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Sun., Aug. 28

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

St. John's Lutheran: Bible Study 8:00 am. Worship (St. John's 9:00 am, Zion 11:00 am)

Emmanuel: 9 am Worship, 1-4pm 9th grade Confirmation Retreat

Methodist: 8:30am Conde Worship, 9:30am Coffee Hour. 10:30am Groton Worship

Mon., Aug. 29

School Breakfast: Egg Bake

School Lunch: Chicken Nuggets, Tater Tots

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, dill potato, seven layer salad, fruited Jell-O with topping, whole wheat bread.

Volleyball at Aberdeen Christian (7th at 5:15 p.m. JV at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity)

Emmanuel: 6:30 am Bible Study

The Pantry open at the Groton Community Center, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445 shop. Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460 cans.



Tuesday, Aug. 30

School Breakfast: Fritatta

School Lunch: Sloppy Joe, Waffle Fries Senior Menu: Hamburger on bun, oven roasted

potatoes, cucumber salad, ice cream sundae.

10 a.m.: Golf at Lee Park, Aberdeen

5 p.m.: Volleyball hosts Ipswich (C/JV/V)

Groton UMC: 10:00am Bible Study - Grill Out (Weather Permitting)

The Pantry open at the Groton Community Center, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

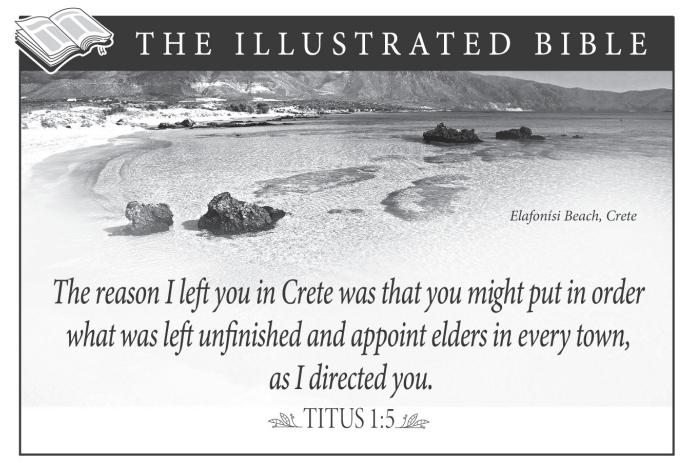
Wednesday, Aug. 31

School Breakfast, Hash brown, Pizza School Lunch: Chicken Alfredo, Cooked Broccoli Senior Menu: Breaded codfish, parsley buttered potatoes, creamy coleslaw, fruit, while wheat bread. Groton UMC: 9:30am Community Coffee Hour

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

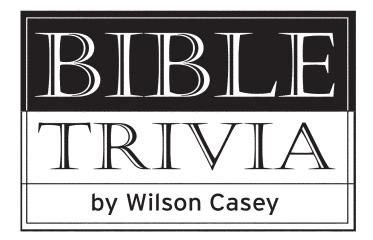
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1. Is the book of Judges in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. What sin did Paul tell the Thessalonians was likely to occur at night? *Thievery, Idolizing, Adultery, Drunkenness*

3. From Matthew 7, what did Jesus warn against throwing to pigs? *Bones, Stones, Figs, Pearls*

4. Who was the first man to experience physical death? *Adam, Abel, Aaron, Abraham*

5. Who was the first Christian stoned to death? *Naboth, Stephen, Zechariah, Paul*

6. How many sons did Isaac have? 2, 4, 6, 8

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Drunkenness, 3) Pearls, 4) Abel, 5) Stephen, 6) 2

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

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by Healthy Exchanges

Summer Mexican Pasta Salad

Brown-bagging it? Pack this in your lunchbox, and you'll almost think you traveled to Mexico on your lunch break.

- 2 cups cooked rotini pasta, rinsed and drained
- 1 cup unpeeled and diced fresh tomatoes
- 1/2 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped red pepper

3/4 cup (3 ounces) shredded reduced-fat Cheddar cheese

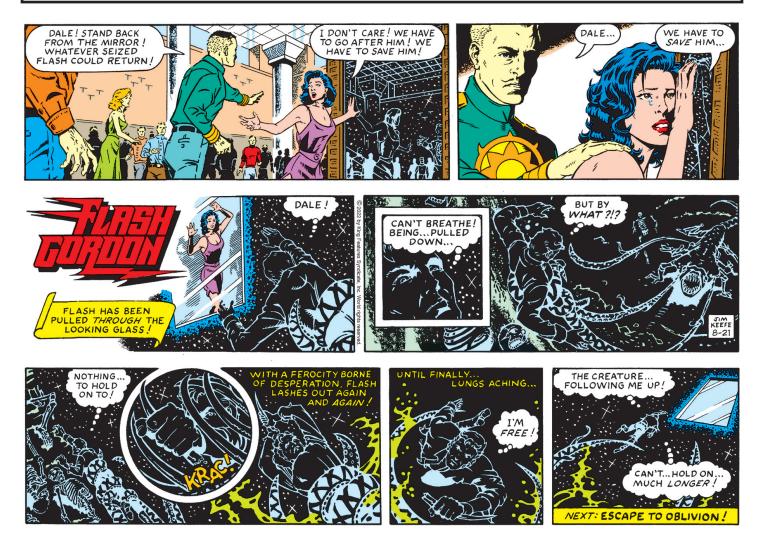
- 1/2 cup fat-free Catalina dressing
- 2 tablespoons fat-free mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes
- 1 teaspoon chili seasoning

1. In a large bowl, combine rotini pasta, tomato, green pepper, onion and Cheddar cheese. In a small bowl, combine Catalina dressing, mayonnaise, parsley flakes and chili seasoning. Add dressing mixture to pasta mixture.

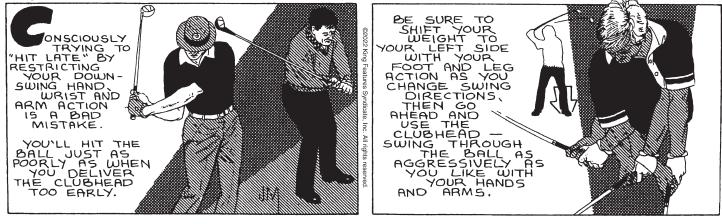
2. Toss gently to combine. Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. Gently stir again just before serving. Makes 4 (1 cup) servings.

* Each serving equals: 220 calories, 4g fat, 10g protein, 36g carb., 603mg sodium, 3g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Starch, 1 Meat, 1 Vegetable.

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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Different Drinking Water is Not the Cause of Diarrhea While Traveling

DEAR DR. ROACH: While reading one of your recent columns, I learned that all water, except for distilled, contains electrolytes. I wondered if there are differences in the amount of each electrolyte in drinking water in different places in Canada, and if so, whether that might explain why I experience cramping and diarrhea while visiting another place? Through experience, I have been able to avoid the problem by drinking only bottled mineral or distilled water when I am away from my home. In cases where I have been on lengthier holidays, after I lived through the initial distress, eventually, my gastric system calmed down and seemed to accommodate the new source of water. I felt that my malady might be some sort of domestic version of Montezuma's Revenge, but the analogy is inapt because the water I have

consumed away from my home was not contaminated. -- M.T.

ANSWER: "Montezuma's Revenge" is an (insulting) term for traveler's diarrhea, specifically in reference to Mexico, where drinking water may be contaminated with bacteria.

I don't think the answer to your diarrhea while traveling is in the water. The quality of drinking water in nearly all of Canada and the United States is outstanding, and bacterial contamination is exceedingly rare, as you say. Similarly, electrolytes are kept at very low levels in most parts of North America, although some water softeners do put a fair bit of sodium into the water in exchange for other ions, such as magnesium and calcium. Still, none of these trace minerals are likely to cause diarrhea.

Some people develop diarrhea with stress. Other people are more likely to drink alcohol while traveling, and excess alcohol can cause diarrhea. I can't explain why drinking bottled or distilled water seems to prevent the problem.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have been prediabetic for almost 20 years. Through diet and a prescription of metformin, I've been testing in the 115-120 mg/dL range for several years. Recently, I started eating fresh pineapple. I noticed that if I ate a few small pieces in the evening, my morning glucose would be in the 98-105 mg/dL range. This morning, it was 95 -- a double-digit range I haven't seen in years. How can there be warnings that pineapple raises blood sugar levels, but in my case, it's lowering my fasting glucose? -- K.G.

ANSWER: Fresh pineapple has a lot of fiber, which slows absorption of sugar and minimizes the increase of blood sugar that consumption of any sugar can cause. Canned or dried pineapple usually has lots of added sugar, along with the naturally occurring sugar, so avoid those. Increased fiber can help improve sugar levels.

I wonder if you are eating pineapple instead of something else that might be raising your sugar more. For many people with diabetes, a small snack before bed can keep the blood sugar from getting too low. If your blood sugar is too low at night, the body responds by releasing hormones that raise your blood sugar (called the Somogyi effect). It may be that a little snack is keeping that from happening.

The key may be that you can have just a few small pieces. I wouldn't recommend more.

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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Elvis (PG-13) -- The new biopic film about Elvis Presley hailing from director Baz Luhrmann ("The Great Gatsby" and "William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet") is now available to rent or purchase on Prime Video. Austin Butler gives a stunning performance as the King of Rock and Roll, having immersed himself deeply into the character for years leading up to the film's release. The film explores Elvis' humble beginnings, the life-changing influ-



Bill Nye the Science Guy offers solutions for hypothetical disasters in "The End is Nye." Courtesy of Peacock

ence that the rhythm and blues genre had on him, as well as his ill-fated relationship with his manager, Col. Tom Parker. With eye-catching visual effects and a lead actor who will surely be nominated this coming award season, "Elvis" is an unforgettable watch. (Prime Video)

Password (NR) -- A celebrity game show originally created by producer Bob Stewart, who also created "The Price is Right," has been revived for the sixth time in a 60-year timespan, with Keke Palmer and Jimmy Fallon as hosts. The premise is simple: Two teams, both consisting of one celebrity player and one "civilian" player, go head-to-head by trying to guess a password only given to one player on the team at the start of each round. The player who knows the password tries to describe it in a single word, and the teams alternate until the password is guessed correctly. Celebrities making an appearance this season include Chelsea Handler, JB Smoove, Martin Short and Heidi Klum. The first five episodes are out now! (Hulu)

The End is Nye (NR) -- A Peacock original docu-series featuring Bill Nye the Science Guy just released its first season. In his signature lighthearted-yet-sincere tone, Bill Nye takes on six hypothetical apocalyptic disasters and provides a science-based solution to survive every single one. Whether it's a super-volcano eruption, five hurricanes circulating Earth at the same time or a comet plunging into the planet, Bill Nye has all the steps humanity could take to save our home. He underscores climate change and how we need to alter our relationship with the place we call home so that we have a thriving planet for future generations. (Peacock)

Incantation (TV-MA) -- In this hair-raising Taiwanese horror film, a woman named Ronan (Hsuan-yen Tsai), along with her boyfriend, Dom, and Dom's cousin, Yuan, venture out into the village of the Chen clan. While staying in the village overnight, Dom and Yuan unleash a curse onto themselves, prompting their overnight stay to go terribly wrong. Ronan, who finds out she's pregnant during the chaos, is the only one to survive. After giving birth to her daughter, Dodo, Ronan gives her up to foster care, while she visits a psychiatrist for ways to cope. When Ronan assumes care of Dodo again six years later, Dodo starts seeing visions, and Ronan realizes the curse continues to live on. (Netflix)

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1. Who were The T-Birds and The Pink Ladies?

2. Name the trio that released a cover of "Walk Right In." $\ensuremath{\mathsf{In}}$

3. Which artist released "Mecca"?

4. Who received a Grammy for "Don't Stand So Close to Me"?

5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "Night-time sharpens, heightens each sensation, Darkness stirs and wakes imagination, Silently the senses abandon their defenses."

Answers

1. The boy and girl groups at Rydell High School in the film and musical "Grease."

2. The Rooftop singers, in 1962. The original of the song had been written by bluesman Gus Cannon in 1929. This late revival of his music (and the royalties) allowed Cannon to retrieve his banjo from a pawnshop.

3. Gene Pitney, in 1963, on his "Gene Pitney Sings Just for You" album.

4. The Police in 1982 for Best Rock Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal. The song charted around the globe.

5. "The Music of the Night," soundtrack of "The Phantom of the Opera," in 1986. Based on the 1910 French novel by Gaston Leroux, the musical "The Phantom of the Opera" is about a woman who is the object of obsession of a man living in the basement

under the Paris Opera House.

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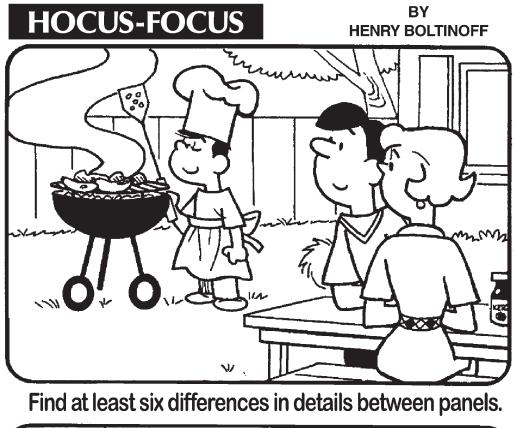




"Nice job of stealing third base, Otis. ... Now put it back."



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Differences: 1. Hot dogs are missing. 2. Spatula is smaller. 3. Apron is shorter. 4. Neckline is different. 5. Belt is different. 6. Bottle is missing.

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* This week we offer a hodgepodge of tips. Here's one of my favorites: Use kitchen tongs to retrieve an item that is stuck behind a heavy piece of furniture. It is much easier than trying to move the couch. ---Jo Ann

* "To save money on going out to eat, we purchase gift cards at the local warehouse club we belong to. It's usually 10% or 15% below face value, but that helps with the tip and tax." -- E.S. in Missouri

* "Old suitcases (hard-sided ones) are really fun holders for craft supplies. You can use hook and loop tape to secure smaller containers to the inside lining. This has worked well for my scrapbooking supplies. They are easy to carry from room to room." -- L.A. in Georgia

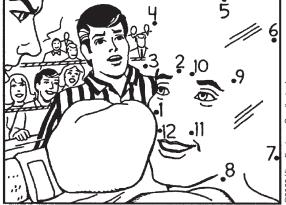
* If you have too many suds in the sink (or the tub), try pouring salt on the suds. They die down and can be washed away without creating more suds.

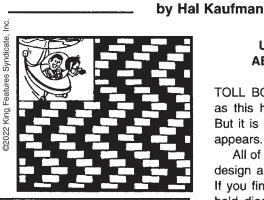
* "We attached an over-the-door plastic shoe organizer to the back of our pantry door. The slots that are reachable by the kids hold healthy, single-serving snacks for the morning, to include in lunches or for after-school snacking. It's easy and the kids have choices!" -- M.M. in West Virginia

* Trying to lose weight? Many of us eat portions that are waaaaay too much. Try using a smaller size plate, or one with a border around it. Studies show that people who do so serve themselves less food and still feel satisfied.

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

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ON THE NOSE ... maybe. What's missing from this boxing scene? To find out, draw connecting lines from dot to dot.

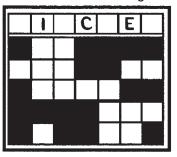
SUM FUN! Just for fun, jot down the eight numbers 32547891 in that order. Note that number six is missing. Multiply by six and see what happens.

LETTER PRESS! A mystery word appears in skeletonized form in the diagram

shown. You are asked to find the missing letters. Here's how: To begin, insert letters I, C and E in all spaces directly below them. Then, using a system of trial and error, fill blanks to form short words until you are able to guess at the key word itself.

What is the mystery word? Time limit: Two minutes.

One possible answer---kitchen. Another---pincher. Others may be possible.



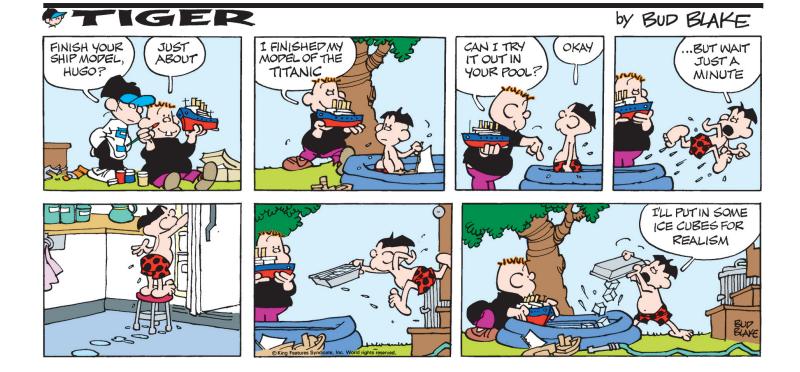
UP IN THE AIR ABOUT TRAFFIC

umi@r Whi

TOLL BOOTH traffic is heavy, as this helicopter view shows. But it is in less disarray than it appears.

All of the white blocks in this design are reasonably parallel. If you find this hard to believe, hold diagram sideways at eye level, and sight from side to side.

| ADD-A-LETTER fore or aft to | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| find new words: | | | | | | |
| 1. Add F to a mine product for | | | | | | |
| a golfer's cry. | | | | | | |
| 2. Add L to a fruit for a sea | | | | | | |
| treasure. | | | | | | |
| 3. Add G to a slow walk for a | | | | | | |
| dice-y move. | | | | | | |
| 4. Add E to a movie celeb for a | | | | | | |
| steady gaze. (a) steady gaze. | | | | | | |
| 1. F(ore). 2. Pear(!). 3. G(amble). | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Beach accessory
- 6 Altar promise
- 9 Wd. modifier
- 12 Blazing
- 13 At once
- 14 Singer Rawls
- 15 Lightweight wood
- 16 Old Pontiac
- 18 More tightly packed
- 20 "Star Wars" roval
- 21 Photo, for short
- 23 "Fresh Air" airer
- 24 Party beverage
- 25 Unforeseen problem
- 27 Say
- 29 Elk's horn
- 31 Wheel cover
- 35 Playful sea critter
- 37 Only
- 38 Barber's tools
- 41 Aug. and
- Sept.
- 43 Knock
- 44 Region
- 45 Halloween sprite
- 47 Young shopping center regular
- 49 Milk dispens-

| | | _ | | _ | | | _ | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | | | | | | 13 | | | | 14 | | |
| 15 | | | | | | 16 | | | 17 | | | |
| | | 18 | | | 19 | | | | 20 | | | |
| 21 | 22 | | | 23 | | | | 24 | | | | |
| 25 | | | 26 | | 27 | | 28 | | | | | |
| 29 | | | | 30 | | | 31 | | | 32 | 33 | 34 |
| | | | 35 | | | 36 | | | 37 | | | |
| 38 | 39 | 40 | | | | 41 | | 42 | | 43 | | |
| 44 | | | | | 45 | | | | 46 | | | |
| 47 | | | | 48 | | | | 49 | | | 50 | 51 |
| 52 | | | | 53 | | | | 54 | | | | |
| 55 | | | | 56 | | | | 57 | | | | |
| er 6 Loose 32 Deep-fried 52 Paris summer news-paper 53 Flamenco ad 33 Pie – mode cheer 7 Gloomy 34 Zing 54 Cat calls? 8 Have 36 Acted badly 55 Shelter 9 Sci-fi visitor 38 Caravan 56 Slugger 10 Column style beast | | | | | | | | ode | | | | |

- Williams
- 57 Actress Debra

DOWN

- 1 Bar bill 2 One – kind
- 3 Villanova ath- 22 Hostel
- lete 4 Gaelic
- 5 "Blue" singer 28 Pulsate
- Rimes

- 10 Column style
- 11 A son of
- Jacob
- 17 Book jacket promos
- 19 Sudden gush
- 21 Unpaid TV ad 45 Big wind

26 Worldwide

30 UFO crew

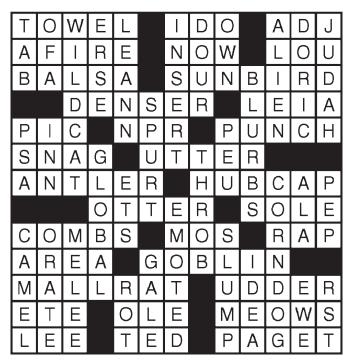
- 24 Little, in Lille
 - - 51 Trio after Q

- beast
- 39 Emulate
 - Lincoln
- 40 Donnybrook
- 42 Batter's dry
- spell
- 46 Notion
- 48 Decay
- 50 Ram's ma'am

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King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.



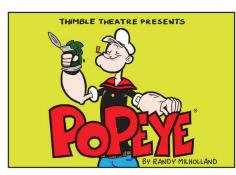
LAFF - A - DAY



"We, the jury, find that we don't want to get involved."



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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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"STOP PLAYING GAMES, VAL - ATTACK!" URGES THE HORRIFIED GAWAIN. "HE IS BEWITCHED, " MUTTERS BUKOTA.



INDEED, MALDUBH CONTINUES HER MAGICS, UNDISTURBED, GRINDING A BIT OF VAL'S OLD CHAINMAIL BETWEEN HER FINGERS.



BUT, SUDDENLY, A FRESH WIND SEEMS TO RISE, CATCHING AT MALDUBH'S GARMENT AND BREAKING HER CONCENTRATION.

A GREAT BLACK RAVEN SWEEPS LOW, AND SHE SEES THREE FIGURES IN THE MIST ...



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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by Matilda Charles

Build Muscles With Strength Training

Strength training is one of the best things we can do for ourselves to maintain strong bones, increase muscle strength and improve mobility, balance and coordination. Those things in turn reduce our risk of falling and help maintain our independence. Many of us, however, don't know where and how to start.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in conjunction with Tufts University, has a free 126page book titled "Growing Stronger: Strength Training for Older Adults" (www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/ downloads/growing_stronger.pdf). If you can't download the book, call the CDC at 800-232-4636, and it can be mailed to you.

Start using the book (either reading it online or having it sent to you) by completing the test to see if you need to run the program by your doctor, especially if you've had any surgeries for your knee or hip. Your second step should be to read the section on getting motivated, because yes, some of us need coaxing to start exercising.

For additional information on senior exercise from the CDC, take a look at www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/ basics/older_adults/index.htm.

For an additional source of help, consider investing in two sessions with an exercise coach who specializes in seniors. Things they'll be able to teach you include how to do each exercise and how to use hand weights without straining joints. At the second session you'll be able to ask any question that came up and verify that you're still doing the movements correctly.

It's hard to know what information to trust these days, but one source I've always trusted is Consumer Reports. When not testing the items they review, they go straight to good, solid sources for information. Search consumerreports.org for "Strength Training Tips to Live Longer and Better." And while you're looking around the Consumer Reports website, consider signing up for their weekly email newsletters. They're free, and you can chose between cars, health, home, smart buying, money, food and more.

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1. What team selected Stanford quarterback John Elway with the first overall pick of the 1983 NFL Draft?

2. What sportscar endurance race, traditionally held in June, is contested on Circuit de la Sarthe?

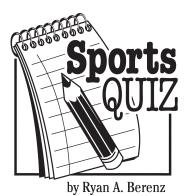
3. In 2012, what sports website was acquired by Turner Broadcasting for a reported \$175 million?

4. What Duke Blue Devils basketball standout was chosen by the Vancouver Grizzlies in the first round of the 2001 NBA Draft?

5. Vince Dooley compiled a 201-77-10 record and won the 1980 national championship during his 25 years as head coach of what college football team?

6. Name the Phoenix Mercury star who in 2021 became the first WNBA player to surpass 9,000 points.

7. In 2021, what Tampa Bay Rays player became the first in Major League Baseball history to steal home plate and hit a home run in the same postseason game?



Answers

1. The Baltimore Colts, who traded Elway's rights to the Denver Broncos.

- 2. 24 Hours of Le Mans.
- 3. Bleacher Report (bleacherreport.com).
- 4. Shane Battier.
- 5. The University of Georgia Bulldogs.
- 6. Diana Taurasi.
- 7. Randy Arozarena.
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Blue-green Algae Is a Potentially Deadly Risk for Pets

DEAR PAW'S corner: A couple of weeks ago, my family took a trip to a nearby pond. Our dog Jessup splashed and played along with us. On the drive home, Jessup began to look ill and started drooling. When we reached home he got very ill and started having seizures. I rushed him to the emergency vet, where they treated him. The vet said that he may have ingested blue-green algae, and that it is very common in ponds and still water at this time of year. Please let your readers know about this risk! Jessup is recovering and will probably be OK, but the vet said this can be fatal. -- Sherry in Dallas, Texas

Dear Sherry: I'm so glad to hear that Jessup is doing well! Yes, blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, is toxic and can make a dog very ill if it's ingested. It exists in many bodies of freshwater and grows rapidly when the water temperature is over 75 degrees -- so it's at its highest levels, and most dangerous, in the hot summer months.

Look carefully at the water in the lake or pond before letting your dog near it. If you see a lot of peagreen growth and a slimy look to the water at the shoreline, don't let your dog jump in.

Even if the water looks OK, check to see if any "no swimming" signs are posted nearby. You also can check your local county or city website or parks department for a water quality report. And even if the water is OK for people and dogs to swim in, be sure to rinse your dog's coat in clean tap water as soon as possible after swimming.

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

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By Lucie Winborne

* The "Josh Fight," started in 2021 by Josh Swain after he discovered a number of other folks on social media who shared his moniker, is an event held in Lincoln, Nebraska, in which hundreds of people named Josh duel with pool noodles to crown the "Ultimate Josh." To date, the event has raised over \$20,000 for charity.

* In the 1970s, American Kitchen Foods, Inc., perhaps inspired by a picky young eater at home, tried disguising peas in a fry-shaped form with a product called "I hate peas."

* Sea urchins acquired their name from hedgehogs, which were known as urchins until about the 15th century ... meaning, of course, that sea urchins are therefore essentially ocean hedgehogs.

* Prior to 1998, it was illegal in Victoria, Australia, to change a lightbulb unless you were a licensed electrician.

* Before you embark upon a detox regimen, you might consider this: In 2007, an advocacy group called Sense About Science reached out to the manufacturers of 15 so-called detox products and discovered that not one could come up with a definition of what they really meant by "detox."

* Titanic director James Cameron drew that famous nude sketch of Rose in the film. (Kate Winslet wore a swimsuit for the scene.)

* The Hair Museum of Avanos, located beneath Chez Galip's pottery shop in Cappadocia, Turkey, is filled with hair samples from over 16,000 women from around the world.

* Dolly Parton once offered 7th- and 8th-graders in her hometown of Sevierville, Tennessee, a gift of \$500 if they graduated from high school, reducing the dropout rate from 30% to 6%.

* "Poecilonym" is a synonym for the word synonym.

Thought for the Day: "If life were predictable it would cease to be life, and be without flavor." -- Eleanor Roosevelt



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give the soil around it nitrogen-rich fertilizer every 2 weeks. The tallest sunflower on record was grown in 2014 in Germany, reaching 30 feet!

Sources: thelostherbs.com, countryliving.com,

guinnessworldrecords.com

- Brenda Weaver

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by Freddy Groves

Burn Pits and the PACT Act

The Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act, also known as the PACT Act, is intended to provide benefits and health care to veterans who were exposed to toxins and the subsequent illnesses from those toxins. We're talking about burn pits and other airborne substances.

The list of presumptive illnesses will expand over the next several years to include brain cancer, gastrointestinal cancer of any type, glioblastoma, head cancer of any type, kidney cancer, lymphatic cancer of any type, lymphoma of any type, melanoma, neck cancer, pancreatic cancer, reproductive cancer of any

type, respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type, asthma that was diagnosed after service, chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), chronic rhinitis, chronic sinusitis, constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis, emphysema, granulomatous disease, interstitial lung disease (ILD), pleuritis and pulmonary fibrosis, and sarcoidosis.

"Presumptive" means that if you have those conditions, and if you served in the designated locations during the specific time periods, it's understood that your service caused the illnesses. You don't need to prove it.

The act adds additional locations for Agent Orange exposure for Vietnam-era veterans, including American Samoa, Cambodia, Guam, Laos, Thailand and Johnston Atoll, all during specific dates. Remember: Sometimes just being on a ship that called at those locations will qualify you.

If you were a post-9/11 combat veteran, your eligibility to enroll in Veterans Affairs health care is extended from five years to 10 years.

And, in a big move, the act requires the VA to do a toxic exposure screening on each and every veteran using VA health care.

For more information about eligibility for care under the PACT Act, go to www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits. You'll find eligible locations listed there.

You can also call 800-698-2411 or file online at va.gov using VA Form 21-526EZ.

Even if you think you don't qualify for PACT benefits, enroll anyway in VA health care. Get a record going so it's there in the future should you need it.

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| | W | is | s h | i | n | g | | A . | W | e e | | ® |
|----|---|----|-----|---|---|---|---|-----|----|-----|---|---|
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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. TELEVISION: What is the song played at the end of the final episode of "Breaking Bad"?

2. PSYCHOLOGY: What fear is represented in the condition called pluto-phobia?

3. MOVIES: What is the name of the horse in the Disney animated movie "Tangled"?

4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of rattlesnakes called?

5. GEOGRAPHY: What is the oldest, still active volcano on Earth?

6. SCIENCE: What is the tallest type of grass?

7. LANGUAGE: What does the Greek root word "morph" mean?

8. FOOD & DRINK: What is a samovar used for?

9. MUSIC: Which Rolling Stones' hit featured the line: "Who could hang a name on you"?

10. ANATOMY: Where are suture joints found in the human body?

Answers

- 1. "Baby Blue."
- 2. Fear of wealth.
- 3. Maximus.
- 4. A rhumba.
- 5. Mount Etna, Italy.
- 6. Bamboo.
- 7. Form or shape.
- 8. An urn for making tea.
- 9. "Ruby Tuesday."
- 10. The skull.

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South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem



South Dakota: Under God, the People Rule

Public Safety Impacts All of Us

When I was younger my dad always said, "Kristi, we don't complain about things. We fix them." As Governor, I focus on fixing problems for our state every day, especially when it comes to public safety. I consistently look for new ways to make our communities safer.

I meet regularly with both Secretary Kellie Wasko in the Department of Corrections and Secretary Craig Price in the Department of Public Safety to plan how to continue improving safety in both our prisons and our entire state. Those meetings have paid off in a big way, with two big announcements for our law enforcement officers. In the last week, I was able to approve significant pay increases for security staff in our prisons and our highway patrol troopers out on the roads.

These raises are an investment in public safety for our communities. They will help us to retain the excellent officers that we already have and recruit new officers eager to give back to their communities by protecting their safety every day.

I won't sugarcoat it: staffing has been a challenge, particularly in our state prisons. The security officers who work in our corrections facilities and the law enforcement officers in the Highway Patrol deserve the same opportunities as all other employees: to take vacations, spend adequate time with their families, and avoid burnout and unnecessary work-related stress. That hasn't always been the case for a correctional officer at their post or a trooper out on the road. They often miss birthdays, weddings, or baseball games on extended shifts or mandatory overtime. I'm hopeful that these pay increases will help recruit new staff, which will help improve the work/life balance for current employees, too.

There are more challenges left to take on. Many of our prisons need to be renovated, expanded, or completely replaced. This might not be particularly exciting, but new prisons are safer prisons, which will lead to safer communities. New facilities will help us take on these challenges, and I look forward to working with the legislature to accomplish it.

These new facilities will also help us to focus on rehabilitation, assist and counsel inmates struggling with chemical dependency, and improve educational programs so they can leave prison as more productive members of society. Most inmates will someday be back in their communities, so these services are critical. We need more staff – and to improve morale – to accomplish those goals safely and effectively, and we need facilities that are equipped to achieve these goals.

I want you to watch your kids and grandkids grow up in the freest state in America knowing that they will be safe in their communities. I know we haven't "fixed it" yet (as I would tell my dad), but with these pay increases, we are one step closer to getting it done.

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Looking Ahead to the 2023 Farm Bill

It's been almost four years since the last fam bill became law – hard to believe, I know. Throughout my time in Congress, I've had the opportunity to work on four farm bills, and as I look to the next one, I hope to once again rely on South Dakota farmers and ranchers to lend their firsthand knowledge to this effort. Over the past

several months, I have held multiple roundtables across the state where I have been able to hear directly from farmers and ranchers. The ideas and information I have received through these discussions are invaluable as we begin looking ahead to crafting the 2023 farm bill.

Agriculture is the lifeblood of our economy in South Dakota, and the real experts are right here, literally in the fields, doing the hard work. As a longtime member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, advocating for farmers and ranchers remains one of my top priorities, and I am actively taking the feedback I receive and turning it into proposals that I hope to get included in the 2023 farm bill.

One issue that continuously gets brought up during my farm bill roundtables is the need to reform our country's beef labeling system. I share folks' concerns about the current labeling system for beef: It's unfair to our cattle producers, and it's misleading for consumers. South Dakota cattle producers create some of the highest quality beef in the world, and when you see a 'product of the U.S.A.' label on the grocery store shelf, it should mean just that. I introduced bipartisan legislation that would require clear and accurate labeling for beef. I am working to garner even more support in the Senate to reinstate mandatory county of origin labeling as I work to advance this important legislation.

I also have received valuable feedback about the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). It's clear that we need to continue making improvements to ensure that CRP remains an effective option for producers and landowners. In March, I introduced the CRP Improvement Act to make CRP a more attractive working-lands option by providing cost-share payments for all CRP practices for the establishment of grazing infrastructure, including fencing and water distribution. My bill would also increase the annual payment limit for CRP, which has not changed since 1985, to help account for inflation and the increase in land values. I believe that these common-sense changes would greatly improve the effectiveness of CRP, and based off the conversations I've had with folks across the state, they agree.

The life of a farmer or rancher is a challenging one. The work often starts long before the sun rises and concludes long after the sun has set. And the labor can be backbreaking. Our nation depends on South Dakota farmers and ranchers, and I am profoundly grateful for all of the determined men and women who have chosen this way of life and are committed to helping pass it on to future generations.

I am honored to represent South Dakota's farmers and ranchers in the Senate, and I will continue to do everything I can to ensure that they have the resources they need to continue to feed and fuel our nation and the world. I look forward to ensuring that the 2023 farm bill reflects the priorities of agricultural producers in South Dakota and around our great country.



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Proud of My Boys

Having a job isn't always easy, which I suppose is why they call it "work." However, you can't deny the importance of good work ethic. There isn't any reliable recipe for life success that doesn't involve a mountain of hard work.

One of the reasons I am proud of my two oldest sons is their strong work ethic. Like many teens, they're involved in a variety of summer activities. In addition to those activities, my boys work summer jobs—unlike most American teens.

This is the fourth summer that 17-year-old Max has worked at the World's Only Corn Palace giving tours and working in the gift shop. I recently snuck in to one of his tour groups and was impressed with how good he was. He was funny, confident, and knowledgeable. No matter what questions the group asked, Max was never stumped. If only Washington, D.C. had those kinds of reliable answers!

My 14-year-old Ben spent his first summer working at a fast-food restaurant selling butter burgers near the interstate. Plenty of friends tell me Ben has waited on them or has brought them their food. When I hear he is working hard and wearing a smile on his face, I couldn't be prouder. He also remembers to tell me what the frozen custard flavor of the day is, which helps me decide whether I want to pick him up from work or ask his mother to do it.

When I was growing up, almost 60% of American teens had summer jobs. In recent years, that number is closer to 30%. While there are a tremendous number of competing priorities demanding time from America's youth, I can't help but feel that those who never work during the summer are missing out.

My early work experience at the bowling alley snack bar, as a retail clerk on Main Street, and washing cars at a car dealership brought me skills and leadership lessons I still use. Minimum wage was only \$4.25, but the value of those experiences was priceless.

There are a number of ways in which our federal government makes it harder for young people to work. For example, 15-year-olds can play video games until well after midnight, but it's against the law for them to work past 7PM on a school night. I understand why there are limits on how many hours they can work and the type of positions, but current federal rules are too restrictive.

I'm working on legislation that would right-size some of these regulations. It seems to me that some in the bureaucracy view work as punishment, something we need to protect our children from. But they have it wrong. Work is opportunity. Work is a chance to learn important lessons and build a better life.

I'm proud of my sons and their hard work. I know it will put them ahead in their classes at school, their future jobs, and their life. And I look forward to making it easier for other American teens to do the same. Our children have the opportunity to have a better life than us, but that can't happen if they don't have the opportunity to value hard work.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries





The Harmonious Melody of Hummingbirds

A few months ago, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage bought a harp and began teaching herself how to play it. She can play the piano, organ, flute, and sometimes me. Now she has graduated to the harp. So I guess she's preparing for heaven, where she'll play a heavenly harp.

She was quite quick in learning how to play and I could hear her play hymns in the afternoon. I knew every hymn she played, or most of them, and quietly sang along with her. But not loud enough for her to hear.

I have no idea how to play a harp, and believe me, I will not try. Although I love music, music doesn't seem to love me.

I could sit on the porch, listen to her play and recognize the hymn she was playing. I must confess there have been a few times when I got the hymn wrong, but nobody else needs to know that.

I've always loved hymns because they really encourage my soul to trust the Lord.

The other day something happened as I was sitting out on the porch. When I went out The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage wasn't up yet, so I took a few moments to meditate and read my Bible.

Then I heard this strange humming sound. I couldn't quite identify which hymn she was playing. I assumed The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was at her harp playing that morning hymn. I wanted to sing along quietly, but I did not recognize the hymn.

Listening very intently, I still could not make out the melody she was playing on her harp. I have heard her play dozens of hymns, but I couldn't recognize the one she was playing now.

Being such a hymn lover as myself, I was getting a little irritated. I have at least a dozen hymnals in my library, and have gone through them meticulously over the years. If there's anything I know, I know my hymns.

Searching my mind, I could not come up with the name of any hymn I heard being played this morning. It could be that in my old age, I forget things. Am I beginning that slippery slope downward with my memory?

Concentrating as best I could, I was trying to understand the music. It seemed to be the same note over and over all the way through. Certainly, my wife is not starting to play contemporary music, is she?

I couldn't even understand the note that was being played, and I started feeling a little bit sorry for myself.

The thing that troubled me at the time was, how do I deal with this with my wife. How do I confess to her that I'm going wacky? Well, wackier than I have been.

I would go over in my mind all the hymns I could think of at the time. Not one of them came close to the music I was hearing. Maybe my memory was getting a little creaky, or something else was happening.

A thought then danced in my mind at the time. Maybe The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is doing this to try to play me. Perhaps she knows I listen to her playing the harp and was seeing how she could mess with me. I wouldn't put anything past her along that line.

As I contemplated on this, I saw The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage at the glass door looking out with a cup of coffee.

I was still hearing the harp being played. What in the world is going on? Have I lost my mind? How can

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I hear the harp being played when she is standing right in front of me?

She opened the door and asked me how my morning was going. I looked at her and said, "How can you be standing here and playing your harp simultaneously?"

Looking at me quizzically, she said, "What are you talking about?"

For a moment, I thought maybe she had recorded some harp music just to fool me.

"You know exactly what I mean," I said. "I hear you playing the harp, but you're standing right here in front of me. How do you explain that?"

Staring at me for a moment, she broke out in hysterical laughter. "You silly boy. I'm not playing the harp. What you are hearing are the hummingbirds behind you."

Then she laughed a lot more.

I cautiously looked behind me and there at the hummingbird feeder were three hummingbirds doing their humming thing. It sounded like music to me.

It finally came together for me. Being in such a complex situation is most embarrassing, and I didn't quite know how to escape it.

"Maybe," I said, looking at her, "you could teach these hummingbirds the words of the song so they wouldn't have to hum all the time."

"Or, maybe," she countered, "you could learn the difference between a harp and a hummingbird." I threw a sarcastic smile at her because I had nothing else to say, which was not the first time this

I threw a sarcastic smile at her because I had nothing else to say, which was not the first time this happened.

Wallowing in my grief, I happen to think of what King Solomon wrote. Proverbs 20:12, "The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them."

According to God's word, the ear and the eye work together. If I only rely upon my ear, I probably am not hearing the right thing.

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Is there any way to counter the epidemic of topsoil erosion that is plaquing farmers here in the U.S. and around the world?

-- Mary. R., Sarasota, FL

Topsoil holds a balance of organic matter, air, water and minerals and as such is the layer that facilitates life in the soil. Researchers think we have already lost upwards of a third of the topsoil that once blanketed the fertile American Midwest, and that we are losing exponentially more of it all the time.

Erosion is the vehicle for topsoil loss. The intensive the fertile American Midwest. Credit: Muffin practices of tilling, overgrazing, deforestation, leaving Creatives, pexels land barren during the off season and monocultural crop development all weaken the soil, making it more vulnerable to erosion.



We have already lost upwards of a third of the topsoil that once blanketed

The sediment from the soil lost flows downslope into waterways and as such is an environmental and public health nuisance. Farmers must then use increasing amounts of synthetic additives to make up for the lower nutrient content of their degraded soils. Without the topsoil layer, more water and more inputs are needed to grow crops.

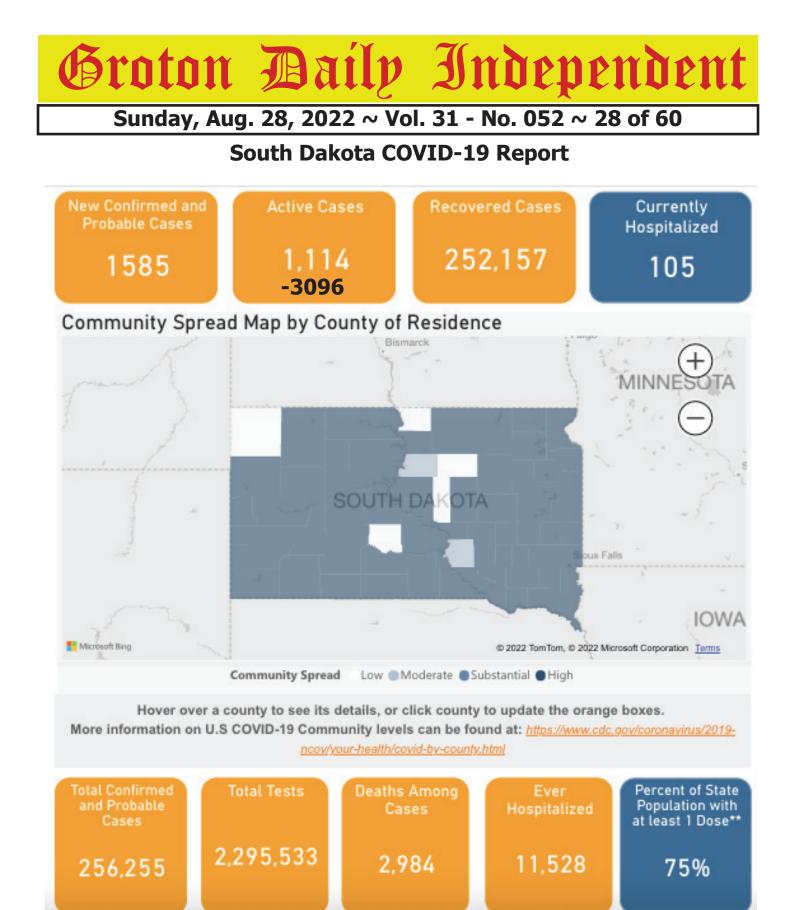
The solutions to binding topsoil and replenishing what has been lost are straightforward but time intensive, as building a small amount of soil can take decades. However, more carbon is stored in the soil than all Earth plants and atmosphere combined; it's just a matter of letting resilient ecosystems recover.

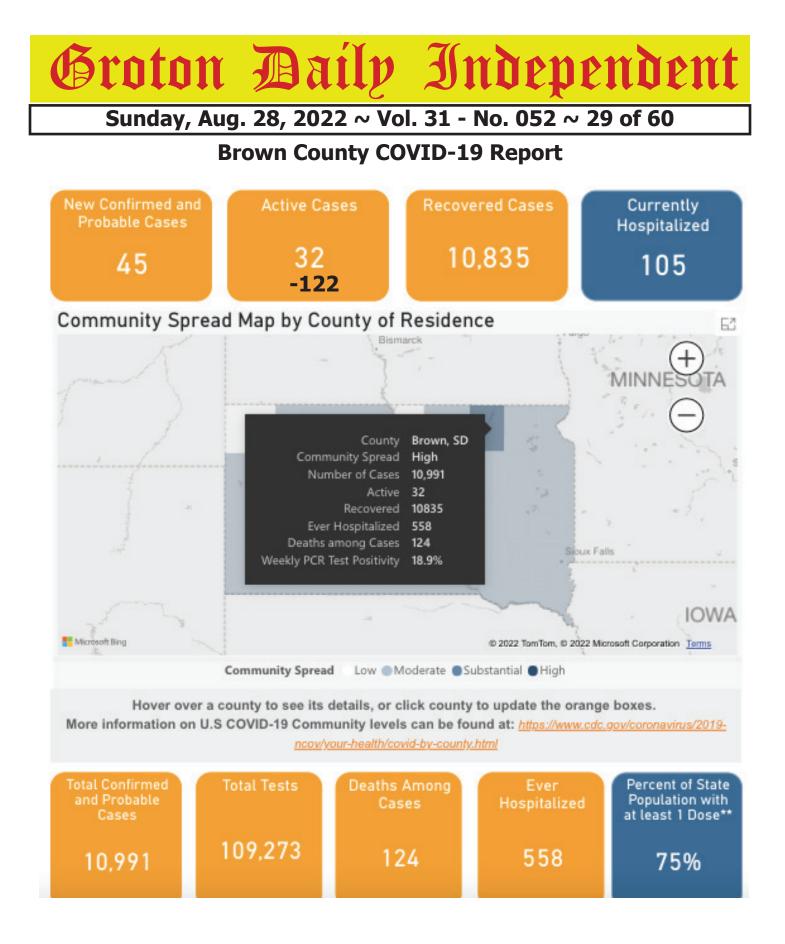
Cover crops, such as biennial and perennial legumes, cereals and forage, are inexpensive, supply soil with much needed nitrogen and bind the soil during the offseason. Giving productive land a rest period can help with topsoil loss. Rotational grazing provides time for the pasture to regenerate. Adding organic matter before and during the growing season gives the microorganisms in the soil fuel and nutrients. Planting native prairie, which are perennial plants, builds deep reaching, soil building roots.

If a farm is transitioning its practices to build soil, it takes time, which can be difficult in an industry dependent on production. Carbon building incentives are growing, in both the government and private sectors. Some farms are being creative with their resources, such as planning riparian buffer zones near waterways to hold soil and filter pollutants before they flow into the water. Farmers that are concerned about water usage in drier climates may find the slow work of soil building rewarding in the knowledge that every one percent increase in carbon means 40,000 gallons of water retained on an acre of land. Healthier soil means less water and less fertilizer needed.

The need for transition from monoculture to more perennial crops is essential for the future of food. Annual crops produce one harvest, while perennials provide a harvest year after year. Much like soil building, a perennial harvest can take time. But the long root systems build soil, require less input and water and are more resilient once they reach maturity. Indeed, agricultural researchers are hard at work hybridizing certain perennial crops to give farmers alternatives to planting wheat, corn and other monocultural annuals that degrade instead of building back our precious and fast-fading reserve of topsoil.

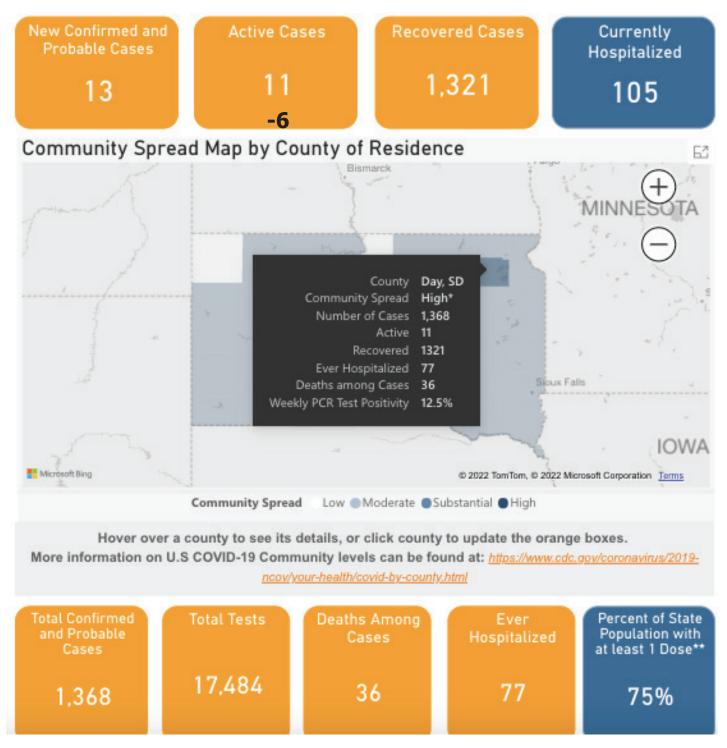
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Day County COVID-19 Report



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Ever Hospitalized

11,528

03/07/2020 - 08/22/2022

VARIANT CASES OF COVID-19 IN SOUTH DI

| 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) | 1,405 | 240 |
| Alpha (B.1.1.7) | 176 | 3 |
| Omicron (BA.2) | 143 | 131 |
| Gamma (P.1) | 4 | 1 |
| Beta (B.1.351) | 2 | 2 |

Currently Hospitalized

105 +11

SEV OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-10

| SEX UP | 20010 04 | AND TA CU | JVID-17 |
|--------|---------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| CASES | | | |
| Sex | # of Cases | # of Hospitali zations | # of Deaths Among Cases |
| Male | 120,002 | 6,006 | 1,629 |
| Female | 136,253 | 5,522 | 1,355 |
| | | | |

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

| | Race/Ethnicity | | # of Hospitaliz ations | # of Deaths | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------|------------------------------|----------------|--|--|--|--|
| L | Asian / Pacific Islander | 3,555 | 113 | 20 | | | | |
| L | Black | 6,236 | 216 | 22 | | | | |
| L | Hispanic | 10,924 | 362 | 39 | | | | |
| L | Native American | 32,687 | 1,972 | 450 | | | | |
| L | Other | 2,212 | 60 | 13 | | | | |
| | Unknown | 5,441 | 80 | 21 | | | | |
| 1 | White | 195,200 | 8,725 | 2,419 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

| AGE GROUP OF | SOUT | H DAKOTA COV | ID-19 CASE | S |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Age Range with Years | # of Cases | # of Hospitalizations | # of Deaths Among Cases | ^ |
| 0-9 years | 17,418 | 165 | 3 | |
| 10-19 years | 29,935 | 184 | 2 | |
| 20-29 years | 44,355 | 616 | 14 | |
| 30-39 years | 42,832 | 855 | 54 | |
| 40-49 years | 35,407 | 986 | 89 | |
| 50-59 years | 32,734 | 1,530 | 228 | |
| 60-69 years | 27,824 | 2,318 | 484 | |
| 70-79 years | 15,385 | 2,468 | 698 | ~ |
| 80+ years | 10,365 | 2,406 | 1,412 | |

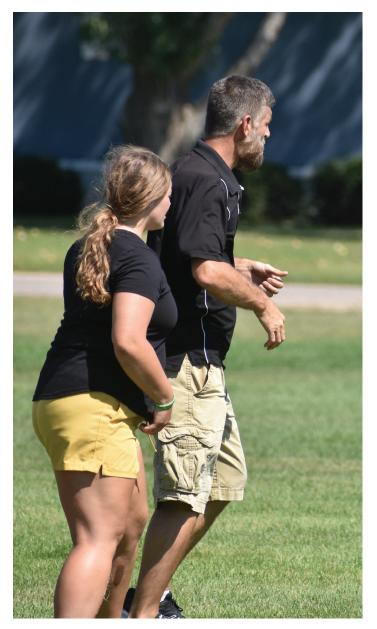
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Groton Area girls soccer team ties with Vermillion The Groton Area girls soccer team tied with Vermilion Saturday afternoon in Groton, 1-1. Emma Schinkel

The Groton Area girls soccer team tied with Vermilion Saturday afternoon in Groton, 1-1. Emma Schinkel fed the ball to Laila Roberts who kicked in the game tying goal in the first half. Vermillion did make a goal in the second half; however, the ball was considered out of bounds prior to the goal so it did not count. According to assistant coach Kaylin Kucker, "The tie with Vermillion is huge." She went on to say that with the tie, any points that Vermillion gets will now be shared with Groton and it will help Groton in the points since Vermillion plays some upper division teams. Groton Area is now 3-0-1 on the season and will host Dakota Valley on Friday at 4 p.m.



Sydney Locke (Photo by Paul Kosel)



It's a Father-Daughter coach team for the Groton Area girls soccer team. of Chris and Kaylin Kucker. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Coach Chris Kucker talks with his team during a heat time out. (Photo by Paul Kosel)





(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Jerica Locke (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Laila Roberts (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Jaedyn Penning (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Mia Crank (Photo by Paul Kosel)



(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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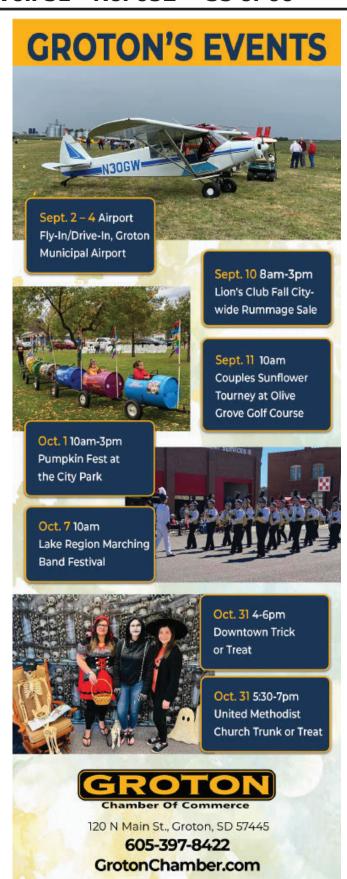
NSU ATHLETICS KICKS OFF 2022-23 SEASON WITH SEPT. 1 FOOTBALL OPENER

ABERDEEN, S.D. – This week, Northern State University athletics opens the 2022-23 season with the Sept. 1 football opener versus Upper Iowa.

The Wolves kick-off at 6 p.m. from Dacotah Bank Stadium. NSU volleyball opens their home slate at 6 p.m. Sept. 9 from Wachs Arena, while Wolves soccer hits the pitch for their first regular season home game at 6 p.m. Sept. 16 from the Athletic and Recreation Fields.

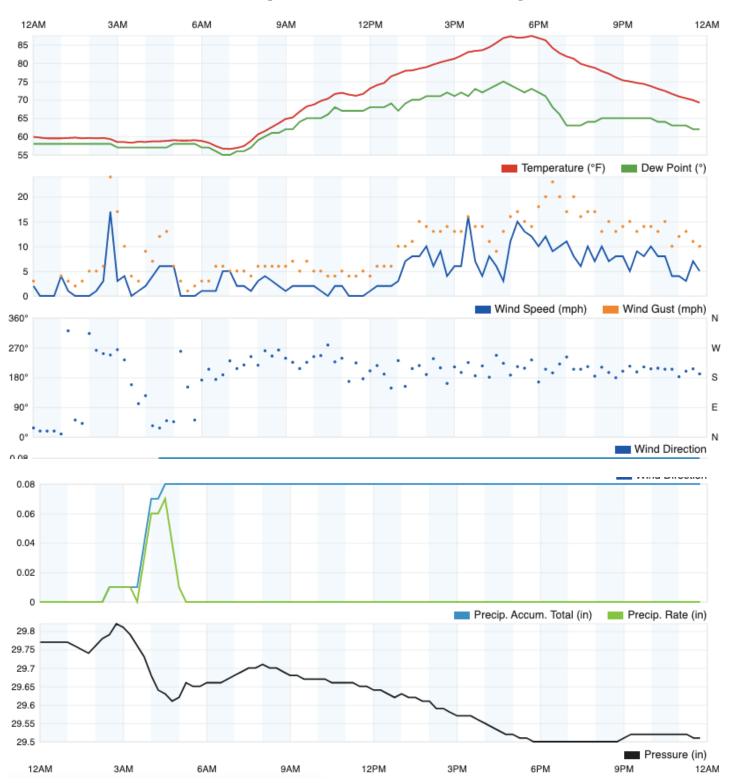
The Sept. 1 game will be a "White Out," with fans encouraged to wear white. Before the game, festivities will include a free concert, open to the public, featuring The Nashvegas All Stars. The concert starts at 3:30 p.m. at the south tailgate area.

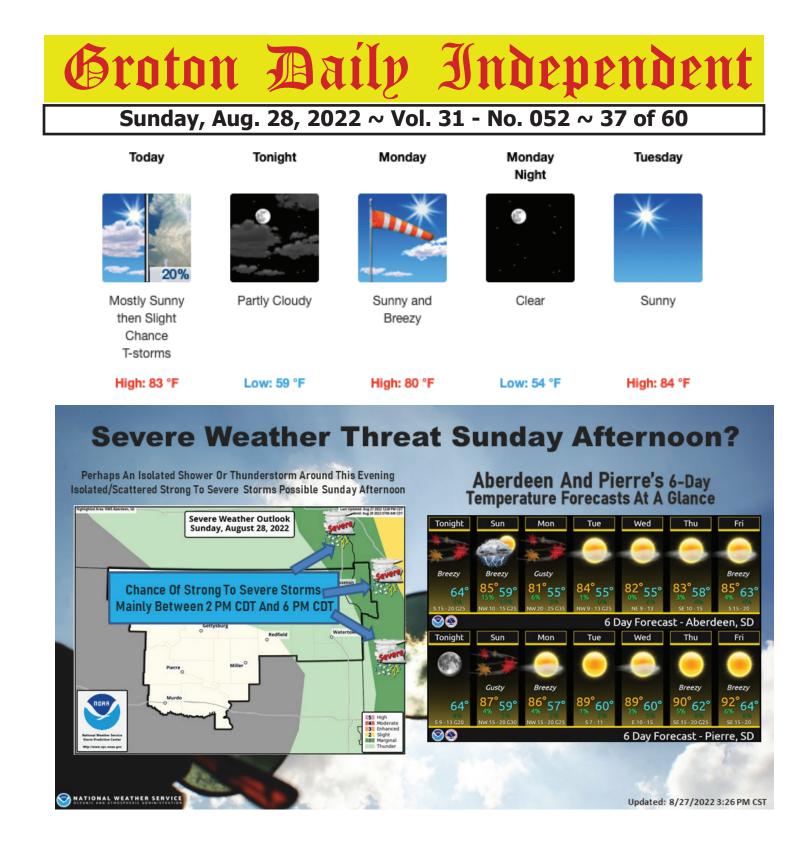
Find comprehensive fan and visitor information, including ticketing, parking, tailgating, game promotions and concessions, <u>HERE</u>. For game day live links and full promotional details, visit the <u>NSU Wolves</u> <u>Gameday page</u>.



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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs





Most of the area sees dry weather conditions tonight into Sunday. However, an isolated shower or thunderstorm is possible through late this evening, mainly across northeast South Dakota into western Minnesota. On Sunday, a cold front will sweep through the region, turning southerly winds to the northwest. As things heat up on Sunday ahead of the front, thunderstorms could begin developing across far northeast South Dakota into western Minnesota before moving further away from this region. A couple storms could become strong to severe. The rest of the forecast is dry with near normal temperatures expected to gradually warm up heading into the beginning of September.

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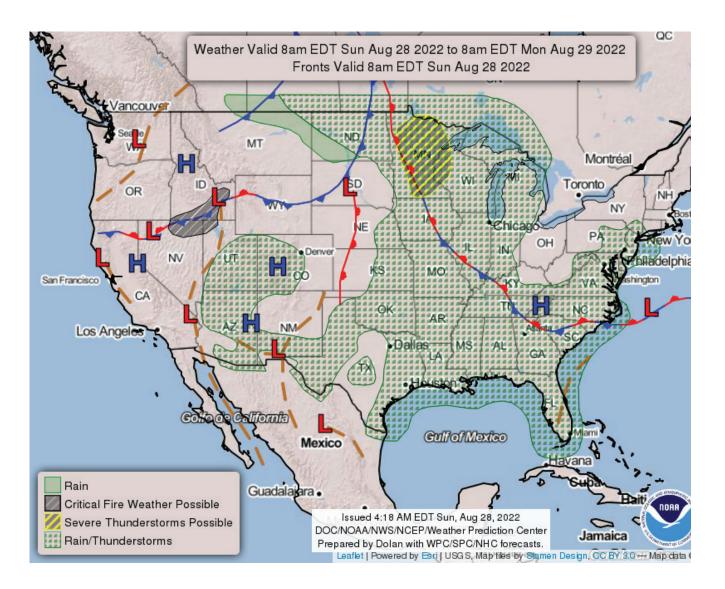
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 87.4 °F at 5:45 PM Low Temp: 56.6 °F at 7:00 AM Wind: 24 mph at 2:45 AM Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 13 hours, 31 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 104 in 1937 Record Low: 31 in 1893 Average High: 81°F Average Low: 54°F Average Precip in Aug.: 2.03 Precip to date in Aug.: 1.42 Average Precip to date: 16.13 Precip Year to Date: 15.96 Sunset Tonight: 8:19:12 PM Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:49:06 AM



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Today in Weather History

August 28, 2011: Several thunderstorms tracking southeast across the region brought large hail along with damaging winds to parts of the area. Golf ball hail broke some windows on several homes and the church in Herried in Campbell County. Colossal hail up to three inches in diameter caused some vehicle and siding damage in Tolstoy, in Potter County. In Redfield, seventy mph winds downed a tree along with many large tree branches. Also, the metal on a roof was peeled back.

1898 - Torrents of rain accompanied by a furious wind upset the rain gage at Fort Mohave AZ. However, water in a wash tub set out on the mesa, clear of everything, measured eight inches after the 45 minute storm. (The Weather Channel)

1911 - Saint George, GA, was deluged with 18.00 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1959 - Lieutenant Colonel William Rankin bailed out of his plane at a height of 46,000 feet into a violent thunderstorm, and lived to write about the 45 minute journey (which normally would have been a thirteen minute descent). He described it as one of the most bizarre and painful experiences imaginable. (The Weather Channel)

1971 - Heavy rains from Tropical Storm Doria caused devastating floods in central and northeast New Jersey resulting in 138 million dollars damage. In southeastern Pennsylvania, high winds downed trees and power lines, and in New York City, heavy rains flooded streets and subways. (David Ludlum)

1973: An F4 tornado touched down near Canaan, New York, and moved to western Massachusetts. Three people were killed in West Stockbridge, Massachusetts when a truck stop was destroyed, and another person died in a ruined house nearby.

1986 - The temperature at Apalachicola, FL, dipped to 62 degrees to shatter their previous August record by four degrees, having tied their August record high of 99 degrees on the 2nd of the month. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms broke the heat in the southeastern U.S. and the Gulf Coast Region, but not before seven cities reported record high temperatures for the date. The severe thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 80 mph downing large trees around Horse Shoe NC, and pelted southeastern Meridian MS with hail two inches in diameter. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Tropical Storm Chris spawned a tornado near Manning, SC, which killed one person, and spawned three tornadoes in North Carolina. Chris produced one to two foot tides, and three to six inch rains, over coastal South Carolina. Severe thunderstorms in New York State and Vermont, developing ahead of a cold front, spawned a tornado which killed one person at Hector NY, produced tennis ball size hail at Brandon VT, and produced wind gusts to 80 mph at Lyndonville VT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Early morning thunderstorms in Nebraska produced 4.50 inches of rain around McCook, and 4.65 inches near Auburn and Brownville. Showers in Montana pushed the rainfall total for the month at Havre past the previous August record of 3.90 inches. (The National Weather Summary)

1990: Between 3:15 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. a devastating F5 tornado ripped a 16.4 mile-long path through portions of Kendall and Will counties in northern Illinois. A total of 29 people were killed, and 350 more were injured. An estimated \$160 million in damages occurred. The tornado's path width ranged from 200 yards to half a mile. A total of 470 homes were destroyed, and another 1000 homes were damaged. Sixty-five thousand customers lost power.

2005: Hurricane Katrina attained Category 5 status on the morning of August 28 and reached its peak strength at 1800 UTC that day, with maximum sustained winds of 175 mph and a minimum central pressure of 902 mbars (26.6 inHg).

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🌮 Our Daily Bread. 🛛 Love God. Love Others.

Love and Lean on God

Scripture: Ruth 1:11–19 (NIV)

11 But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? 12 Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— 13 would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord's hand has turned against me!"

14 At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

15 "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." 16 But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." 18 When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

19 So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?".

Insight By: Bill Crowder

Moab, to which Naomi and her family fled to escape the famine in Bethlehem (Ruth 1:1), was perpetually seen as Israel's enemy. Yet, Moab was also a nation of distant relatives to the people of Israel. Whereas Israel traced their lineage to Abraham, the patriarch of Moab was Lot, Abraham's nephew. Following the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, where Lot had taken up residence, Moab and Ben-Ammi (Ammon) were born to Lot following his sinful relations with his daughters (see Genesis 19:37–38). Both Moab and Ammon would become enemies of Israel and a source of no small struggle for God's chosen people..

Comment

Zach was funny, smart, and well-liked. But he secretly struggled with depression. After he committed suicide at age fifteen, his mom, Lori, said of him, "It's just hard to comprehend how someone that had so much going for him would come to that point. Zach... was not exempt from suicide." There are moments in the quiet when Lori pours out her sorrow to God. She says that the deep sadness after suicide is "a whole different level of grief." Yet she and her family have learned to lean on God and others for strength, and now they're using their time to love others who are grappling with depression.

Lori's motto has become "Love and lean." This idea is also seen in the Old Testament story of Ruth. Naomi lost her husband and two sons—one who was married to Ruth (Ruth 1:3–5). Naomi, bitter and depressed, urged Ruth to return to her mother's family where she could be cared for. Ruth, though also grieving, "clung" to her mother-in-law and committed to staying with her and caring for her (vv. 14–17). They returned to Bethlehem, Naomi's homeland, where Ruth would be a foreigner. But they had each other to love and lean on, and God provided for them (2:11–12).

During our times of grief, God's love remains steady. We always have Him to lean on as we also lean on and love others in His strength.

Reflect and Prayer: What does it mean for you to lean on God during your times of grief? Who may need your support right now?

Father, I'm grateful for Your faithful love and care for me. Use me to encourage others to trust You.

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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) 09/11/2022: 6th Annual Doggie Day at the Swimming Pool 3-5pm 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 Julv) 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 03-15-17-20-34 (three, fifteen, seventeen, twenty, thirty-four) Estimated jackpot: \$39,000 Lotto America 05-09-19-34-51, Star Ball: 2, ASB: 2 (five, nine, nineteen, thirty-four, fifty-one; Star Ball: two; ASB: two) Estimated jackpot: \$20,530,000 Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: 153,000,000 Powerball 02-18-56-60-65, Powerball: 14, Power Play: 3 (two, eighteen, fifty-six, sixty, sixty-five; Powerball: fourteen; Power Play: three) Estimated jackpot: \$124,000,000

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press PREP FOOTBALL Sioux Falls O'Gorman 55, Brandon Valley 20 Standing Rock, N.D. 40, Red Cloud 37 Tripp-Delmont/Armour/Andes Central/Dakota Christian 37, Lakota Tech 20 West Central 43, Custer 0

PREP VOLLEYBALL Pierre def. Rapid City Central, 25-15, 25-9, 25-11 Canton Tournament= Canton def. Garretson, 25-21, 25-23 Lennox def. Garretson, 25-13, 25-14 Vermillion def. Garretson, 25-16, 25-13 West Sioux, Iowa def. Garretson, 25-9, 25-10 Custer Tournament= Custer def. Edgemont, 26-24, 25-21 Edgemont def. Newell, 26-24, 25-19 Edgemont def. Pine Ridge, 25-13, 25-23 Hot Springs def. Red Cloud, 25-16, 25-11 Lead-Deadwood def. Red Cloud, 22-25, 25-19, 25-21 Red Cloud def. Todd County, 25-11, 25-11 Huron Invitational= Brandon Valley def. Sturgis Brown, 25-12, 25-4 Brookings def. Douglas, 25-15, 25-15 Chester def. Brandon Valley, 25-13, 20-25, 25-19 Chester def. Sturgis Brown, 25-11, 25-11 Harrisburg def. Brookings, 25-15, 25-14

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Harrisburg def. Douglas, 25-17, 25-23 Harrisburg def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 19-25, 25-20, 25-22 Harrisburg def. Sturgis Brown, 25-11, 25-10 Huron def. Brandon Valley, 25-18, 22-25, 25-21 Huron def. Chester, 25-15, 20-25, 26-24 Huron def. Spearfish, 25-20, 25-11 Huron def. Sturgis Brown, 25-13, 25-11 Mitchell def. Brookings, 25-22, 25-23 Mitchell def. Spearfish, 25-12, 13-25, 25-20 Sioux Falls Christian def. Douglas, 25-10, 25-14 Sioux Falls Christian def. Mitchell, 25-17, 25-16 Sioux Falls Christian def. Spearfish, 25-15, 25-12 Sioux Falls Christian def. Watertown, 25-21, 25-27, 25-17 Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Brookings, 25-14, 25-16 Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Chester, 25-22, 25-15 Watertown def. Brandon Valley, 25-21, 29-27 Watertown def. Mitchell, 25-22, 17-25, 25-21 Watertown def. Spearfish, 25-20, 25-16 Irene Wakonda Tournament= Ethan def. Canistota, 25-10, 25-21 Ethan def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-23, 27-25 Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Ethan, 25-22, 25-13 Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Flandreau Indian, 25-9, 25-11 Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Gayville-Volin, 25-13, 26-24 Irene-Wakonda Invite= Beresford def. Centerville, 25-23, 25-18 Beresford def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-15, 25-15 Canistota def. Tri-Valley, 25-16, 16-25, 26-24 Centerville def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-7, 26-24 Elk Point-Jefferson def. Canistota, 25-8, 25-16 Elk Point-Jefferson def. Flandreau Indian, 25-3, 25-6 Elk Point-Jefferson def. Gayville-Volin, 25-13, 26-24 Gayville-Volin def. Scotland, 25-8, 26-24 Kimball/White Lake def. Centerville, 25-10, 25-16 Kimball/White Lake def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-14, 25-18 Menno def. Beresford, 25-13, 25-12, 25-13 Menno def. Flandreau Indian, 25-9, 25-9 Scotland def. Menno, 25-21, 25-22 Tri-Valley def. Kimball/White Lake, 25-15, 25-21 Tri-Valley def. Scotland, 25-16, 22-25, 25-22 Championship= Elk Point-Jefferson def. Sioux Falls Lutheran, 25-8, 25-19 Semifinal= Beresford def. Sioux Falls Lutheran, 23-25, 25-13, 26-24 Elk Point-Jefferson def. Ethan, 25-7, 25-23 Norfolk Tournament= Pool A= Kearney, Neb. def. Yankton, 25-23, 25-18 Parkston Tournament= Northwestern def. Parkston, 25-19, 25-18

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Wagner def. Northwestern, 24-26, 25-21, 25-20 Warner def. McCook Central/Montrose, 25-18, 25-17 Warner def. Northwestern, 25-13, 25-15 Warner def. Parkston, 25-17, 25-12 Warner def. Wagner, 25-19, 25-17 Rapid City Christian Tournament= Rapid City Christian def. Hill City, 16-25, 25-23, 25-17 Rapid City Christian def. Madison, 25-23, 25-21 Rapid City Christian def. St. Thomas More, 25-11, 25-10 Redhawk Tournament= Estelline/Hendricks def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-22, 25-13 Estelline/Hendricks def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-17, 25-13 Estelline/Hendricks def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-12, 25-8

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

Cities near Ukrainian nuclear plant shelled

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian rocket and artillery strikes hit areas across the Dnieper River from Europe's largest nuclear power plant, Ukrainian officials said Sunday, as fears persisted that fighting in the vicinity could damage the plant and cause a radiation leak.

Russian forces took control of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant soon after the war began and hold adjacent territory along the left bank of the wide river. Ukraine controls the right bank, including the cities of Nikopol and Marhanets, each of them about 10 kilometers (six miles) from the plant.

Heavy firing during the night left parts of Nikopol without electricity, said Valentyn Reznichenko, governor of the Dnipropetrovsk region. Rocket strikes damaged about a dozen residences in Marhanets, according to Yevhen Yevtushenko, the administration head for the district that includes the city of about 45,000.

The city of Zaporizhzhia, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) upriver from the nuclear plant, also came under fire during the night, wounding two people, city council member Anatoliy Kurtev said.

In eastern Ukraine, where Russian and separatist forces are trying to take control, shelling hit the large and strategically significant cities of Kramatorsk and Sloviansk, but no casualties were reported, said Pavlo Kyrylenko, governor of the Donetsk region.

Much of the Donetsk region is held by Russian and separatist forces. It is one of two Ukrainian regions that Russia has recognized as sovereign states.

Authorities last week began distributing iodine tablets to residents who live near the Zaporizhzhia plant in case of radiation exposure, which can cause health problems.

Much of the concern centers on the cooling systems for the plant's nuclear reactors. The systems require power to run, and the plant was temporarily knocked offline Thursday because of what officials said was fire damage to a transmission line. A cooling system failure could cause a nuclear meltdown.

Russian forces occupied the nuclear plant complex early in the 6-month-old war, but local Ukrainian workers have kept it running. The Ukrainian and Russian governments have repeatedly accused the other of shelling the complex and nearby areas, raising fears of a possible catastrophe.

Periodic shelling has damaged the power station's infrastructure, Ukraine's nuclear power operator, Energoatom, said Saturday. "There are risks of hydrogen leakage and sputtering of radioactive substances, and the fire hazard is high," it said.

The U.N.'s atomic energy agency has tried to work out an agreement to send a team in to inspect and help secure the plant. Officials said preparations for the visit were underway, but it remained unclear when it might take place.

Follow AP's coverage of the war in Ukraine at https://apnews.com/hub/russia-ukraine

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Medic who cared for Mariupol wounded heads for Ukraine front

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KHARKIV, Ukraine (AP) — For 22 days, Serhiy Chornobryvets barely slept and rarely took off his red paramedic uniform. Day and night, he raced around his hometown of Mariupol, rescuing those wounded by the Russian bombs and shells that pummeled the southern Ukrainian city.

When he finally escaped Mariupol — whose residents endured some of the worst suffering of the war during a nearly three-month siege — he still did not rest. Instead, he joined an organization that sends medics to the front lines in eastern Ukraine, where the fighting is currently concentrated.

"Me before Mariupol and me after what happened: It's two different people," the skinny, fresh-faced 24-year-old said during a recent interview with The Associated Press in Kharkiv, another city that has endured intense bombardment.

"If I had not survived Mariupol, I would not have gone to work as a paramedic now. I wouldn't have had enough courage," explained Chornobryvets, who is simply called "Mariupol" on the battlefield and now wears a patch that bears the symbol of the port city, a yellow anchor, on his camouflage uniform.

In fact, he could see no other way of making sense of the horrors he witnessed in a place that became a worldwide symbol of Ukrainian resistance to Russia's invasion. Residents suffered relentless bombardment, many trapped without food, water, heat or electricity.

"It was like going back to the Stone Age," Chornobryvets said. "There was looting, constant shelling, planes, aerial bombardment. People around us were losing their minds, but we got on with our work."

While many hid in basements or bomb shelters, Chornobryvets said he never did. He stayed above ground to tend to the wounded — all while risking his own life. He finally fled on March 18 — his birthday — still in his red paramedic's overalls.

His tireless efforts were publicly praised by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, when the leader accepted an award in May from the Atlantic Council, the Washington-based think tank, on behalf of the Ukrainian people.

Chornobryvets said that his new work on the front and what he did in Mariupol were almost indistinguishable: "Same wounds, only I'm wearing a different uniform."

In footage from July, he and his fellow medics can be seen rushing toward a soldier hit by Russian fire. They tightened a tourniquet around the man's right thigh, and then carefully tended to a gaping wounds in an arm and a leg, where the bone was exposed.

He has a year left of college to finish — but resists making plans for the future. Until the war is won, he has vowed to stay on the battlefield.

"Medicine is my life, and my duty is to save people," said Chornobryvets.

He dreams of one day returning to Mariupol, which fell to the Russians in May, but tries not to think about it too much because it's too painful.

"My soul will calm down when I enter Mariupol — and the Ukrainian flag is flying over it," he said.

Strike deadlock shuts Nigerian universities for months

By CHINEDU ASADU Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Adenekan Ayomide had been attending the University of Abuja for two years when the lecturers went on strike in February. The 27-year-old undergraduate student hoped he would return to school quickly but immediately took a job as a taxi driver to pay bills.

Unfortunately for him, the strike by the Academic Staff Union of Universities has now clocked six months and Ayomide's hopes of returning to classes anytime soon grow thin.

"Nobody is talking about school again," said Ayomide, who said he is working more than one job and the budget he had for getting through university now looks unrealistic.

University strikes are common in Nigeria, which has more than 100 public universities and an estimated 2.5 million students, according to Nigeria's National Universities Commission. The universities here have recorded at least 15 strikes covering a cumulative period of four years since 2000.

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The latest strike, however, is biting harder on an education sector that is struggling to recover from a COVID-19 lockdown and an earlier strike that lasted for most of 2020.

No alternative means of learning is provided for students because "more than 90%" of lecturers in Nigerian universities are members of the academic staff union, according to Haruna Lawal Ajo, director of public affairs at Nigeria's universities commission.

The striking lecturers are demanding a review of their conditions of service including the platform the government uses to pay their earnings, improved funding for the universities and the payment of their salaries withheld since the strike started.

Talks between the lecturers and the government ended in deadlock this month, dashing hopes of a compromise agreement.

Lecturers have faulted the government's position, arguing that the government has still not provided higher pay for lecturers and more funds for the education sector which it agreed to in 2009.

If the government has not fulfilled a promise made in 2009 by 2022, how can it be trusted? asked Femi Atteh, a lecturer at the University of Ilorin in northcentral Kwara state who now works with his wife to run a food retail business.

"I just see ASUU (the union) trying to fight for the rights of its people. ... Nigerian lecturers are far behind in terms of welfare when compared to others," said Atteh.

Atteh said some of his colleagues are moving abroad for better opportunities and improved pay.

"Our situation in this country is just in a sorry state," said lecturer Sabi Sani at the University of Abuja. After 12 years of teaching, Sani said his monthly salary is "not even enough to pay my children's school fees."

He said that when "more lecturers realize they can migrate, we will be left with unqualified lecturers to teach our children (because) all the qualified ones will run away."

It is not just lecturers who are eyeing relocation for better opportunities.

Amidat Ahmed, a 22-year-old economics student at the University of Abuja said the strike has prevented her from getting clearance that would see her wrap up her undergraduate studies in the school because lectures are not available. She is now considering going abroad for a fresh undergraduate degree program.

"My life is stagnant," said Ahmed who said she is working two jobs including one as a shoemaker where she is learning the skill to set up a business later in life.

It is a case of using the lemons to make lemonade, she said.

"Apart from this (learning the shoe-making trade), I don't think I have done anything with my life all this while and it has been six months."

Across Nigeria, students are looking for work to survive. Rent and other bills have accumulated, making things worse for many from poor backgrounds in this nation with a 40% poverty rate, according to the latest government statistics.

Some students' financial situation is better when school is in session as a small proportion of the students get funding provided by nonprofits and government agencies.

After the latest round of talks to end the strike was unsuccessful, Ayomide remained on the roads as a taxi driver.

"I don't have 5 naira (\$0.012) in my account and I cannot go home because there is no money," said Ayomide. His only option is to work long hours, he said. "Sometimes, I sleep at the airport or inside the car."

"We just have to double our hustle and hope for the best," he said. "This is the country where we are, so we have no choice."

MTV VMAs ready to host, honor some of music's biggest acts

NEW YORK (AP) — The MTV Video Music Awards are back Sunday with some of the biggest names in music vying for the network's fabled Moon Person statue.

Lil Nas X, Jack Harlow and Kendrick Lamar are tied for leading nominees with seven apiece. Harlow and Lil Nas X's collaboration "Industry Baby" propelled their nominations, landing them in competition for artist

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of the year along with Drake, Bad Bunny, Ed Sheeran, Harry Styles and Lizzo.

Closely behind are Harry Styles and Doja Cat, who received six nominations apiece, while Sheeran, Billie Eilish, Drake, Dua Lipa, Tayler Swift and The Weeknd each have five.

Harlow is pulling double duty, joining LL Cool J and Nicki Minaj as the show's emcees. The VMAs are being being held at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey, and will air beginning at 8 p.m. Eastern.

Minaj will perform hits from throughout her career and accept the show's video vanguard award, which MTV has said she's receiving for her artistry, barrier-breaking hip-hop and status as a global superstar. The honor is named after Michael Jackson.

Eminem, Snoop Dogg, the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Bad Bunny are also set to perform

Madonna, who is the most awarded artist in MTV history with 20 wins, becomes the only artist to receive a nomination in each of the VMAs five decades. She earned her 69th nomination for her 14th studio album "Madame X."

Lamar returns to the VMAs as a nominee for the first time since 2018, with nods for best hip-hop, direction, visual effects, editing, and a category known as video for good, while his songs "family ties" and "N95" are competing for best cinematography.

At 90, the Venice Film Festival looks better than ever

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

Cinema's biggest stars just seem to shine a bit brighter at the Venice International Film Festival, which begins this week in the Northern Italian city.

Think of Lady Gaga, a woman who has never shied away from a grand entrance, somehow topping even herself delicately perched over the edge of a moving water taxi and vamping for the cameras like a classic screen siren. Or Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck evoking old Hollywood glamour to make their official debut as a couple just last year.

Whether you're a celebrity gliding down the red carpet in front of hundreds of flashing cameras or an onlooker an ocean away daydreaming about Timothée Chalamet's crystal-studded Haider Ackermann suit, or that electric moment between non-couple Jessica Chastain and Oscar Isaac, it is the kind of occasion that ignites the imagination. And that's all before you even step inside the theater.

For director and actor Olivia Wilde, the dream of Venice was woven into the fabric of her new film, "Don't Worry Darling." Ending up at the festival became a shorthand for the type of movie she wanted to make.

"We had several studios and streamers who wanted to make this film and I sat down with all of them and I said, 'The path that I see leads us to Venice. Which one of you understands what kind of movie were making based on that dream?" Wilde said. "To me, a Venice film is a film that really embraces everything that is ambitious and romantic and beautiful about cinema. And this film is truly a love letter to movies."

Wilde went with New Line and Warner Bros. and her wish came true: The stylish psychological thriller starring Florence Pugh and Harry Styles as a picture-perfect couple in an experimental postwar community will have its world debut out of competition on Sept. 5.

Styles, Pugh and Wilde are just some of the stars expected to pose on the docks outside of the opulent Hotel Excelsior and grace the red carpet outside of the Palazzo del Cinema. Their presence, alongside lifetime achievement recipient Catherine Deneuve, Hugh Jackman, Tilda Swinton, Penelope Cruz, Chalamet and many others, helps transform the Lido, the laid-back beach town across the Venetian Lagoon from St. Mark's Square, into a bastion of glamour, fantasy and cinema on the Adriatic.

This year's festival is stacked with highly anticipated films and performances in the main competition slate: Ana de Armas is making her debut as Marilyn Monroe in Andrew Dominik's "Blonde "; Brendan Fraser's turn in Darren Aronofsky's new film "The Whale" is already being hailed as an awards-worthy comeback; and Cate Blanchett is playing a renowned conductor in "TÁR," director Todd Field's first film in over 15 years.

"Todd Field is as major a film artist as has ever been," said Peter Kujawski, the chairman of Focus Features. "And what Cate is doing with the character, without saying too much, is just something you don't see executed on this level very often."

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The festival, which began in 1932 and is heading into its 79th edition, officially begins Wednesday night with the premiere of Noah Baumbach's adaptation of Don DeLillo's seminal novel "White Noise," starring Adam Driver and Greta Gerwig.

"White Noise" is one of four high-profile Netflix films hoping to make a splash at the festival, which is an important platform not just for the streaming service, but for all Oscar hopefuls. Baumbach's last Venice film, "Marriage Story," went on to get six Oscar nominations and win one for Laura Dern, who is also returning this year in Florian Zeller's "The Son." It's the first of many fall festivals that will refine the awards conversation for the rest of the year.

Field, Baumbach, Aronofsky and Zeller are also among a slew of filmmakers with good Oscar track records who are making their first stop at Venice in competition: There's also Martin McDonagh's Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson friendship drama "The Banshees of Inisherin"; Alejandro G. Iñárritu's comedy "Bardo, or False Chronicle of a Handful of Truths"; and Luca Guadagnino's cannibal romance "Bones and All," which reunites the Italian director with Chalamet.

There are also two narrative debuts from documentarians Frederick Wiseman ("A Couple") and Alice Diop ("Saint Omer") that are among the 23 films vying for the Golden Lion. The coveted award will be decided on by a jury led by Julianne Moore and presented at the festival's close on Sept. 10.

Participant Media CEO David Linde, a 30-year veteran of the festival, wanted Venice specifically for the debut of two high-profile documentaries: Oscar-winner Laura Poitras' "All the Beauty and the Bloodshed," about photographer Nan Goldin's fight against the Sackler family, which is playing in competition, as well as Steve James' "A Compassionate Spy," about nuclear physicist Ted Hall.

"The opportunity to bring people to the festival is something I treasure," Linde said. "This is really about three great American artists coming to Venice: Laura, Nan and Steve."

Venice may not always produce the best picture winner, though there are some like "Birdman," "Spotlight," "The Shape of Water" and "Nomadland," and many more nominees. But it has become a reliable launching pad for the eventual best director winner, claiming nine in the past decade alone including Silver Lion winner Jane Campion earlier this year.

The films go beyond Hollywood too, of course, with the entire slate boasting works from some 59 countries including several Oscar hopefuls, like Santiago Mitre's "Argentina, 1985" and Romain Gavras' "Athena."

The festival is putting a spotlight on both the war in Ukraine, with a devoted day and the premiere of Evgeny Afineevsky's documentary about the war, as well as plight of persecuted directors around the world, like imprisoned Iranian director Jafar Panahi whose film "No Bears" is among the competition titles.

And the slate is not without some potential controversy either: They will also host the premiere of "Call of God," from the late South Korean filmmaker Kim Ki-duk, a past Venice-winner who was also accused of sexual assault.

But after two scaled back editions, it is mostly excitement in the air. The Venice Film Festival is the kind of place that enchants whether you're a first-timer or an industry veteran.

Maybe it's the romanticism of Northern Italy or the sense of occasion that comes with being part of the world's oldest film festival. It could be the desire to step it up a notch to bid farewell to the bombast of the summer movie season and welcome in the more adult fare of the fall. Or perhaps it's the delightful unpredictability of a festival that one year awards its top prize to "Joker," helping establish Todd Phillips' big studio comic book film as a serious awards contender, and another year to "Happening," a small French drama about abortion.

"You go in both with a sense of purpose and excitement for whatever film you're bringing, but I think all of us in in the community share the other aspect of it that you also just go in giddy as a fan. Every single thing you might sit down and watch is going to be a thoughtful, meaningful, truly wonderful moviegoing experience," Kujawski said. "That's the magic of Venice."

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Bills release punter Matt Araiza after gang rape allegation By JOHN WAWROW AP Sports Writer

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — A major public backlash coupled with the graphic details contained in a lawsuit alleging Matt Araiza's involvement in a gang rape of a teenager last fall, left Buffalo Bills general manager Brandon Beane little choice but to release the team's rookie punter on Saturday.

The decision to cut ties with the 22-year-old represents a major reversal for the Bills, coming two days after they backed the player based on the findings of what the team called its "thorough examination" of the allegations filed in the lawsuit.

And it comes less than a week after the Bills — while aware he was the target of a police investigation — cleared the way for Araiza to take over the punting duties by cutting returning veteran Matt Haack on Monday.

"The last 48 hours have been very difficult for a lot of people. It's been tough. And we sympathize with this whole situation, all the parties involved, this young woman, what she went through," Beane said during a 26-minute news conference, while seated alongside coach Sean McDermott.

"But at this time, we just think it's the best move for everyone to move on from Matt and let him take care of this situation and focus on that. So, we're gonna part ways there," Beane added.

Beane said the Bills were not aware of the allegations made against Araiza at the time they selected him in the sixth round of the draft in April. And had they known, he said, they would have removed him from consideration.

Araiza's release begins to ease a crisis which has shaken the two-time AFC East champions. McDermott was visibly upset while discussing the situation following a 21-0 preseason loss at Carolina on Friday night.

"I'm hurt," McDermott said. "It's not easy to to hear about some of the things that I've heard about over the last several hours say. Haven't slept a lot to be honest with you."

The Bills began distancing themselves from Araiza as early as Friday, when he was held out from playing. He instead watched the game from an undisclosed location in the stadium rather than from the sideline along with his teammates.

On Saturday, Araiza was not present for practice even though the Bills said he was on his roster, while at the same time his No. 19 jersey was no longer available for sale on the Bills' online store after being listed earlier in the day.

Araiza's only comment since the lawsuit was filed came in a statement released by his agent during the game Friday.

"The facts of the incident are not what they are portrayed in the lawsuit or in the press. I look forward to quickly setting the record straight," Araiza said.

In a text to The Associated Press, Araiza's lawyer, Kerry Armstrong, defended his client by writing: "I am sure he is very upset and disappointed that his career with the Bills ended not because he played poorly, but because of false allegations leveled against him by a young lady and her attorney. I hope he is back in the NFL soon."

The victim's lawyer Dan Gilleon issued his own statement by saying the Bills ignored concerns he raised about Araiza when contacting the team in late July.

"The Buffalo Bills had no choice but to cut their young punter after so badly botching their response to our claim," Gilleon said. "They ignored us, (when) I warned them would happen could be avoided if they just kept their heads in the sand. This is what enablers do."

Beane said the team did as much as it could in getting as many details as possible, while noting many of the allegations were unavailable because the results of the San Diego police investigation has not been released. He said the team decided not to "rush to judgment" based on the information it had, while noting Araiza never changed his version of what happened.

"You want to give everyone as much due process as you can. Again, we're not a judge and a jury," Beane said.

The lawsuit filed in San Diego County Superior Court accused Araiza and two San Diego State teammates of raping a then-17-year-old girl at a Halloween party at an off-campus home where Araiza had been living.

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The results of the police investigation are in the hands of the district attorney, though there is no timeline as to when a decision will be made on whether or not to press charges.

Executives from two different teams told The Associated Press they became aware of Araiza's involvement in an incident during the draft process, but neither person knew the extent of the allegations. Executives from three other teams said they had no knowledge of the allegations against Araiza before the draft and only learned of the incident Thursday. All the people spoke to The AP on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Beane said it was unclear who — Araiza or the victim's lawyer, Gilleon — first informed the team of the allegations. As for the decision to not contact Gilleon for more information, Beane said the team's attorney, Kathryn D'Angelo, "had heard what he had to say, and that's when we began our process."

Beane said Araiza's version of what happened never changed.

"We're not perfect. But I can tell you, we just tried to do what was right," Beane said. "In our heart of hearts, I can lay my head down at night knowing that I've tried to do what's right."

The Bills also informed the NFL of the incident once they were made aware of it, a person familiar with the situation told The AP. The person, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the matter, wasn't certain of the timeline.

The NFL declined to comment except to say it was aware of the matter.

Police video of fatal encounter shows lack of de-escalation

By ANDREW SELSKY Associated Press

A caller to 911 in Salt Lake City said a man had come into a brewery in his underwear, tried to steal beer and was running around in the street, posing a danger to himself and to drivers. Police tried to detain the man. Soon, Nykon Brandon was dead.

After the Salt Lake City Police Department on Friday released body-camera footage of the Aug. 14 fatal encounter and the 911 recording, activists on Saturday were asking why an unarmed person wound up dead and were accusing police of using disproportionate force.

"Stealing a beer does not equate to the death penalty," said Lex Scott, founder of Black Lives Matter-Utah. "I don't care if this man robbed 10 banks in one day. He didn't deserve to die. He deserved to make it to court."

The death of Brandon, who was 35, comes as the United States is still seeing uncounted numbers of police killings of unarmed people, many of whom were suffering a mental health crisis. Activists have called for reforms, saying rather than armed police who can often escalate situations, a better solution would be for special mental health crisis teams to respond.

Brandon's Facebook page says he'd attended Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and worked for a firm that sells appliances, plumbing and hardware. Many people who posted on his page expressed shock and grief over his death.

The 911 caller said a man had come to Fisher Brewing, attacked a person at the door and was "running around crazy. Very erratic. He just jumped in and out of the road."

"Definitely mental health issues," the caller said. "So if you've got mental health resources, send them out." Instead, bodycam footage shows a police officer get out of his patrol car and order Brandon to stop. When he resists and puts up a fist and appears to reach for the officer's holstered pistol, another officer pushes Brandon to the ground and the two officers try to pin him down. "Stop," one of the officers says repeatedly as Brandon is on a gravel bed between the road and the sidewalk and continuing to push against the officers.

No de-escalation attempts by the police are visible or audible in the footage from nine body-worn cameras, even though an executive order signed by Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall two years ago requires all Salt Lake City Police Department officers to use de-escalation techniques before using force.

"De-escalation tactics are no longer suggested or preferred — they are mandatory prior to using force

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to effect an arrest unless it would be unreasonable to do so," Mendenhall said in announcing the police reforms, which were prompted in part by the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police in 2020.

Salt Lake City Police Department spokesperson Brent Weisberg said of the Aug. 14 incident: "As the body-worn camera video shows, this is a situation that rapidly unfolded. It was a chaotic situation and our officers were required to make very fast decisions to get a situation under control that was very tense."

Before Brandon walked into Fisher Brewing, he had been taken by South Salt Lake Police to a detox facility after they received a report of a man acting confused and scared at a park just after 1 p.m. on Aug. 14, KUTV reported.

Officers determined he was intoxicated, took him to the facility and cited him for public intoxication. But the facility is not a detention center and patients can leave at their will, KUTV reported.

The Salt Lake City Police Department officers encountered Brandon at 3:22 p.m. In the videos, he's not heard speaking during his struggles with the officers, except for maybe a couple of words that are unclear.

A minute later, a third officer arrives. Video shows Brandon grabbing onto his holster and gun. They finally manage to cuff Brandon's hands behind his back as he lies on the gravel belly down.

"We want to help you," an officer says. "You've got to stop fighting with us."

After a few seconds, Brandon stops moving. An officer taps Brandon on the shoulder with his gloved hand and asks "Can you hear me?" three times. Brandon does not respond.

"Get him in recovery," an officer commands, and the others roll Brandon onto his side.

"Come on man," an officer says. All the camera footage released by the police goes dark at that point. Salt Lake City Police said in a press release that officers began to perform medical aid at 3:27 p.m. A minute

later, they administered the first of multiple doses of Narcan and started performing chest compressions. "At 4:16 p.m. SLCPD is notified that Mr. Brandon died. The exact time of death is unknown," the news

release said.

The police department said a thorough investigation was being conducted by an outside agency and that the department's own internal affairs unit would conduct a separate investigation.

Rae Duckworth, operating chairperson for Black Lives Matter's Utah chapters, wants to know why the released footage doesn't show the officers trying to help Brandon.

"We don't even have proof they actually administered aid. We don't have proof that they actually administered Narcan," Duckworth said.

Weisberg, the police spokesperson, said footage of the resuscitation efforts was not released out of consideration for Brandon's family.

Diana's car auctioned as 25th anniversary of her death nears

LONDON (AP) — A car driven by Princess Diana in the 1980s sold for 650,000 pounds (\$764,000) at auction Saturday, just days before the 25th anniversary of her death.

Silverstone Auctions said there was "fierce bidding" for the black Ford Escort RS Turbo before the sale closed. The U.K. buyer, whose name was not disclosed, paid a 12.5% buyer's premium on top of the selling price, according to the classic car auction house.

Britain and Diana's admirers worldwide are preparing to mark a quarter century since her death. She died in a high-speed car crash in Paris on Aug. 31, 1997.

Diana drove the Escort from 1985 to 1988. She was photographed with it outside boutique shops in Chelsea and restaurants in Kensington. She preferred to drive her own car, with a member of her security team in the passenger seat.

The RS Turbo Series 1 was typically manufactured in white, but she got it in black to be more discreet. Ford also added features for her security, such as a second rear-view mirror for the protection officer.

The car has just under 25,000 miles on it.

Last year, another Ford Escort that Diana used sold at auction for 52,000 pounds (\$61,100).

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Judge plans to appoint special master in Trump records case

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge in Florida told the Justice Department on Saturday to provide her with more specific information about the classified records removed from former President Donald Trump's Florida estate and said it was her "preliminary intent" to appoint a special master in the case.

The two-page order from U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon signals that she's inclined to grant a request from Trump's lawyers, who this week asked for the appointment of an independent special master to oversee the review the records taken from Mar-a-Lago and identify any that may be protected by executive privilege, and to ensure the return of any documents outside the scope of the search warrant.

The judge scheduled a Thursday hearing to discuss the matter further, suggesting the Justice Department will have a chance to raise objections to the judge's intentions. In other recent high-profile cases in which a special master has been appointed, the person has been a former judge.

Cannon also directed the Justice Department to file under seal with her more detailed descriptions of the material taken from Trump's estate "specifying all property seized." The former president's lawyers have complained that investigators did not disclose enough information to them about what specific documents were removed when agents executed a search warrant on Aug. 8 to look for classified documents.

The special master appointment, if it happens, is unlikely to significantly affect the direction of the Justice Department investigation, though it's possible an outside review of the documents could slow the probe down.

Trump search: What may come next in inquiry with legal peril

By ERIC TÜCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A newly released FBI document helps flesh out the contours of an investigation into classified material at former President Donald Trump's Florida estate. But plenty of questions remain, especially because half the affidavit, which spelled out the FBI's rationale for searching the property, was blacked out.

That document, which the FBI submitted so it could get a warrant to search Trump's winter home, provides new details about the volume and top secret nature of what was retrieved from Mar-a-Lago in January. It shows how Justice Department officials had raised concerns months before the search that closely held government secrets were being illegally stored — and then returned in August with a court-approved warrant and located even more classified records at the property.

It all raises questions whether a crime was committed and, if so, by whom. Answers may not come quickly. A department official this month described the investigation as in its early stages, suggesting more work is ahead as investigators review the documents they removed and continue interviewing witnesses. Intelligence officials will simultaneously conduct an assessment of any risk to national security potentially created by the documents being disclosed.

At a minimum, the investigation presents a political distraction for Trump as he lays the groundwork for a potential presidential run.

Then there's the obvious legal peril.

A look at what's next:

WHAT IS THE FBI INVESTIGATING?

None of the government's legal filings released so far singles out Trump — or anyone else — as a potential target of the investigation. But the warrant and accompanying affidavit make clear the investigation is active and criminal in nature.

The department is investigating potential violations of multiple laws, including an Espionage Act statute that governs gathering, transmitting or losing national defense information. The other laws deal with the mutilation and removal of records as well as the destruction, alteration or falsification of records in federal investigations.

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The inquiry began quietly with a referral from the National Archives and Records Administration, which retrieved 15 boxes of records from Mar-a-Lago in January — 14 of which were found to contain classified information. All told, the FBI affidavit said, officials found 184 documents bearing classification markings, including some suggesting they contained information from highly sensitive human sources. Several had what appeared to be Trump's handwritten notes, the affidavit says.

The FBI has spent months investigating how the documents made their way from the White House to Mar-a-Lago and whether any other classified records might exist at the property. The bureau also has tried to identify the person or people "who may have removed or retained classified information without authorization and/or in an unauthorized space," the affidavit states.

So far the FBI has interviewed a "significant number of civilian witnesses," according to a Justice Department brief unsealed Friday, and is seeking "further information" from them. The FBI has not identified all "potential criminal confederates nor located all evidence related to its investigation."

WILL ANYONE BE CHARGED?

It's hard to say at this point. To get a search warrant, federal agents must persuade a judge that probable cause exists to believe there's evidence of a crime at the location they want to search.

But search warrants aren't automatic precursors to a criminal prosecution and they certainly don't signal that charges are imminent.

Even so, the laws at issue are felonies that carry prison sentences.

One law, involving the mishandling of national defense information, has been used in recent years in the prosecution of a government contractor who stowed reams of sensitive records at his Maryland home (he was sentenced to nine years in prison) and a National Security Agency employee accused of transmitting classified information to someone who was not authorized to receive it (the case is pending).

Attorney General Merrick Garland hasn't revealed his thinking. Asked last month about Trump in the context of a separate investigation into the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the Capitol, he responded that "no person is above the law."

WHAT HAS TRUMP ARGUED?

Trump, irate over the records investigation, issued a statement Friday saying that he and his team have cooperated with the Justice Department and that his representatives "GAVE THEM MUCH."

That's at odds with the portrayal of the Trump team in the affidavit and the fact that the FBI search occurred despite warnings months earlier that the documents were not being properly stored and that there was no safe location for them anywhere in Mar-a-Lago.

A letter made public as part of the affidavit forecasts the arguments the Trump legal team intends to advance as the investigation proceeds. The May 25 letter from lawyer M. Evan Corcoran to Jay Bratt, the head of the Justice Department's counterintelligence section, articulates a robust, expansive view of executive power.

Corcoran asserted that it was a "bedrock principle" that a president has absolute authority to declassify documents — though he doesn't actually say that Trump did so. He also said the primary law governing the mishandling of classified information doesn't apply to the president.

The statute that he cited in the letter was not among the ones the affidavit suggests the Justice Department is basing its investigation on. And in a footnote in the affidavit, an FBI agent observed that the law criminalizing the mishandling of national defense information does not use the term classified information.

Meanwhile, a federal judge in Florida told the Justice Department on Saturday to provide her with more specific information about the classified records removed from his Florida estate and said it was her "preliminary intent" to appoint a special master in the case. Trump's lawyers are seeking an independent review of the records to identify any that may be protected by executive privilege.

WHAT HAS THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION SAID?

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The White House has for weeks been notably circumspect about the investigation, with officials repeatedly saying they'll let the Justice Department do its job. But there are signs the administration is taking note. The director of national intelligence, Avril Haines, did notify Congress on Friday that her office would lead a classification review of the documents recovered during the search.

Intelligence officials will also conduct an assessment of any potential risk to national security, Haines wrote the leaders of two House committees who had requested it.

In the letter, Haines said any intelligence assessment will be "conducted in a manner that does not unduly interfere with" the criminal investigation.

Prince Charles edits British Black newspaper 'The Voice'

LONDON (AP) — The Prince of Wales has edited an edition of British African-Caribbean newspaper "The Voice" to mark its 40-year anniversary.

Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, said he "was so touched" to be asked to edit the edition, which will feature interviews with movie star Idris Elba and Baroness Doreen Lawrence, the campaigning mother of Stephen Lawrence, who was murdered in a racist attack in 1993.

Elba, the Black British actor who starred in "The Wire" and several Marvel movies, tells the weekly newspaper, due to be published on Sept. 1, that a grant from Charles' youth charity, The Prince's Trust, at age 16 "opened doors that changed my life."

Baroness Lawrence will describe a new partnership between the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation and The Prince's Foundation, another charity, to provide applied arts scholarships for young people from diverse backgrounds affected by social and economic inequality.

Speaking about the publication, Charles said: "Over the last four decades, with all the enormous changes that they have witnessed, Britain's only surviving black newspaper has become an institution and a crucial part of the fabric of our society.

"This is why I was so touched to be invited to edit this special edition."

Deadly clashes shake Libya's capital, killing 23 people

BY SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Deadly clashes broke out Saturday in Libya's capital between militias backed by its two rival administrations, portending a return to violence amid a long political stalemate.

At least 23 people were killed and 140 more wounded, the Health Ministry said. It added that 64 families were evacuated from areas around the fighting.

The escalation threatens to shatter the relative calm Libya has enjoyed for most of the past two years. The oil-rich nation plunged into chaos following a NATO-backed uprising that toppled and killed longtime autocrat Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.

Among the fatalities was Mustafa Baraka, a comedian known for his social media videos mocking militias and corruption. Baraka died after he was shot in his chest, said Malek Merset, an emergency services spokesman.

Merset said emergency services were still trying to evacuate wounded and civilians trapped in the fighting that erupted overnight and continued into Saturday evening.

The Health Ministry said in a statement hospitals and medical centers in the capital were shelled, and ambulance teams were barred from evacuating civilians, in acts that "amount to war crimes."

The municipal council of Tripoli blamed the ruling political class for the deteriorating situation in the capital, and urged the international community to "protect civilians in Libya."

The violence caused widespread panic among Tripoli residents. Footage circulated online showed houses, government facilities, and vehicles apparently damaged from the fighting. Other footage showed militia forces deploying and heavy fire being exchanged across the night sky.

The U.N. mission in Libya said the fighting involved "indiscriminate medium and heavy shelling in civilian-

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populated neighborhoods" of Tripoli.

The mission called for an immediate cease-fire, and for all parties in Libya to "refrain from using any form of hate speech and incitement to violence."

The clashes pitted the Tripoli Revolutionaries' Brigade militia, led by Haitham Tajouri, against another militia allied with Abdel-Ghani al-Kikli, an infamous warlord known as "Gheniwa," according to local media. Later on Saturday, more militias joined the fighting which spread in different areas in the capital.

Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah's government, which is based in Tripoli, claimed the clashes broke out when one militia fired at another.

The fighting, however, is highly likely part of ongoing power struggle between Dbeibah and his rival Prime Minister Fathy Bashagha who is operating from the coast city of Sirte.

Both Dbeibah and Bashagha are backed by militias, and the latter was mobilizing in recent weeks to try to enter Tripoli to dislodge his rival.

An attempt in May by Bashagha to install his government in Tripoli triggered clashes that ended with his withdrawal from the capital.

U.S. Ambassador to Libya Richard Norland urged for de-escalation "before things get worse" and for Libyan parties to agree on an early date for elections.

Hungary fireworks go on but weather agency controversy stays

By JUSTIN SPIKE Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — An elaborate fireworks display took place Saturday under calm skies in Hungary's capital after a postponement of the show last weekend caused controversy when it led to the firing of the country's top meteorologists over their weather predictions.

Saturday's event, a rescheduling of the display planned for Hungary's national holiday a week earlier, drew tens of thousands to the Danube River in Budapest in what was billed as Europe's largest fireworks show.

On Monday, the two top officials at Hungary's National Meteorological Service were fired after the government committee managing holiday events postponed the show based on the weather service's prediction of a high probability of heavy rain that evening.

While storms did strike other areas of Hungary that night, they did not hit the capital. Weather service chief Kornelia Radics, who had served since 2013, and her deputy Gyula Horvath, who has served since 2016, lost their jobs.

Gabor Valter Tolczli, a spectator at Saturday's fireworks show, said "I was surprised that the fireworks were postponed a week ago because there was no storm then. But today I don't mind the postponement, because there are fewer crowds."

He added, however, that he was "outraged that the meteorologists were fired, because you can never predict the weather 100%."

The firings led to accusations from critics of Hungary's nationalist government, led by autocratic Prime Minister Viktor Orban, of punitive political pressure reminiscent of Hungary's communist past.

Academics and scientists in Hungary have long complained of pressure being exerted on independent scientific bodies and Orban's government has been accused of corruption, nepotism and anti-democratic tendencies.

This has led to clashes with the European Union, which has withheld billions in pandemic recovery funds from Hungary over what the bloc sees as deficiencies in the Hungarian government's adherence to basic values and the rule of law.

Hungary's government says the firings were related to the Aug. 20 forecast but that the minister overseeing the weather service had previously been dissatisfied with its performance. In a news conference Tuesday, Orban's chief of staff, Gergely Gulyas, said the service's assessment of a high probability of extreme weather — which never came — was "the last straw."

On Wednesday, Hungary's government appointed Laszlo Hanyecz, the weather service's vice president for economic affairs, as its interim head. Of 19 leading officials at the agency, Hanyecz, who is not a meteo-

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rologist, was one of only two not to sign a letter demanding the reinstatement of the fired weather chiefs. Climate Without Borders, an international network of weather presenters, released a letter signed by 76 members from 48 countries expressing solidarity with the fired forecasters.

"As forecasters, our first mission is to protect life and property. When Hungarian meteorologists saw danger in the forecast, they did what any of us would do — warned of the risk to life," the letter read, condemning the firings.

Roland Mesnier, pastry chef for five presidents, dies at 78

By FATIMA HUSSEIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Roland Mesnier, who created often-magical desserts for five presidents and their guests as White House executive pastry chef, has died at age 78.

His death was confirmed Saturday by the White House Historical Association, which said he died Friday following a short illness.

One of the longest-serving White House chefs, Mesnier was hired in 1979 by first lady Rosalynn Carter and retired during the George W. Bush administration.

Answering questions in an online "Ask the White House" forum in 2004, he explained that in preparing desserts not just for the first family but for parties, receptions and dinners, he was often called on to prepare thousands of pastries. He said he planned the number of pastries according to who would be in attendance.

"Over the 25 years I've been here, I've noticed that Democrats usually eat more than Republicans," Mesnier said. "I've also observed that if the guests are mostly ladies, they will usually eat more pastries than men."

At Christmas time, he was known for the elaborate gingerbread houses he made to help decorate the White House. He said he also needed to make more pastries than usual for holiday parties because some tended to "disappear into pocketbooks or pockets" and often ended up as Christmas tree ornaments in people's homes.

Mesnier grew up in Bonnay, a village in eastern France, in a family of nine children and began his career as an apprentice at age 14. White House archives describe him leaving home with a cardboard suitcase and five francs to begin his apprenticeship at the Patisserie Maurivard in Besançon, France. He later worked in Paris and the German cities of Hanover and Hamburg before landing a job at the Savoy hotel in London.

In 1967, he became a pastry chef at a hotel in Bermuda and while living on the island met his future wife, a vacationing schoolteacher from West Virginia. A decade later, he was working at The Homestead resort in Virginia when he heard that the White House was looking for a new pastry chef.

When asked in 2004 about working at the White House, he said: "You don't think about free time, spare time, etc. Because your time is at the White House. Any time you are needed you have to be there."

"It could be Christmas day, Easter, your birthday, your mother's birthday, your child's birthday — you are going to be at the White House if you are needed," he said.

"The White House always comes first."

He is survived by his son, George Mesnier.

Abrams, Georgia Dems call midterms 'unfinished business'

By BILL BARROW and JEFF AMY Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ga. (AP) — Four years ago, Georgia Democrats had a contested primary for governor because the party's old guard didn't believe in Stacey Abrams. She routed their alternative and, in a close general election loss, established herself as de facto party boss in a newfound battleground state.

That previewed 2020, when Joe Biden put Georgia in Democrats' presidential column for the first time in 28 years, and Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff captured Senate seats soon after to give Democrats control on Capitol Hill.

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Now Abrams and Warnock top the Democratic ticket together for the first time as the party tries to replicate its success in a tough midterm election landscape. The outcome will again help determine the balance of power in Washington and whether Republicans retain their dominance in state government.

"We're going to defy all the naysayers and take our state all the way back," Abrams told delegates to the Democratic state convention Saturday. "Georgia Democrats, we've got unfinished business to take care of." Yet Democratic leaders acknowledge that 2022 is not a simple replay of the last two cycles.

Abrams, in her governor's race rematch with Brian Kemp, is not running against a little-known Republican secretary of state but a well-positioned incumbent. Warnock, no longer a political newcomer, is trying to distinguish himself from a relatively unpopular president who once campaigned for him. That's a point that challenger Herschel Walker relentlessly seeks to make by criticizing Warnock as a rubber-stamp for the White House.

The rest of the Democratic ticket must run under the banner of a national party that controls Washington at a time of sustained inflation and an uncertain economy. And Democrats must retool their voter turnout operation to comply with tighter voting restrictions that Kemp and the Republican-led legislature enacted after Democrats' 2020 victories.

The response, Democrats say, isn't to run from their record but to embrace it, while portraying Republicans as an "extremist" party that advances an out-of-step cultural agenda and remains in thrall to former President Donald Trump.

"The party of Trump is a party of extremism, a party of election deniers, a party of authoritarianism," Charlie Bailey, the nominee for lieutenant governor, said ahead of the convention.

On stage Saturday, Bailey reminded delegates that his GOP opponent, Burt Jones, is among the fake electors who signed certificates falsely stating that Trump, not Biden, had won their states. "If you seek to overthrow the United States government, you are not fit, you are not qualified to hold any office in this country," Bailey said. "Make no mistake, this November democracy is on the ballot."

The approach aligns with the national pitch that Biden made Thursday at a campaign rally in Maryland, where he framed voters' choice in November as being between Democrats and Trump's "MAGA movement," a dominant strain of the GOP that Biden said resembles "semi-fascism."

Kemp and Georgia's secretary of state, Republican Brad Raffensperger, have garnered plaudits from moderate voters for bucking Trump's bid to overturn the 2020 election. But Abrams and others challenge the "moderate" label for either man.

Abrams criticizes Kemp as an "extremist" who signed a concealed carry law to loosen gun restrictions and a near-total abortion ban that bars the procedure after six weeks of pregnancy, before many women know they're pregnant.

Bee Nguyen, a legislator challenging Raffensperger, hammers the secretary of state for his part in overhauling state voting procedures. Nguyen notes that Raffensperger, as a state lawmaker, compiled a staunchly conservative record on abortion and guns, among other matters.

"We can build a Georgia where we believe in democracy," Nguyen told convention delegates Saturday. "You can't gerrymander the statewide seats."

Georgia Democrats say the Supreme Court's decision eliminating a constitutional right to access abortion, combined with Georgia's near ban, is a critical enough issue to overcome swing voters' worries about the economy.

"I'll tell you that people are much more concerned about protecting their rights and their access to health care than anything else," said attorney general nominee Jen Jordan, a state senator who has made her support of abortion rights a centerpiece of her bid.

Kemp blasts Abrams as a liberal who wants to "defund the police." Abrams counters with proposals that would increase salaries for many law enforcement and criminal justice personnel. "Brian Kemp wants you to be afraid of me," she says in one of her advertisements.

Jordan talks openly of crime increases but dismisses Republicans' effort to cast it as "an Atlanta problem" — GOP framing aimed at white voters beyond the demographically diverse and heavily Democratic city.

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"It's not an urban problem or a suburban problem. It's a Georgia problem, and the people who have been in charge have a lot to answer for," Jordan said.

In the Senate campaign, Warnock has largely steered clear of Biden, even as he embraces Democrats' legislative victories. Warnock cites a pandemic relief bill and its child tax credit as critical aid to Georgia families. He cites benefits from a long-sought infrastructure package.

The senator acknowledges that gas prices and general inflation have spiked but notes that he called for a suspension of the federal gas tax and then won passage of a provision in the Democrats' big climate and health care bill that caps the price of insulin for Medicare patients. Republicans blocked his effort to extend the cap to all consumers.

"Today we stand on this mountaintop together," Warnock told Democratic delegates at their convention. "Tomorrow we go down in the valley until we cap the cost of insulin for everybody, until we lower the costs for all Georgians."

In 2018, Kemp topped Abrams by 55,000 votes out of about 4 million cast. Biden outpaced Trump by less than 12,000 votes out of 5 million cast. In concurrent Senate runoffs two months later, about 4.5 million Georgians voted; Warnock and Ossoff won by 2 percentage points and 1.2 percentage points, respectively.

Democrats hope the November electorate is at least as large as that on Jan. 5, 2021. Georgia requires a majority vote to win statewide office, and Libertarian candidates can draw enough to force a runoff.

With that in mind, Abrams, a Black woman from Atlanta, has spent a noticeable amount of time in rural, mostly white Georgia, where she lost ground in 2018 compared with Democrats' performances in previous midterms. Jordan, who is white, notes that she grew up in small-town south Georgia but now represents a suburban Atlanta state Senate district that had been a Republican lock. Abrams sometimes campaigns alongside Bailey, a white man with a pronounced Southern accent and small-town Georgia roots. Nguyen tells of her parents fleeing Vietnam as political refugees.

"Standing with me is the most extraordinary ticket Georgia has ever produced," Abrams said before she addressed the convention. "It looks like Georgia; it sounds like Georgia; it knows Georgia."

Today in History: August 28, King's "I Have a Dream" speech

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Aug. 28, the 240th day of 2022. There are 125 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 28, 1955, Emmett Till, a Black teen from Chicago, was abducted from his uncle's home in Money, Mississippi, by two white men after he had supposedly whistled at a white woman; he was found brutally slain three days later.

On this date:

In 1862, the Second Battle of Bull Run (also known as Second Manassas) began in Prince William County, Virginia, during the Civil War; the result was a Confederate victory.

In 1922, the first-ever radio commercial aired on station WEAF in New York City; the 10-minute advertisement was for the Queensboro Realty Co., which had paid a fee of \$100.

In 1941, Japan's ambassador to the U.S., Kichisaburo Nomura, presented a note to President Franklin D. Roosevelt from Japan's prime minister, Prince Fumimaro Konoye, expressing a desire for improved relations.

In 1963, more than 200,000 people listened as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

In 1968, police and anti-war demonstrators clashed in the streets of Chicago as the Democratic National Convention nominated Hubert H. Humphrey for president.

In 1988, 70 people were killed when three Italian stunt planes collided during an air show at the U.S. Air Base in Ramstein (RAHM'-shtyn), West Germany.

In 1996, the troubled 15-year marriage of Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana officially ended with the issuing of a divorce decree.

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In 2005, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin (NAY'-gin) ordered everyone in the city to evacuate after Hurricane Katrina grew to a monster storm.

In 2013, a military jury sentenced Maj. Nidal Hasan to death for the 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood that claimed 13 lives. On the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial, President Barack Obama stood on the same steps as he challenged new generations to seize the cause of racial equality.

In 2016, six scientists completed a yearlong Mars simulation in Hawaii, where they emerged after living in a dome in near isolation on a Mauna Loa mountain.

In 2018, a white former police officer, Roy Oliver, was convicted of murder for fatally shooting a Black 15-year-old boy, Jordan Edwards, while firing into a car packed with teenagers in suburban Dallas; Oliver was sentenced the following day to 15 years in prison.

In 2020, Japan's longest-serving prime minister, Shinzo Abe, said he was stepping down because a chronic illness had resurfaced. (Abe was succeeded by his right-hand man, Yoshihide Suga. Abe was assinated in July 2022.)

Ten years ago: Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney swept to the Republican presidential nomination at a storm-delayed national convention in Tampa, Florida. Hurricane Isaac spun into the southern Louisiana coast, sending floodwaters surging and unleashing fierce winds, as residents hunkered down behind boarded-up windows.

Five years ago: Floodwaters reached the rooflines of single-story homes as Hurricane Harvey poured rain on the Houston area for a fourth consecutive day; thousands of people had been rescued from the flooding. The Navy said divers had recovered the remains of all 10 sailors who had been missing after the USS John S. McCain and an oil tanker collided near Singapore nearly a week earlier.

One year ago: Taliban forces sealed off Kabul's airport to most Afghans hoping for evacuation, as the U.S. and its allies prepared to end a chaotic airlift. In the aftermath of a suicide attack that killed scores of Afghans and 13 American service members at the Kabul airport, President Joe Biden warned that another attack was "highly likely"; the State Department issued a new security alert instructing people to leave the airport area immediately. In retaliation for the suicide bombing, the U.S. military said it had used a drone strike to kill two "planners and facilitators" of the Islamic State Group's Afghanistan affiliate.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Sonny Shroyer is 87. Actor Marla Adams is 84. Actor Ken Jenkins is 82. Former Defense Secretary William S. Cohen is 82. Actor David Soul is 79. Former MLB manager and player Lou Piniella (pihn-EHL'-uh) is 79. Actor Barbara Bach is 76. Actor Debra Mooney is 75. Singer Wayne Osmond (The Osmonds) is 71. Actor Daniel Stern is 65. Olympic gold medal figure skater Scott Hamilton is 64. Actor John Allen Nelson is 63. Actor Emma Samms is 62. Actor Jennifer Coolidge is 61. Movie director David Fincher is 60. Actor Amanda Tapping is 57. Country singer Shania (shah-NY'-uh) Twain is 57. Actor Billy Boyd is 54. Actor Jack Black is 53. Actor Jason Priestley is 53. Actor Daniel Goddard (TV: "The Young and the Restless") is 51. Olympic gold medal swimmer Janet Evans is 51. Actor J. August Richards is 49. Rock singer-musician Max Collins (Eve 6) is 44. Actor Carly Pope is 42. Country singer Jake Owen is 41. Country singer LeAnn Rimes is 40. Actor Kelly Thiebaud is 40. Actor Alfonso Herrera is 39. Actor Sarah Roemer is 38. Actor Armie Hammer is 36. Rock singer Florence Welch (Florence and the Machine) is 36. Actor Shalita Grant is 34. Country-pop singer Cassadee Pope (TV: "The Voice") is 33. Actor Katie Findlay is 32. Actor/ singer Samuel Larsen is 31. Actor Kyle Massey is 31. Actor Quvenzhane (kwuh-VEHN'-zhah-nay) Wallis is 19. Reality TV star Alana Thompson, AKA "Honey Boo Boo," is 17.