengthy and can be difficult to terminate.

The number of U.S. franchises grew an estimated 3% in 2021 to 774,965 after a dip in 2020, according to IFA. Those include big franchises like McDonald's or 7-Eleven, but all types of businesses can be franchised, from pool cleaners to barbershops.

There are about 3,000 franchisor brands in the U.S. The IFA predicts franchises in the U.S. will grow 2% to 792,014 this year. That's still just a fraction of the 32.5 million total small businesses in the U.S.

Franchise owners buy in with an initial fee -- anywhere from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of dollars -- to get their business, and then pay a monthly royalty percentage. In return, they get use of the brand name and marketing, and other support.

As a classically trained pastry chef, Helen Kim often dreamed of owning her own bakery. But when she decided to strike out on her own, Kim thought building a business from scratch would be "too big of a mountain for me to climb."

While working at the Aria Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, Kim was a frequent customer at Paris Baguette. She was impressed, and last year bought a Paris Baguette franchise in the city with her sister.

While the financial requirements are strict -- according to the company website, franchisees need a net

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worth of \$1.5 million and \$500,000 in liquid assets – Kim said it was worth it. While the money invested in a franchise is still at risk if the business fails, brand name recognition and franchisor support offer more of a safety net than establishing an unknown brand.

However, getting used to a franchise structure can be an adjustment. When Chris Dordell and his husband Jason Fenske decided to leave their jobs at Wells Fargo and Salesforce and open two Club Pilates in 2018 and a YogaSix studio in 2020, in and around Palm Springs, they appreciated the playbook provided by the franchisor, Xponential.

“It was appealing at this stage after being in corporate jobs for 20-plus years that we could plug into an existing model,” Dordell said.

But Dordell said following the corporate rule book took some adjusting to. There were some costs incurred while building the franchises that could have been cut, but “in keeping the consistency across the company, we were required to follow the model.”

If a franchisor changes corporate management or gets sold, a franchisee can be left in the lurch.

Tom Lee and his wife opened a home health care franchise, Home Care Assistance, in Burlington, Vermont, at the end of 2016, after Lee decided to leave his career in sales management for a large company. After initially investing \$300,000 and spending three years living on savings and not taking a salary, the business began to take off.

Lee currently employs 65 caregivers and had double-digit profit increases in 2020 and 2021. But the franchisor changed ownership and starting buying back franchisees to operate them privately. In 2022 it rebranded to The Key, leaving the remaining 20 or so franchisees, still known as Home Care Assistance, in limbo.

Lee said he’s still paying a 5% monthly royalty fee, but is not getting the same support. The Key made one offer to buy the business back, but it was well below market value, Lee said.

The Key did not respond to a request for comment.

“They don’t have the personnel to support us anymore,” he said. “They’ve really abandoned the brand.”

As with any business venture, franchisees need to be aware of what they’re getting themselves into.

Mario Herman, a lawyer based in Washington that focuses on franchise litigation, said it’s important for potential franchisees to go over the contracts carefully to make sure nothing is being obscured like previous bankruptcies or a lack of profitability.

Earlier this year the Federal Trade Commission sued Burgerim, a Calabasas, California, burger chain franchisor that it claims lured 1,500 people into paying \$50,000 to \$70,000 in fees to open franchises without giving them enough information about risks. Burgerim promised a refund if franchisees couldn’t open a restaurant, but did not deliver, according to the complaint. Burgerim didn’t respond to a request for comment.

“If done properly, (a franchise is) great, but you have to be extraordinarily careful,” Herman said. “There is a lot of fraud out there.”

‘Community Lighthouses’ powered by the sun and volunteers

By REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

LaPLACE, La. (AP) — Enthusiastic church volunteer Sonia St. Cyr lost something she treasures during the blackout caused by Hurricane Ida — her independence, afforded her by the electric wheelchair she expertly maneuvers over bumpy city sidewalks.

“After Ida I was housebound,” said St. Cyr, who has multiple sclerosis. She did her best to conserve power on her wheelchair, going only to the end of her block or sitting on her porch after the storm made landfall last August 29.

It took 10 more days before all of the habitable homes in New Orleans had electricity again. With the lights out and nothing open in her Broadmoor neighborhood of New Orleans, “It was not fun.”

A project launching in southeast Louisiana aims to help people like St. Cyr who are especially vulnerable during extended power outages as the warming climate produces more extreme weather including

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bigger and wetter hurricanes.

"Community Lighthouses," outfitted with roof solar panels and a battery pack to store energy, can serve as electricity hubs after a disaster, enabling neighbors to recharge batteries, power up phones or store temperature-sensitive medications.

They're being sponsored by Together New Orleans, a non-partisan network of churches and groups that tries to fix community problems.

Organizer Broderick Bagert said they felt "impotent and powerless" as the city struggled to deliver basics like collecting garbage in Ida's aftermath. They realized that local governments couldn't handle everything alone.

"You can spend a lot of time saying... 'Why don't they?'" said Bagert. "But you start to realize the real question is 'Why don't we?'"

More than just energy hardware, each lighthouse needs a team of volunteers to study their areas, learn who has health problems and who needs medication refrigerated or depends on electric wheelchairs for mobility. While people with means can evacuate ahead of a hurricane, about one in four people live in poverty in New Orleans, and not everyone can afford to flee. Hurricanes are also forming more quickly due to climate change, making it more likely that people can find themselves stuck in a disaster zone.

Each lighthouse should be able to connect with all of its neighborhood's vulnerable people within 24 hours of an outage, Bagert said.

"This is not all about batteries and solar panels. There are some other batteries and solar panels made by the hand of God. And that is called the human personality," the Rev. JC Richardson, pastor of Cornerstone United Methodist Church, said during an event announcing one of the locations.

The pilot phase anticipates 24 sites — 16 in New Orleans and eight elsewhere in Louisiana. They've raised nearly \$11 million of the anticipated \$13.8 million cost with help from the Greater New Orleans Foundation, the city, federal funding and other donations.

Jeffrey Schlegelmilch, director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University, said systems that can operate independent of the power grid — often referred to as microgrids — are becoming more popular as businesses and communities address climate change by trying to reduce their carbon footprint or secure backup electricity.

"We're expecting more extreme weather. We're expecting more stress on the grid," he said. It's particularly important to have such hubs in places with high levels of chronic disease, where outages can take an outsized toll, he said: Keeping them powered up could mean fewer people in ambulances.

An Associated Press analysis found that weather-related outages doubled over the last two decades. Louisiana is one of three states experiencing a 50% increase in outage duration.

Pastor Neil Bernard anticipates helping many more people at his New Wine Christian Fellowship in the New Orleans suburb of LaPlace. The church is a designated shelter of last resort in St. John the Baptist Parish, which was hard-hit during Ida.

The roar of generators is a common sound after a hurricane, and the parish government provided one to the church, but they are noisy, carbon monoxide fumes are dangerous and fuel can be scarce when storm damage impedes transportation.

Keeping New Wine's generator fueled and maintained was a challenge after Ida. Now the church will benefit year-round: Once the lighthouse is installed, Bernard anticipates saving \$3,000 a month in energy bills.

Hurricanes aren't the only extreme weather triggering interest in microgrids. Experts say there's growing interest in California, where utility companies sometimes preemptively de-energize power lines when conditions are ripe for wildfires so that their equipment doesn't spark a fire.

Ice and wind storms as well as tropical weather can cause blackouts in places like Baltimore, which launched a similar project in 2015. The city has four locations fully outfitted with solar power and battery backup systems, and aims to have 30 in three years, the city's climate and resilience planner, Aubrey Germ, said in an email.

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"A number of the systems have performed well during power outages, enabling the Hubs to provide continuity of essential services such as cell phone charging, cooling, and information to residents in need of support," Germ wrote.

CrescentCare lost \$250,000 in medicines and vaccines in Ida's aftermath. The New Orleans-based health care center had two generators when Hurricane Ida hit, but one failed and they couldn't get enough fuel to run the other, said CEO Noel Twilbeck.

Now, the center will serve as one of the first "Lighthouses" in the area.

The solar panels are designed to withstand 160-mph winds, said Pierre Moses, the president of 127 Energy, which finances and develops renewable energy projects. He's also a technical consultant to the Community Lighthouse effort.

Direct Relief, one of the donors financing the lighthouse project, didn't aim to be an energy provider — it began funding microgrids after being asked repeatedly to pay for generators and fuel after hurricanes.

The humanitarian aid group's president and CEO, Thomas Tighe, sees the value now that medical records are computerized and more people need energy-dependent devices at home such as dialysis machines and oxygen.

"You've set things up presuming there will always be power and that presumption is no longer valid in a lot of places," he said.

Today in History: August 7, allies land at Guadalcanal

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Aug. 7, the 219th day of 2022. There are 146 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 7, 1942, U.S. and other allied forces landed at Guadalcanal, marking the start of the first major allied offensive in the Pacific during World War II. (Japanese forces abandoned the island the following February.)

On this date:

In 1789, the U.S. Department of War was established by Congress.

In 1882, the famous feud between the Hatfields of West Virginia and the McCoys of Kentucky erupted into full-scale violence.

In 1963, first lady Jacqueline Kennedy gave birth to a boy, Patrick Bouvier Kennedy, who died two days later of respiratory distress syndrome.

In 1964, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, giving President Lyndon B. Johnson broad powers in dealing with reported North Vietnamese attacks on U.S. forces.

In 1971, the Apollo 15 moon mission ended successfully as its command module splashed down in the Pacific Ocean.

In 1989, a plane carrying U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas, and 14 others disappeared over Ethiopia. (The wreckage of the plane was found six days later; there were no survivors.)

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush ordered U.S. troops and warplanes to Saudi Arabia to guard the oil-rich desert kingdom against a possible invasion by Iraq.

In 1998, terrorist bombs at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania killed 224 people, including 12 Americans.

In 2005, ABC News anchorman Peter Jennings died in New York at age 67.

In 2007, San Francisco's Barry Bonds hit home run No. 756 to break Hank Aaron's storied record with one out in the fifth inning of a game against the Washington Nationals, who won, 8-6.

In 2010, Elena Kagan was sworn in as the 112th justice and fourth woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2015, Colorado theater shooter James Holmes was spared the death penalty in favor of life in prison after a jury in Centennial failed to agree on whether he should be executed for his murderous attack on

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a packed movie premiere that left 12 people dead.

Ten years ago: Jared Lee Loughner agreed to spend the rest of his life in prison, accepting that he went on a deadly shooting rampage at an Arizona political gathering in 2011 that left six people dead and 13 injured, including U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords. Aly Raisman became the first U.S. woman gymnast to win Olympic gold on floor, and picked up a bronze on balance beam on the final day of the gymnastics competition at the London Games.

Five years ago: Chicago filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's policy of withholding public safety grants from sanctuary cities, which chose to limit cooperation with government enforcement of immigration laws. (A federal appeals court later ruled that the federal government cannot set new conditions to awarding those grants.) Medical examiners said the remains of a man who'd been killed at the World Trade Center on 9/11 had been identified, nearly 16 years after the attacks.

One year ago: Fueled by strong winds and bone-dry vegetation, the Dixie Fire in northern California grew to become the largest single wildfire in state history. In her final Olympic race, American sprinter Allyson Felix won her 11th medal, a gold medal as part of the 4x400 relay team in Tokyo; no track athlete in U.S. history had ever won more. Kevin Durant scored 29 points as the U.S. held off France to win the men's basketball gold medal. Former child actor Jane Withers, who was once Shirley Temple's nemesis on screen and later appeared in commercials as "Josephine the Plumber," died at 95. Markie Post, who played the public defender in the 1980s sitcom "Night Court," died of cancer at 70.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Lana Cantrell is 79. Former FBI Director Robert Mueller is 78. Actor John Glover is 78. Actor David Rasche is 78. Former diplomat, talk show host and activist Alan Keyes is 72. Country singer Rodney Crowell is 72. Actor Caroline Aaron is 70. Comedian Alexei Sayle is 70. Actor Wayne Knight is 67. Rock singer Bruce Dickinson is 64. Marathon runner Alberto Salazar is 64. Actor David Duchovny is 62. Country musician Michael Mahler (Wild Horses) is 61. Actor Delane Matthews is 61. Actor Harold Perrineau is 59. Jazz musician Marcus Roberts is 59. Country singer Raul Malo is 57. Actor David Mann is 56. Actor Charlotte Lewis is 55. Actor Sydney Penny is 51. Actor Greg Serano is 50. Actor Michael Shannon is 48. Actor Charlize Theron (shar-LEES' THEHR'-en) is 47. Rock musician Barry Kerch is 46. Actor Eric Johnson is 43. Actor Randy Wayne is 41. Actor-writer Brit Marling is 40. NHL center Sidney Crosby is 35. MLB All-Star Mike Trout is 31. Actor Liam James is 26.