

Groton Daily Independent

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The Groton Community Transit will be taking the bus to the following high school baseball games:

Miller on April 26
Redfield on April 30
Elkton on May 7.
For ride information, call 605-397-8661.

Groton Community Calendar Sunday, April 23

Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday school, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 7 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m., and at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.

United Methodist: Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday school after children's sermon in worship, 10:30 a.m.

Princess Prom, 4:30 p.m.

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

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.
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Monday, April 24

Senior Menu: Ranch chicken breast, boiled potato, mixed vegetables, pineapple tidbits, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg bake.

School Lunch: Taco salads.

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center with potluck at noon.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: PEO meeting (outside group), 7 p.m.

Postponed: Girls Golf at Redfield Golf Course, 10 a.m.

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 25

Senior Menu: Beef stroganoff noodles, squash, cookie, apple sauce.

School Breakfast: Egg omelets.

School Lunch: Meat balls, mashed potatoes.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Ag Fair in Aberdeen.

Cancelled: Groton Area Track Meet, 11 a.m.

GHS Prom: Enchanted Forest



Junior Class President Camryn Kurtz escorted by Carter Barse. (Photo #6041 by Paul Kosel)



Gretchen Dinger escorted by Senior Class President Jacob Lewandowski. (Photo #6042 by Paul Kosel)

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Ellie Weismantel escorted by Axel Warrington. (Photo #6043 by Paul Kosel)



Emily Clark escorted by Jayden Schwan. (Photo #6044 by Paul Kosel)

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Gracie Traphagen escorted by Landon Ellingson. (Photo #6045 by Paul Kosel)



Aspen Johnson escorted by Colby Dunker. (Photo #6046 by Paul Kosel)

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Sydney Leicht escorted by Keegen Tracy.

(Photo #6047 by Paul Kosel)



Anna Fjeldheim escorted by Korbin Kucker.

(Photo #6048 by Paul Kosel)

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Elizabeth Flihs escorted by Lane Tietz. (Photo #6049 by Paul Kosel)



KayLynn Overacker escorted by Tyson Parrow. (Photo #6050 by Paul Kosel)

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Hannah Monson escorted by Logan Ringgenberg. (Photo #6051 by Paul Kosel)



Shaela McGannon escorted by Nick Morris. (Photo #6052 by Paul Kosel)

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Shaylee Peterson escorted by Caleb Hanten.

(Photo #6053 by Paul Kosel)



Cadance Tullis escorted by Jaeger Kampa.

(Photo #6054 by Paul Kosel)

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Faith Traphagen escorted by Andrew Marzahn. (Photo #6056 by Paul Kosel)



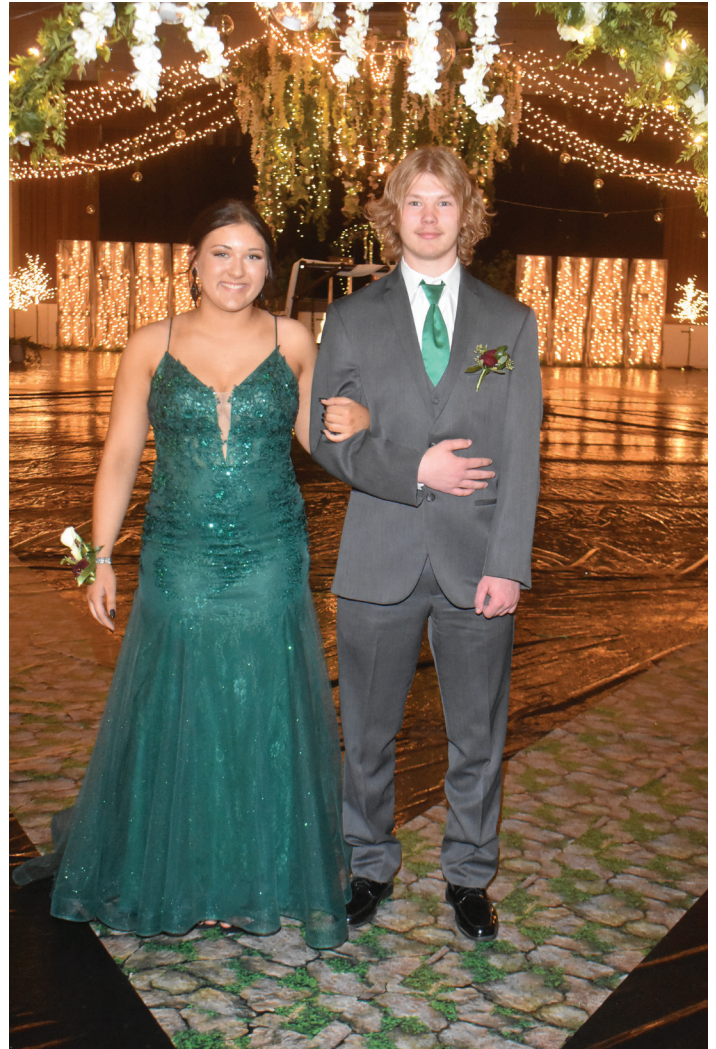
Lydia Meier escorted by Gage Sippel. (Photo #6057 by Paul Kosel)

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Faith Flihs escorted by Payton Mitchell.
(Photo #6058 by Paul Kosel)



Marlee Tollifson escorted by Karsten Jenschke. (Photo #6059 by Paul Kosel)

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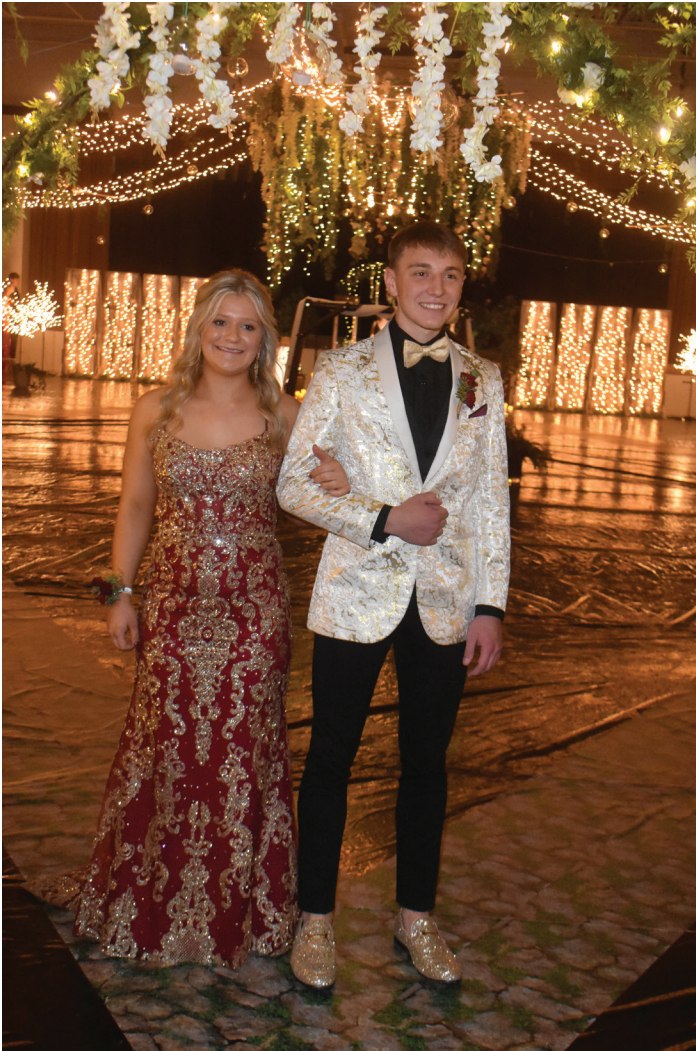
Abby Jensen escorted by Cooper Foshier.
(Photo #6060 by Paul Kosel)



Sierra Ehresmann escorted by Cole Bisbee.
(Photo #6061 by Paul Kosel)

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Brooke Gengerke escorted by Cole Simon.
(Photo #6062 by Paul Kosel)



Ashlyn Sperry escorted by Michael Powers Dinger. (Photo #6063 by Paul Kosel)

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Ava Wienk escorted by Tristan Sumption.

(Photo #6064 by Paul Kosel)



Emma Schinek escorted by Ethan Gengerke.

(Photo #6065 by Paul Kosel)

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Celia Moreno escorted by Porter Johnson.
(Photo #6066 by Paul Kosel)



Brenna Carda escorted by Jackson Dinger.
(Photo #6067 by Paul Kosel)

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Kate Profeta escorted by Boyd Williams. (Photo #6068 by Paul Kosel)



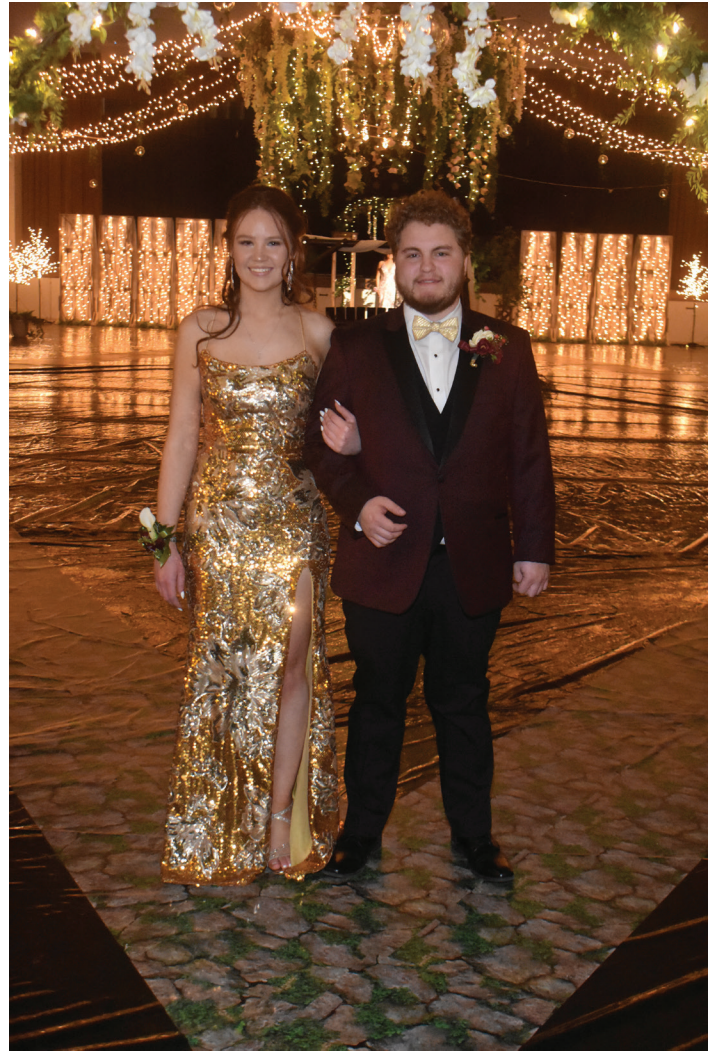
Carly Guthmiller escorted by Holden Sippel. (Photo #6069 by Paul Kosel)

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Brooklinn Halvorson escorted by Cade Larson. (Photo #6070 by Paul Kosel)



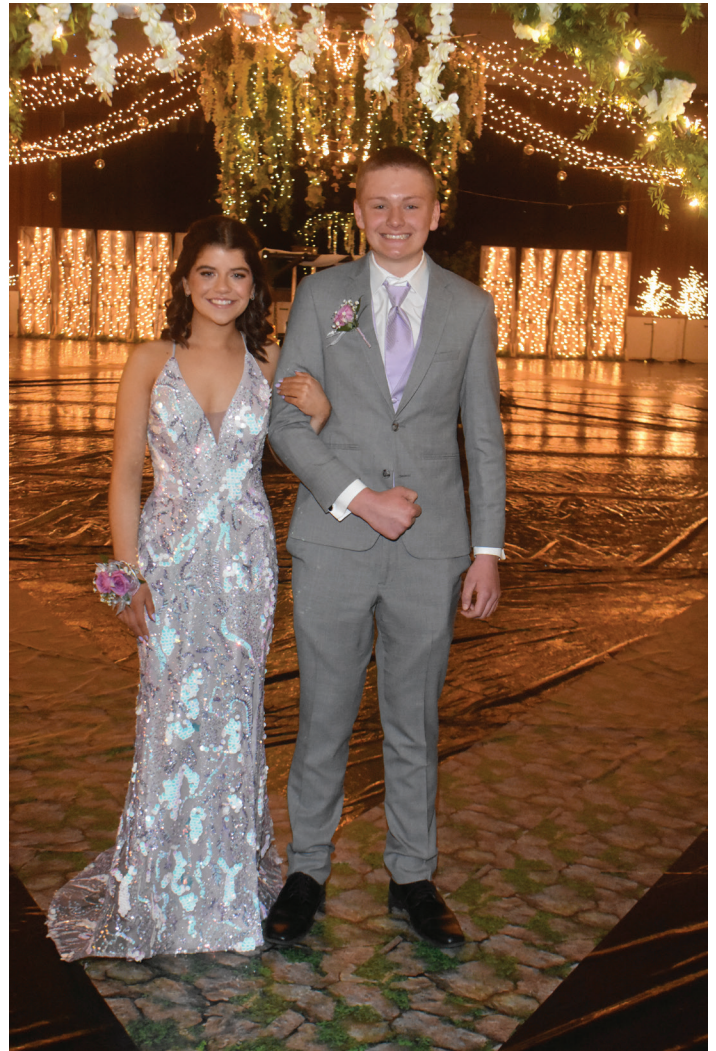
Ava Kramer escorted by Nick Cunningham. (Photo #6071 by Paul Kosel)

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Shallyn Foertsch escorted by Graydon Bakke. (Photo #6072 by Paul Kosel)



Ashtyn Bahr escorted by Logan Warrington. (Photo #6073 by Paul Kosel)

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Montana Marlow escorted by Cameron Johnson. (Photo #6074 by Paul Kosel)



Karsyn Jangula escorted by Jared Klootwyk. (Photo #6075 by Paul Kosel)

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Abby Yeadon escorted by Kaleb Antonsen.

(Photo #6076 by Paul Kosel)



Kaecie Zacher escorted by Dylan Anderson.

(Photo #6077 by Paul Kosel)

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Anna Bisbee escorted by Kellen Antonsen.

(Photo #6078 by Paul Kosel)



Emma Schinkel escorted by James Brooks.

(Photo #6079 by Paul Kosel)

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Cadence Feist escorted by Dylan Krueger.
(Photo #6080 by Paul Kosel)



Delayne Jones escorted by Austin Aberle.
(Photo #6081 by Paul Kosel)

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Karrah Johnson escorted by Danny Feist.
(Photo #6082 by Paul Kosel)



Kamryn Flihs escorted by Garrett Schultz.
(Photo #6083 by Paul Kosel)

Reprints of the prom photos are available. To order, email or text the photo number to paperpaul@grotonsd.net or text Paul at 605-397-7460.
4x6 prints are \$5, 5x7 are \$7.

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GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

School Board Meeting

April 24, 2023 – 7:00 PM – GHS Library Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

CONSENT AGENDA:

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Program Overview Presentations
 - a. Food Service...B. Clocksene
 - b. Transportation/Custodial...D. Bahr/M. Nehls
 - c. Wellness & Health Services...B. Gustafson
3. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consider request from Groton Wrestling program for additional coaching staff [Coach Zoellner]
2. Approve resignation from Rose Long-Buechler, 6th grade teacher, effective at the end of the 2022-23 school year.
3. Approve hiring Brooke Malsom as 6th grade teacher and JH track coach for the 2023-24 school year.
4. Adopt resolution authorizing membership in the South Dakota High School Activities Association for the 2023-24 school year.
5. Issue 2023-24 teacher contracts with return date of Monday, May 1, 2023.
6. Executive Session pursuant SDCL 1-25-2(1) personnel and SDCL 1-25-2(4) negotiations.

ADJOURN

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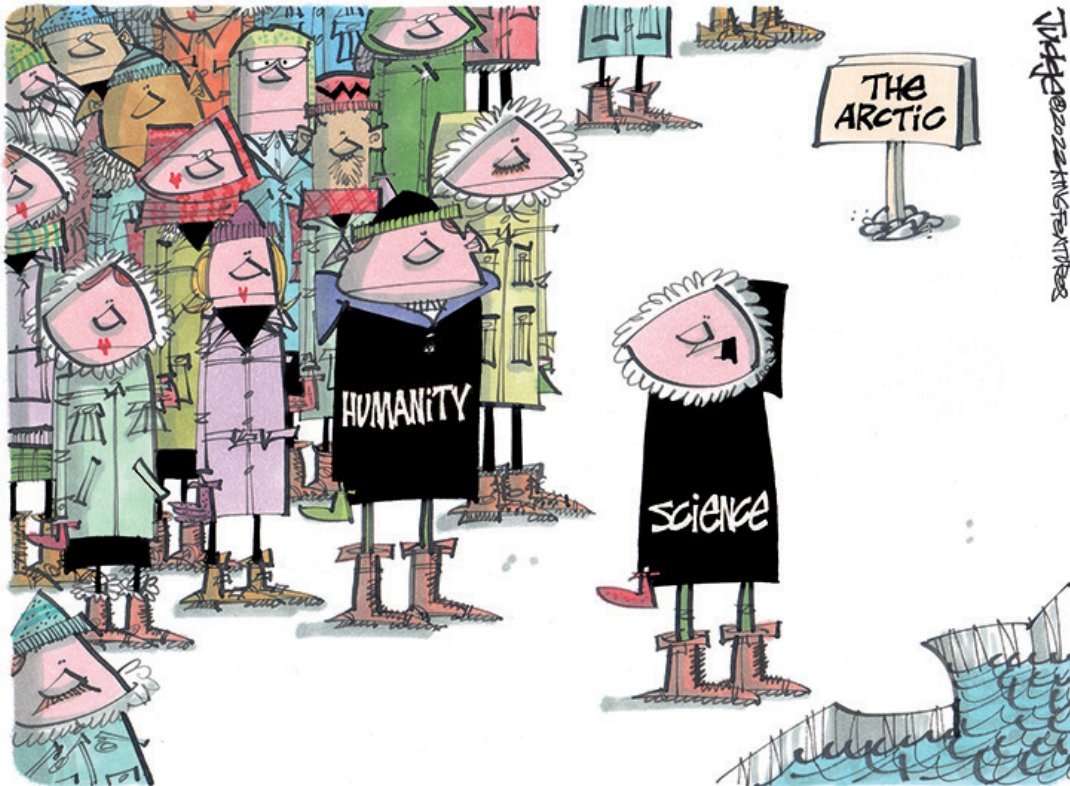
THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



When Solomon had finished all these prayers and supplications to the Lord, he rose from before the altar of the Lord, where he had been kneeling with his hands spread out toward heaven. He stood and blessed the whole assembly of Israel in a loud voice, saying: "Praise be to the Lord, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses."

1 KINGS 8: 54-56

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"WE'RE ON THIN ICE."



1. Is the book of Simon (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. In a fit of anger, what did King Saul throw trying to kill David? *Spear, Vase, Shield, Ax*

3. From Exodus 1, what were the people of Israel forced to make? *Blankets, Boats, Baskets, Bricks*

4. Who was the deceptive future father-in-law of Jacob? *Masa, Laban, Jehoram, Rehu*

5. What did Shamgar use to kill six hundred Philistines? *Sword, Stones, Mina, Ox goad*

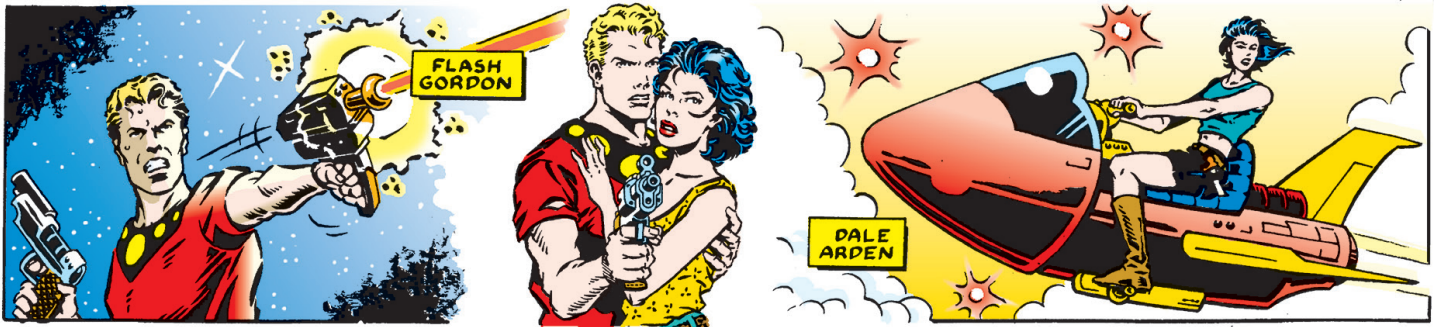
6. How many deacons were chosen to help the apostles? *4, 7, 11, 15*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Spear, 3) Bricks, 4) Laban, 5) Ox goad (Judges 3:31), 6) 7

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

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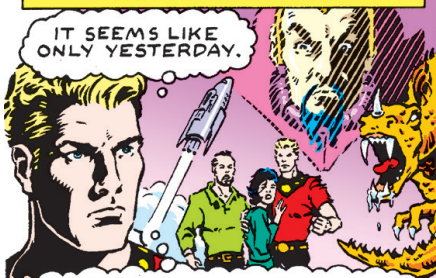


FLASH GORDON

BY JIM KEEFE

HAVING DISCOVERED THE SPACECRAFT THAT FIRST BROUGHT THEM TO THE PLANET MONGO, FLASH REMEMBERS THE WAY IT BEGAN...

IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY.



BLASTING OFF FROM EARTH. CRASH-LANDING ON A HOSTILE, ALIEN WORLD.



"AND THROUGH IT ALL..."

...DALE.

IN A WORLD GONE MAD SHE GAVE ME A REASON TO KEEP ON GOING."

4-23

SHE'S SACRIFICED SO MUCH FOR OTHERS, IT'S TIME I DID SOMETHING FOR HER.



ZARKOV, HOW LONG BEFORE YOU COULD HAVE ANOTHER SHIP UP AND RUNNING?

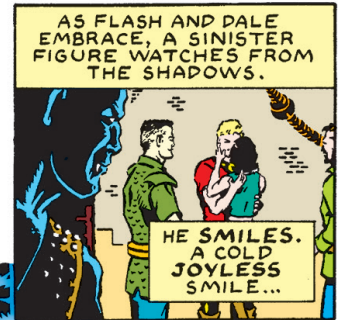
WHAT..?!

FLASH! DO YOU MEAN..?!



WE'VE BEEN TRAIPTISING AROUND THE UNIVERSE LONG ENOUGH.

LET'S GO HOME.



AS FLASH AND DALE EMBRACE, A SINISTER FIGURE WATCHES FROM THE SHADOWS.

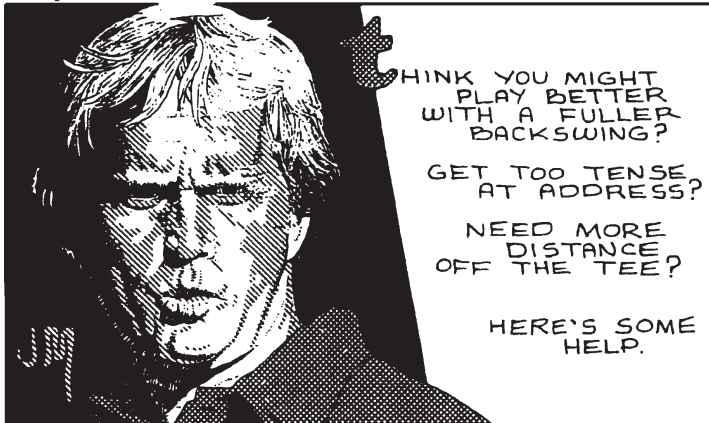
HE SMILES. A COLD JOYLESS SMILE...



... THEN DISAPPEARS FROM WHENCE HE CAME.

NEXT DESTINATION: EARTH!

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

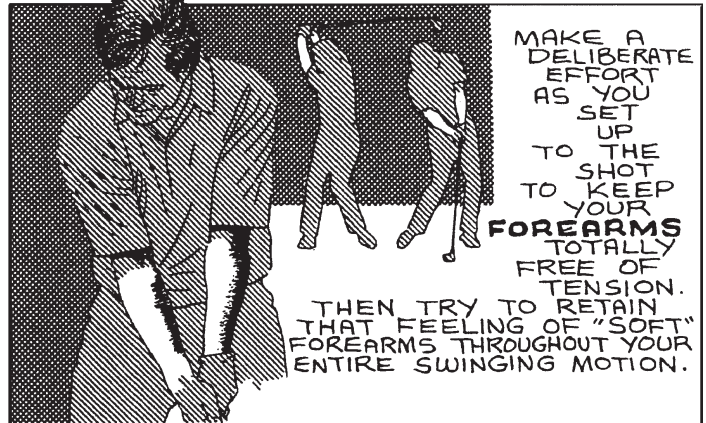


THINK YOU MIGHT PLAY BETTER WITH A FULLER BACKSWING?

GET TOO TENSE AT ADDRESS?

NEED MORE DISTANCE OFF THE TEE?

HERE'S SOME HELP.



MAKE A DELIBERATE EFFORT AS YOU SET UP TO THE SHOT TO KEEP YOUR FOREARMS TOTALLY FREE OF TENSION.

THEN TRY TO RETAIN THAT FEELING OF "SOFT" FOREARMS THROUGHOUT YOUR ENTIRE SWINGING MOTION.

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Patient With Risk of Breast Cancer Questions Safety of Yearly MRI

DEAR DR. ROACH: Due to a slight genetic risk of breast cancer (my Tyrer-Cuzick Model score was 20.6%), my doctor wants me to get breast MRIs with contrast annually. I am concerned about long-term exposure to the gadolinium-based contrast dye. I've learned that this heavy metal is considered safe, but traces of it can be stored in the brain and other body tissues.

I am 49 and in very good health. I also get mammograms annually. I consulted my doctor about spacing out my MRIs every two to three years, but he said I should have an MRI every year. So I could be getting these MRIs for the next 35 or so years. Do the benefits of contrast dye outweigh the harm in a person with my health profile? — S.A.

ANSWER: I'm afraid I don't have a good answer for you. It is true that most authorities recommend an intensive breast cancer surveillance program for women at a high risk of breast cancer, in the range of a 20% to 25% lifetime risk. (The average risk for developing breast cancer for a woman born today is estimated to be about 13%.)

The Tyrer-Cuzick model of estimating breast cancer risk tends to give higher estimates than the other commonly used models, such as the BRCAPRO. Other models may not put you over the threshold for intensive screening with MRIs, which is usually combined with mammograms.

The question about gadolinium (the chemical element used in the contrast dye for MRIs) is important because some people do store gadolinium in various tissues, including the brain, but the clinical significance of this is unknown. (People with kidney disease can develop a skin disease due to gad-

to have MRIs with gadolinium.)

Although gadolinium can stay in the body for months or years, there has been no evidence of harm from gadolinium in brain tissue, despite these agents having been used for many years. Some agents have less retention than others. The U.S. FDA has mandated patient guides for these contrast agents, which relay the information above.

Given that there is a probable benefit to intensive screening for breast cancer in your case due to your high genetic risk, and no more than a theoretical risk from gadolinium, I believe that the benefits outweigh the risks, but I can't say that with complete certainty.

DEAR DR. ROACH: A friend gave me a hemp product to try on the quite painful arthritis in my fingers, which affects my ability to enjoy golf. I was reluctant to try it, but for the last two weeks, I've used it topically on my fingers and have been pleasantly surprised by a significant reduction in pain and an improvement in flexibility.

One of your recent columns mentions Voltaren, which I have also used, but without as much relief. Can you comment on CBD as an alternative treatment for arthritis? — P.H.A.

ANSWER: There are animal studies suggesting benefit from oral cannabidiol, a component of cannabis (hemp) that has no psychoactive component (it's the THC in cannabis that gets people "high"). I found some small studies showing pain relief from topical CBD in people with neuropathy, but not for arthritis. Several people, like you, have written to me with reports of pain relief.

Topical CBD is probably very safe. Even oral CBD should be safe, but studies have found that many products labeled CBD have trace, or more than trace, amounts of THC, enough to make a urine test positive for cannabis.

Until there is some evidence of effectiveness, I can't recommend it, but people can try it based on safety and anecdotal reports.

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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Ever Anderson stars as Wendy in the live-action "Peter Pan & Wendy."

Courtesy of Disney+

"Peter Pan & Wendy" (PG) -- The live-action adaptation of Walt Disney's 1953 "Peter Pan" hits Disney's streaming platform on April 28! Alexander Molony portrays "the boy who wouldn't grow up" in his very first film debut, while Ever Anderson ("Black Widow") nabbed the role of Wendy. Those who love Peter Pan's story know that an adventure to Neverland would never be complete without characters like the Lost Boys, Tiger Lily and, of course, Captain Hook -- who is played by an almost unrecognizable Jude Law. Whether the film

will be received well by audiences remains to be seen, as many fans are sounding off about the live-action remakes Disney continues to shovel out to no avail. Maybe it's time to mix it up? (Disney+)

"Love & Death" (TV-MA) -- Candy Montgomery is a Texan housewife who has always craved more out of life than the ordinary woman. So, she decides to take a risk and start having an affair with another married townie named Allan. They vow not to let their spouses find out, going to great lengths to cover up their rendezvousing. That is, until one day, when news rings out over town about the gruesome death of Allan's wife, Betty. Now, as the investigation surrounding Betty's murder begins, Candy must deal with the repercussions of her affair and the accusations that she was the one who committed this monstrous act. Elizabeth Olsen ("WandaVision") and Jesse Plemons ("The Power of the Dog") star in this miniseries based on a true story. The first episode premieres April 27. (HBO Max)

"Citadel" (TV-16+) -- Spy series have been on a roll lately, with shows like "The Night Agent" and "Liaison" getting cranked out by streaming services. "Citadel," executive produced by the Russo Brothers, is one of the latest of these suspenseful series that could prove to be quite successful for Prime Video. Starring Richard Madden ("Game of Thrones") and Priyanka Chopra Jonas ("Quantico"), the show follows Mason Kane, a spy suffering from amnesia after a huge explosion. From the explosion, he solely remembers Nadia (Chopra Jonas), who he finds has also lost her memory. So, the two partner up together to remember their past, the spies they once were and the secret espionage organization they were in, called Citadel. Premieres April 28. (Prime Video)

"Clock" (TV-MA) -- Ella has never wanted children, and her husband stands beside her on that. But she starts feeling an increasingly high pressure from the world around her to have kids. Thus, Ella decides to enroll in a clinical trial at a biotech firm to see if she can get her biological clock to start ticking. At the trial, she gets administered a hormone paired with behavioral therapy, as well as the option for an implant. As a result of these experimental procedures, Ella's perception of life gets darkly twisted, filling her with a dreadful sense of paranoia and borderline madness. This sci-fi/horror flick premiering April 28 stars Dianna Agron ("Glee") and Melora Hardin ("The Office"). (Hulu)

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1. Which artist netted a Grammy for his "I'd Do Anything for Love"?
2. Name the first group to release "Teach Your Children."
3. Name the duo that released "Teardrops."
4. Which artist released "Maybe I Know"?
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "When no one else can understand me, When everything I do is wrong, You give me hope and consolation, You give me strength to carry on."

Answers

1. Meat Loaf, aka Michael Lee Aday. Before he died in 2022, Aday appeared in over 50 films, including the 1975 "Rocky Horror Picture Show" playing Eddie, the former delivery boy.
2. Crosby, Stills & Nash in 1969. Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young released a different version the following year. Band member Graham Nash had written the song in 1968.
3. Womack & Womack, in 1988. Elton John and k.d. lang covered the song in 1993, followed by several other duos over the years, including Cliff Richard and Candi Staton in 2011.
4. Lesley Gore, in 1964.
5. "The Wonder of You," by Elvis Presley in 1970. The song has been used in England and Scotland by football clubs as their anthem, although with different lyrics.

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GRIN and BEAR IT ^{by Wagner}



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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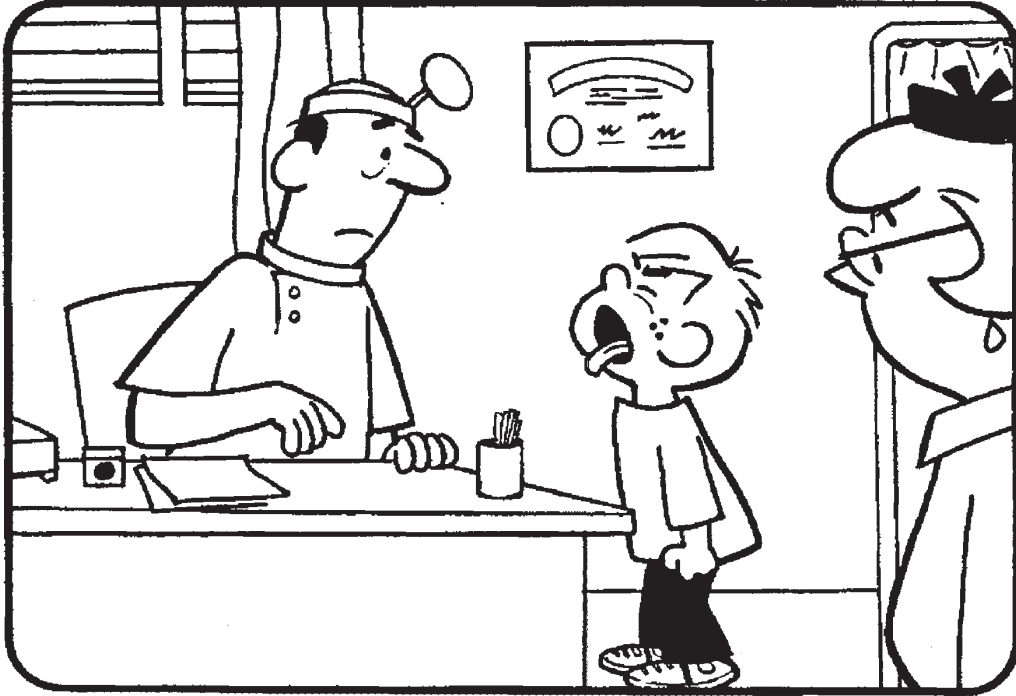
"He doesn't bring me flowers anymore!
He never did!"

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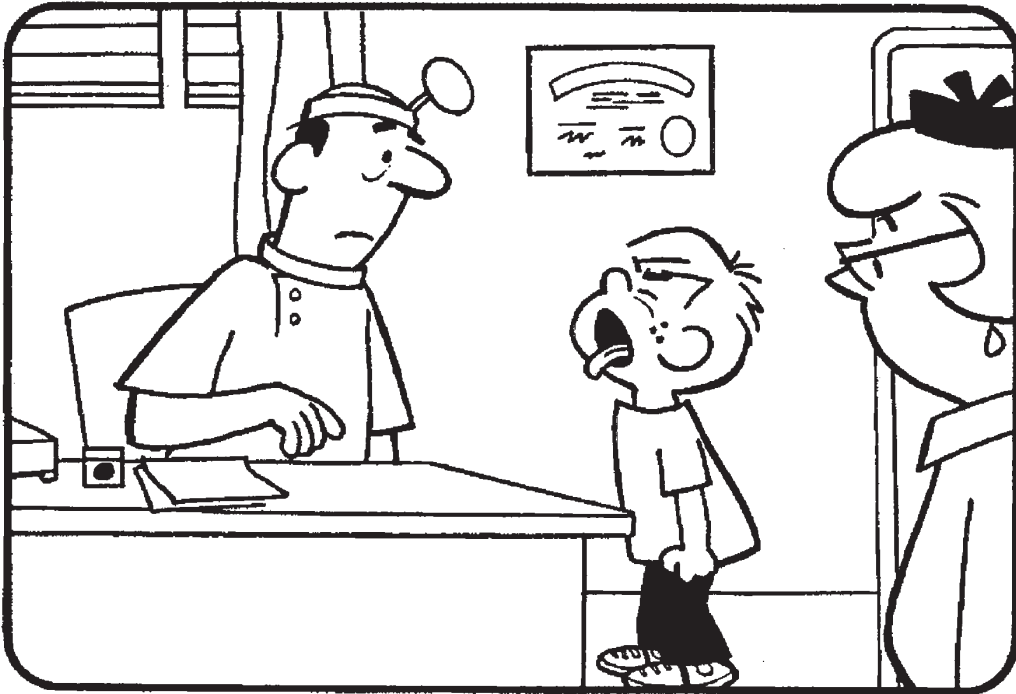
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Irreances: 1. Hand is missing. 2. Container is missing. 3. Diploma is different. 4. Sleeve is shorter. 5. Curtain is missing. 6. Glasses differ.

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* Make children's pills easier to swallow by crushing them and putting them in a bit of jelly or applesauce. Make sure, especially if it's a prescription medicine, that it can be crushed. -- U.L. in Minnesota

* To keep kids from running into a closed sliding-glass door, cut out a small picture of something that's brightly colored, "lamine" it by taping it across both sides, then tape it to the door at children's eye level. -- E.R. in New York

* Painting season is in full swing at my house, and here are my two favorite painting tips: One is to lightly soap the windows (glass only) and let it dry. Any paint splatters will land on the soap, which can be easily wiped away when the paint is all dry. The other is to give locks, hinges and

doorknobs a light coat of petroleum jelly. It works the same way, and when polished away, it leaves a nice shine to hardware.

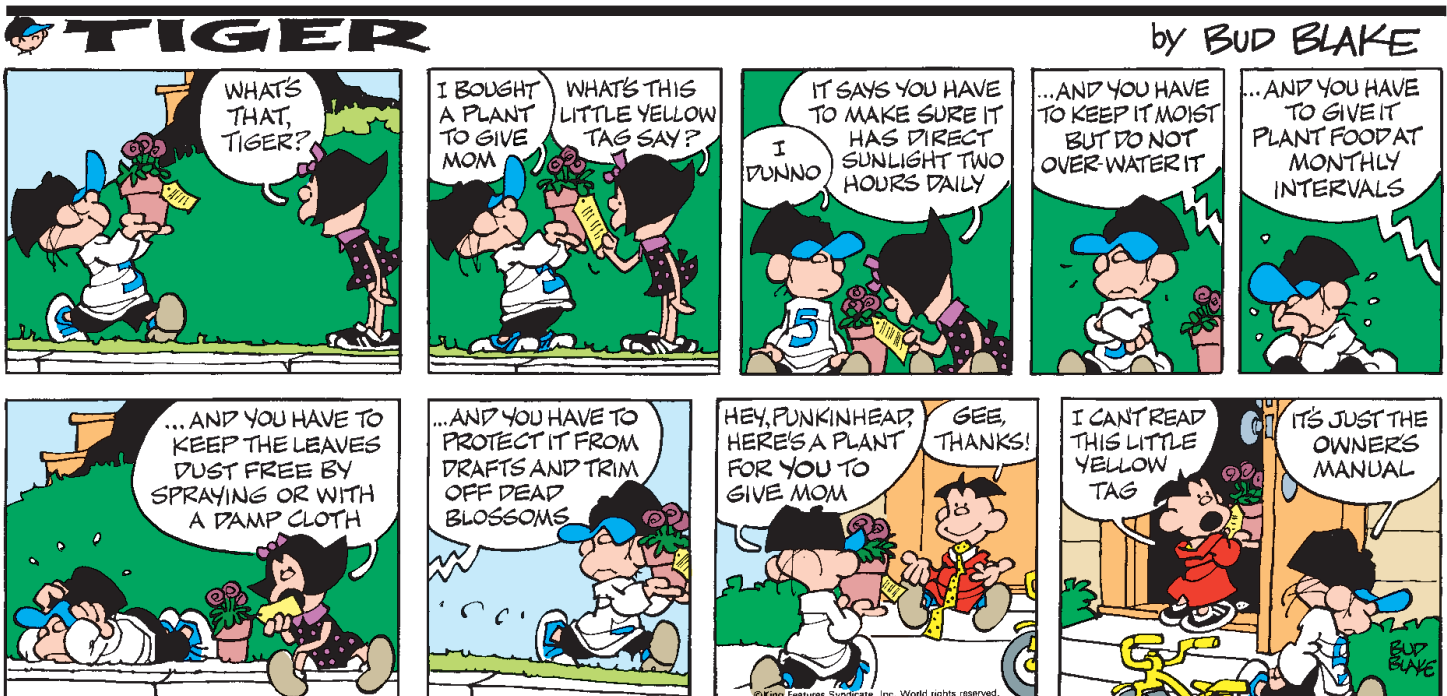
* Here's a great spring facial: Split an avocado, mash half of it and use it as a mask. Let sit for up to five minutes, then rinse away with warm water.

* Cleaning windows? Use a nylon net scrubbie from the kitchen to get rid of bugs from screens. It also works really well to scrub bugs off the car grille or car window.

* Here's a great tip you can use when parallel parking in front of a storefront. Check the reflection to see if it looks like there's room when backing in or pulling forward. -- O.W. in California

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

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Chanteuse Edith
- 5 Links org.
- 8 Too
- 12 Kotb of "Today"
- 13 Filch
- 14 500 sheets
- 15 Rat- —
- 16 Eternally
- 18 Large gong
- 20 Try to hear better, maybe
- 21 Author Bagnold
- 23 Nabokov novel
- 24 Symbol of stability
- 28 La Scala solo
- 31 — tai (cocktail)
- 32 Van Gogh venue
- 34 Mafia boss
- 35 Hostels
- 37 Vespers
- 39 Secret agent
- 41 Ms. Brockovich
- 42 Ceremony
- 45 Slanted type
- 49 The whole crowd
- 51 Actress Fisher
- 52 Lure
- 53 Some coll. degrees

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			

- 34 Mafia boss
- 35 Hostels
- 37 Vespers
- 39 Secret agent
- 41 Ms. Brockovich
- 42 Ceremony
- 45 Slanted type
- 49 The whole crowd
- 51 Actress Fisher
- 52 Lure
- 53 Some coll. degrees
- 54 Hideaway
- 55 Curry and Landers
- 56 "Game, —, match!"
- 57 Dele undoer
- 8 Fleet
- 9 "Mona Lisa" painter
- 10 Rani's wrap
- 11 Portent
- 17 Stephen of "Still Crazy"
- 19 "Puppy Love" singer
- 22 Look (into)
- 24 Brit. record label
- 25 Moving vehicle
- 26 Genius
- 27 Most skeptical
- 29 Charged bit
- 30 "Life of Pi" director Lee
- 33 Tizzy
- 36 Gushes forth
- 38 Slowpokes
- 40 "Rah!"
- 42 Ms. McEntire
- 43 Infamous tsar
- 44 High tennis shots
- 46 Aspiring atty.'s exam
- 47 "Would — to you?"
- 48 Shopper's aid
- 50 Scot's refusal

DOWN

- 1 Excellent, in slang
- 2 Speck
- 3 Leading man?
- 4 Plump up
- 5 Opening night
- 6 State VIP
- 7 Genesis shepherd

— King Crossword —

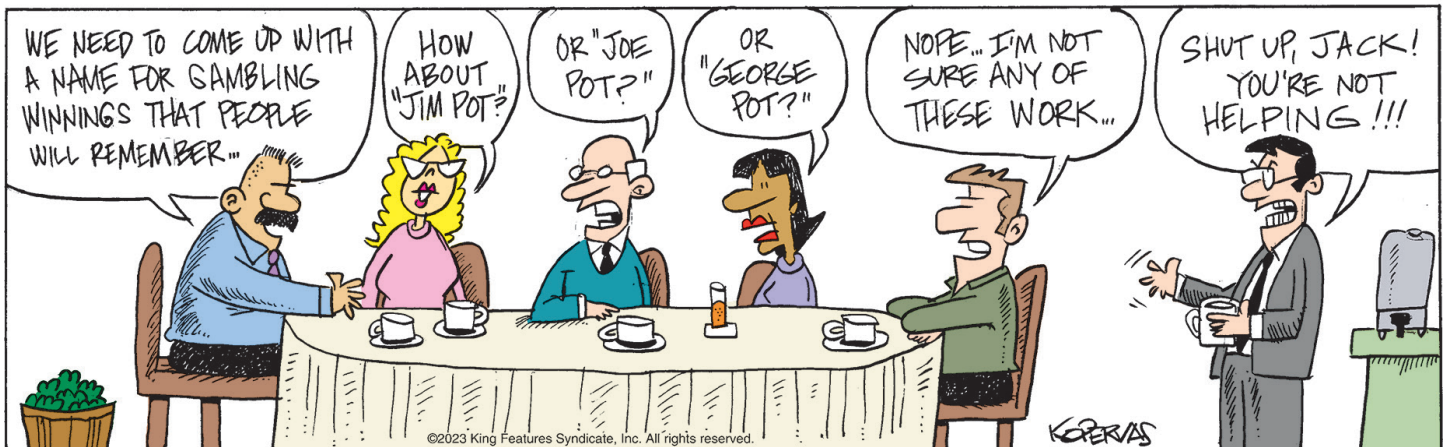
Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

P	I	A	F		P	G	A		A	L	S	O	
H	O	D	A		R	O	B		R	E	A	M	
A	T	A	T		E	V	E	R	M	O	R	E	
T	A	M	T	A	M			L	E	A	N	I	N
				E	N	I	D		A	D	A		
E	V	E	N	K	E	E	L		A	R	I	A	
M	A	I		A	R	L	E	S		D	O	N	
I	N	N	S		E	V	E	N	S	O	N	G	
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B	A	I	T		B	A	S		L	A	I	R	
A	N	N	S		S	E	T		S	T	E	T	

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS
POPEYE
BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

I'M SORRY, POPEYE. I CAN'T FIND ANY INFO ON YOUR SUBJECT.
BUT IF YOU COULD BRING THIS BLUE PERSON TO ME, I'D LOVE TO STUDY HIM!

O.G., I AIN'TK BRINGIN' YA SOME ALIEN FER YA TO DISSECT!

I WOULD NEVER HARM ANYONE, EVEN FOR SCIENCE!

AND I AIN'TK LETTIN' YA MAKE A GRAD STUDENT DISSECT HIM.

WELL, NOW YOU'RE BEING UNREASONABLE.

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS
THE SECRET OF GOONHALLA
PART 5

SWEE'PEA AND ALICE JR. FOLLOW THE BEING KNOWN AS TRIVICUS THROUGH A PORTAL, HOPING TO LEARN WHY HE HAS TRAPPED THE GOONS IN A DOME AND IS ASKING ABOUT SOMETHING CALLED "GOONHALLA."

BUT, SIR, ALL THE GOONS SAY THEY'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF "GOONHALLA!"

AND I TOLD YOU THEY ARE LYING.

REMEMBER, I GAVE YOU YOUR POSITION OF COSMIC COLLECTOR OF KNOWLEDGE.

MY POWER IS INFINITE. MY PATIENCE IS NOT.

YES, SIR!

AND GRAB A RECORDER ON THE WAY OUT!

I WANT TO HEAR YOUR INTERVIEWS WITH THE GOONS.

AS YOU WISH, GRAND ARCHIVIST!

HA! WHAT A RUBE!

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S STILL FALLING FOR IT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS!

FALLING FOR WHAT? A MORTAL!

WHY ARE YOU SCARED?

CUZ IGNORANCE IS CONTAGIOUS AND YOUR KIND ARE BASICALLY JUST PLAGUE RATS.

BARNEY GOOGLE AND
SNUFFY SMITH

YORE COOKIN' AIN'T EDIBLE, SHERIFF !! YA SHORE END UP WASTIN' A LOTTA FOOD 'ROUN' HERE !!

NOPE !!

NOT ENNYMORE, I DON'T !!

I GOTTA TELL YA,.... SNUFFY, I AIN'T HEARD A SINGLE THING **BAD** 'BOUT YA LATELY !!

NOPE !! I'VE BEEN BEHAVIN' MYSELF PURTY GOOD LATELY, PARSON !!

'COURSE IT HALPS THAT I GOT A BODACIOUS INCENTIVE !!

AH, SETTIN' A GOOD 'XAMPLE FER YORE YOUNG-UNS !!

HMM... HADN'T CONSIDERED THAT !!

I'VE JEST BEEN TRYIN' TO AVOID HAVIN' **BARLOW** FER A **CELLMATE** !!

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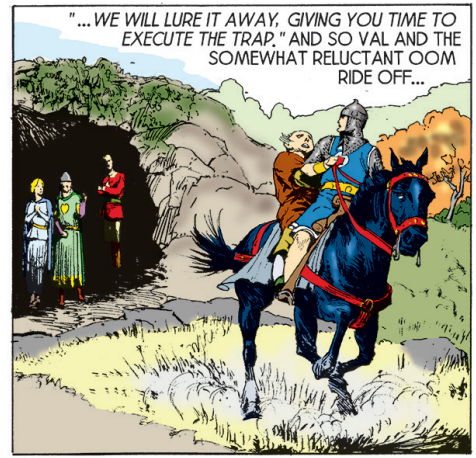
MORNING FINALLY COMES TO VAL'S BESIEGED PARTY, BUT NOW HE HAS A PLAN.

Hal Foster's
Prince Valiant
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ



"THE CREATURE OUTSIDE WANTS OOM'S HEAD. VERY WELL, WE CAN USE THAT FACT AGAINST THE THING..."

"... WE WILL LURE IT AWAY, GIVING YOU TIME TO EXECUTE THE TRAP." AND SO VAL AND THE SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT OOM RIDE OFF...



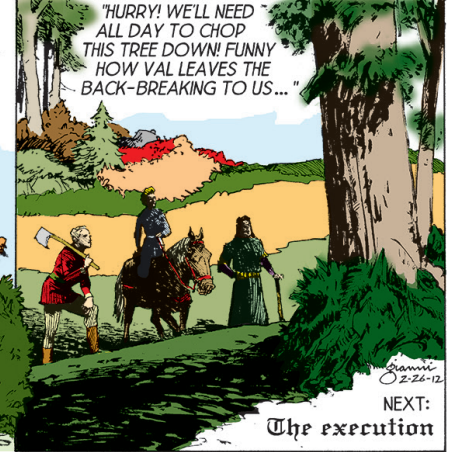
...TAUNTING THE DULL CREATION WITH THE OBJECT IT SEEKS MOST TO DESTROY: ITS OWN CREATOR.



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THE MONSTER TAKES THE BAIT, LEAVING THE OTHERS FREE TO EFFECT VAL'S PLAN...



"HURRY! WE'LL NEED ALL DAY TO CHOP THIS TREE DOWN! FUNNY HOW VAL LEAVES THE BACK-BREAKING TO US..."

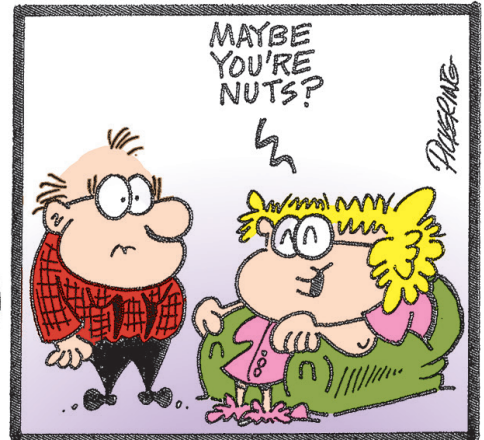
Gianni
02-26-12
NEXT:
The execution

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Why Are Seniors Targeted for Scams?

In one year alone, seniors lost over \$3 billion to scammers, and it's gotten worse every year. The 60-69 age group was bad enough, but the dollar losses rose even more after age 70, and much more after age 80.

Why are we targeted?

The thieves believe two things about us: We're all rich and have great credit, having worked our whole lives, and, worst of all, that we won't tell anyone if we lose money to them. Those two things alone make us constant targets.

All scammers have to do to turn us into victims, according to a study by Stanford and AARP, is raise our emotions. Whether happiness or anger, it doesn't matter, because either will push us to hand over our information or our money.

For example, scammers will say we've won a big prize, like the lottery, but to claim that prize we need to send them processing fees in advance. We think about that prize and our good sense goes out the window.

Emotions come into play when a scammer calls pretending to be a grandchild in trouble. We're asked to send money right away. We're upset, and we do. But the emotional pleas for money don't end there. Romance scams are huge, and too many lonely seniors send cash to their new love without questioning it.

Scammers who pretend to be from the government, such as the IRS, who frighten us into paying money, raise our emotions as well.

The list of scams directed at the elderly is nearly endless: investments, lottery wins, IRS tax bills, low-cost prescriptions, charities, tech repair, cemetery debts, romance, reverse mortgage, help signing up for Medicare, auto warranties ...

Beware. If you allow yourself to be scammed once, they will be back, because you'll be on a list of people who can be fooled.

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1. In March 1973, what two New York Yankees pitchers announced they had swapped wives and families?

2. What basketball player from Poland, the WNBA's all-time leader in shots blocked with 877, died from a cardiac arrest in 2011?

3. Longtime Sports Illustrated football writer Paul Zimmerman was better known to readers by what nickname?

4. Name the American swimmer who won five gold medals at the 1988 Seoul Summer Olympics.

5. Who had more professional boxing career wins: Leon Spinks or his brother Michael?

6. What Philadelphia Eagles cornerback scored a fumble return touchdown in the final seconds to snatch a 19-17 win over the New York Giants in a 1978 game called the "Miracle at the Meadowlands"?

7. In cricket, the term for a batsman's dismissal with a score of zero is the same as what kind of waterfowl?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. Mike Kekich and Fritz Peterson.

2. Margo Dydek.

3. Dr. Z.

4. Matt Biondi.

5. Michael, with 31. (Leon had 26.)

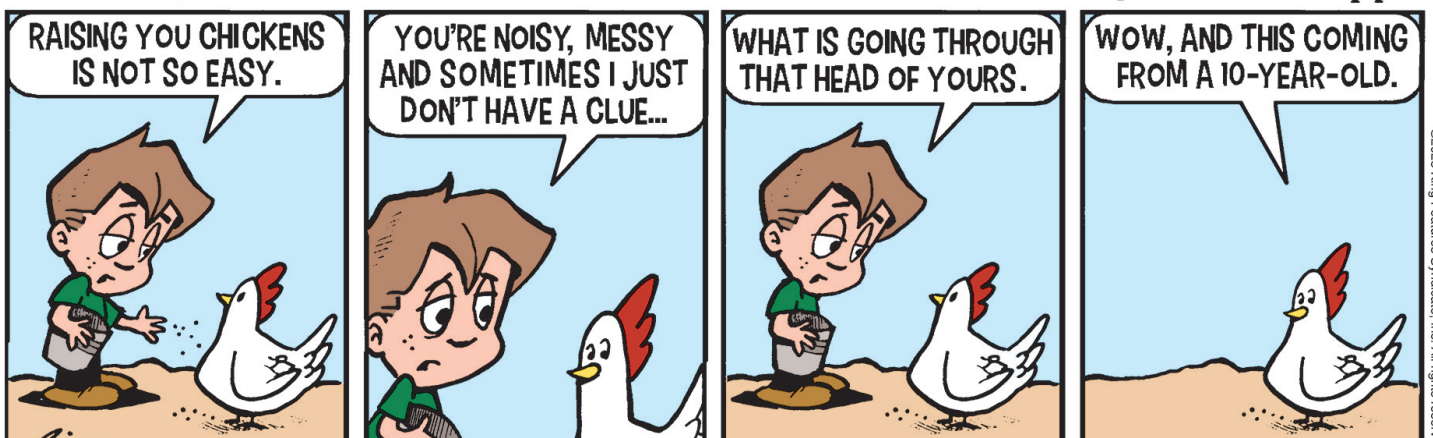
6. Herman Edwards.

7. A duck.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





How to Stop an Overweight Dog From Howling for Food

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My Labrador-mix, Seeker, has always been a pretty big guy. But lately he's turned into a very round dog. If I don't feed him throughout the day, he sits beside his bowl and howls -- making it impossible for me to work at my desk. What can I do to calm him down and help him lose weight? -- Jim G., Quincy, Massachusetts

Dear Jim: It's difficult to help overweight pets lose those extra pounds, and it's clear that Seeker has no qualms about complaining about it!

Since you're working from home, one way to mitigate the howling is to implement a divert-and-reward system to take his mind off his empty bowl. In essence, keep Seeker away from the kitchen and as busy as your schedule allows.

Immediately after his breakfast, close off the kitchen. Use a baby gate or shut the door, and hide the food bowl out of sight. Take Seeker outside for a short walk to burn off extra energy and a few calories. If you're in a high-rise apartment or another situation where going outside frequently is more difficult, opt for a five-minute training and play session instead.

While you're working, Seeker should be separated from the kitchen -- either in a closed-off room or with you in your office (but in his own corner) -- and given plenty of toys to chew on. Spend time with Seeker on each break from work. Play, work on basic obedience, or just hang out. Once you're finished with work for the day, take Seeker out for a long walk before giving him dinner.

Stick with the diet prescribed by the vet. Be patient but consistent with Seeker to change his behavior. He can and will lose the weight, because you care about him!

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* Pixar required its entire staff to take a graduate-level ichthyology (the branch of zoology that studies fish) class to help improve the authenticity of "Finding Nemo."

* Television inventor Philo Farnsworth got the idea for how the medium would work when he was just 14 -- and while plowing potatoes. He built the first working prototype seven years later, but died at 64 in relative obscurity due to a series of legal battles.

* A 20-year-old gallon of McDonald's McJordan BBQ Sauce sold for \$10,000 simply because it had Michael

Jordan's name on it.

* A lobster's brain is located in its throat, its nervous system in its abdomen, its teeth in its stomach, and its kidneys in its head! It also hears using its legs, tastes with its feet, and tends to favor one front limb, meaning it can be right-clawed or left-clawed.

* After the Comstock Laws banned birth control in 1873, the makers of Trojan condoms found a way around that restriction by selling the prophylactics as a protection against STDs.

* Queen is the only band in which each member individually wrote more than one No. 1 hit.

* In North Korea, anyone who cuts down trees or starts a forest fire in protected areas could face the death penalty.

* When Joseph Stalin's first wife died, he said: "This creature softened my heart of stone. She died, and with her died my last warm feelings for humanity." He would go on to execute her brother, her sister and her cousin.

* No one actually "won" the war of 1812.

* Chicago was raised over 4 feet with screw jacks in the 19th century in order to install the U.S.'s first sewer system.

Thought for the Day: "It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation." -- Herman Melville

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Detail of Antonio Frasconi's woodcut "Overhead the Sun" (1969)

Sunlight needs

All plants require sunlight to grow. Check product labels for the sunlight needed as you select plants or seeds.

FULL SUN	At least 6 hours of direct sun daily
PART SUN	Between 3 and 6 hours of direct sun per day
PART SHADE	Between 3 and 6 hours of sun per day, but need protection from intense mid-day sun
FULL SHADE	Require less than 3 hours of direct sun per day

Source: southernlivingplants.com - Brenda Weaver



by Freddy Groves

Copay Exemption for Native American Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs is moving forward toward its goal of ensuring that Native American veterans receive the benefits they should be getting. Two weeks ago it was reduced mortgage interest rates for Native Americans, native Hawaiians, Alaska Natives and Pacific Islanders. Now, per the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, it's a waiver on having to pay a copay for VA health care services and urgent medical care.

Besides taking affect now, it's retroactive: Starting last year, on Jan. 5, 2022, any eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veteran who's received care and paid a copay can go back and be reimbursed.

There are details, of course. To be eligible for exemption you need to be an American Indian or Alaska Native Veteran, provide a copy of an official tribal document showing that you meet the eligibility requirements of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and submit a Tribal Documentation Form (VA Form 10-334). That form is also known as Documentation of Indian or Urban Indian Status for Veteran Copayment Exemption.

Pay special attention to the government's definition of "Indian." It involves being a first- or second-degree descendant of certain groups, and you must live in an urban center, which includes the department of Health and Human Services' definition of an Indian population with unmet health needs.

If you're not yet signed up for VA health care, this might be the time to do it and have that, plus the question of your copays, out of the way. In a medical emergency, you don't want to have to think about what you're going to do or where you're going to go. And if you've paid out several copays since Jan. 5 of last year, you stand to be reimbursed if you're eligible for the American Indian exemption.

Confused yet? There's help at 800-698-2411, the MyVA number that's answered 24/7 with assistance on a dozen different topics, from benefits to cemeteries to a crisis line.

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Wishing Well®

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

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. MOVIES: Which movie gave actor Tom Hanks his first Oscar?
2. SCIENCE: Apollo astronauts reported that the Moon smelled like what substance?
3. GEOGRAPHY: How many stars are on the Australian flag?
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president killed a man who insulted him in a duel?
5. MUSIC: Which pop group produced the hit song "God Only Knows"?
6. TELEVISION: "The Brady Bunch" features how many blended family members?
7. LANGUAGE: What is the official language of the United States?
8. U.S. STATES: What is the state capital of Rhode Island?
9. ASTRONOMY: Which is the only planet in our solar system that is not named after a god or goddess?
10. FOOD & DRINK: What is a cheese connoisseur called?

Answers

1. "Philadelphia."
2. Burnt gunpowder.
3. Six.
4. Andrew Jackson. In 1806 he shot and killed Charles Dickinson in a duel.
5. The Beach Boys.
6. Eight: six children and two parents.
7. None — the United States doesn't have an official language.
8. Providence.
9. Earth.
10. A turophile.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

A History Worth Learning

Our kids and our grandkids will be the next generation of leaders, business owners, and entrepreneurs. They will also be the leaders of the future of our great American republic. They deserve an honest and factual classroom teaching that will prepare them to engage in our civil society for the rest of their lives.

In South Dakota, our students will be taught the best social studies standards in the country.

In the last century, the education movement has pushed to remove history and social studies in favor of what they deem "more practical pursuits." And more recently, the No Child Left Behind initiative and its counterparts have all but eliminated history and civics instruction in elementary schools in favor of focusing the entire day on reading and math.

This has resulted in a severe decline in the teaching of social studies in this nation. A growing majority of Americans lack a fundamental understand of this country's government structure and our history. In fact, more than half of natural-born American citizens could not pass a citizenship test.

Our kids and grandkids have not been learning the basic founding principles upon which their country was built. They do not know about the ideals and the vision of our Founding Fathers. And without this knowledge, they do not see how lucky they truly are to live in the greatest nation in the history of the world.

That is unacceptable – but we are taking steps to fix it.

In South Dakota, we have just passed new social studies standards that raise the bar for high-quality civic education in America. They are clearly written, rich in context, address the full story of our nation's past, and incorporate South Dakota topics throughout all grade levels. These standards have the largest emphasis on Native American history of any proposed standards to date, as well.

America's kids are struggling with civic literacy and uncivil discourse. A change in the approach to how we prepare our future citizens is far overdue. Our new social studies standards implement crucial changes to help our kids and grandkids. They are clear, concise, and transparent. Parents deserve to know what their children are being taught in the classroom.

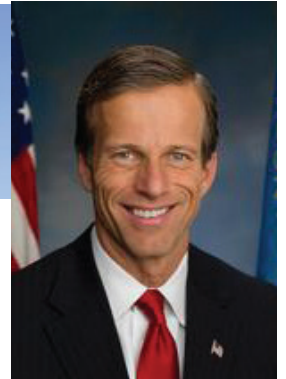
The standards also integrate civics into all American history classes at every grade level and creates "spiraled sequencing." This means that students will study world history four times and American history and civics five times over the course of their years of education. With each class, students will build upon what they have already learned, deepen their understanding, and acquire knowledge that will endure long after their high school graduation.

In South Dakota, we are finally giving our students the kind of education they deserve. We are equipping them with the necessary knowledge and experiences to become active members of our society. And we are preparing them to grow up and continue the legacy of this great nation.

It is my sincere hope that other states will follow in our footsteps and raise our kids to know and understand the importance and the significance of the history of the United States of America. Because the history of our nation is a history worth learning.

This originally printed as an op-ed on FoxNews.com.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Celebrate South Dakota's Great Outdoors

As warmer weather approaches and calls us outside, it's a great time to celebrate National Park Week. South Dakota's national parks are unlike any other place in the world. They range from prehistoric caves, storied trails and waterways, and mountains uniquely smoothed by the ages and the sculptor's chisel. It's no wonder that they attract millions of visitors, adventure seekers, and outdoor enthusiasts each year.

Each season brings its own treasure, and it doesn't matter which time of year you say it, but there's no better time to get outside and explore South Dakota's natural treasures than now (unless I'm shoveling snow). Whether you're looking for a hike in the Black Hills, a pilgrimage to Mount Rushmore, a scenic drive through the Badlands, or a journey into the caverns of some of the world's longest caves, South Dakota's outdoors have it all.

I'm not sure there's a more beautiful place on earth than the Black Hills. The sights, smells, and shadows of this wilderness conspire to create something truly incredible. In the Southern Hills sits Mount Rushmore, where 60-foot sculptures of four great American presidents crown the height of America's heartland. Two million visitors come to the Black Hills every year to see Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt, and Lincoln immortalized in granite. Standing before this national treasure, you can't help but feel a little prouder to be a citizen of this great land and an heir to our heritage of freedom.

Not far from Mount Rushmore, but lying far underground, are two of the longest caves in the world. Jewel Cave in Custer crawls 215 miles with unique formations all around you. Wind Cave, the first cave designated as a national park, spans 154 miles and boasts 95 percent of the world's boxwork formations on its cave walls. Bits of Wind Cave's boxwork sit in museums around the country, but in South Dakota you can see this natural art lining cave walls for miles.

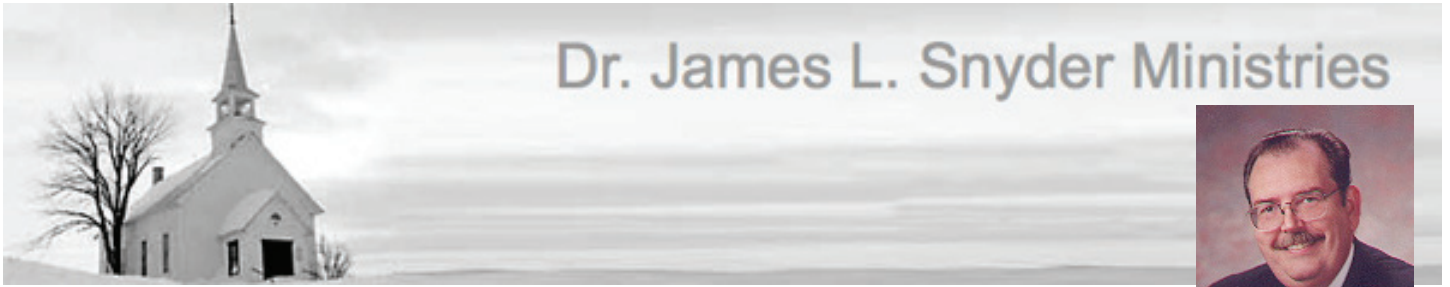
And, of course, there's the Badlands in all its rugged and out-of-this-world beauty. The Badlands' smoothed mountains look like they belong on another planet, and its wealth of fossils brings you back eons to the prehistoric age. Once called "The Wonderlands" to attract homesteaders, it's not hard to see how it got that name. As the sun rises and sets, the landscape's colors change – to see the Badlands is to experience a true wonder.

America's great outdoors need to be cared for and preserved for future generations. We're beginning to see the results from the Great American Outdoors Act, which passed almost three years ago, as maintenance backlogs at national parks are finally being addressed. And I'm continuing to work to improve forest management in the Black Hills National Forest to reduce the risk of wildfire and damaging infestations. In this year's farm bill, I'll also be working to support the Conservation Reserve Program, which helps improve soil health and water quality, and it provides habitat for South Dakota's wildlife too.

I've long loved our great outdoors – it's hard not to fall in love with them. I have great memories of packing into the car for our family's annual trip to the Black Hills as a kid and taking our daughters to the national parks as a dad. And growing up in Murdo, at the crossroads of Highway 83 and I-90, we saw plenty of families making their own pilgrimage each summer. As we celebrate National Park Week, I hope you'll make time to enjoy our great outdoors and keep them great for the next generation to enjoy.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



The Princess Hath Thus Spoken

In December of last year, our second great-grandchild entered our family. Our first great-grandchild was a boy, and this one is a girl.

Like all our children, grandchildren and great-grandson, this great-granddaughter was a blessing to our family. If only children would stay young for the rest of their life! I have learned that the thing is to enjoy them while they are young.

Being retired, we have more time to spend with our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I'm sure this is one of the great blessings that our Heavenly Father bestows upon us.

Because the mother of this great-grandchild, our granddaughter, is a working nurse, she went back to work following her maternity leave. That being the case, the grandma (mother) and great-grandma daycare operation kicked in.

These relationships get confusing, and I try to keep them separated. Still, the grandmother, our daughter, is also a working nurse and therefore does not have that much time for the daycare operation.

The great-grandmother, which is the Matriarch-Hierarchy, has more time for the daycare operation. That means the great-granddaughter is in our home quite often during the week.

I was pretty pleased with this arrangement and was glad to have a little great-granddaughter in our home as much as possible. Of course, you can never have too many of these little great-granddaughters.

After a few weeks I began to understand life as it is; I assumed things, but not always understanding, how they came into being.

At our family gathering, the new great-granddaughter was there and we were having our family dinner. Then something began to happen that at first, I did not quite understand, but later began to comprehend the whole issue in a different light.

The little great-granddaughter was sleeping in her bassinet in one of our bedrooms. We were chatting around the table, and then suddenly, we heard it.

Waa, Waa, Waa, Waa, Waa.

Being a man, I didn't quite understand what that noise was about. All of the ladies around the table got up and marched back to the bedroom with the little baby crying.

In a few moments, they all came out, and one was holding the baby while the rest were following. They all gathered in the living room, and I watched as they passed the baby around, and everybody had a chance to hold her.

It wasn't long before that little Princess stopped crying. And if I saw that right, if not smiling, at least she was snickering. At first, I did not quite understand what that was all about.

That was just the beginning.

Whenever The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage babysat the great-grandbaby, I noticed a similar routine.

The great-grandmother got the great-grandbaby settled down, fed her, then quietly take her back, and put her in the bassinet in the bedroom. She fell asleep, and the great-grandmother tiptoed out of the bedroom and went to the kitchen to resume her work.

Then came that familiar sound from the bedroom.

Waa, Waa, Waa, Waa, Waa.

Before the second "Waa" got out, the great-grandmother turned her back on the kitchen and scooted

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back into the bedroom to bow before the great-granddaughter.

As she brought the little baby out, the baby looked at me and gave me one of her snickers. I am not sure, but I think she winked at me. Just do not let this get back to the great-grandmother.

So the great-grandmother cared for the baby, rocked it, and did everything babies need at that stage of life.

She finally went to sleep, and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage took the baby back to its bassinet to sleep for a little while.

When she came back, I was tempted, but I did not yield to that temptation, to ask her what all that crying was about. I was tempted, but I did not yield to that temptation, to tell her what I thought was going on.

It did not take long for the little Princess to do it all over again.

Waa, Waa, Waa, Waa, Waa.

Again, the great-grandmother dropped what she was doing and went back, got the baby out of the bassinet, brought her out, and fixed up a bottle for her lunch. So all the time, the little baby was smiling and giggling and then looking at me and winked; it seemed that way, at least from my perspective.

What I saw was the little Princess taking charge of her environment. How someone that young could know how to manipulate her environment is well beyond me. I should take a few notes from her.

Then I began thinking that perhaps this was the little Princess preparing to be a wife and mother, with the emphasis on the wife. If that is true, she has a great start at that.

I wonder what it is going to be like when this little Princess graduates to a teenager. Those are going to be the days, and I'm looking forward to them.

As I was pondering this situation I could not help but think of what that wise old man, Solomon, said in, Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

That wise old man understood that what a child becomes is a result of training. Too often the child dominates the training chair which predicts what happens when that child is old.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: How are environmental advocates using TikTok to raise awareness and gather support for their causes?

-- B.K., Seattle, WA

Social media has become a powerful tool for environmental activists to raise awareness and advocate for change, and no social media network is hotter these days than TikTok. This fast-growing platform where users create and share short videos has quickly become one of the most popular apps in the world—as of 2023, the app has more than 1.5 billion active users. As such, it has also become a powerful tool for activists to reach a large audience and raise awareness for environmental issues. Indeed, environmentalists have taken to TikTok to share their messages in creative and engaging ways, using humor, music, and personal anecdotes to connect with viewers.

One of the advantages of using TikTok for activism is the platform's reach to younger audiences that may not be as engaged in traditional forms of environmental and climate activism. More than two-thirds of TikTok's user base in the U.S. is under age 40, while 10–19-year-olds make up the single largest group by age on the platform. By using TikTok, these younger demographics can be reached and inspired to take action on environmental issues, organize petitions and fundraisers, and get involved in other ways.

One of the most popular environmental advocates on TikTok is Carissa Cabrera, a marine biologist and activist from Hawaii who has been creating TikToks for more than five years and has a large following on the platform—her @Carissaandclimate account has more 250,000 followers of her educational content.

"Generation Z wants to get information and tools at their fingertips, and it's all packaged in an entertaining way," says Cabrera. The fact that most TikToks last less than 30 seconds makes it a challenge to grab the user's attention, so Cabrera usually gets to the point in the first three seconds and then employs comedic stories and/or dances to round out the post. Her goal is to create catchy content that's quick and easy to memorize and that makes users want to watch it over and over and share with others so as to get more and more people to act on behalf of the planet.

Cabrera also contributes TikToks via EcoTok, which features innovative videos from a core group of activists and educators with the common goal of showing followers ways to live more sustainably.

"EcoTok started with a group of people looking for an outlet to share their frustrations," Cabrera reports. "Climate change is a daunting subject that can be hard to face alone." She adds that their early arrival into TikTok helped build a committed, strong community, with more than 100,000 followers and millions of "likes."

Of course, only time will tell if recent discussions in Congress about banning TikTok in the U.S. over fears of data mining by the Chinese government—the company behind the app is based in China—could mean the end for a valuable channel where environmentalists have been able to reach younger potential sympathizers here and inspire them to join the climate movement.

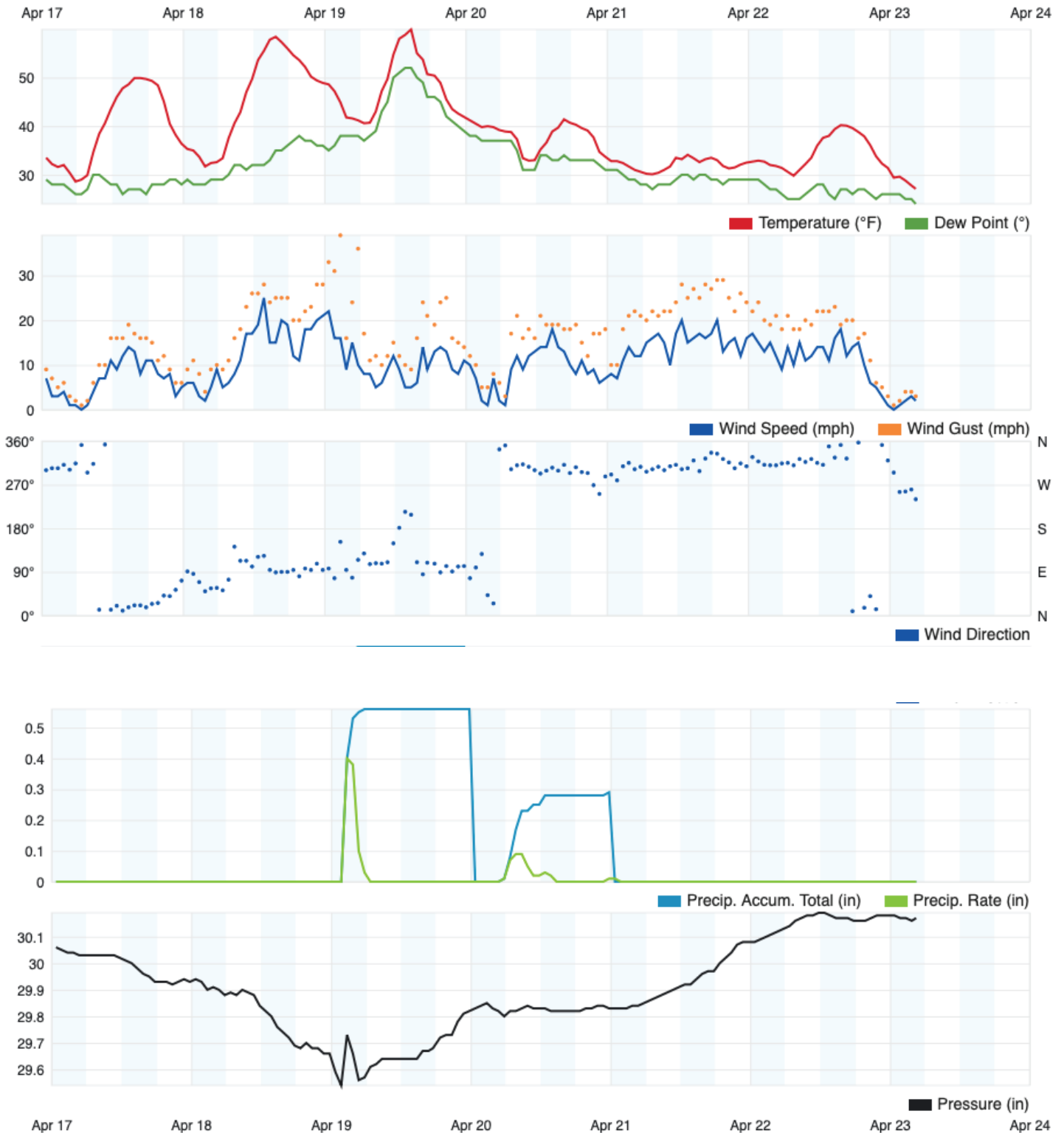


Carissa Cabrera, a marine biologist and activist and educator from Hawaii, has more 250,000 followers on TikTok.. Credit: Chris Yarzab, FlickrCC..

Groton Daily Independent







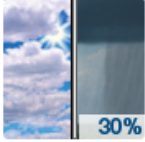
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Past Week's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Mostly Sunny	Decreasing Clouds	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny then Chance Showers
High: 49 °F	Low: 19 °F	High: 49 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 50 °F	Low: 30 °F	High: 58 °F



Today and Early Week Outlook

April 23, 2023
1:51 AM

Today: A blend of clouds and sun. Isolated rain/snow showers over northeastern SD/western MN this afternoon. Highs: 42 to 54°
* Light snow showers mainly staying over the higher terrain of the Sisseton Hills and Prairie Coteau.

Tonight: Clear to partly cloudy. Lows: 19 to 30°

Monday: A blend of clouds and sun. Highs: 43 to 58°

Tuesday: Sunny then increasing clouds. Chance of rain west of the Missouri River. Highs: 45 to 58°



 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Overall dry with isolated chances of rain/snow showers across northeastern SD into western MN this afternoon. Dry weather expected tonight through Monday. Chances of rain return to areas west of the Missouri River. High temps will range in the 40s/50s the next few days with a nice warmup midweek.

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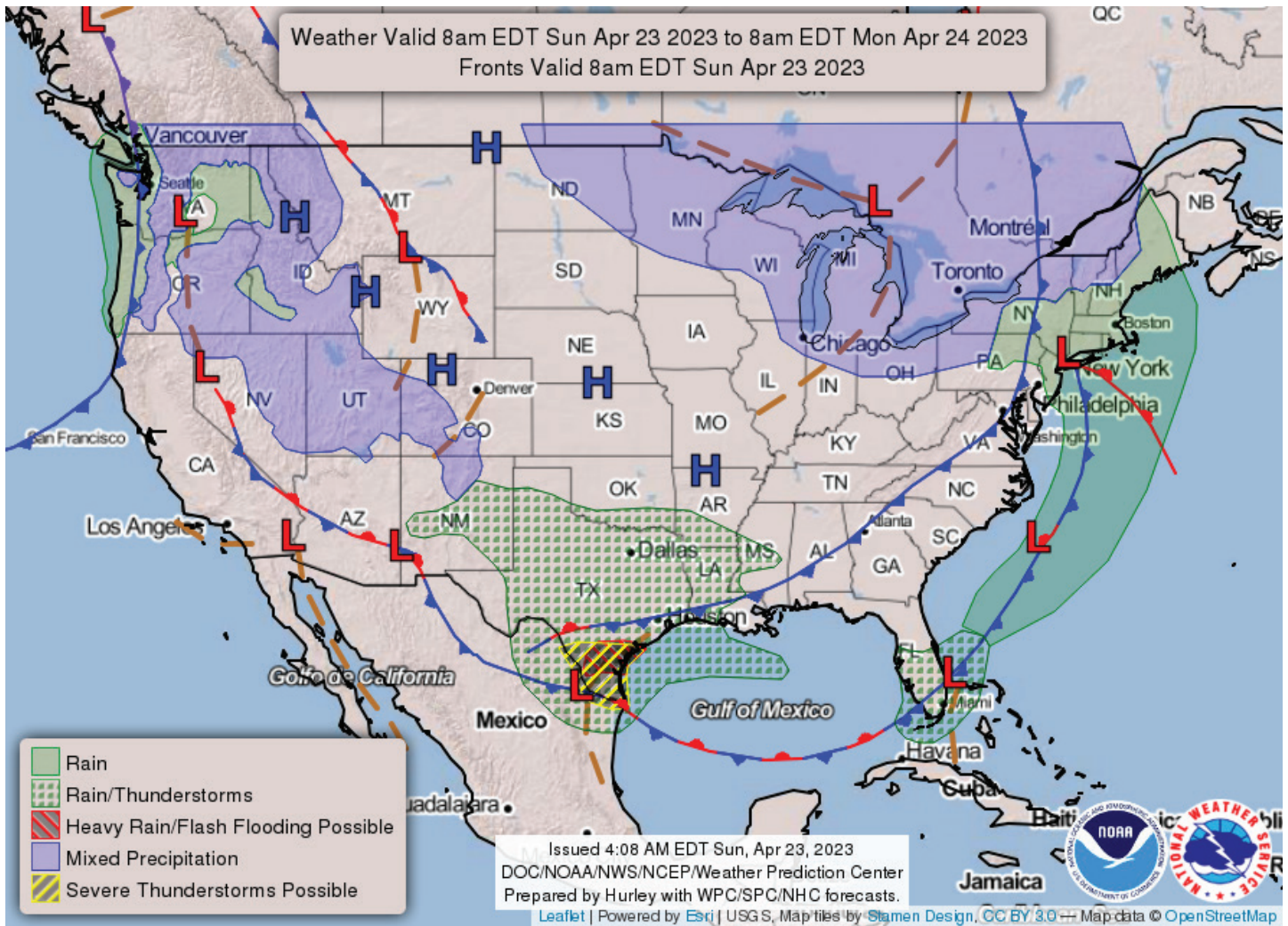
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 41 °F at 4:38 PM
Low Temp: 29 °F at 7:16 AM
Wind: 26 mph at 12:49 AM
Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 13 hours, 58 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 90 in 2009
Record Low: 14 in 1956
Average High: 61
Average Low: 34
Average Precip in April.: 1.27
Precip to date in April.: 1.67
Average Precip to date: 3.33
Precip Year to Date: 5.60
Sunset Tonight: 8:29:57 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:29:49 AM



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Today in Weather History

April 23, 2002: High winds of 35 to 50 mph gusting to over 70 mph occurred across much of central and northeast South Dakota. The high winds caused some spotty damage to property and trees. With the dry conditions, dust was stirred up by the winds and caused reduced visibilities at many locations. The highest wind gust was 72 mph at Onida.

1885 - The city of Denver, CO, was in the midst of a storm which produced 23 inches of snow in 24 hours, and at Idaho Springs CO produced 32 inches of snow. (David Ludlum)

1910 - The temperature at the Civic Center in Los Angeles, CA, hit 100 degrees to establish an April record for the city. (The Weather Channel)

1948: A three block long section was devastated at the edge of Ionia, Iowa in Chickasaw County by an estimated F4 tornado. Six homes and a church were leveled, and nine other homes were severely damaged. Two deaths occurred in the collapse of the Huffman Implement Store. Overall, the tornado killed five people, injured 25, and caused \$250,000 in damages. An F2 tornado touched down initially 5 miles northeast of Rochester. Barns, silos, windmills, and machinery were destroyed on four farms as this tornado tracked north.

1961: Severe weather struck the south suburbs of Chicago, IL. Joliet, IL reported an inch of hail with some hailstones the size of golf balls. Heavy rain from these storms also resulted in some flooding. A tornado struck the town of Peotone resulting in damage to nearly every building with damage also reported in Lorenzo and Wilton Center, IL. Estimated damage was \$9 million with about 30,000 structures affected.

1983 - A mini-blizzard produced sixteen inches of snow at Laramie, WY, including a foot of snow in just eight hours during the night. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in the Atlantic Coast Region produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 67 mph at Anderson SC. The high winds destroyed two planes at the airport, and the large hail damaged fifty other planes, and severely damaged twenty-three greenhouses. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989: Salina Kansas was the hot spot in the nation with a high of 105 degrees. The high of 105 degrees established an April record for the state of Kansas.

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in West Texas and western Oklahoma. Thunderstorms produced tennis ball size hail at Lake McKenzie TX and at Garden City TX, and produced wind gusts to 90 mph at Gage OK. Thunderstorms drenched southeast Minnesota with heavy rain, with 6.6 inches reported northwest of Browndale. High temperatures were mostly in the 80s across the central U.S. The morning low of 67 degrees at Fargo ND and afternoon high of 91 degrees were both records for the date. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary) 1999: On Friday, April 23, 1999, a horrific hailstorm moved southeast from Pennsylvania across Garrett County, Maryland and into the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. It had weakened some as it crossed Garrett County and the Allegheny Front, but as it passed east of Keyser, West Virginia, hail began to increase in size once again. By the time it reached Capon Bridge in eastern Hampshire County, West Virginia, the size of the hail had grown from golf balls to baseballs. As it moved into Frederick County, VA, the hail storm continued to grow dropping golf ball size hail in a swath now reaching from the north of Winchester, south to Stephen City (about 10 miles). Hailstones grew to the size of Grapefruit (4 inches in diameter) east of Winchester. The storm continued east through Clarke County, southern Loudoun, and northern Fauquier doing considerable damage to Middleburg, then across Fairfax County hitting Centreville, Chantilly, Fairfax, Burke, Springfield, and Lorton with golf ball size to baseball size hail. It crossed the Potomac River and weakened slightly. It moved across northern Charles, clipped southern Prince Georges and then into Calvert County with 1 inch to 1.5-inch diameter hail and onto the Chesapeake Bay continuing southeast to the ocean. The damage left behind was incredible. In Northern Virginia alone, it amounted to over \$50 million in losses to public and private properties. Some communities saw a third of the homes with siding and roof damage. Some required total replacement. Windows were broken, cars dented, and windshields smashed. Piles of shredded plant debris were left on the ground in the storm path. In about 6 hours of time, this one thunderstorm, moving at about 50 mph, did \$75 million in damage. There have been other severe hail storms to hit this area before, but none to cause this much damage to property.

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

BREAKTHROUGH

It was the first time she, JoAnn, had ever competed in the Special Olympics. She had trained hard but had no expectations of winning her race. But, she did win.

After the medal was placed around her neck, she ran to her parents and said, "Look mom and dad - I won! I won my race!" Tears fell from their eyes and ran down their cheeks.

Noticing their tears, the judge approached them and asked, "Aren't you happy that your daughter won the race? Why are you crying?"

Wiping the tears from her eyes, JoAnn's mother said, "Of course we are happy she won her race. But what brought tears to our eyes was the joy we had in hearing the first words she ever uttered."

It is easy for Christians to do good works and kind deeds in the name of the Lord without mentioning His name. And that is good. But we must also willingly and without hesitation boldly tell others of His blessings in our lives and give Him the credit.

Prayer: Give us courage, Lord, to share Your message of love, hope, and salvation with the lost. Also, Father, give us courage praise Your blessings, too. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Has the LORD redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies. Psalm 107:2



We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God's grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God's Word and we pray this good "seed" finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him

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2023 Community Events

- 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)
- 01/31/2023-02/03/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Drop Off 6-9pm, Community Center
- 02/04/2023-02/05/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Sale 1-5pm, Community Center
- 02/25/2023 Littles and Me, Art Making 10-11:30am, Wage Memorial Library
- 03/25/2023 Spring Vendor Fair, 10am-3pm, Community Center
- 04/01/2023 Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39 6-11:30pm
- 04/06/2023 Groton Career Development Event
- 04/08/2023 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)
- 06/16/2023 SDSU Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament
- 06/17/2023 Groton Triathlon
- 07/04/2023 Couples Firecracker Golf Tournament
- 07/09/2023 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/26/2023 GGA Burger Fundraiser Lunch at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 08/04/2023 Wine on Nine 6pm
- 08/11/2023 GHS Basketball Golf Tournament
- 09/09/2023 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/10/2023 Couples Sunflower Golf Tournament
- 10/14/2023 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
- 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)
- 12/02/2023 Tour of Homes & Holiday Party
- 12/09/2023 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9-11am

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The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

04.14.23

23 27 41 48 51 22

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

04.15.23

10 17 24 30 37 3

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,300,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

04.15.23

6 10 22 23 33 16

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 54 Mins
24 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

04.15.23

2 5 16 18 28

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$29,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

04.15.23

4 6 15 19 28 15

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

04.15.23

1 33 34 56 59 18

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$235,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

Governments race to rescue diplomats, citizens from Sudan

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — The U.S. military airlifted embassy officials out of Sudan on Sunday and international governments raced to evacuate their diplomatic staff and citizens trapped in the capital as rival generals battled for control of Africa's third-largest country for a ninth straight day.

Fighting raged in Omdurman, the city across the Nile from Sudan's capital, Khartoum, residents reported. The violence came despite a declared truce that was to coincide with the three-day Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr.

"We did not see such a truce," said Amin al-Tayed from his home near state television headquarters in Omdurman. He said heavy gunfire and thundering explosions rocked the city. "The battles did not stop," he said.

Thick black smoke filled the sky over Khartoum's airport. The paramilitary group battling the Sudanese armed forces claimed the military unleashed airstrikes on the upscale neighborhood of Kafouri, north of Khartoum. There was no immediate comment from the army.

After a week of bloody battles hindered rescue efforts, U.S. special forces swiftly evacuated some 70 U.S. embassy staffers from Khartoum to an undisclosed location in Ethiopia early Sunday. Although American officials said it was still too dangerous to carry out a government-coordinated mass evacuation of private citizens, other countries scrambled to evacuate their citizens and diplomats.

France and the Netherlands said Sunday they were organizing evacuations for embassy employees and nationals, along with some citizens of allied countries. French Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Anne-Claire Legendre said France was undertaking the operation with the help of European partners.

The Netherlands sent two air force Hercules C-130 planes and an Airbus A330 to Jordan ahead of a possible rescue mission. "We deeply sympathize with the Dutch in Sudan and will make every effort to evacuate people where and when possible," said Defense Minister Kajsa Ollongren.

The fighting between the Sudanese armed forces and the powerful paramilitary group, known as the Rapid Support Forces, has targeted and paralyzed the country's main international airport, reducing a number of civilian aircraft to ruins and gutting at least one runway. Other airports across the country have also been knocked out of operation.

Overland travel across areas contested by the warring parties has proven dangerous. Khartoum is some 840 kilometers (520 miles) from Port Sudan on the Red Sea.

But some countries have pressed ahead with the journey. Saudi Arabia on Saturday said the kingdom successfully evacuated 157 people, including 91 Saudi nationals and citizens of other countries. Saudi state TV released footage of a large convoy of Saudis and other foreign nationals traveling by car and bus from Khartoum to Port Sudan, where a navy ship then ferried the evacuees across the Red Sea to the Saudi port of Jeddah.

The power struggle between the Sudanese military, led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces, led by Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, has dealt a harsh blow to Sudan's heady hopes for a democratic transition. More than 400 people, including 264 civilians, have been killed and more than 3,500 have been wounded in the fighting.

Hospitals say they are struggling to cope. Many dead and wounded have been stranded by the fighting, according to the Sudan Doctors' Syndicate that monitors casualties, suggesting the death toll is probably far higher than what is publicly known.

The fighting has left millions of Sudanese stranded at home — hiding from explosions, gunfire and looting — without adequate electricity, food or water. On Sunday, the country experienced a "near-total collapse" of internet connection, according to NetBlocks.org, an internet monitoring service. Thousands of Sudanese have fled the combat in Khartoum for the suburbs.

"The capital has become a ghost city," said Atiya Abdalla Atiya, secretary of the Doctors' Syndicate. "Half

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of the population have fled and the rest are looking desperately for a way to get out of this hell.”

The fighting has trapped civilians — including foreign diplomats — in the crossfire. Fighters attacked a clearly marked U.S. Embassy convoy last week, and stormed the home of the European Union ambassador to Sudan. On Sunday, gunfire wounded an Egyptian diplomat in Sudan, said Ahmed Abu Zaid, spokesman for Egypt’s Foreign Ministry, without offering further details.

The current explosion of violence came after Burhan and Dagalo fell out over a recent internationally brokered deal with democracy activists that was meant to incorporate the RSF into the military and eventually lead to civilian rule.

The rival generals rose to power in the tumultuous aftermath of popular uprisings that led to the ouster of Sudan’s longtime ruler, Omar al-Bashir, in 2019. Two years later, they joined forces to seize power in a coup that ousted the civilian leaders and opened a troubled new chapter in the country’s history.

Associated Press writers Isabel DeBre in Jerusalem, Samy Magdy in Cairo, Michael Corder in The Hague, Netherlands, and Fay Abuelgasim in Beirut contributed reporting.

Sudan rivals pledge evacuation help, US diplomats airlifted

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — American embassy staffers were airlifted from Sudan early Sunday, as forces loyal to rival generals battled for control of Africa’s third-largest nation for a ninth day amid fading hopes for deescalation.

The warring sides said they were helping coordinate the evacuation of foreigners, though continued exchanges of fire in Sudan’s capital undermined those claims.

A senior Biden administration official said U.S. troops are carrying out the precarious evacuation of U.S. Embassy staffers. The troops who airlifted the staff out of Khartoum have safely left Sudanese airspace, a second U.S. official confirmed.

The Rapid Support Forces paramilitary group, which has been battling the Sudanese army, said the U.S. rescue mission involved six aircraft and that it had coordinated evacuation efforts with the U.S.

But the U.S. denied the group did anything to help the evacuation.

“You may have seen some assertions in social media in recent hours, that the Rapid Security Forces somehow coordinated with us and supported this operation. That was not the case,” said Under Secretary of State for Management John Bass. “They cooperated to the extent that they did not fire on our service members in the course of the operation.”

The RSF, led by Gen. Mohammed Hamad Dagalo, said it is cooperating with all diplomatic missions and that it is committed to a three-day cease-fire that was declared at sundown Friday.

Earlier, army chief Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan said he would facilitate the evacuation of American, British, Chinese and French citizens and diplomats from Sudan after speaking with the leaders of several countries that had requested help.

French Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Anne-Claire Legendre said Sunday that France was organizing the evacuation of its embassy staff, French citizens in Sudan and citizens of allied countries. She said France was organizing the operation “in connection with all the involved parties, as well as with our European partners and allies.”

However, the situation on the ground remains volatile. Most major airports have become battlegrounds and movement out of the capital has proven intensely dangerous. The two rivals have dug in, signaling they would resume the fighting after the declared three-day truce.

Questions have swirled over how the mass rescues of foreign citizens would unfold, with Sudan’s main international airport closed and millions of people sheltering indoors. As battles between the Sudanese army and the powerful paramilitary group rage in and around Khartoum, including in residential areas, foreign countries have struggled to repatriate their citizens — many trapped in their homes as food supplies dwindle.

The White House would not confirm the Sudanese military’s announcement. “We have made very clear

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to both sides that they are responsible for ensuring the protection of civilians and noncombatants," the National Security Council said. On Friday, the U.S. said it had no plans for a government-coordinated evacuation of the estimated 16,000 American citizens trapped in Sudan.

Saudi Arabia announced the successful repatriation of some of its citizens on Saturday, sharing footage of Saudi nationals and other foreigners welcomed with chocolate and flowers as they stepped off an apparent evacuation ship at the Saudi port of Jeddah.

Officials did not elaborate on exactly how the rescue unfolded but Burhan said the Saudi diplomats and nationals had first traveled by land to Port Sudan, the country's main seaport on the Red Sea. He said that Jordan's diplomats would soon be evacuated in the same way. The port is in Sudan's far east, some 840 kilometers (520 miles) from Khartoum.

President Joe Biden ordered American troops to evacuate embassy personnel after receiving a recommendation earlier Saturday from his national security team with no end in sight to the fighting, according to the official who spoke on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the mission.

The evacuation order was believed to apply to about 70 Americans. U.S. forces were flying them from a landing zone at the embassy to an unspecified location.

With the U.S. focused on evacuating diplomats first, the Pentagon said it was moving additional troops and equipment to a Naval base in the tiny Gulf of Aden nation of Djibouti to prepare for the effort.

Burhan told Saudi-owned Al Arabiya satellite channel on Saturday that flights in and out of Khartoum remained risky because of the ongoing clashes. He claimed that the military had regained control over all the other airports in the country, except for one in the southwestern city of Nyala.

"We share the international community's concern about foreign nationals," he said, promising Sudan would provide "necessary airports and safe passageways" for foreigners trapped in the fighting, without elaborating.

Two cease-fire attempts earlier this week also rapidly collapsed. The turmoil has dealt a perhaps fatal blow to hopes for the country's transition to a civilian-led democracy and raised concerns the chaos could draw in its neighbors, including Chad, Egypt and Libya.

"The war has been continuous since day one. It has not stopped for one moment," said Atiya Abdalla Atiya, secretary of the Sudanese Doctors' Syndicate, which monitors casualties.

The clashes have killed over 400 people so far, according to the World Health Organization. The bombardments, gunbattles and sniper fire in densely populated areas have hit civilian infrastructure, including many hospitals. Internet-access advocacy group NetBlocks.org said Sunday there was a "near-total collapse of internet connectivity."

The international airport near the center of the capital has come under heavy shelling as the RSF has tried to take control of the compound. In an apparent effort to oust the RSF fighters, the Sudanese army has pounded the airport with airstrikes, gutting at least one runway and leaving wrecked planes scattered on the tarmac. The full extent of damage at the airfield remains unclear.

The conflict has opened a dangerous new chapter in Sudan's history, thrusting the country into uncertainty.

"No one can predict when and how this war will end," Burhan told the Al-Hadath news channel. "I am currently in the command center and will only leave it in a coffin."

The current explosion of violence came after Burhan and Dagalo fell out over a recent internationally brokered deal with democracy activists that was meant to incorporate the RSF into the military and eventually lead to civilian rule.

The rival generals rose to power in the tumultuous aftermath of popular uprisings that led to the ouster of Sudan's longtime ruler, Omar al-Bashir, in 2019. Two years later, they joined forces to seize power in a coup that ousted the civilian leaders.

Both the military and RSF have a long history of human rights abuses. The RSF was born out of the Janjaweed militias, which were accused of atrocities in crushing a rebellion in Sudan's western Darfur region in the early 2000s.

Many Sudanese fear that despite the generals' repeated promises, the violence will only escalate as tens

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of thousands of foreign citizens try to leave.

"We are sure both sides of fighting are more careful about foreign lives than the lives of Sudanese citizens," Atiya said.

Associated press writers Isabel DeBre in Jerusalem, Fay Abuelgasim in Beirut, Angela Charlton in Paris, Samy Magdy in Cairo and Aamer Madhani, Matthew Lee and Tara Copp in Washington contributed to this report.

LeBron's Lakers beat Grizzlies 111-101, take 2-1 series lead

By GREG BEACHAM AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — LeBron James and the Lakers came out in front of this franchise's first sellout playoff crowd in a decade and immediately produced one of the greatest first quarters in team history.

Los Angeles leaped to a 35-9 lead amidst one raucous ovation after another from fans eager for a return to the Lakers' tradition of playoff success.

After all those first-quarter fireworks, not even Ja Morant could carry the Memphis Grizzlies all the way back to prevent the Lakers from seizing Game 3.

Anthony Davis had 31 points and 17 rebounds, James finished with 25 points after Dillon Brooks was ejected for striking him in the groin, and Los Angeles survived Morant's 24-point fourth quarter to beat the Grizzlies 111-101 Saturday night for a 2-1 lead in their first-round playoff series.

Rui Hachimura scored 16 points in another strong effort off the bench for the seventh-seeded Lakers, who came out impressively in this long-awaited return to a true playoff atmosphere for a franchise with 17 titles. Los Angeles tied an NBA record by taking a 26-point lead into the second quarter, and Memphis couldn't get closer than 13 points until the final two minutes.

Brooks was ejected 17 seconds into the second half after the Memphis agitator struck James in the groin while guarding him near midcourt. While the top scorer in NBA history rolled on the court in pain, officials tossed Brooks after a brief video review — and James stood up and led the Lakers to victory.

"I didn't make a statement," James said. "I've been doing this too long. I'm not making any statements. We had the opportunity to come home and play well on our home floor, and we did that. No statement was made. We just wanted to play well, and we got a win. I don't need to make statements."

Game 4 is Monday night in Los Angeles.

Morant scored 45 points in his return from a one-game absence with a sore right hand, even scoring 22 consecutive points for the Grizz during his stunning fourth quarter while they attempted to rally from an early 29-point deficit. He wore a black brace and padding on his hand and appeared tentative early, but eventually found his usual unguardable form.

Morant also had 13 assists and nine rebounds, but second-seeded Memphis couldn't fully recover after the lowest-scoring first quarter in franchise history.

"I think we won by double digits in the last three quarters, so obviously that first quarter pretty much hurt us," Morant said. "(I) feel pretty good, man. Obviously some stuff you've just got to play through and tolerate. ... In that fourth quarter, I was just trying to win the game. Got it going pretty good, making shots, and just couldn't get it over that hump."

With the Lakers' sellout crowd booing his every move, Brooks had just seven points on 3-for-13 shooting before his ejection. He drew the Lakers fans' ire for his behavior during and after Game 2, when the 27-year-old Brooks called the 38-year-old James "old" and belittled James' abilities.

Brooks declined to speak to reporters after the game. Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins only commented tersely on Brooks' ejection: "Officials made a call."

This rivalry stayed chippy in the third quarter, with Lakers forward Hachimura getting a technical foul for a furious reaction to a foul.

Aside from the physical play, the Lakers were in control of Game 3 until the Grizzlies made it mildly interesting late, never getting closer than nine points.

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"First quarter, I thought we were playing hard, (but) our offense significantly impacted our defensive ability," Jenkins said. "The way our guys fought for quarters 2, 3 and 4 showed a lot of great resiliency. We've got to learn to get better from this. Adversity is going to bring out the best in us."

Desmond Bane scored 18 points for the Grizzlies.

Lakers fans ripped into Brooks in pregame warmups and each time he touched the ball before his ejection. More importantly, the Lakers played with a similar edge from the opening tip.

The Grizzlies flailed offensively in the first quarter, going 3 for 25 with six turnovers. Brooks was particularly bad, missing 10 of his first 12 shots and making little impact on defense.

"I thought our crowd was phenomenal," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said. "Really felt them in the building. Thank God we gave them something to cheer about, the way we came out."

TIP-INS

Grizzlies: Brooks is the only player in franchise history to be ejected from multiple playoff games. He has been ejected six times in his six-year career, and he served two suspensions this season for an accumulation of technical fouls. ... Their nine points in the first quarter were the fewest scored by any NBA team in any quarter this season.

Lakers: D'Angelo Russell scored 17 points. He had a four-point play in the first quarter, the Lakers' first such play in a postseason game since Kobe Bryant did it in 2009. ... The 17-time NBA champions' last playoff game with a full crowd was in 2013. The Lakers missed the next six ensuing postseasons, and their 2020 championship run occurred in the Florida bubble. They hosted three first-round games in 2021 with a half-full arena due to COVID-19 restrictions.

AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/hub/NBA> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

A deeply divided Israel limps toward its 75th birthday

By JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Orit Pinhasov strongly opposes the Israeli government's proposed judicial overhaul, but you won't find her anywhere near the mass protests against the plan. She says her marriage depends on it.

Pinhasov's husband sits on the opposite side of Israel's political divide, and joining the protests will only deepen what she says already are palpable tensions in her household.

"I don't go to the demonstrations not because I don't believe in them," she said. "I don't go in order to protect my home. I feel like I'm fighting for my home."

As Israel turns 75 on Wednesday, it has much to celebrate. But instead of feting its accomplishments as a regional military and economic powerhouse, the nation that arose on the ashes of the Holocaust faces perhaps its gravest existential threat yet — not from foreign enemies but from divisions within.

For over three months, tens of thousands of people have rallied in the streets against what they see as an assault by an ultranationalist, religious government threatening a national identity rooted in liberal traditions.

Fighter pilots have threatened to stop reporting for duty. The nation's leaders have openly warned of civil war, and families of fallen soldiers have called on politicians to stay away from the ceremonies. Many Israelis wonder if the deep split can ever heal.

Miri Regev, the government minister in charge of the main celebration on Tuesday night, has threatened to throw out anyone who disrupts it. The event takes place at a plaza next to Israel's national cemetery in Jerusalem, where the country abruptly shifts from solemn Memorial Day observances for fallen soldiers to the joy of Independence Day, complete with a symbolic torch-lighting ceremony, military marches and musical and dance performances.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid is boycotting the ceremony. "You have torn Israeli society apart, and no phony fireworks performance can cover that up," he said.

The rift is so wide that Israel's longest-running and perhaps most pressing problem — its open-ended

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military rule over the Palestinians — barely gets mentioned despite a recent surge in violence. Even before the protests erupted, public discourse was mostly limited to the military's dealing with the conflict, rather than the future of the territories Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war, which Palestinians seek for their state.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a polarizing leader revered by supporters and reviled by opponents, has played a key role in the crisis. The divisions gained steam as he was indicted on corruption charges in 2019. Israel barreled through five cycles of elections in under four years — all of them focused on Netanyahu's fitness to rule.

Late last year, Netanyahu finally eked out a victory — cobbling together the most right-wing government in Israel's history. Within days, it set out to overhaul the judicial system and give Netanyahu's allies the power to overturn court decisions and appoint judges.

The plan, which critics see as a transparent power grab, has triggered unprecedented protests that ultimately forced Netanyahu to freeze it. In a reflection of the deep mistrust, the protests have only grown larger, exposing deeper fault lines in Israeli society that go back decades.

On Netanyahu's side is a religious and socially conservative coalition that includes the politically powerful ultra-Orthodox minority, the religious-nationalist community, including West Bank settlers, and Jews of Middle Eastern descent who live in outlying working-class towns.

Those protesting against him are largely secular, middle-class professionals behind Israel's modern economy. They include high-tech workers, teachers, lawyers and current and former commanders in Israel's security forces.

Israel's Palestinian minority, meanwhile, has largely sat out the protests, saying it never felt part of the country to begin with.

These divisions have filtered down to workplaces, friendships and families.

Despite political differences, Pinhasov, 49, said she and her husband have "lived in peace" for 30 years. She said there were disagreements at election time every few years, but these were short-lived and minor.

That began to change during the coronavirus pandemic, when Pinhasov said the tone of public debate over issues like lockdowns and vaccines became more strident. Then, as Israel ricocheted from election to election, the tensions began to be felt at home.

Her husband would tell her she's been "brainwashed" and complained about "leftist" media, Pinhasov said. When she disagreed, he would say, "you don't understand." They could no longer watch the news together or "Wonderful Country," a popular political satire show.

Their four children, including a 21-year-old son who shares his father's views, all love and respect each other and their parents, she says. But it's complicated, like "walking on eggshells."

While Israel typically unites in times of war, seeds of distrust were planted decades ago.

From the country's earliest days, the Jewish majority was plagued by disagreements over issues such as whether to accept reparations from postwar West Germany, to violent protests by poorer Middle Eastern Jews in the early 1970s, and bitter internal divisions over military fiascos during the 1973 Mideast war and later in Lebanon.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a Jewish ultranationalist in 1995 opposed to his peace efforts with the Palestinians. Large protests erupted when Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip in 2005.

"Israel was always a deeply divided society, but somehow it held together," said Tom Segev, an Israeli author, historian and journalist. "The difference now is that we are really discussing the basic values of this society."

The protests against Netanyahu's government show that many are "genuinely frightened" for the country's future, he said.

Tel Aviv University economist Dan Ben-David, president of the Shoshana Institute for Socioeconomic Research, points to two seminal events in Israel's history — the 1967 and 1973 Mideast wars.

The 1967 war, in which Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, spawned the Jewish settler movement, which has turned into a powerful political force representing some 700,000 people.

The 1973 war, meanwhile, set off a process that would bring the right-wing Likud party to power four

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years later. The Likud has ruled for most of the time since then, usually in partnership with ultra-Orthodox parties.

These religious parties have used their political power to win generous subsidies and controversial exemptions from military service — angering the broader secular public.

The ultra-Orthodox community, and to a lesser extent the religious nationalist community run separate school systems that offer subpar educations with little respect for democratic values like minority rights, Ben-David said.

Because these communities have high birth rates, he said the country needs to go back to a “melting pot” model that includes a core curriculum promoting universal values, he said. “If we are one nation, then we need to teach our children what brings us together.”

Danny Danon, a former ambassador to the United Nations and top figure in Netanyahu’s Likud party, said the anniversary is a time for everyone to reflect and think about what they have in common.

“In my five years at the U.N., I realized that our enemies do not make the distinction between left and right, secular and Orthodox,” he said. “That’s why we have to realize we have to stick together.”

Still, many see the 75th anniversary celebrations as a time for joy.

Pinhasov said she will host a party for some 100 people at her home in central Israel, many of them members of her husband’s family.

“It’s our Independence Day,” she said. “It’s still a day for celebrations.”

Special forces swiftly evacuate US embassy staff from Sudan

By MATTHEW LEE, TARA COPP and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. special operations forces carried out a precarious evacuation of the American embassy in warring Sudan on Sunday, sweeping in and out of the capital, Khartoum, with helicopters on the ground for less than an hour. No shots were fired and no major casualties were reported.

With the last U.S. employee of the embassy out, Washington shuttered the U.S. mission in Khartoum indefinitely. Left behind were thousands of private American citizens remaining in the east African country.

U.S. officials said it would be too dangerous to carry out a broader evacuation mission. Battles between two rival Sudanese commanders entered their ninth day Sunday, forcing continued closing of the main international airport and leaving roads out of the country in control of armed men. Fighting has killed more than 400 people.

In a statement thanking the troops, President Joe Biden said he was receiving regular reports from his team on efforts to assist remaining Americans in Sudan “to the extent possible.”

He also called for the end to “unconscionable” violence there.

About 100 U.S. troops in three MH-47 helicopters carried out the operation. They airlifted all of roughly 70 remaining American employees from a landing zone at the embassy to an undisclosed location in Ethiopia. Ethiopia also provided overflight and refueling support, said Molly Phee, assistant secretary of state for African affairs.

Biden said Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Saudi Arabia also assisted with the evacuation.

“I am proud of the extraordinary commitment of our Embassy staff, who performed their duties with courage and professionalism and embodied America’s friendship and connection with the people of Sudan,” Biden said in a statement. “I am grateful for the unmatched skill of our service members who successfully brought them to safety.”

U.S. Africa Command and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Gen. Mark Milley were in contact with both warring factions before and during the operation to ensure that U.S. forces would have safe passage to conduct the evacuation. However, John Bass, a U.S. undersecretary of state, denied claims by one faction, Sudan’s paramilitary Rapid Security Forces, that it assisted in the U.S. evacuation.

“They cooperated to the extent that they did not fire on our service members in the course of the operation,” Bass said.

Biden had ordered American troops to evacuate embassy personnel after receiving a recommendation

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from his national security team, with no end in sight to the fighting.

"This tragic violence in Sudan has already cost the lives of hundreds of innocent civilians. It's unconscionable and it must stop," Biden said. "The belligerent parties must implement an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, allow unhindered humanitarian access, and respect the will of the people of Sudan."

Sudan's fighting broke out April 15 between two commanders who just 18 months earlier jointly orchestrated a military coup to derail the nation's transition to democracy.

The ongoing power struggle now between the armed forces chief, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and the head of the Rapid Support Forces paramilitary group, Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, has millions of Sudanese cowering inside their homes, hiding from explosions, gunfire and looting.

The violence has included an unprovoked attack on an American diplomatic convoy and numerous incidents in which foreign diplomats and aid workers were killed, injured or assaulted.

An estimated 16,000 private U.S. citizens are registered with the embassy as being in Sudan. The figure is rough because not all Americans register with embassy or say when they depart.

The embassy issued an alert earlier Saturday cautioning that "due to the uncertain security situation in Khartoum and closure of the airport, it is not currently safe to undertake a U.S. government-coordinated evacuation of private U.S. citizens."

The U.S. evacuation planning for American employees of the embassy got underway in earnest on Monday after the embassy convoy was attacked in Khartoum. The Pentagon confirmed on Friday that U.S. troops were being moved to Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti ahead of a possible evacuation.

Saudi Arabia announced the successful repatriation of some of its citizens on Saturday, sharing footage of Saudi nationals and other foreigners welcomed with chocolate and flowers as they stepped off an apparent evacuation ship at the Saudi port of Jeddah.

Embassy evacuations conducted by the U.S. military are relatively rare and usually take place only under extreme conditions.

When it orders an embassy to draw down staff or suspend operations, the State Department prefers to have its personnel leave on commercial transportation if that is an option.

When the embassy in Kyiv temporarily closed just before Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, 2022, staffers used commercial transport to leave.

However, in several other recent cases, notably in Afghanistan in 2021, conditions made commercial departures impossible or extremely hazardous. U.S. troops accompanied personnel from the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli, Libya, in an overland convoy to Tunisia when they evacuated in 2014.

Why the 155 mm round is so critical to the war in Ukraine

By TARA COPP Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 155 mm howitzer round is one of the most requested artillery munitions of the war in Ukraine. Already the U.S. has shipped more than 1.5 million rounds to Ukraine, but Kyiv is still seeking more.

A look at why this particular munition is so commonly used, and why it's been so critical to the war in Ukraine.

WHAT IS THE 155 MM?

Essentially, the 155 mm round is a very big bullet, made up of four parts: the detonating fuse, projectile, propellant and primer.

Each round is about 2 feet (60 centimeters) long, weighs about 100 pounds (45 kilograms), and is 155 mm, or 6.1 inches, in diameter. They are used in howitzer systems, which are towed large guns that are identified by the range of the angle of fire that their barrels can be set to.

The 155 mm shells can be configured in many ways: They can be packed with highly explosive material, use precision guided systems, pierce armor or produce high fragmentation.

Past variants have included smoke rounds to obscure troop movement and illumination rounds to expose an enemy's position.

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"The 155 mm round and the similar Soviet-era 152 mm rounds are so popular because they provide a good balance between range and warhead size," said Ryan Brobst, a research analyst at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies. "If you have too small a shell, it won't do enough damage and go as far. If you have a larger shell, you can't necessarily fire it as far. This is the most common middle ground, and that's why it's so widely used."

155 MM HISTORY

The French first developed the 155 mm round to respond to World War I's extensive trench warfare, and early versions included gas shells, Keri Pleasant, historian for the Army's Joint Munitions Command, said in a statement to The Associated Press.

As World War I continued, the 155 mm gun became the most common artillery piece used by the Allies, Pleasant said, and the U.S. Army later adopted it as its standard field heavy artillery piece.

The U.S. military fielded its own version, the M1, for World War II. After the war, the new NATO alliance adopted the 155 mm as its artillery standard.

By the Korean War, the round had been modified again, with a cluster munition variant. "The round contained 88 submunitions, which were dispersed over a wide area to destroy vehicles, equipment, and personnel," Pleasant said.

ITS USE IN UKRAINE

Howitzer fires can strike targets up to 15 to 20 miles (24 to 32 kilometers) away, depending on what type of round and firing system is used, which makes them highly valued by ground forces to take out enemy targets from a protected distance.

"Adversaries don't have much warning of it coming. And it's harder to hide from incoming rounds that are arcing in from the top, which makes it highly lethal," Brobst said.

In Ukraine, 155 mm rounds are being fired at a rate of 6,000 to 8,000 a day, said Ukrainian parliamentary member Oleksandra Ustinova, who serves on Ukraine's wartime oversight committee. They are eclipsed by the estimated 40,000 Russian variant howitzer rounds fired at them, she told reporters at a recent Washington event sponsored by the German Marshall Fund.

The Pentagon previously had said how many rounds it was providing in each of the security assistance packages being sent about every two weeks to keep weapons and ammunition flowing into Ukraine. But it stopped specifying the number of 155 mm rounds shipped in each package in February, citing operational security.

However, in its overall count of assistance provided to Ukraine since Russia invaded in February 2022, the Pentagon says it has sent more than 160 155 mm howitzers, more than 1.5 million 155 mm rounds, more than 6,500 precision-guided 155 mm rounds and more than 14,000 155 mm Remote Anti-Armor Mine (RAAM) Systems — essentially a 155 mm shell packed with four mines that scatter on the ground and can take out a Russian tank if it drives over them.

Other countries have also provided howitzers, but Kyiv has continually asked for more. As of last year Ukrainian officials were requesting as many as 1,000 howitzer systems to push Russian forces back.

SPRING OFFENSIVE

As Ukraine prepares for an intense counteroffensive this spring, it will likely need to fire 7,000 to 9,000 155 mm shells a day, said Yehor Cherniev, a member of Ukraine's parliament who spoke to reporters at the German Marshall Fund event.

In recent months, the Biden administration has been using presidential drawdown authority to send ammunition directly from U.S. military stockpiles to Ukraine, instead of having to wait and buy rounds from defense firms, so they can get there in time for the anticipated Ukrainian counteroffensive.

The U.S. has also been training Ukrainian troops in Germany on how to better use the 155 mm rounds in combined arms tactics — coordinating strikes with targeting information provided by forward-based troops and other armored systems to maximize damage and reduce the number of rounds needed to take out a target.

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Associated Press writer Nomaan Merchant contributed to this story.

Unprepared for long war, US Army under gun to make more ammo

By MARC LEVY Associated Press

SCRANTON, Pa. (AP) — One of the most important munitions of the Ukraine war comes from a historic factory in this city built by coal barons, where tons of steel rods are brought in by train to be forged into the artillery shells Kyiv can't get enough of — and that the U.S. can't produce fast enough.

The Scranton Army Ammunition Plant is at the vanguard of a multibillion-dollar Pentagon plan to modernize and accelerate its production of ammunition and equipment not only to support Ukraine, but to be ready for a potential conflict with China.

But it is one of just two sites in the U.S. that make the steel bodies for the critical 155 mm howitzer rounds that the U.S. is rushing to Ukraine to help in its grinding fight to repel the Russian invasion in the largest-scale war in Europe since World War II.

The invasion of Ukraine revealed that the U.S. stockpile of 155 mm shells and those of European allies were unprepared to support a major and ongoing conventional land war, sending them scrambling to bolster production. The dwindling supply has alarmed U.S. military planners, and the Army now plans to spend billions on munitions plants around the country in what it calls its most significant transformation in 40 years.

It may not be easy to adapt: practically every square foot of the Scranton plant's red brick factory buildings — first constructed more than a century ago as a locomotive repair depot — is in use as the Army clears space, expands production to private factories and assembles new supply chains.

There are some things that Army and plant officials in Scranton won't reveal, including where they get the steel for the shells and exactly how many more rounds this factory can produce.

"That's what Russia wants to know," said Justine Barati of the U.S. Army's Joint Munitions Command.

So far, the U.S. has provided more than \$35 billion in weapons and equipment to Ukraine.

The 155 mm shell is one of the most often-requested and supplied items, which also include air defense systems, long-range missiles and tanks.

The rounds, used in howitzer systems, are critical to Ukraine's fight because they allow the Ukrainians to hit Russian targets up to 20 miles (32 kilometers) away with a highly explosive munition.

"Unfortunately, we understand that the production is very limited and it's been more than a year of war," Ukraine parliamentary member Oleksandra Ustinova said at a German Marshall Fund media roundtable in Washington on Monday. "But unfortunately we are very dependent on 155."

The Army is spending about \$1.5 billion to ramp up production of 155 mm rounds from 14,000 a month before Russia invaded Ukraine to over 85,000 a month by 2028, U.S. Army Undersecretary Gabe Camarillo told a symposium last month.

Already, the U.S. military has given Ukraine more than 1.5 million rounds of 155 mm ammunition, according to Army figures.

But even with higher near-term production rates, the U.S. cannot replenish its stockpile or catch up to the usage pace in Ukraine, where officials estimate that the Ukrainian military is firing 6,000 to 8,000 shells per day. In other words, two days' worth of shells fired by Ukraine equates to the United States' monthly pre-war production figure.

"This could become a crisis. With the front line now mostly stationary, artillery has become the most important combat arm," said a January report by the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Currently, the metal bodies for the 155 mm shells are made at the Army's Scranton plant, operated by General Dynamics, and at a General Dynamics-owned plant in nearby Wilkes-Barre, officials say.

Together, the plants are under contract for 24,000 shells per month, with an additional \$217 million Army task order to further boost production, although officials won't say how many more 155 mm shells are sought by the task order.

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The Russians are firing 40,000 shells per day, said Ustinova, who serves on Ukraine's wartime oversight committee.

"So we're doing five times less than they do and trying to keep it up. But if we don't start the production lines, if you don't warm it up, it is going to be a huge problem," Ustinova said.

The obstacles the U.S. faces in ramping up production can be seen at the Scranton plant.

The factory — built for the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad just after 1900, when the city was a rising coal and railroad powerhouse — has produced large-caliber ammunition for the military going back to the Korean War.

But the buildings are on the National Historic Registry of Historic Places, limiting how the Army can alter the structures.

Inside, the floor is crowded with piles of shells, defunct equipment and production lines where robotic arms, saws, presses and other machines cut, heat, forge, temper, pressure test, wash and paint the shells.

The plant is in the midst of \$120 million in modernization plans and the Army hopes to open a new production line there by 2025.

Still, clearing space for it has been a complicated task while the military adds newer machinery to make existing lines more efficient.

"There's a lot going on," said Richard Hansen, the Army commander's representative at the plant.

Meanwhile, the Army is expanding supply chains for parts — metal shells, explosive fill, charges that shoot the shell and fuses — and buying the massive machines that do the work.

The Army has new contracts with plants in Texas and Canada to make 155 mm shells, said Douglas Bush, an assistant Army secretary and its chief weapons buyer. The U.S. is also looking overseas to allies to expand production, Bush said.

Once the shells are finished in Scranton, they are shipped to the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, where they are packed with explosives, fitted with fuses and packaged for final delivery.

The Scranton plant is ill-suited for that task: an accident with an explosive could be devastating.

"If we had a mishap here," Hansen said, "we take half of the city with us."

Associated Press writers Tara Copp and Nomaan Merchant in Washington contributed to this report.

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

The front door, threshold of welcome — and perilous border

By TED ANTHONY AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The American front door is a place where the welcome mat offers friendly greetings, where affable neighbors knock or ring, where boxes brimming with possibility are delivered. It is where home meets a world full of potentially good things.

The American front door is a place where signs trumpet words of warning, where cameras monitor visitors in high definition, where intruders find an entry point. It is where only a hunk of wood or metal separates the innermost spaces of home from a world full of chaos.

Both conceptions are real. They can and do exist together — usually peacefully but sometimes, particularly of late, contentiously.

In a land where private property is venerated and "get off my lawn" has become a mantra of jokey crankiness, the American front door is the landscape's most intimate and personal of borders, the place where the public sphere encounters private space — occasionally with disastrous results.

Ralph Yarl, 16, was shot April 13 at Andrew Lester's front door in Kansas City, Missouri. The 84-year-old man, without a word, opened fire at the teenager who stood outside the door of what he believed was the house where he was picking up his two younger brothers. Lester, who has pleaded not guilty, said he

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was terrified when he opened the door.

It was one of several recent shootings, many of which took place near that threshold — in a driveway, on a front lawn and, of course, right at a front door.

"There is so much division in American society, so much polarization, so much animosity and so much fear," says Bill Yousman, an associate professor of media studies at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. "The front door does in some ways embody all of that — as that last place that separates your internal domestic life with the life of the public."

PRIORITIZING PRIVATE PROPERTY

The United States, more than many countries, has made private property a priority — a fetish, some would say.

And while American landowners often view all of their property as private, the front door — be it on a single-family home or an apartment unit — is that final boundary that controls access to the inner sanctum. It is the place to assess threats, but at the same time it retains the sensibility of a less coiled nation — one where traveling salesmen, cookie-selling Girl Scouts and local political canvassers can come amicably calling.

That decision — to welcome or rebuff — has only become more fraught in the past two decades as political polarization surges, racial tensions spike and "stand your ground" laws multiply. The stakes were exacerbated further by the height of the pandemic, a time of "no-contact" doorstep deliveries when even loved ones and friendly figures could bring potential doom.

"This is a space where we have to kind of choose whether we're literally going to throw open the door or bar the door," says Nicole Rudolph, an associate professor at Adelphi University in Garden City, New York, who teaches a class called Domestic Politics: The Public Life of the Private Sphere.

"I think we want to show our better selves to the world much of the time, so we open the door — cautiously," Rudolph says. "But we are also sensitive to the risk that opening the door entails."

Consider the phrase "direct to your door," used these days in connection with everything from DoorDash and GrubHub deliveries to the ubiquitous blue trucks of Amazon. It implies convenience, speed and the ultimate 21st-century American consumer value — frictionlessness. Yet as any Amazon user who checks delivery status knows, many drivers are required to take — and post — photos of the delivery right at the front door to prove they left it there in case "porch pirates" strike.

Or dip into Nextdoor, the hyperlocal social network in which neighborhoods' residents exchange information. It is also a clearinghouse for people noticing what they consider suspicious activity around their front doors — some of which might not have been considered menacing a generation or two ago. A recent sampling: "Yesterday afternoon, someone pounded on my front door." "I just had two people knocking on my door handing out pamphlets." "Just a heads up, we caught this guy on our ring camera last night."

"We've made our homes prisons. Who are we keeping out? We're keeping ourselves locked in. There's so much focus on who's coming to get you," says Lori Brown, a professor of sociology, criminology and criminal justice at Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina.

"Because we're very object-oriented, everything is about protecting my car, my packages, my front door, my yard," Brown says. "Everything is very private, and I need to keep you away from my stuff. And guns are the ultimate way to protect my stuff."

LOOKING INWARD

At the same time, the messages from invisible sources already in our homes — the internet, gadgets like Alexa, streaming television — can encourage us to turn inward more than we did when only newspapers and telephones brought the outside world in. You can sit and watch TV news stations or doomscroll on your phone and become ever more convinced that peril — or "the other" — lies immediately outside.

If that wasn't already entrenched, the pandemic made it so at an entirely new level.

Zein Murib, a political scientist at Fordham University in New York, suggests that examining the front door as an American borderland might also mean "taking the border metaphor one step further" to the notion of borders writ large, and who is allowed to approach and cross them.

Stand-your-ground laws and the "castle doctrine," which says residents don't have to retreat when threatened in their homes, are based on the notion that "certain people have the right to occupy space while others don't," Murib says.

"Those who are perceived as not belonging in that space are targeted," Murib says. "People are afforded rights based on how close they come to that standard." And the front door, they say, can act as a concentrated litmus test for that decision.

Let's leave the final word on front doors to comedian Sebastian Maniscalco, who weighed in on the American front door a few years ago in a standup routine that, like so many, was about far more than laughs.

"Twenty years ago, the doorbell rang, that was a happy moment in your house. It was called 'company,'" he said. "You can't stop by anybody's house anymore. If you do, you have to call from the driveway. You're like, 'I'm here — can I approach?'"

He was joking, and it was funny. But only because it wasn't.

Ted Anthony, director of new storytelling and newsroom innovation at The Associated Press, has been writing about American culture since 1990. Follow him on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/anthonyted>

Trump defends push to restrict abortion rights after rebuke

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

CLIVE, Iowa (AP) — Donald Trump, stinging from a rebuke by the nation's leading anti-abortion group, used a speech Saturday before influential evangelicals in Iowa to spotlight his actions as president to try to restrict abortion rights.

Chief among the accomplishments Trump listed were his nominations of three conservative judges to the U.S. Supreme Court. The appointments paved the way for the overturning last year of the landmark Roe. v. Wade ruling, which had affirmed a federal right to abortion.

"Those justices delivered a landmark victory for protecting innocent life. Nobody thought it was going to happen," Trump said, appearing via video to a gathering of the Iowa Faith and Freedom Coalition. "They thought it would be another 50 years. Because Republicans had been trying to do it for exactly that period of time, 50 years."

Trump has often avoided talking about abortion as he campaigns again for the White House, sidestepping the issue less than a year after the court overturned Roe.

But his position that abortion restrictions should be left up to the states, not the federal government, drew a sharp rebuke Thursday from the Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America group, which called it a "morally indefensible position for a self-proclaimed pro-life presidential candidate."

Trump didn't take a stance Saturday on a national ban. Instead, he ticked through a record as president that aimed to satisfy abortion opponents that form the core of evangelical Christians, who hold sway in the GOP primary contest and particularly Iowa's first-in-the-nation Republican caucuses.

Trump won applause noting he was the first president to attend the annual March for Life abortion opposition rally.

Likewise, the crowd of roughly 1,000 gathered in the suburban Des Moines event hall cheered when Trump noted his relocating the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, a symbol many evangelical Christians see as fulfilling biblical prophecy.

"Every promise to you I made as a candidate, I fulfilled as president," he said.

Trump's former vice president Mike Pence, who appeared in person before the group, used his speech earlier in the evening to celebrate Trump's efforts to restrict abortion and take some bit of credit for himself.

Pence, long known for his conservative values, called the appointments the "most important of all" the accomplishments of the Trump administration, drawing loud applause and cheers from the crowd.

"We did that, Iowa," he said. "I couldn't be more proud to have been a small part of an administration that did just that."

The Iowa Faith and Freedom Coalition's annual spring fundraiser marks the unofficial start of the state's

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2024 caucus campaign. The event featured a slate of Republican candidates and potential contenders, including U.S. Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, who is expected to enter the race.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, considered a top rival to Trump, did not attend.

The event gives the presidential prospects the chance to make their pitch to evangelicals in a state where Republicans will kick off the nominating process next year. It's also a shot at making an impression on activists who may be open to an alternative to Trump at a time when he is mired in legal problems and was recently charged in New York in a hush money scheme involving a porn actor.

The gathering comes as abortion rights have reemerged as a pivotal issue in elections after conservatives last year achieved their long-sought goal of overturning the Roe v. Wade ruling.

The Republican presidential field is trying to get a handle on how far to go in supporting restrictions on the procedure to satisfy the conservative base in the primary but not to further alienate general election voters, most of whom support keeping abortion legal.

Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America has said it will not support any White House candidate who does not at a minimum back a 15-week federal abortion ban.

Distinguishing himself from Trump, Pence told reporters during a stop in Jefferson, Iowa, earlier Saturday that the Supreme Court's ruling does not preclude federal restrictions.

"I'll certainly support efforts to create a threshold of support for the unborn even at the national level," Pence said, adding he would support "the minimum of a 15-week ban."

Pence's advocacy group has pushed for Congress to pass legislation including a national abortion ban beginning around six weeks.

Despite the credit Trump received for his judicial nominations, he was criticized after last year's elections for saying that Republicans' underperformance was due to abortion foes' opposition to exceptions for women who became pregnant by rape or incest or whose life was at risk.

All the Republicans in the race or moving toward running have supported state bans on abortion. Most have been much more cautious about staking a position on a nationwide ban.

Scott has said he would support a federal law to prohibit abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy.

The senator has issued calls for uniting the nation around Christian faith and spoke Saturday about the religion's values being embedded in the foundation of America.

"If you believe, like I do, that America should celebrate our founding fathers and not cancel them, let me hear you say 'Amen,'" Scott shouted at the start of a call-and-response with the audience.

He, along with Pence, has visited regularly with evangelical pastors during his early trips to Iowa, with the aim of building rapport with clergy who can be influential in their churches among politically active social conservatives.

Also appearing Saturday night were Vivek Ramaswamy, former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, radio host Larry Elder, former Rep. Will Hurd of Texas, former Democratic Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii and former Michigan gubernatorial candidate Perry Johnson.

In his closing remark, Johnson made reference to the Florida governor's absence from the event.

"I think DeSantis is making a huge mistake for not being here," Johnson said. "But to each his own."

2 empty suburban Utah homes collapse down hill; nobody hurt

DRAPER, UTAH (AP) — Two dangerously unstable homes whose occupants were ordered to evacuate six months ago collapsed down a hill Saturday in suburban Salt Lake City.

No one was injured when the unoccupied houses on the edge of the hill broke apart early in the day in Draper, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) south of Salt Lake City. Officials say the homes had been in danger due to sliding that resulted from shifting ground and breaks in their foundations.

Two other nearby residences were evacuated for safety reasons afterward. With the winter snowpack melting amid the spring thaw, authorities said other homes in the neighborhood will also be evaluated.

The collapses were documented in videos taken by police officers and firefighters, who went to the scene after sections of a retaining wall holding back soil fell apart and the homes began making noises.

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At one, metal fell from the porch ceiling moments before the second story fell backward down the hill. The other home sank downward and slid down the slope, leaving little left of the structure.

City officials had issued an evacuation order in late October and said they followed up with the developer, Edge Homes, for months on engineering studies of the stability of the area.

Edge Homes did not immediately respond to a call and text message seeking comment.

Curfew in Jamaica district after gunmen wound 7 boarding bus

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Police enforced a curfew in a community on the southern fringes of Jamaica's capital Saturday after gunmen fired on people boarding a public minibus, wounding seven, including three children.

The Jamaica Constabulary Force gave no information on the conditions of the wounded from the brazen attack, which occurred at midafternoon Friday in Seaview Gardens, a poor area of Kingston.

There was speculation the gunmen were targeting one of the people trying to get on the bus, but authorities did not comment on a possible motive. Conflict among rival gangs has been blamed for an uptick in violence in the community.

Authorities ordered a two-day curfew in Seaview Gardens, and police said they were looking for two men for questioning about the shooting.

Crime statistics released by the police say 303 people were killed on the island in the first three months of this year, 20% fewer than during the same period of 2022.

76ers finish sweep of Nets without Embiid in 96-88 win

By BRIAN MAHONEY AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — All Joel Embiid could give the Philadelphia 76ers on Saturday was encouragement.

The NBA's leading scorer and MVP finalist couldn't play because of a sprained right knee, but still provided a presence for his team.

"It starts with Joel," guard Tyrese Maxey said. "He's the leader of this team and for him, he takes the guys before the game and he told us good luck and we appreciate him for that. And we need him to get healthy."

The 76ers bought him plenty of time to do that.

Tobias Harris had 25 points and 12 rebounds, and the 76ers beat the Brooklyn Nets 96-88 to complete a sweep and become the first team to reach the second round of the playoffs.

James Harden added 17 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds for the third-seeded 76ers, who will wait for the winner of the series between the Boston Celtics and Atlanta Hawks. The defending Eastern Conference champion Celtics have a 2-1 lead.

By sweeping a seven-game series for the first time since beating Milwaukee in 1985, the 76ers ensured that Embiid will have at least a week to recover before they play again.

"Obviously, today was big for us so we can get Big Fella healthy," Harden said. "That's priority No. 1."

The Sixers turned to their defense without him and ended up outscoring the Nets 21-4 during a stretch of more than eight minutes in the third quarter.

Maxey finished a strong series with 16 points and Paul Reed added 10 points and 15 rebounds after replacing Embiid in the starting lineup.

Spencer Dinwiddie scored 20 points and Nic Claxton had 19 points and 12 rebounds for the Nets, who were swept for the second straight year and have lost 10 straight postseason games. They went 0-8 this season against the 76ers.

Embiid went to the locker room early in Game 3 and was limping a couple times later in the game, but had a blocked shot to preserve a two-point lead with 8.8 seconds left and said afterward he was OK. But coach Doc Rivers said Embiid was complaining of soreness behind his knee and already had swelling shortly after the game. An MRI exam revealed the sprain.

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Dorian Finney-Smith's 3-pointer two minutes into the third quarter made it 53-42, matching the Nets' largest lead of the game. But Harden and P.J. Tucker hit consecutive 3s to get the Sixers started on what became a 14-0 run that made it 56-53 on Reed's basket.

Maxey's 3-pointer extended it to 63-57 with 1:49 remaining in the period, capping the Nets' lengthy drought that would have seemed unimaginable when Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving were in Brooklyn. They were both dealt at midseason, and this team went down just as quickly as the one the duo led last season, when Brooklyn was also the first team eliminated after getting swept by Boston.

"I told them they should feel extremely proud when they walk around the borough of Brooklyn," coach Jacques Vaughn said. "The way that we competed, we didn't make excuses this year. We figured out how to stay together. That locker room was together even until the end of the game."

Embiid averaged only 20 points in the series, 13 below his NBA-leading average of 33.1, as the Nets heavily double-teamed him.

But those double-teams were leaving open looks for their guards that weren't available Saturday, and the Sixers were just 2 for 11 from 3-point range in the first half as the Nets led 48-40.

But the 76ers limited them to 40 points in the second half and eventually pulled away to a 14-point lead as the cheers of the Sixers fans in the building grew louder.

TIP-INS

76ers: Philadelphia's eight-game winning streak against Brooklyn in the playoffs is its second-longest ever against an opponent. The 76ers beat the New York Knicks 10 straight times in the early 1980s.

Nets: The Nets fell to 0-7 all-time at home against the 76ers in the postseason. ... Patty Mills played for the first time in the series, going scoreless in five minutes. ... Brooklyn's last playoff win remains Game 5 against Milwaukee in the 2021 East semifinals.

DREADED LETTERS

Rivers said he doesn't worry when he sees Embiid appear to be hurting, as he was at times during Game 3. His concerns begin when he is told the medical staff wants to do an MRI exam.

"As a coach I hate that word, I hate those three letters. I mean, because it never comes out well," Rivers said. "It just feels like that whenever they tell a coach, 'Hey, we're going to get an MRI,' it doesn't turn out well most of the time and this one did not."

AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/hub/NBA> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Bud Light exec takes leave after boycott calls, reports say

NEW YORK (AP) — The marketing executive who oversaw a partnership between Bud Light and a transgender influencer is taking a leave of absence after it snowballed into cries for boycotts from some angry customers, according to media reports.

Alissa Heinerscheid, Bud Light's vice president of marketing, will be replaced by Todd Allen, most recently global vice president of Budweiser, according to reports from Beer Business Daily and Ad Age.

A spokesperson for Bud Light's parent company, Anheuser-Busch InBev, on Saturday did not directly confirm the leave of absence but said Allen as vice president of Bud Light will report directly to Benoit Garbe, U.S. chief marketing officer. The company also made streamlining changes so that its most senior marketers are more closely connected to all of its brand activities.

The partnership between the blue-emblazoned beer brand and Dylan Mulvaney, who has more than 10.8 million followers on social media, hit the internet on April 1. That's when Mulvaney posted a video on Instagram showing herself cracking open a can of Bud Light, one with the hashtag #budlightpartner.

Companies have broadened efforts to attract customers and employees across racial, cultural and other lines as the country continues to diversify. In many cases, their own shareholders have pushed them to become more inclusive in hopes of improved returns.

Earlier this month, Bud Light said, "Anheuser-Busch works with hundreds of influencers across our brands as one of many ways to authentically connect with audiences across various demographics."

But the Bud Light-Mulvaney partnership quickly brought an onslaught of criticism from people who said they're angry about the world going "woke." Musician Kid Rock posted a video of himself shooting cans of Bud Light with a rifle.

Anheuser-Busch InBev's stock that trades in the United States is down 1.8% since Mulvaney's April 1 video showing herself taking a sip of Bud Light. But the stock is still up 9.1% for the year so far, more than the broad U.S. stock market, as measured by the S&P 500.

Alabama education director ousted over book's stance on race

By KIM CHANDLER Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey on Friday announced she replaced her director of early childhood education over the use of a teacher training book, written by a nationally recognized education group, that the Republican governor denounced as teaching "woke concepts" because of language about inclusion and structural racism.

Barbara Cooper was forced out as head of the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education after Ivey expressed concern over the distribution of the book to state-run pre-kindergartens. Ivey spokesperson Gina Maiola identified the book as the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Developmentally Appropriate Practice Book, 4th edition. Maiola said she understands that the books have been removed from the state classrooms.

"The education of Alabama's children is my top priority as governor, and there is absolutely no room to distract or take away from this mission. Let me be crystal clear: Woke concepts that have zero to do with a proper education and that are divisive at the core have no place in Alabama classrooms at any age level, let alone with our youngest learners," Ivey said in a statement.

Ivey's statement comes as conservative politicians have made a rallying cry out of decrying so-called "woke" teachings, with schools sometimes emerging as a flashpoint over diversity training and parents' rights.

The governor's office said Ivey first asked Cooper to "send a memo to disavow this book and to immediately discontinue its use." Ivey's office did not say how Cooper responded but that the governor made the decision to replace Cooper and accepted her resignation. Cooper could not immediately be reached for comment.

The book is a guide for early childhood educators. It is not a curriculum taught to children.

The governor's office, in a press release, cited two examples from the book — one discussing white privilege and that "the United States is built on systemic and structural racism" and another that Ivey's office claimed teaches LGBTQ+ inclusion to 4-year-olds. Those sections, according to a copy of the 881-page book obtained by The Associated Press, discuss combating bias and making sure that all children feel welcome.

"Early childhood programs also serve and welcome families that represent many compositions. Children from all families (e.g., single parent, grandparent-led, foster, LGBTQIA+) need to hear and see messages that promote equality, dignity, and worth," the book states.

The section on structural racism states that "systemic and structural racism ... has permeated every institution and system through policies and practices that position people of color in oppressive, repressive, and menial positions. The early education system is not immune to these forces." It says preschool is one place where children "begin to see how they are represented in society" and that the classroom should be a place of "affirmation and healing."

NAEYC is a national accrediting board that works to provide high-quality education materials and resources for young children. In an emailed response to The Associated Press, the group did not address Ivey's statements but said the book is a research-based resource for educators.

"For nearly four decades, and in partnership with hundreds of thousands of families and educators, Developmentally Appropriate Practice has served as the foundation for high-quality early childhood education across all states and communities. While not a curriculum, it is a responsive, educator-developed,

educator-informed, and research-based resource that has been honed over multiple generations to support teachers in helping all children thrive and reach their full potential," the statement read.

Cooper is a member of the NAEYC board. In a previously published statement on the organization's website about the latest edition of the book, Cooper said that book teaches, "applicable skills for teaching through developmentally appropriate practices that build brains during the critical first five years of life."

Alabama's First Class voluntary pre-kindergarten programs operates more than 1,400 classrooms across the state. The program has won high ratings from the National Institute for Early Education Research.

Ken Potts, one of last 2 USS Arizona survivors, dies at 102

By AUDREY McAVOY Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Ken Potts, one of the last two remaining survivors of the USS Arizona battleship, which sank during the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, has died. He was 102.

Howard Kenton Potts died Friday at the home in Provo, Utah, that he shared with his wife of 66 years, according to Randy Stratton, whose late father, Donald Stratton, was Potts' Arizona shipmate and close friend.

Stratton said Potts "had all his marbles" but lately was having a hard time getting out of bed. When Stratton spoke to Potts on his birthday, April 15, he was happy to have made it to 102.

"But he knew that his body was kind of shutting down on him, and he was just hoping that he could get better but (it) turned out not," Stratton said.

Potts was born and raised in Honey Bend, Illinois, and enlisted in the Navy in 1939.

He was working as a crane operator shuttling supplies to the Arizona the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, when the Pearl Harbor attack happened, according to a 2021 article by the Utah National Guard.

In a 2020 oral history interview with the American Veterans Center, Potts said a loudspeaker ordered sailors back to their ships so he got on a boat.

"When I got back to Pearl Harbor, the whole harbor was afire," He said in the interview. "The oil had leaked out and caught on fire and was burning."

Dozens of ships either sank, capsized or were damaged in the bombing of the Hawaii naval base, which catapulted the U.S. into World War II.

Sailors were tossed or forced to jump into the oily muck below, and Potts and his fellow sailors pulled some to safety in their boat.

The Arizona sank just nine minutes after being bombed, and its 1,177 dead account for nearly half the servicemen killed in the attack. Today the battleship still sits where it sank eight decades ago, with more than 900 dead entombed inside.

Potts recalled decades later that some people were still giving orders in the midst of the attack but there was also a lot of chaos. He carried his memories of the attack over the course of his long life.

"Even after I got out of the Navy, out in the open, and heard a siren, I'd shake," he said.

Stratton noted that the only remaining survivor from the Arizona is now Lou Conter, who is 101 and living in California.

"This is history. It's going away," Stratton said, adding: "And once (Conter is) gone, who tells all their stories?"

Several dozen Arizona survivors have had their ashes interred on the sunken battleship so they could join their shipmates, but Potts didn't want that, according to Stratton.

"He said he got off once, he's not going to go back on board again," he said.

Stratton said many Arizona survivors shared a similar dry sense of humor. That included his own father, who was severely burned in the attack and also did not want to return to the ship as ashes in an urn.

"I've been cremated once. I'm not going to be cremated twice," Donald Stratton joked, according to the younger Stratton, before his death in 2020 at age 97.

"They had that all throughout their lives. They had the sense of humor, and they knew sooner or later they would pass," Randy Stratton said. "Our job now is to keep their memories alive."

Potts is survived by his wife, Doris. Information on other survivors was not immediately available.

After Russia bombs own city, explosive found at same site

By The Associated Press undefined

Seventeen apartment buildings were evacuated Saturday in a Russian city near the Ukrainian border after an explosive device was found at the site where a bomb accidentally dropped by a Russian warplane caused a powerful blast this week, authorities said.

The bomb blast late Thursday rocked part of Belgorod, leaving a large crater and three people injured. The Russian Defense Ministry quickly acknowledged that a weapon accidentally released by one of its own Su-34 bombers caused the explosion.

The ministry said an investigation was underway but did not elaborate on the details of the weapon, which military experts said likely was a powerful 500-kilogram (1,100-pound) bomb.

The governor of Belgorod province, Vyacheslav Gladkov, reported Saturday that sappers examining the site of Thursday's blast found and decided to detonate what he called an "explosive object" that was "in the immediate vicinity of residential buildings."

The precautionary evacuations ended later in the day, according to Belgorod Mayor Valentin Demidov. "The bomb was removed from the residential area. Residents are being delivered back to their homes," Demidov wrote on Telegram.

Russian authorities did not say if the detonated device was dropped by accident on Thursday and if so, if it was a remnant of or separate from the bomb that exploded in the city.

Belgorod, located about 40 kilometers (25 miles) east of the Russia-Ukraine border, has faced regular drone attacks since Russia sent troops into Ukraine last year. Russian authorities have blamed those strikes on the Ukrainian military, which refrained from directly claiming responsibility for the attacks.

Late Saturday, the governor of the Kharkiv region, Oleh Syniehubov, said five missiles fired from the Belgorod area hit the region, including one that struck unspecified "civilian infrastructure" in the capital city Kharkiv.

Moscow's invasion of Ukraine has sent relations with the West into deep freeze, with frequent expulsions of diplomats on both sides.

On Saturday, the Russian Foreign Ministry said that German authorities had "decided on another mass expulsion of employees of Russian diplomatic missions in Germany."

A ministry statement said that "as a reaction to the hostile actions of Berlin," Russia decided to "mirror" the expulsions by Germany and "significantly limit" the maximum number of staff at German diplomatic missions in Russia.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said Russia is expelling more than 20 German diplomats, Russian state media reported, but didn't give a precise number.

Germany's Foreign Ministry said it took note of the comments. It said that the German government and Russia had been in contact in recent weeks on "questions regarding the staffing of the respective diplomatic missions" and that a flight on Saturday took place in that context. It didn't elaborate.

The German air force said earlier that a Russian plane flew to Berlin with diplomatic clearance on Saturday, but didn't specify who or what was on board. Special clearance is required because the European Union closed its airspace to Russian aircraft shortly after the war in Ukraine started.

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

Wrexham earns promotion on wild journey under Ryan Reynolds

By STEVE DOUGLAS AP Sports Writer

Ryan Reynolds held his head in his hands. Rob McElhenney leaned forward, took a deep breath and was soon wiping tears from his eyes.

Below the Hollywood actors, thousands of Wrexham fans flooded onto the field at the Racecourse Ground, setting off red flares and waving Wales flags.

A previously down-on-its-luck Welsh soccer club thrust into the global spotlight because of its A-list owners was celebrating on Saturday after Wrexham secured promotion to the fourth tier of the English game.

Reynolds and McElhenney, along with actor friend Paul Rudd, were among a crowd of more than 10,000 at the Racecourse in north Wales to see Wrexham clinch the National League title with a 3-1 win over Boreham Wood.

Reynolds and McElhenney embraced in the directors' box when the fulltime whistle sounded and, before long, were holding up a flag with the words: "Wrexham champions 2022-23."

They seemingly have become soccer fanatics since completing their out-of-nowhere purchase of the club for \$2.5 million in 2021. An offshoot of the takeover was the making of a fly-on-the-wall documentary — entitled "Welcome to Wrexham" — that has charted the journey of a team run by a couple of actors learning the ropes of sports club ownership.

The second season of the show will have a happy ending, with Wrexham heading back into the English Football League — the three divisions below the Premier League — for the first time in 15 years.

"One thing that is running through my head over and over again," Reynolds said, looking around at Wrexham's jubilant players and fans, "is that people said at the beginning, 'Why Wrexham, why Wrexham?' This is exactly why Wrexham."

Wrexham is four points clear of second-placed Notts County with one round of games left, so is guaranteed the sole automatic promotion spot to League Two. After being greeted by Reynolds and McElhenney, Wrexham's players lifted the league trophy in the middle of the field to the sound of "We are the Champions."

Reynolds is best known for starring in the "Deadpool" movies, while McElhenney is the creator of TV show "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia." One of their stated aims when combining to buy Wrexham from its success-starved fans was to lead the 158-year-old team — the world's third oldest professional club — to the Premier League and the journey is well underway.

It is Wrexham's first league title at any level since the old Division Three — then the third tier in the English game — in 1977 and the team has done it in style, collecting a record 110 points so far and winning 34 of its 45 games.

And, as has so often been the case with a club that does drama like no one else, the win was achieved the hard way after falling behind inside 44 seconds.

Wrexham equalized in the 15th minute then Paul Mullin, the team's star striker, earned victory with two superbly taken goals in the second half.

"Paul Mullin is one of the greatest football players in the world," McElhenney said.

With the title in the bag, Wrexham fans lapped up the final few minutes of a match that ended more than a decade of hurt. The club fell on such hard times since the turn of the century that its supporters' trust twice had to save the team from going out of business.

"We can feel what it means to the town," McElhenney said on the field. "This is a moment of catharsis for them and celebration. For us to be welcomed into the community, and to be welcomed into this experience, has been the honor of my life."

Since their unlikely takeover, Reynolds (21 million) and McElhenney (1 million) have used their large Twitter followings to promote the club and brought in sponsors such as TikTok, Aviation Gin and Expedia, global brands that typically have no place at this level of the game.

The actors are also living up to the promises they made when taking over, like making improvements to the stadium and investing heavily in the women's team. They brought in board members and advisers

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with experience of top-level soccer and who have made good, sensible decisions.

The industrial town of about 65,000 people, located near the northwest English border and close to the soccer hotbeds of Liverpool and Manchester, has been abuzz with excitement for the past two years.

Last season, Wrexham lost in the playoffs to miss out on promotion but made no mistake a year later to get out of the non-leagues, where some teams are semi-professional.

Wrexham finished the game to a backdrop of fans joyously singing "We are going up" – with Reynolds and McElhenney joining in. Rudd also seemed to enjoy the occasion, too — he was spotted drinking a beer with locals before the game.

"I'm not sure I can actually process what happened tonight," Reynolds said. "I'm still a little speechless."

More AP soccer: <https://apnews.com/hub/soccer> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

NAACP sues Mississippi over 'separate and unequal policing'

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The NAACP warns that "separate and unequal policing" will return to Mississippi's majority-Black capital under a state-run police department, and the civil rights organization is suing the governor and other officials over it.

Republican Gov. Tate Reeves says violent crime in Jackson has made it necessary to expand where the Capitol Police can patrol and to authorize some appointed rather than elected judges.

But the NAACP said in its lawsuit filed late Friday that these are serious violations of the principle of self-government because they take control of the police and some courts out of the hands of residents.

"In certain areas of Jackson, a citizen can be arrested by a police department led by a State-appointed official, be charged by a State-appointed prosecutor, be tried before a State-appointed judge, and be sentenced to imprisonment in a State penitentiary regardless of the severity of the act," the lawsuit says.

Derrick Johnson, the national president of the NAACP, is himself a resident of Jackson. At a community meeting earlier this month, he said the policing law would treat Black people as "second-class citizens."

The legislation was passed by a majority-white and Republican-controlled state House and Senate. Jackson is governed by Democrats and about 83% of residents are Black, the largest percentage of any major U.S. city.

The governor said this week that the Jackson Police Department is severely understaffed and he believes the state-run Capitol Police can provide stability. The city of 150,000 residents has had more than 100 homicides in each of the past three years.

"We're working to address it," Reeves said in a statement Friday. "And when we do, we're met with overwhelming false cries of racism and mainstream media who falsely call our actions 'Jim Crow.'"

According to one of the bills Reeves signed into law Friday, Capitol Police will have "concurrent" jurisdiction with Jackson Police Department in the city. The expanded jurisdiction for the Capitol Police would begin July 1.

Another law will create a temporary court within a Capitol Complex Improvement District covering a portion of Jackson. The court will have the same power as municipal courts, which handle misdemeanor cases, traffic violations and initial appearances for some criminal charges. The new law says people convicted in the Capitol Complex Improvement District Court may be put in a state prison rather than in a city or county jail.

The judge of the new court is not required to live in Jackson and will be appointed by the Mississippi Supreme Court chief justice. The current chief justice is a conservative white man.

Rural Maine town shaken by violence remembers slain friends

By PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

BOWDOIN, Maine (AP) — Tireless. Helpful. Deeply religious.

Those were some of the ways Patti Eger's friends remembered her Thursday in the small Maine town of Lisbon Falls, joining hands in prayer on a lawn outside a white church to say goodbye to a woman who stood alongside them to do charity work and attend services.

Patti Eger was one of four people killed in a violent rampage that shook the calm Maine community.

"I couldn't believe it at first," said Arlene Couture, a fellow member of the group. "We're going to miss her terribly.

The shootings of seven people brought the national spate of mass gunfire home to a rural community where violent crime is rare. In tiny Bowdoin, Maine, a town of rolling hills, sturdy farmhouses and only one store, the property where the four were killed has drawn friends, family members and neighbors to grieve. Police have charged Joseph Eaton, 34, with four counts of murder, and have said there could be more charges coming.

Killed were Eaton's parents, Cynthia Eaton, 62, and David Eaton, 66, along with homeowners Robert Eger, 72, and Patti Eger, 62. Police said Eaton later began firing on several cars along Interstate 295 in Yarmouth. Bullets struck a family in one of the vehicles, wounding Sean Halsey, 51; Justin Halsey, 29; and Paige Halsey, 25. Paige Halsey was critically wounded, police said.

Police have yet to discuss what might have been a motive behind the shootings on the rural property and along the busy interstate highway about 12 miles (19 kilometers) from Maine's largest city, Portland. Police also have not discussed what gun or guns were used, or how Eaton obtained them. Eaton was prohibited from having guns because of his criminal past.

Eaton has been jailed since his arrest Tuesday near the chaotic highway, where traffic backed up as heavily armed law enforcement searched the area.

Eaton's parents were staying with their longtime friends after Cynthia Eaton picked him up from a Maine prison on April 14. The families' friendship endured even after the Eatons move away, eventually settling in Florida.

Friends of the Egers described them as a fixture in the community and a family that valued faith and charity.

Patti Eger was a scrapbooker who was appreciated for her commitment to Lisbon Area Christian Outreach, a Lisbon Falls religious group. She was known for taking time with residents who sought service, and for greeting everyone she knew with a hug, even in the grocery store, said Couture.

"The most I'm going to miss is she was always willing to give of herself. To everybody," said Barbara Feely, another volunteer at the outreach group.

Relatives of Cynthia and David Eaton said the fun-loving couple was most happy riding their Harley-Davidson motorcycle, often joining other relatives at biking events from Florida up to the Dakotas. Cynthia Eaton's Facebook page has posts on food, sunsets and her conservative political beliefs.

Paul Batten Jr., Cynthia Eaton's first cousin, said they camped together as children and later rode motorcycles. She could disarm a stranger with her smile and, in her words, she was a pool shark, he said.

Batten also recalled how the couple moved around to be close to Joseph Eaton during his prison stints. "She would do anything for Joey. He was her baby. She would do anything for him," he said.

Betty Fagan, Eaton's grandmother and the mother of Cynthia Eaton, said Joseph Eaton "was a good kid when he was young but we don't know what is going on with him now."

"It was terrible. It was his mom and his dad," Fagan said from her home in Ocala, Florida.

Fagan said Eaton's parents had been planning to move back to Kansas. They picked Joseph Eaton up from prison and brought him to a beach where, she said, he spent the weekend alone.

"After that, we don't know what happened. We don't know whether there was an argument or what," Fagan said.

Eaton had a criminal history in Maine, Kansas and Florida, all states where he'd lived. Charges included domestic violence assault, violating a protection order, aggravated assault, burglary, stalking, and drunken

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driving, among others.

Deputies in northeastern Florida were called to a Nassau County home in January 2018 on a report of an armed man having a mental breakdown, according to an incident report. Eaton's aunt had fled after he tore the home apart, breaking things and threatening to kill himself, she told police.

After serving time on the aggravated assault, he was returned to Maine to serve a two-year sentence for violating probation, state officials said.

Rob Capehart, Eaton's cousin who lives in North Carolina and corresponded with him while was in jail, said he was still trying to understand how a man who posted on Facebook Friday about being excited to get out of jail and posted a photo of eating at dinner could go on a killing rampage.

"If we knew there was a problem, we might have been able to prevent it," said Capehart.

On Friday, a man left a stuffed animal at a makeshift memorial outside the Bowdoin home of Robert and Patti Eger as a cleaning crew in hazmat suits brought trash bags out of the house.

At the edge of the driveway, the growing memorial included flowers and Patti Eger's favorite candy, Twizzlers.

Associated Press video journalist Rodrique Ngowi in Bowdoin and writer David Sharp in Portland contributed to this report from Maine. Michael Casey contributed to this report from Boston.

'Park outside': GM recalls 40,000 pickups to fix fire risk

NEW YORK (AP) — General Motors is recalling certain Chevrolet Silverado medium-duty trucks for model year 2019 or later, following the discovery of a potential leak in brake fluid that could result in a fire.

Potentially 40,428 vehicles could be affected. They include 4500HD, 5500HD, and 6500HD models with model years between 2019 and 2023, according to documents posted by U.S. safety regulators on Saturday.

The vehicles may have a brake pressure sensor assembly that allows brake fluid to leak and cause a short circuit. That in turn increases the risk of a fire that could occur when the vehicle is either driving or parked.

GM advises owners with potentially affected models to park outdoors and away from structures until the recall repair is done. Vehicles with model years before 2019 used a different design.

GM said it's not aware of any injuries related to the condition.

For transgender kids, a frantic rush for treatment amid bans

By SAM METZ and AMANCAI BIRABEN Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — As a third grader in Utah, mandolin-playing math whiz Elle Palmer said aloud what she had only before sensed, telling a friend she planned to transfer schools the following year and hoped her new classmates would see her as a girl.

Several states northeast, Asher Wilcox-Broekemeier listened to punk rock in his room, longing to join the shirtless boys from the neighborhood playing beneath the South Dakota sunshine. It wasn't until menstruation started, and the disconnect with his body grew, that he knew he was one of them.

Both kids' realizations started their families on a yearslong path of doctors, therapists and other experts in transgender medicine.

Now teenagers, their journeys have hit a roadblock.

Republican lawmakers across the country are banning gender-affirming care for minors. Restrictions have gone into effect in eight states this year — including conservative Utah and South Dakota — and are slated to in at least nine more by next year.

Those who oppose gender-affirming care raise fears about the long-term effects treatments have on teens, argue research is limited and focus particularly on irreversible procedures such as genital surgery or mastectomies.

Yet those are rare. Doctors typically guide kids toward therapy or voice coaching long before medical intervention. At that point, puberty blockers, anti-androgens that block the effects of testosterone, and hormone treatments are far more common than surgery. They have been available in the United States

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for more than a decade and are standard treatments backed by major doctors' organizations including the American Medical Association.

The new laws have parents scrambling to secure the care their kids need. They worry what will happen if they can't get the medications they've been prescribed, especially as their kids start puberty and their bodies change in ways that can't be reversed.

"My body's basically this ticking time bomb, just sitting there waiting for it to go off," said Asher Wilcox-Broekemeier, now 13.

Elle remembers her first day at the school after she transferred. Before leaving, she came downstairs in rainbow sparkle-embroidered cowboy boots her mother worried would only spur bullies. Taunts from kids at Elle's prior school drove her into depression so deep she had suicidal thoughts.

But on that first day, a boy told Elle he loved her boots. Some kids bullied her, but classmates and teachers were far more supportive than at her prior school. Elle discovered new passions in hip hop and drama class, and she settled into a new school and a truer version of herself. She started to see a therapist as her uncertainty about how she fit in the gender spectrum grew more pressing.

Elle came out as a transgender girl in fifth grade. Now in seventh, she planned to start hormone treatment this summer so potential side effects wouldn't interfere with her life during the school year, especially her team's extracurricular math competitions.

But then Utah's Republican Gov. Spencer Cox signed a gender-affirming care ban in January. In a compromise, the law let kids keep taking medications if they were already on them. So Elle's mom rushed to get her treatment months earlier than planned, as did other parents.

The waitlist at one Utah clinic swelled to six months. Doctors were confronted with difficult decisions about who to get in for appointments.

Elle's medication arrived in the mail just before Utah's law went into effect. A small stick implanted in Elle's forearm is slow-releasing hormone blockers to prevent the effects of male puberty from taking hold. Eventually she may be prescribed estrogen, and she and her parents will have to navigate the next steps, and whether they'll find doctors to continue her care.

At least for now, they have a reprieve.

"It feels like we can breathe again now," Cat Palmer said.

There's no relief for Asher Wilcox-Broekemeier's family — not yet.

When Asher began menstruating, he felt a terrifying disconnect between how his body was changing on the outside and how he felt inside.

Elizabeth began researching online to understand what was going on with her son, while Asher's father, Brian, looked to doctors for expertise. With referrals from his longtime pediatrician, Asher met with therapists and doctors who helped explore his history, personality and feelings over his whole life.

Nearly two years ago, doctors prescribed puberty blockers and birth control to slow breast development, regulate menstruation and lower the pressure of his disconnect with his body.

He's 13 now, and finds solace in music to ground him in a world of occasional bullying and constant mistaken pronouns. He practices Blink-182's "All the Small Things" on guitar, plays trumpet in the school band and is rehearsing various singing roles for the Cinderella school musical. When he's not thinking about testosterone to lower his voice or eventually getting top surgery, he looks forward to playing in the high school marching band next year.

Asher still struggles with moments of gender dysphoria. Friendships that were once strong fizzled after Asher came out as transgender. Parents have disinvited him from their houses out of fears he's a "bad influence."

But his parents have noticed his emotions stabilize through his treatment.

"From a parent's view, I see him as being able to be himself authentically, which is wonderful for him," Elizabeth said.

Now he and his parents worry they'll have to start over.

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In February, South Dakota Republican Gov. Kristi Noem signed a law banning the medications and procedures that doctors have increasingly prescribed for transgender teens.

Asher's current doctors in South Dakota won't be able to prescribe his medications, so the family is looking for a new doctor in neighboring Minnesota, where the Democratic governor has signed an executive order explicitly protecting gender-affirming care for minors. They're hoping to find a clinic close enough they can drive to appointments and don't have to pay for hotel stays.

The planning has been time-consuming. Logistical questions to their current South Dakota doctors for referrals have gone unanswered. They want to beat whatever onslaught of patients from other states enacting similar bans will bring to providers in Minnesota, but also want to maintain as much normalcy for Asher as they can.

The sudden twists in Asher's trajectory makes him question why his health care is of concern to politicians. "Even though trans people don't make up a big percent of the population doesn't mean that we're not part of it still," Asher said.

The full consequences of the bans on care for minors aren't yet clear.

Dr. Nikki Mihalopoulos, an adolescent medicine doctor in a Salt Lake City specialty clinic with transgender teens, worries the new laws will make families too scared to seek help and doctors too scared of losing their licenses to provide care.

In the middle are kids like Elle and Asher.

Multiple studies have shown that transgender youth are more likely to consider or attempt suicide and less at risk for depression and suicidal behaviors when able to access gender-affirming care.

Both sets of parents are trying to shelter their kids from the stress and anxiety caused by the recent changes in the laws.

After years of worrying about their kids' safety and mental health, they still fear what could happen if they can't find the drugs their kids have been prescribed.

"My kid being OK is my number one priority. I know what the suicide rate is. I do not want my child to be a statistic," Cat Palmer said of Elle.

This story corrects the identification of the person in one photo to Elle Palmer.

Biraben reported from Pierre, South Dakota.

Oklahoma county worried about fallout from racist recording

By SEAN MURPHY Associated Press

IDABEL, Okla. (AP) — So many residents of northern Texas cross the border into McCurtain County in far southeast Oklahoma each week that the area has earned the nickname of the "Dallas-Fort Worth Hamptons."

With its clean rivers and lakes, these forested foothills of the Ouchita Mountains have become dotted with luxury cabins, and a tourism boom over the last two decades has fueled a renaissance in the region. Jobs are no longer limited to the timber industry or the chicken processing plant, and parents are more optimistic that their children won't have to leave the community to find work.

But the growing optimism about the county's future took a gut punch last week when the local newspaper identified several county officials, including Sheriff Kevin Clardy and a county commissioner, who were caught on tape discussing killing journalists and lynching Black people. One commissioner has already resigned, and elected officials, including the mayor of Idabel and Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt, have called for the others to step down.

"Just hearing it on audio and coming from our elected officials' mouths in a meeting, it made my stomach turn," said Lonnie Watson, a lifelong county resident and 7th grade teacher and coach who is Black. "It was shocking. It was sad. It was hurtful. Just to hear the hate ... was just gut-wrenching."

For its part, the sheriff's office has only released one formal statement since the McCurtain Gazette-

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News broke the story last weekend in which the sheriff's office didn't address the remarks, but claimed the recording was illegally obtained.

"Unfortunately, all of our attorneys are telling us we are supposed to stay quiet," Undersheriff Mike Manning told The Associated Press on Thursday, declining further comment. "I'd love for everybody to hear both sides of the story." On Friday, the governor, who has called for Clardy and others said to be involved in the taped conversation to resign, released a letter that he sent to state Attorney General Gentner Drummond, asking him to investigate possibly removing Clardy from office for willful misconduct.

"As I understand it, Sheriff Clardy has, at the least, willfully failed or neglected to diligently and faithfully 'keep and preserve the peace' of McCurtain County," according to the letter signed by Stitt. "Should you find that there is reasonable cause for such complaint, I urge you to institute proceedings to oust Sheriff Clardy from office."

A spokesperson for Drummond said investigators are already looking into the case.

"The Office of Attorney General is investigating this matter. Attorney General Drummond will review the Governor's letter and take appropriate action," said Drummond spokesperson Phil Bacharach.

While many county residents say the racist remarks are a throwback to a bygone era, they still worry about the negative repercussions the incident will have on the community's reputation.

"We have concerns. We do. Anyone in their right mind would," said Tommy "Blue" McDaniel, who owns and operates the county's first legal distillery, Hochatown Distilling, in the heart of the county's tourism region. "But that stuff down there is a few individuals. It's not what McCurtain County is, and it's definitely not what Hochatown is.

"It's a diverse community, a welcoming community."

McDaniel's assessment was echoed by many in the county. With a population of about 31,000 and bordering both Arkansas and Texas, the county is a part of the state known as "Little Dixie" because of the influence in the area from white Southerners who migrated there after the Civil War. Although about 60% of the county is white, there are significant numbers of Native American (18%), Black (8%) and Hispanic (7%) people.

Like many communities across the country, particularly in the South, the towns in McCurtain County were historically segregated, but have become more integrated since the 1960s. Idabel, the county seat, was the site of racial violence in 1980 when a riot erupted after a local Black teenager was fatally shot outside an all-white club. Tensions grew so high that martial law was declared and the governor called in the National Guard, said Kenny Sivard, a local historian.

"What didn't help was the grand imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan came down to the Idabel courthouse and made his appearance," Sivard said. "That didn't help matters at all, as you can imagine."

The county also has a long history of lawlessness dating back to days before statehood in 1907, when Oklahoma was Indian Territory and bandits would take refuge in the mountainous region, said Bob Burke, a McCurtain County native who has written more than 100 nonfiction books about Oklahoma and its people.

With its clean rivers and remote locations, the area also became a haven for moonshiners who set up stills in the heavily forested hills. That reputation for operating outside the law continued into the later part of the 20th century when the methamphetamine epidemic swept through the area. Even today, although Oklahoma became the last state to ban cockfighting in 2002, animal rights activists say the blood sport still takes place in the region and that local law enforcement sometimes turns a blind eye. One state lawmaker from nearby Atoka County is still working to reduce the penalties for cockfighting.

Still, McCurtain County has worked hard to shed its reputation for lawlessness and racial strife, aided in large part by the construction of Broken Bow Lake in the heart of the county in the late 1960s. Fed by the Mountain Fork River, the clear lake surrounded by forested hills has been a huge tourism draw that continues to this day.

The Choctaw Nation's historic reservation encompasses the entire county and most of southern Oklahoma, and the tribe has broken ground on a \$165 million, 200,000-square-foot (18,580-square-meter) resort hotel and casino near the lake and Beavers Bend State Park that is scheduled to open later this year.

It's projects like these and the growing tourism industry that residents like McDaniel, the distillery operator, hope McCurtain County will come to be known for.

"I see a bright future," McDaniel said. "We've got some problems we're going to have to work through, but those problems, those are some dying vestiges. Those are some dying cries of people here who want to preserve the old ways, but we're moving forward, and forward doesn't include what's going on down there."

Follow Sean Murphy on Twitter: @apseanmurphy

What's next for abortion pill after Supreme Court's order

By MARK SHERMAN and JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nothing will change for now. That's what the Supreme Court said Friday evening about access to a widely used abortion pill.

A court case that began in Texas has sought to roll back Food and Drug Administration approval of the drug, mifepristone. Lower courts had said that women seeking the drug should face more restrictions on getting it while the case continues, but the Supreme Court disagreed.

The court's action almost certainly will leave access to mifepristone unchanged at least into next year, as appeals play out, including a potential appeal to the high court.

The new abortion controversy comes less than a year after the Supreme Court's conservative majority overturned *Roe v. Wade* and allowed more than a dozen states to effectively ban abortion outright.

The following is a look at the drug at issue in the new case, how the case got to the nation's highest court and what's next in the legal case.

WHAT IS MIFEPRISTONE?

Mifepristone was approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration more than two decades ago. It has been used by more than 5 million women to safely end their pregnancies, and today more than half of women who end a pregnancy rely on the drug, the Justice Department said.

Over the years, the FDA has loosened restrictions on the drug's use, extending from seven to 10 weeks of pregnancy when it can be used, reducing the dosage needed to safely end a pregnancy, eliminating the requirement to visit a doctor in person to get it and allowing pills to be obtained by mail. The FDA also approved a generic version of mifepristone that its manufacturer, Las Vegas-based GenBioPro, says makes up two-thirds of the domestic market.

Mifepristone is one of two pills used in medication abortions, along with misoprostol. Health care providers have said they could switch to misoprostol only if mifepristone is no longer available or is too hard to obtain. Misoprostol is somewhat less effective in ending pregnancies.

HOW DID THE CASE GET STARTED?

A lawsuit over mifepristone was filed in Amarillo, Texas, late last year. Alliance Defending Freedom, a conservative Christian legal group, represents the pill's opponents, who say the FDA's approval of mifepristone was flawed.

Why Amarillo? U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk, who was nominated by then-President Donald Trump, is the sole district court judge there, ensuring that all cases filed in the west Texas city land in front of him. Since taking the bench, he has ruled against President Joe Biden's administration on several other issues, including immigration and LGBTQ protections.

On April 7, Kacsmaryk issued a ruling that would completely revoke the FDA's approval of mifepristone, but he put the decision on hold for a week to allow an appeal.

Complicating matters, however, on the same day Kacsmaryk issued his order, a court in Washington state issued a separate ruling in a lawsuit brought by liberal states seeking to preserve access to mifepristone. The Washington judge, Spokane-based Thomas O. Rice, whom then-President Barack Obama nominated,

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ordered the FDA not to do anything that might affect the availability of mifepristone in the suing states. The Biden administration had said it would be impossible to follow both judges' directives at the same time.

HOW DID THE CASE GET TO THE SUPREME COURT?

The Biden administration responded to Kacsmaryk's ruling by asking the New Orleans-based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to prevent it from taking effect for now.

The appeals court didn't do that, but it narrowed Kacsmaryk's ruling so that the initial approval of mifepristone in 2000 wouldn't be revoked. And it agreed with him that changes the FDA made to relax the rules for prescribing and dispensing the drug should be put on hold. It said those rules, including expanding when the drug could be taken and allowing for the drug's delivery through the mail, should be on hold while the case continued.

The appeals court acted by a 2-1 vote. The judges in the majority, Kurt Engelhardt and Andrew Oldham, are both Trump picks.

The Biden administration and the maker of mifepristone, New York-based Danco Laboratories, appealed to the Supreme Court, saying that allowing the appeals court's restrictions to take effect would cause chaos. At first, facing a tight deadline, the Supreme Court gave itself some breathing room and issued an order suggesting it would act by Wednesday evening. But no decision came Wednesday and the court instead just gave itself an extension until just before midnight Friday. It wasn't clear why.

The court did make its second self-imposed deadline, issuing its brief decision around 6:30 p.m. in Washington. Two conservative justices, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito, said they disagreed with the court's action but no other justice commented.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The case is on a fast track. Now that the high court has set out the rules that will govern access for now, the case can continue on its path through the courts.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has already announced it will hear arguments in the case in less than a month, on May 17. Both sides as well as interest groups will submit written briefs ahead of those arguments. And a three-judge panel of the court will hear the case, though the court has not yet said who those three judges will be. The group won't issue a decision from the bench but instead hear arguments and ask questions. That will give the public a sense of what they're thinking. Their decision will be made privately after oral arguments, and at some point they'll issue a written decision announcing it.

Both sides then have an opportunity to appeal, taking the case to all the judges of the appeals court or directly to the Supreme Court. The justices take a break for the summer, however, and don't start hearing cases again until October.

Follow the AP's coverage of the U.S. Supreme Court at <https://apnews.com/hub/us-supreme-court>.

Faith lifted Pittsburgh Jews in long wait for massacre trial

By PETER SMITH Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Three Jewish congregations, resolute in their defiance of the hatred that tried to destroy them, are still waiting for justice.

But united in their horror and grief, they haven't been standing still as the criminal case for the massacre that changed everything has crawled through the federal court system.

Four and a half years ago, a gunman invaded the Tree of Life synagogue on a Sabbath morning and killed 11 worshippers from the three congregations that shared the building — Dor Hadash, New Light and Tree of Life. The shooting, in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood at the heart of Jewish Pittsburgh, was the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history.

On Monday, jury selection is scheduled to begin in the long-delayed trial of the suspect, accused of dozens of charges including hate crimes resulting in death.

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The three congregations are wary of what's to come. Some members may be called to testify, and they're bracing for graphic evidence and testimony that could revive the traumas of the Oct. 27, 2018, attack — often referred to around here as simply 10/27.

The tension can be felt in private conversations and encounters — the griefs, the anxieties, the feelings of being in a media fishbowl.

But each in their own ways, members are finding renewed purpose in honoring those lost in the attack, in the bold practice of their faith, in activism on issues like gun violence and immigration, in taking a stand against antisemitism and other forms of bigotry.

"We don't want to be silenced as Jews," said Rich Weinberg, chair of the social action committee for Dor Hadash. "We want to be active as Jews with an understanding of Jewish values. ... We are going to still be here. We will not be intimidated."

That was evident even in subtle details of a Passover service held earlier this month in New Light's chapel, joined by some members of Dor Hadash.

Some offering Yizkor, or remembrance, prayers were doing so in honor of slain loved ones. One prayer was read in memory of the "Kedoshim of Pittsburgh, murdered al kiddush Hashem" — holy martyrs, killed while sanctifying God's name. The prayer, modeled on prayers for Jewish martyrs of medieval Europe, has been woven into the ritual fabric of Jewish Pittsburgh.

One of those leading Passover prayers was Carol Black, who survived the attack that claimed the life of her brother, Richard Gottfried, and two other New Light members, Melvin Wax and Daniel Stein. They had led much of New Light's ritual worship.

"Rich and Dan and Mel were our religious heart," said Stephen Cohen, co-president of New Light. "And we had some very big shoes to fill."

Members such as Black and Bruce Hyde have stepped into them. Hyde said when he once read a passage that had been read by Stein, he felt his presence: "He was up there with me."

Cohen said the congregation had three priorities after the attack: to memorialize those lost, to continue their ritual life and to further religious education. New Light, like Tree of Life, is part of the moderate Conservative denomination of Judaism.

The congregation dedicated a monument honoring its three martyrs — shaped with images of Torah scrolls and prayer shawls — at its cemetery, where it also created a chapel adorned with stained glass windows and other mementos honoring the victims.

New Light Co-President Barbara Caplan said her dream for the congregation is "that we have many more years of Friday night services, Saturday morning services, holidays together, where we just go on being the family that we are."

Cohen said the congregation has been overwhelmed by support from Christian, Sikh and other communities and wanted to build on those relationships. It has held Bible studies with local Black churches, and members visited the Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, drawing solace from a congregation that lost nine members to a racist gunman in 2015. "I've never been part of a group hug of a hundred people," Cohen recalled.

All three of the modest-sized congregations have been meeting in nearby synagogues since the attack closed the Tree of Life building.

Rabbi Jeffrey Myers had been leading Tree of Life Congregation for just over a year when he survived 10/27. He carries the scarred memories of the gunshots that killed seven members: Joyce Fienberg, Rose Mallinger, Cecil and David Rosenthal, Bernice and Sylvan Simon and Irving Younger. Andrea Wedner, Mallinger's daughter, was wounded in the attack.

Myers continues to speak forcefully against the bigotry behind it.

His mission is "primarily to help my congregation community heal," Myers said. "But beyond it is to speak up, to be a voice, to say, 'No, this isn't okay. It's not acceptable. It never was. And it can never be.'"

He'd like to think the trial will expose the dangers of rising bigotry, but "it takes a concerted effort to be able to ... walk a mile in someone else's shoes," he said. But it affects more than Jews. "Someone who

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is an antisemite is most likely also the possessor of a long laundry list of personal grievances and other groups that that person does not like.”

Members are each recovering in their own ways, congregation president Alan Hausman said.

Each week when he makes announcements, Hausman said he includes this one: “It’s OK not to be OK, and we will get through this together.”

On Sunday, the day before jury selection, the Tree of Life Congregation is having a closure ceremony for its historic building. The congregation and a partner organization plan a major overhaul of the site, which will combine worship space with a memorial and antisemitism education, including about the Holocaust.

“We’re not really leaving, we will be back,” said Hausman.

“Hopefully we’ll be once again a happy, grounded, 160-year-old congregation,” added member Audrey Glickman, a survivor. “Back to being a solid group of people who come together regularly and do our thing.”

Dor Hadash, founded 60 years ago, is Pittsburgh’s only congregation in the progressive Reconstructionist movement of Judaism. Many members are drawn to its interlocking focuses on worship, study and social activism.

It was that activism that appears to have drawn the shooting suspect — who fulminated online against HIAS, a Jewish refugee resettlement agency — to the address where Dor Hadash met. The congregation was listed on HIAS’ website as a participant in a National Refugee Shabbat, which wove concern for migrants into Sabbath worship.

On 10/27, members Jerry Rabinowitz and Dan Leger were gathering for a Torah study when they heard the gunshots and ran to help. Rabinowitz was killed, and Leger seriously wounded.

But the attack has only emboldened Dor Hadash members.

They were soon organizing what became a separate group, Squirrel Hill Stands Against Gun Violence, advocating for gun safety legislation. And they redoubled their support for immigrants, refugees and their helpers such as HIAS. The congregation has sponsored a refugee family originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. And they have taken a strong stand against rising antisemitism and white supremacy.

“I think advocacy has been a huge part of our healing,” said Dana Kellerman, communications chair for Dor Hadash. Advocacy “isn’t just about making myself feel better,” she added. “It is about trying to move the needle so that this doesn’t happen to somebody else.”

The congregation has been growing since the attack, said its president, Jo Recht. The historically lay-led congregation has hired its first staff rabbi, Amy Bardack. Her formal installation is this Sunday — a date that wasn’t specifically chosen in advance of the trial but that provides a welcome occasion of celebration.

“There are a lot of people who are seeking some way to help so that the world is a more compassionate place,” Recht said.

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Rape lawsuit trial puts spotlight back on Trump and women

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Donald Trump’s behavior toward women, long a source of flash-points in his political career, now faces a new level of scrutiny: a trial in a lawsuit accusing him of rape.

Jury selection is set to start Tuesday in the case filed by former advice columnist E. Jean Carroll, who says Trump raped her in a luxury New York department store dressing room in the 1990s.

Trump, who is unlikely to attend the trial, has called the accusations “a complete con job.” Carroll, who is seeking unspecified damages, casts the case as a #MeToo-inspired quest for accountability from the epitome of prominent men.

“I’m filing this lawsuit not just for myself but for every woman in America who has been grabbed, groped, harassed, sexually assaulted and has spoken up and still has been disgraced, shamed or fired,” Carroll said early on.

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The lawsuit is putting Trump's history with women under a microscope as he runs to return to the White House. But if a trial over a rape accusation would be a crisis for most candidates, with Trump, it remains to be seen.

"To the extent that the chaos around Trump is his biggest challenge, this reinforces that narrative," said Alex Conant, a Republican strategist who worked on Marco Rubio's 2016 presidential campaign. "The No. 1 thing I hear in focus groups of Republican voters is that they're tired of the constant drama that comes with Trump."

Trump's political rise was riddled with criticism of his attitudes and conduct toward women. There were his insulting remarks about onetime Republican rival Carly Fiorina's appearance, his misogynistic comments about former Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly, his double-down on denigrating a former Miss Universe whom he had pilloried about her weight and more — including, most notoriously, the crass "Access Hollywood" hot-mic recording that nearly derailed his 2016 campaign and elicited rare contrition for what he called "locker room banter."

Then there were the dozen-plus women, including Carroll, who came forward during his campaign and presidency to accuse him of sexual assault and harassment. He denied all the claims. Other lawsuits over them were dropped or dismissed, but Carroll's has endured.

If Trump prevails in the case, he will likely tout it as another example of him beating what he sees as spurious claims about him, Conant said. If Trump loses, the impact could depend on the circumstances of the judgment. Carroll is seeking unspecified damages and a retraction of Trump's denials of her allegations.

Trump has aimed to use his other legal troubles — including a recent, unrelated indictment and ongoing investigations into other matters — to bolster his support among fellow Republicans, painting the various probes as a politically motivated "witch hunt" and a broad attempt to "interfere" with the 2024 election. It's unclear whether the voters he seeks to reach will sympathize with his portrayal of Carroll's lawsuit as a pile-on, see it as a growing distraction or ignore it altogether.

His campaign saw a spike in donations after his indictment, which accuses him of fudging his company's records to try to conceal payments made to suppress stories about his alleged marital infidelity; he denies the charges and the sexual encounters.

His favorability ratings have held steady at 34% among U.S. adults overall and 68% among Republicans, according to a recent poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Beyond its political ramifications, the trial marks a #MeToo milestone, even after closely watched civil and criminal cases against disgraced movie honcho Harvey Weinstein and other powerful men. The case also is drawing national attention to a New York law that allows for lawsuits over decades-old sex crime claims.

The time frame for pursuing criminal charges over the allegations, which Carroll never reported to police, has long since passed. If she prevails in the lawsuit, it could cost Trump money but not his freedom.

A former magazine journalist, talk show host and "Saturday Night Live" writer, Carroll was best known — at least until her lawsuit — for the eponymous advice column she wrote for Elle magazine from 1993 through 2019.

According to Carroll, she crossed paths with Trump at Bergdorf Goodman sometime in 1995 or 1996, when he was a real estate mogul and man about town. Recognizing her as "that advice lady," he asked her to help him browse for a women's gift, bantered with Carroll about a bodysuit and steered her to a fitting room, she says. Then, in her telling, he suddenly forced himself on her while she tried to push him off.

"That rape changed my life, which is shocking for me to now understand," she said in a deposition, a legal term for pretrial questioning under oath.

According to Carroll, she immediately lost interest in dating and desire, then lost her job after she told her story in a 2019 memoir and Trump responded that she was "totally lying." Elle has said her contract wasn't renewed for unrelated reasons.

Trump says he never encountered Carroll at Bergdorf Goodman and had no idea who she was when she publicly accused him. He has asserted that she invented the story to sell her book.

"It's a false accusation. Never happened, never would happen," he said during a caustic 5 1/2-hour

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deposition, which can be played for jurors.

In snippets released to date, he called Carroll a "nut job," her attorney "a disgrace" and the case "a big, fat hoax." He reiterated his description of Carroll as "not my type" — and misidentified her in a 1987 photo as Marla Maples, his wife from 1993 to 1999.

Besides Carroll, two Trump accusers who never sued are set to testify in Carroll's case.

Jessica Leeds has said Trump grabbed her breasts and tried to put his hand up her skirt when they were seatmates on a flight three decades ago. People magazine writer Natasha Stoyneff has said Trump forcibly kissed her against her will while showing her around his Florida home for a 2005 article.

Jurors also are expected to hear the "Access Hollywood" recording.

The Associated Press does not identify people who say they have been sexually assaulted unless they come forward publicly.

The trial will unfold at a federal courthouse a block from the state court where Trump was arraigned earlier this month on his indictment.

Associated Press writer Michelle Price contributed to this report.

School violence in Brazil mirrors US. Its reaction doesn't

By LAÍS MARTINS and COLLIN BINKLEY SAO PAULO

About two weeks after a man killed four children in a Brazilian daycare center, authorities already have rounded up some 300 adults and minors nationwide accused of spreading hate speech or stoking school violence.

Little has been revealed about the unprecedented crackdown, which risks judicial overreach, but it underlines the determination of the country's response across federal, state and municipal levels. Brazil's all-hands effort to stamp out its emerging trend of school attacks stands in contrast to the U.S., where such attacks have been more frequent and more deadly for a longer period, yet where measures nowadays are incremental.

Actions adopted in the U.S. - and some of its perceived shortcomings - are informing the Brazilian response, said Renan Theodoro, a researcher with Center for the Study of Violence at the University of Sao Paulo.

"We have learned from the successes and the mistakes of other countries, especially the United States," Theodoro told The Associated Press.

Brazil has seen almost two dozen attacks or violent episodes in schools since 2000, half of them in the last 12 months, including the daycare center attack April 5.

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said the notion of schools as safe havens has been "ruined." His government has sought input from independent researchers and this week convened a meeting of ministers, mayors and Supreme Court justices to discuss possible solutions.

Some measures already adopted are in line with those implemented over time in the U.S., like the creation of hotlines, safety training for school administrators and teachers, federal funding for mental health, plus security equipment and infrastructure.

Other measures -- like the nationwide sweep for supposedly threatening suspects involving over 3,400 police officers, or the newly invigorated push to regulate social media platforms -- have not been enacted there.

The arrests aim to assuage fear among Brazilians, said Luis Flávio Saporì, a senior associate researcher with the Brazilian Forum for Public Security. "The priority is diminishing panic," he said.

In the weeks since the day care massacre, unconfirmed threats and rumors have circulated on social media, and stirred dread among students, educators and parents — including Vanusia Silva Lima, 42, the mother of a 5-year-old son in central Sao Paulo.

"I am afraid of sending my son to school. Not only myself, my friends are too, women I met at the salon, too," Lima said.

Many Brazilian states didn't wait for the federal response. Sao Paulo, for example, temporarily hired 550

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psychologists to attend to its public schools, and hired 1,000 private security guards.

While shootings in the U.S. often ignite debate, at the federal level it usually ends in stalemate. Democrats focus on gun control while Republicans push for stronger security measures.

Brazil's push has garnered broad support in part because proposals haven't included restricting firearm access, increasingly a hot-button political issue here, as in the U.S. Anyway, Brazil's school attacks more often are carried out with other weapons, especially knives.

In the U.S., legislation rarely passes. There have been notable exceptions, however, including a bipartisan compromise approved last year after a massacre at a Texas elementary school and other mass shootings. The bill toughened background checks and kept firearms from more domestic violence offenders, and allocated \$1 billion for student mental health and school security.

Other change has come more gradually since the 1999 Columbine High School massacre and the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. In almost every state, schools are now required to have safety plans that often include shooter drills. Many individual school districts have their own safety hotlines, and some use software to monitor social media for threats, with mixed results.

And many U.S. states have given schools money to "harden" buildings with metal detectors, security officers, bulletproof doors and other measures — which has stirred its own debate over the policing of America's schools.

Lawmaker Eduardo Bolsonaro, the son of Lula's far-right predecessor, was one of a few prominent voices calling for detectors and armed guards, citing some U.S. states as examples, and put forward a bill to make them obligatory at all schools.

Lula has said his government will consider neither detectors nor backpack inspections.

Sapori said that Brazil has adopted a mixed approach, which stresses mental health care, preventive monitoring of threats and training for teachers, in addition to policing.

"In Brazil, we have a clear understanding, based on the U.S. experience, that merely investing in armed security in schools does not work, that police presence in schools doesn't hinder attacks," Sapori said. "It only works to transform schools into prisons."

For Brazil, the Western hemisphere's second-most populous country, scrambling for quick solutions risks introducing abuses of power.

As for the suspects arrested over a two-week period through Thursday, Theodoro noted that authorities haven't detailed the criteria for detentions, and investigations are under seal. Asked by the AP, the Justice Ministry declined to clarify how many of the 302 people taken into custody were minors.

The ministry also has empowered a national consumer agency to fine tech companies for not removing content perceived as glorifying school massacres, incentivizing violence or making threats.

And there appears to be broad support for holding social media platforms accountable. At this week's meeting in the capital, Lula, his justice minister, two Supreme Court justices, and the Senate's president voiced support for regulation of the platforms, arguing that speech that is illegal in real life cannot be permitted online.

"Either we have the courage to discuss the difference between freedom of expression and stupidity, or we won't get very far," Lula said.

The Rights in Network Coalition, an umbrella group of 50 organizations focused on basic digital rights, has expressed concern over giving the government the power to decide what can be said on social media.

Some social media platforms that initially resisted compliance with takedown requests have come around and, in the prior 10 days, had removed or suspended more than 750 profiles, Justice Minister Flávio Dino said.

When a man hopped over the wall of a day care center in Santa Catarina state and killed four children with a hatchet April 5, state prosecutors called on news media to refrain from sharing images or identifying the killer, citing research that this can encourage other attackers.

Behemoth media conglomerate Grupo Globo announced it would no longer name nor portray perpetrators of such crimes in its broadcasts or publications. O Estado de S. Paulo, one of Brazil's biggest newspapers,

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followed suit. CNN Brasil and Band also made the change.

In the United States, such a broad shift is yet to be seen in media, though outlets have begun efforts to use shooters' names sparingly and to focus on victims' stories, largely due to advocacy by relatives of victims. Some U.S. news organizations have ceased the previously routine profiles of school shooters.

The developments in Brazil are reminiscent of a groundswell of U.S. federal support for school safety after the Columbine shooting, said Ken Trump, president of Ohio-based consultant National School Safety and Security Services.

"Since then, it has become much more choppy," he said.

The success of Brazil's efforts will hinge on the ability to maintain momentum even after public attention shifts away from school violence, he added.

"The bottom-line question is, will it be sustainable?"

___ Binkley reported from Washington, D.C. AP journalists Eléonore Hughes, Mauricio Savarese and Carla Bridi contributed from Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Brasilia.

Today in History: April 23, Hank Aaron's first home run

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, April 23, the 113th day of 2023. There are 252 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 23, 2005, the recently created video-sharing website YouTube uploaded its first clip, "Me at the Zoo," which showed YouTube co-founder Jawed Karim standing in front of an elephant enclosure at the San Diego Zoo.

On this date:

In 1616 (Old Style calendar), William Shakespeare died in Stratford-upon-Avon on what has traditionally been regarded as the 52nd anniversary of his birth in 1564.

In 1898, Spain declared war on the United States, which responded in kind two days later.

In 1940, about 200 people died in the Rhythm Night Club Fire in Natchez, Mississippi.

In 1954, Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee Braves hit the first of his 755 major-league home runs in a game against the St. Louis Cardinals. (The Braves won, 7-5.)

In 1969, Sirhan Sirhan was sentenced to death for assassinating New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. (The sentence was later reduced to life imprisonment.)

In 1971, hundreds of Vietnam War veterans opposed to the conflict protested by tossing their medals and ribbons over a wire fence in front of the U.S. Capitol.

In 1988, a federal ban on smoking during domestic airline flights of two hours or less went into effect.

In 1992, McDonald's opened its first fast-food restaurant in the Chinese capital of Beijing.

In 1993, labor leader Cesar Chavez died in San Luis, Arizona, at age 66.

In 1998, James Earl Ray, who confessed to assassinating the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and then insisted he'd been framed, died at a Nashville, Tennessee, hospital at age 70.

In 2007, Boris Yeltsin, Russia's first freely elected president, died in Moscow at age 76.

In 2020, at a White House briefing, President Donald Trump noted that researchers were looking at the effects of disinfectants on the coronavirus, and wondered aloud whether they could be injected into people.

Ten years ago: France legalized same-sex marriage after a wrenching national debate that exposed deep conservatism in the nation's heartland and triggered huge demonstrations. Mullah Omar, the reclusive leader of the Taliban in Afghanistan, died in a Pakistani hospital. (News of Omar's death would not reach the United States for more than two years.) A car bomb exploded outside the French Embassy in Tripoli, wounding three people and partially setting the building on fire.

Five years ago: A man plowed a rental van into crowds of pedestrians in Toronto, killing 10 people and leaving 16 others hurt; police said the suspect, Alek Minassian, had posted a Facebook message indicating anger toward women. (Minassian is due to go to trial in February 2020.) French President Emmanuel