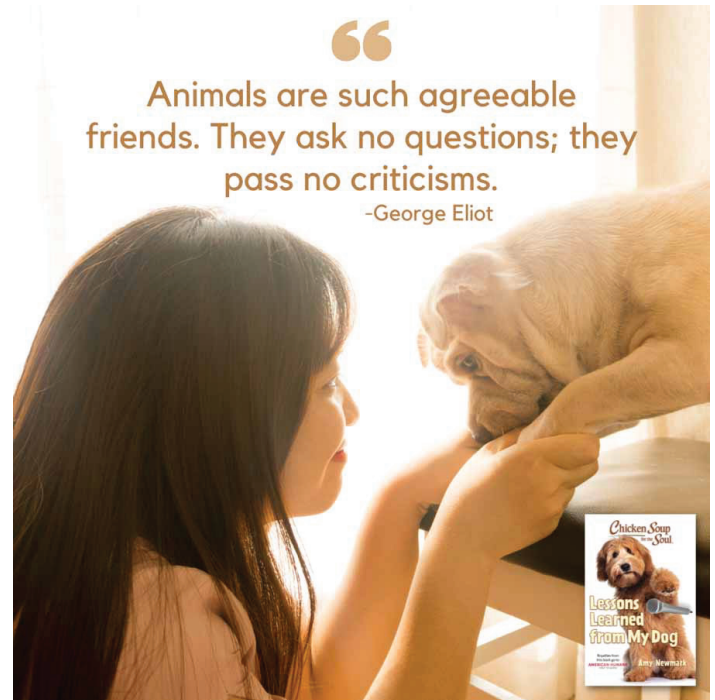


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- [2- Pantry first anniversary dinner prep](#)
- [5- Spring Cleanup Ad](#)
- [6- Sunday Extras](#)
- [24- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)
- [25- Thune's Weekly Column](#)
- [26- Johnson's Weekly Column](#)
- [27- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
- [29- EarthTalk - Environmental documentaries](#)
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Groton Community Calendar

Sunday, April 30

- 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 with communion, 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.

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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Getting ready for the anniversary dinner



Nancy Larsen was putting a table cloth on a table while David Miller and Topper Tastad were putting up the sign at the Groton Community Center. The first anniversary dinner fundraiser for the pantry is to be held today at the Community Center. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



April Abeln was getting things ready in the kitchen. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Helping to set up are in back, Diane Warrington, April Abeln, Topper Tastad, David Miller, Connie Stauch and Jaromir Simunek; in front are Nancy Larsen, Simon Simunek and Pat Miller. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Jaromir Simunek, Simon Simunek and April Abeln are putting up banners. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Connie Stauch, Jaromir Simunek and Diane Warrington were getting the shirts put out that will be given away. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Citywide 2023 Spring Cleanup

April 29-May 5

**ALL ITEMS NEED TO BE DROPPED OFF
BEFORE 10AM ON 5/5/23!!**



Bring anything you wish to dispose of to the City Shop-10 E Railroad Ave starting April 29th.

Please place items in the appropriate pile.

RESIDENTIAL ONLY!!

Keep Metal, Tires, Paint, Batteries & Chemicals Separate

**Pickup can be arranged for
Monday, May 1st to Friday, May 5th ENDING AT 10AM
by calling City Hall 397-8422.**

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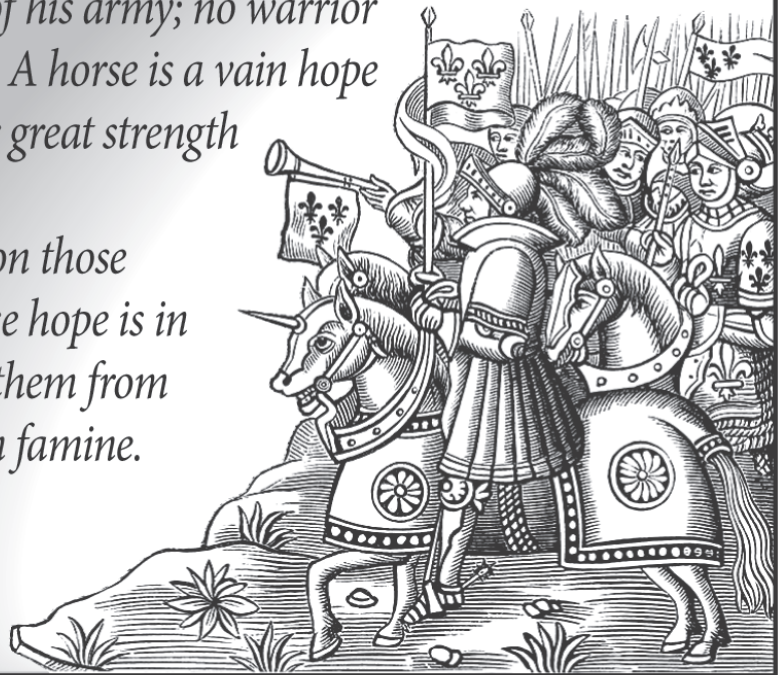


THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

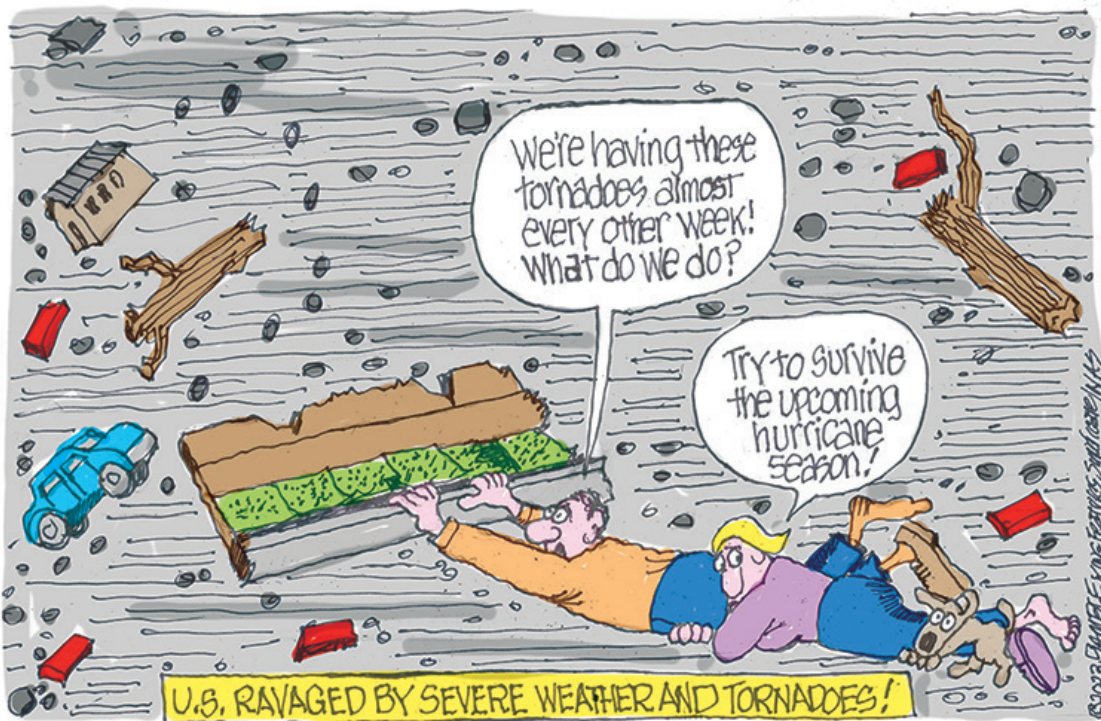
No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save.

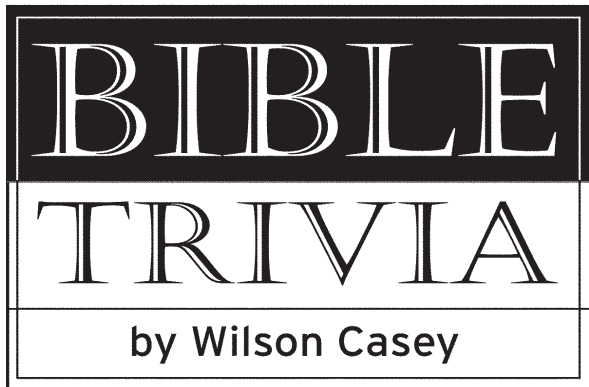
But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.

PSALM 33: 16-19



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

2. What city mentioned in Revelation is also the name of a city in Pennsylvania? *Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Erie, Bethlehem*

3. How many times does the word “eternity” occur in the Bible? *0, 1, 74, 212*

4. From Numbers 12:3, who was the most humble man on earth? *Jacob, Elijah, Noah, Moses*

5. “Here am I; send me” comes from which book? *Genesis, Exodus, Isaiah, Malachi*

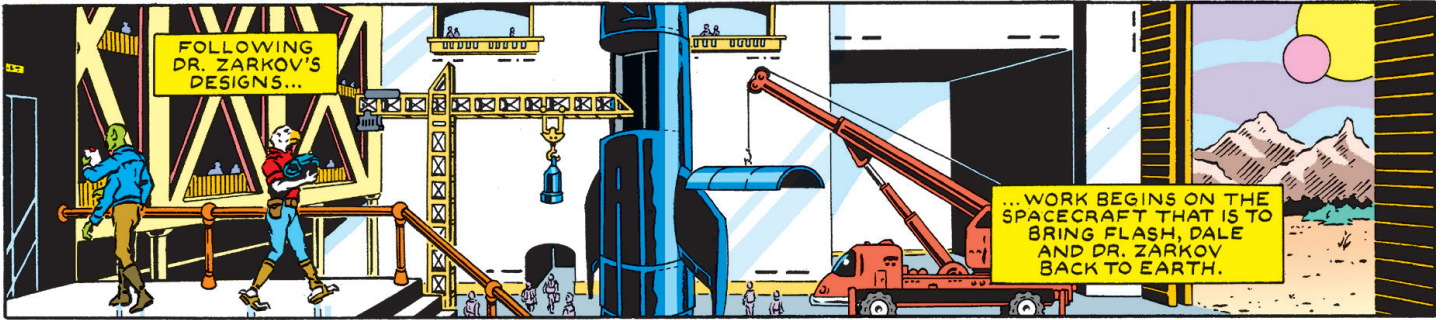
6. What’s the longest book of the Old Testament? *Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Philadelphia (Rev 1:11, 3:7), 3) 1 (Isaiah 57:15), 4) Moses, 5) Isaiah 6:8, 6) Psalms

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

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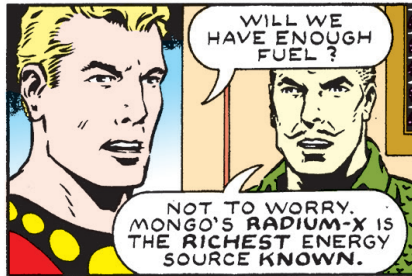
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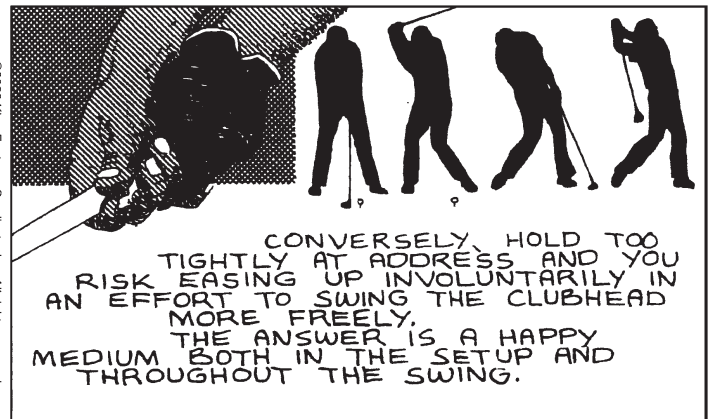
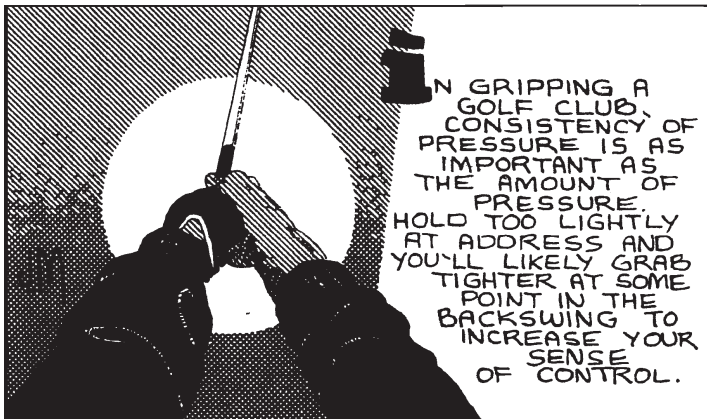
FLASH GORDON

BY JIM KEEFE

AS THE SPACECRAFT IS BEING BUILT, DR. ZARKOV PAINSTAKINGLY CHARTS THE COURSE NEEDED TO GET BACK TO EARTH.



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Exercise Builds Strength and Improves Limits in Those With Arthritis

DEAR DR. ROACH: I so appreciated your recent column on arthritis, specifically osteoarthritis. I'm a big exerciser; however, I have always heard that this arthritis is caused or exacerbated by wear and tear. I was surprised to hear otherwise!

I have modified or given up a handful of exercises that seem to cause my joints more pain, specifically full-body weight-bearing on my wrists. Are these exercises I can incorporate back into my routine? I have found that certain activities, i.e. card shuffling, buttoning, etc., hurt my thumbs, so I have made adaptations. Should I work through the pain, assuming that I am not causing any more damage to my joints? — *L.D.*

ANSWER: Most exercise is not damaging to joints, but high-impact or high-frequency activities can certainly worsen arthritis pain.

For arthritis of the knees and hips, I recommend walking as the best exercise, starting slow and building up based on what a person can tolerate. It's the movement, not the resistance, that's most important, so swimming (or just walking in a pool) is a great option for people who feel too much pain from walking.

For the smaller joints of the hands and wrists, I would recommend activities that don't hurt you as much. Stretching the joints and movements like squeezing are a good place to start. You might consider a "stress ball" or a hand therapy ball to provide some

Adapting your activities to your limitations is a good idea, but you also want to work on improving those limitations. A physical or occupational therapist is your best partner in designing a program.

Don't forget that over-the-counter topical anti-inflammatory medicines, like diclofenac, are pretty effective with small joints and are very safe.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Would you discuss the difference between rheumatoid arthritis and the ankylosing spondylitis? — *S.Y.*

ANSWER: Both rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis are uncommon (each affecting about 1% of the population), inflammatory, multi-system diseases. RA affects the synovium (the lining of the joint) and tends to affect the hands first, but it can affect nearly any joint. The major area of activity of AS occurs where bones connect to ligaments, cartilage and tendons.

There is an auto-immune component to both diseases. Without treatment, RA leads to joint deformities, whereas AS causes new bone formation, leading to pain and reduced movement of the joints. The back and neck are most often affected in AS, but the hips and other joints may also be affected.

RA is treated early and aggressively with disease-modifying agents, such as methotrexate and hydroxychloroquine, or with biological agents.

Physical therapy is useful in RA, but is a mainstay of therapy with AS. Medications are often needed in AS, usually starting with anti-inflammatory drugs and progressing to more potent agents if needed. About 30% will need biological agents, whereas 94% of people with RA need a disease-modifying drug.

A rheumatologist is the expert for both conditions, and a person with either condition should be referred to an expert as soon as the diagnosis is made.

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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"White House Plumbers" (TV-MA) -- Woody Harrelson and Justin Theroux lead a new five-part miniseries surrounding the two masterminds in the Nixon Administration who were behind the Watergate scandal. Harrelson plays E. Howard Hunt, who teams up with Theroux's G. Gordon Liddy to join the committee responsible in ensuring that Nixon gets reelected for his second term. The pair are tasked with plugging press leaks and, in turn, end up accidentally sabotaging their president in the process. The first part of this satirical political drama is out now, with the four remaining parts releasing every Monday for the rest of May. (HBO Max)



Justin Theroux, left, plays G. Gordon Liddy and Woody Harrelson is E. Howard Hunt in "White House Plumbers."

Courtesy of HBO Max

"Fatal Attraction" (TV-MA) -- The 1987 classic film starring Michael Douglas and Glenn Close has been readapted for a limited series on the small screen. Joshua Jackson ("Little Fires Everywhere") steps into the role of Dan Gallagher, a married man who starts a steamy love affair with a woman named Alex Forrest. However, Alex, played by Lizzy Caplan ("Masters of Sex"), continues to latch on to Dan after he decides to end their affair. As the iconic line goes, Alex isn't a woman who is "going to be ignored," even if it unsettles Dan's entire life. The first three episodes of the seven-episode series are out now. (Paramount+)

"Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story" (TV-MA) -- The "Bridgerton" franchise continues to expand, which means more high-society gossip, drama and romance coming your way! This prequel spinoff of the original "Bridgerton" series follows Queen Charlotte's rise to power as she is arranged to marry King George III. The young Charlotte must attempt to solidify her position as queen on top of an overbearing mother-in-law in Princess Augusta, learning how to handle the nuances of politics and having a powerful new husband. (Should be easy enough.) All six episodes of Shonda Rimes' latest creation release on May 4. (Netflix)

"Alone at Night" (TV-18+) -- In this slasher film hitting streaming services on May 5, Ashley Benson ("Pretty Little Liars") stars as Vicky, a webcam worker who decides to quarantine in a cabin out in the woods after her ex-boyfriend kicked her out of her place. While Vicky continues to model for clients in the cabin, one of her anonymous clients becomes increasingly creepier, and the power in her cabin keeps going out at the same time. (We all know how this goes.) As more odd things take place around the cabin, Vicky's paranoia grows, but it's up to her -- and a very unserious sheriff played by Pamela Anderson -- to face a potential murderer head-on. The rest of the cast of this campy horror film include Paris Hilton and rapper G-Eazy. (Prime Video)

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1. Name Bread's first No. 1 song.
2. Which group released "Have You Seen Her"?
3. Who topped the charts with "So Emotional"?
4. Which artist wrote and released "Fire Lake"?
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "I find myself in a strange situation and I don't know how, What seemed to be an infatuation is so different now."

Answers

1. "Make It With You," in 1970. The song ranked as No. 13 of all songs that year. The group's name was created when they were stuck in traffic behind a bread truck.
2. The Chi-Lites, in 1971. Narration begins and ends the song as the speaker tells his tale of lost love, but radio stations deleted the spoken parts when the song was played.
3. Whitney Houston, in 1987. It was Houston's sixth No. 1 song in a row, which put her in a tie with the Bee Gees and the Beatles for most consecutive No. 1 songs. The next year she broke her own record and netted No. 7 with "Where Do Broken Hearts Go?"
4. Bob Seger, in 1980.
5. "I Don't Want to Live Without You," by Foreigner in 1988 on their "Inside Information" album. As a single, the song climbed to No. 5 on the Hot 100 chart.

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GRIN and BEAR IT ^{Wagner}



"And I thought YOU were the surgeon."

Just Like Cats & Dogs ^{by Dave T. Phipps}

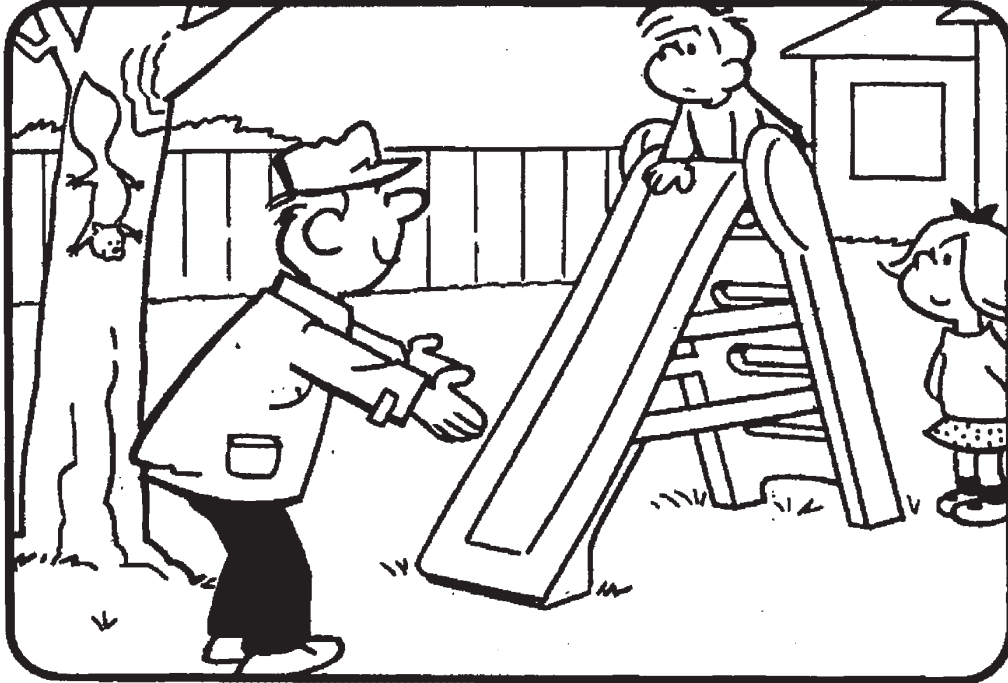


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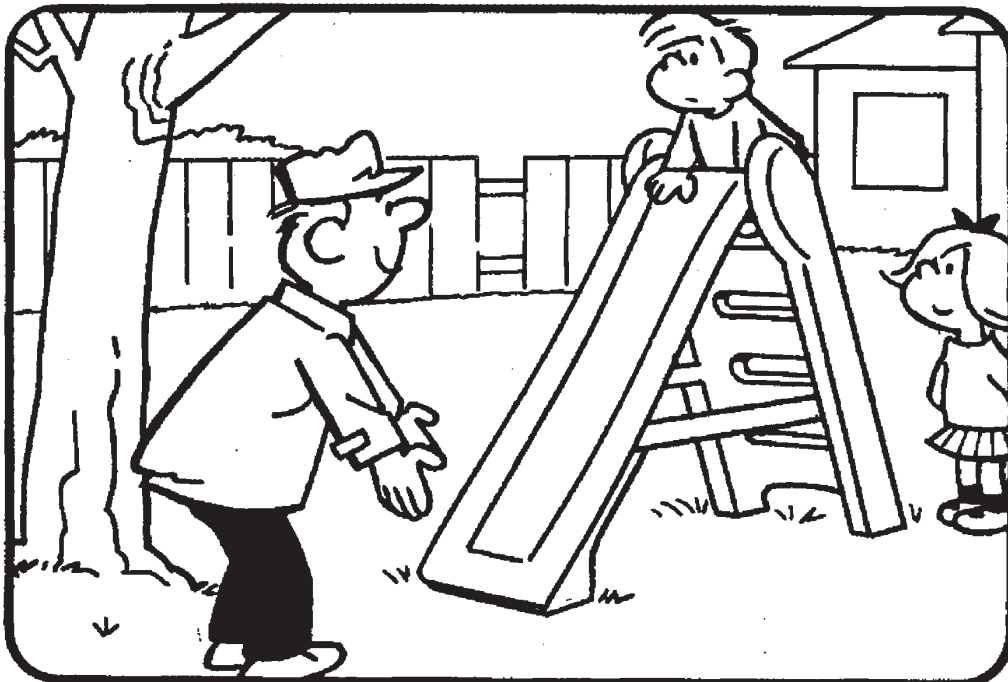
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Squirrel is missing. 2. Pocket is missing. 3. Arms are missing. 4. Board is missing. 5. Slide brace is missing. 6. Skirt is different.

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* My dogs stay outside most of the day now, while the weather is so nice. We bring them indoors when it gets too hot, but for a treat, we will freeze a plastic cup of ice and then chuck the giant "ice block" on the porch. They lick at it and play with it. It's like a little doggie waterpark when they are done. -- M.E. in Ohio

* Finding a summer camp for your kids can be a chore. Check with your child's school and school friends for recommendations. Also, see if your city's recreation department is holding any camps. Some county extension offices (agriculture department) offer camps. Many of these are reasonably priced. Check into them now.

* I have a tip for you. When pouring water in your coffee pot, use a 4-inch funnel by placing it in the tank. Helps not

spill water. Pour slowly! -- P.T. in Illinois

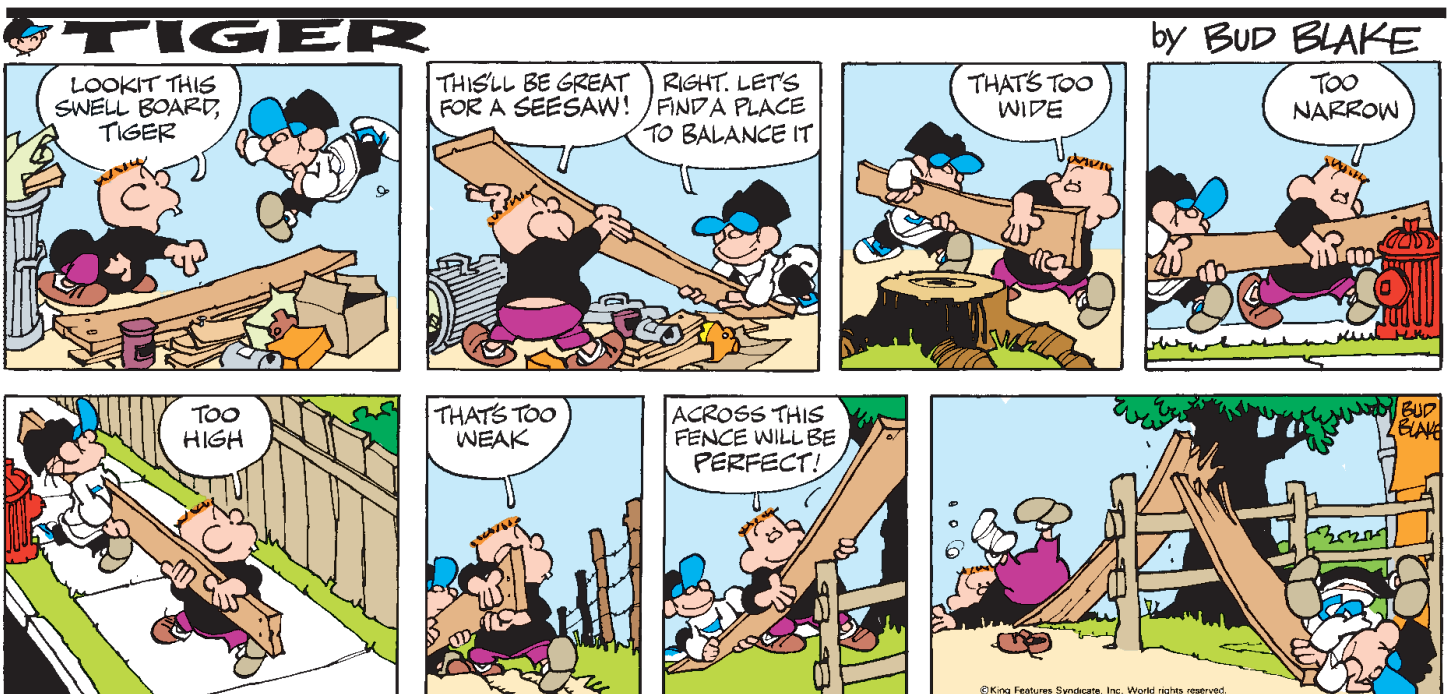
* To keep the kitchen garbage can from smelling, put meat, vegetables, fruit and peelings in a bread bag, and put it in the freezer until you take it outside for the garbage collector. -- E.L. in Virginia

* Keep fast-food coupons in your car's glove compartment. They will be there if you need to go to a drive-through, and will be handy for picking up dinner on the way home. If you need them at home, chances are your car is there anyway! -- F.D. in Alabama

* Got paper recycling? More and more schools are using paper recycling as a means to fundraise. Don't have a kid in school? Drive by and look for a dumpster or bin that's labeled. Odds are good you might find one. If you don't, ask!

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

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Cuts off
- 5 Cookout, briefly
- 8 Gridlock sound
- 12 Jacob's brother
- 13 Actress Lucy
- 14 In — land
- 15 Goatee's spot
- 16 Here (Fr.)
- 17 Saharan
- 18 Submit
- 20 Give temporarily
- 22 Blue blood
- 26 Tour vehicles
- 29 Toe count
- 30 Actress Hagen
- 31 Sciences' partner

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			

- 37 Administrative worker
- 40 Lean to one side
- 41 Redacted
- 45 Poker variety
- 47 — Victor
- 49 Art Deco master
- 50 Carton sealer

- 51 Texas tea
- 52 Albacore, e.g.
- 53 Cold War initials
- 54 '60s war zone
- 55 Once around the sun
- 6 Pen name language
- 7 Took part in a bee
- 8 Mel of many voices
- 9 Hearing aids?
- 10 Inventor Whitney
- 11 Knee protector
- 19 1040 org.
- 21 Many millennia
- 23 Unemotional
- 24 Perched on
- 25 Labels
- 26 Biting remark
- 27 Pakistani
- 28 New companies
- 32 Uncharged particle
- 33 Full feeling
- 35 Crony
- 36 Bankroll
- 38 Duck down
- 39 Kingdom
- 42 Loyal
- 43 Sicilian spouter
- 44 Beloved
- 45 R-V link
- 46 Prof's helpers
- 48 Spy org.

DOWN

- 1 Nobelist Walesa
- 2 Job-safety org.
- 3 Ache
- 4 Ice cream parlor orders
- 5 Russian pancakes

— King Crossword —

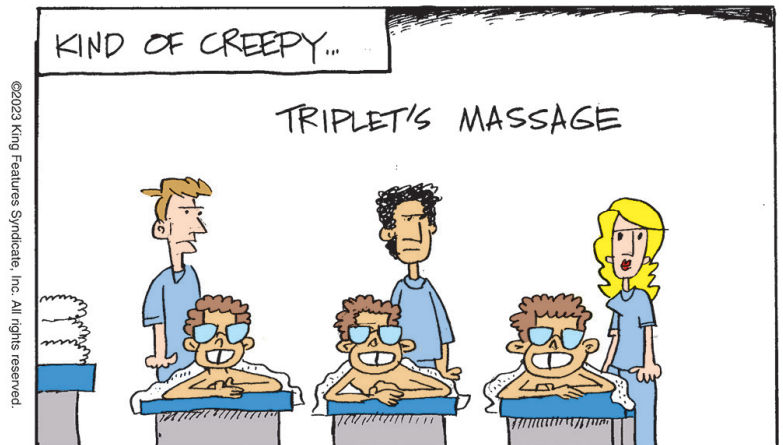
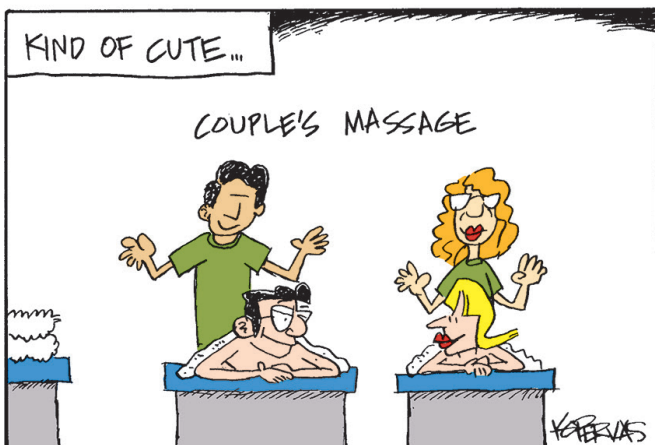
Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS
POPEYE
BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

I HATES T' ADMITS IT, BUT I MISS ME BOY BEIN' AROUND.

CAUSIN' MISCHIEF IS JUS' MORE FUN WHEN HE'S HERE T' PUT UP WIT IT.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW SERIOUS THE CHARGES ARE?

SEE, THAT'S JUS' FUNNIER WHEN POPEYE SAYS IT.

RESTRICTION P.D. 12081894

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS
THE SECRET OF GOONHALLA
PART 6

SWEE'PEA AND ALICE JR. HAVE FOUND THE GRAND ARCHIVIST, AN ENTITY BEHIND THE GOONS BEING HELD CAPTIVE BY A BEING NAMED TRIVICUS....

YOUR FRIEND'S GOTTA FREE THE GOONS! THEY HAVEN'T HEARD OF GOONHALLA!

YEAH, BUT YA NEVER KNOW. IT MAY EXIST.

EVERYTHING ELSE I MADE UP TURNED OUT TO BE REAL.

WHAT?!

IT'S A FUN GAME WE PLAY. I MAKE SOMETHING UP TO GET HIM OUT OF MY HAIR—HE GOES AND ACTUALLY FINDS IT.

IT WOULD BE AN AMAZING PARTY TRICK, BUT NO ONE INVITES ME TO PARTIES.

KINDA WEIRD.

HONESTLY, I HOPE GOONHALLA ISN'T REAL. I'M OUT OF SPACE FOR THE STUFF HE FINDS.

SO YOU'RE DOING THIS AS A PRANK? WHAT'S TO STOP US FROM—

popeye.com

TELLING HIM? HE WON'T BELIEVE YOU. OTHERS HAVE TRIED, BUT HE'S TOO INVESTED. THIS ALL GIVES HIM PURPOSE.

I COULD EXPLAIN IT ALL TO YOU, BUT I DOUBT YOUR PUNY MORTAL MIND COULD HANDLE IT.

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE A BULLY WHO DOESN'T CARE ABOUT OTHERS YOU THINK ARE "LESS" THAN YOU.

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HUH, I GUESS HE DOES UNDERSTAND. MORTALS HAVE GOTTEN SMARTER.

WELL, THAT'S ANNOYING.

BARNEY GOOGLE AND

Snuffy Smith

ROSES ARE RED, VIOLETS ARE BLUE, I'M GLAD YO'RE MY MAW...

AN' I BET YOU ARE, TOO !!

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WELL ?!

WELL WHAT, MAW ?

JOHN ROSE

OH, FER PETE'S SAKE !! DIDJA ALL FERGIT WHAT DAY THIS IS ?!

'COURSE NOT, HONEYPOT !!

5-8

!!

IT'S SUNDAY !!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY !!

WIF A LI'L BIT'A APRIL FOOLS' DAY THROWN IN JEST FER TH' FUN OF IT !!

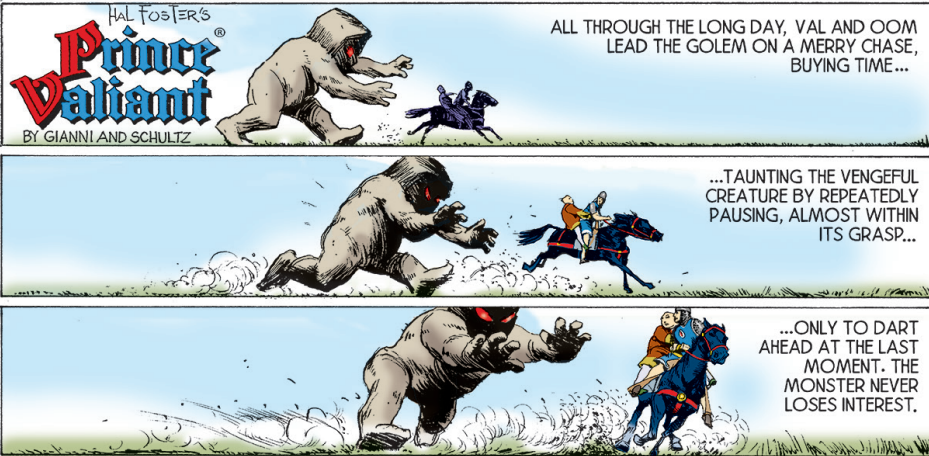
JUMP!!

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HAL FOSTER'S
Prince Valiant
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ




ALL THROUGH THE LONG DAY, VAL AND OOM LEAD THE GOLEM ON A MERRY CHASE, BUYING TIME...

...TAUNTING THE VENGEFUL CREATURE BY REPEATEDLY PAUSING, ALMOST WITHIN ITS GRASP...

...ONLY TO DART AHEAD AT THE LAST MOMENT. THE MONSTER NEVER LOSES INTEREST.

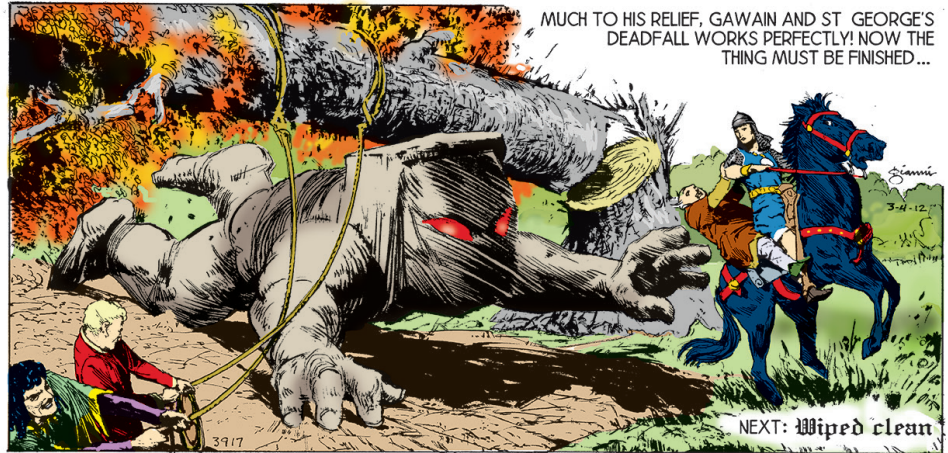


FINALLY, AS HIS STEED WEARIES, VAL SEES A PLUME OF SMOKE - IT IS THE SIGNAL FOR WHICH HE HAS WAITED - HIS FRIENDS HAVE SET THE TRAP.



NOW ALL IS TIMING, AS HE BAITS THE GOLEM INTO THE DENSE WOODS.

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MUCH TO HIS RELIEF, GAWAIN AND ST. GEORGE'S DEADFALL WORKS PERFECTLY! NOW THE THING MUST BE FINISHED...

3-4-12-27

NEXT: Wiped clean

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

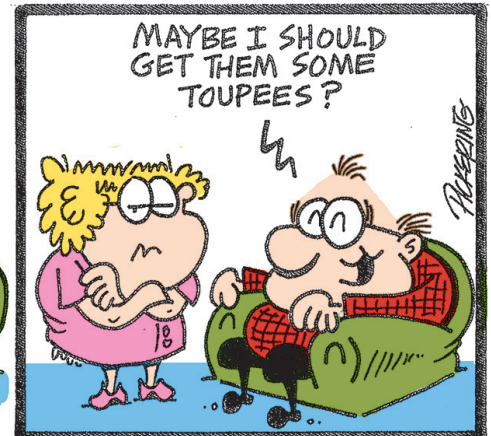


THE TIRES ON OUR CAR ARE GOING BALD.

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RUB RUB RUB



MAYBE I SHOULD GET THEM SOME TOUPEES?

PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

The Heavy Lifting of Pet Ownership

For seniors, there are several questions that arise when we consider whether we should adopt another pet after the death of a long-loved companion. There's the scary thought of potential veterinary bills or whether we should own a dog that needs to be walked every day. Or maybe we think of adopting a young cat who will likely outlive us or an elderly cat who probably won't.

I firmly believe, however, that when it comes to deciding about adopting a pet that the biggest potential problem comes down to heavy lifting.

The rule of four, I call it: There are four likely scenarios wherein, without intervention or assistance, heavy lifting is required.

For the economical 40-pound bag of dog chow, I would need to lift it into the shopping cart, put it on the conveyor belt at checkout, get it into the car and once home, get it into the house. That's four liftings.

This applies to even the 20-pound jug of cat litter. I do the math: 4 times 20 equals 80 pounds I'd be lifting without interventions.

Interventions can take the shape of a strong teenage boy angel who happens to walk by in the pet supplies aisle; a store clerk who gets down cat litter from a very high shelf; checkouts with a radar gun on a stretchy cord that will reach to the cart to scan the bar code; and big neighbors who happen to be strolling by just as I'm pulling in my driveway.

Without luck, however, there have been too many times when all four liftings have been required. I suffer the next day.

I have decided to cut my pet-related lifting down to none. I have signed up for home delivery at two stores, never mind the expense. It's worth every penny to see other people walk up my driveway carrying the heavy items, fully appreciative of the fact that I don't have to do any lifting whatsoever.

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1. The James Mortimer Memorial Trophy is awarded in what sporting event?

2. In 2022, Marcus Ericsson became the second driver from Sweden to win the Indianapolis 500. Who was the first?

3. Name the English-Moroccan mixed martial arts fighter who was convicted for masterminding the 2006 Securitas depot robbery, the biggest cash heist in U.K. history.

4. What tennis player from Russia won the 2021 U.S. Open men's singles title?

5. What National Women's Soccer League team has Natalie Portman, Eva Longoria, Mia Hamm and Serena Williams among its owners?

6. What wide receiver from the University of Virginia was selected 10th overall in the 1991 NFL Draft by the Detroit Lions?

7. What North Carolina military installation was the site of a 2016 regular-season game between the Atlanta Braves and Miami Marlins?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show (for Best in Show if the winner is American-bred).

2. Kenny Brack (1999).

3. "Lightning" Lee Murray.

4. Daniil Medvedev.

5. Angel City FC.

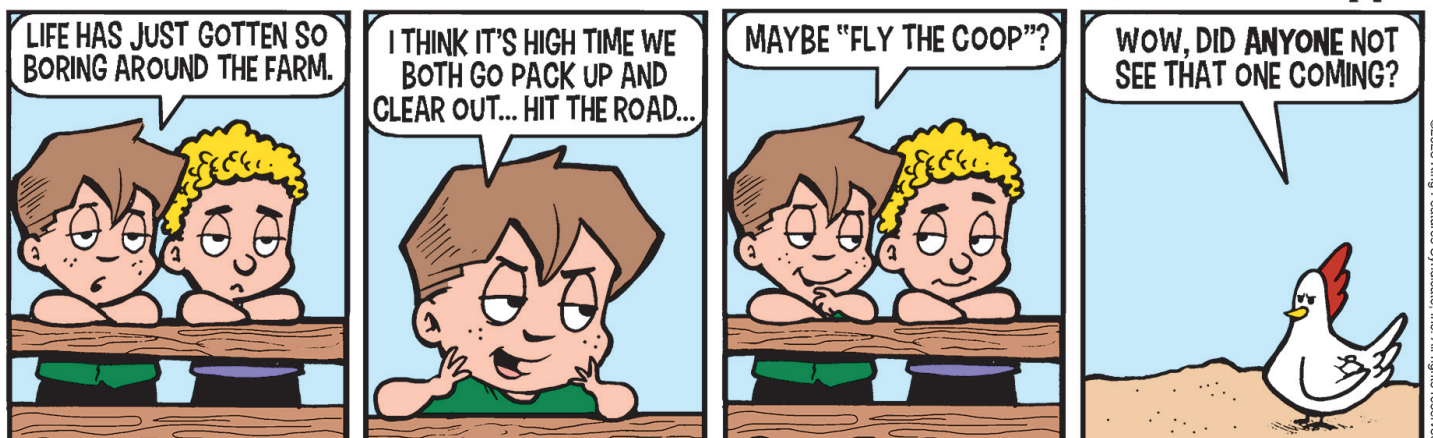
6. Herman Moore.

7. Fort Bragg.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Preventing Ear Infections in Dogs

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My German Shepherd puppy, Max, seems to get an ear infection every other week. He's miserable, shaking his head from side to side. And he hates having ear drops put in -- a job that gets more difficult the larger he gets! How can I stop the constant ear infections? -- Betsy J., Syracuse, New York

DEAR BETSY: Dogs can be very prone to ear infections. The shape of their ear canal is the most likely reason. Allergies and ear mites vie for the title of top irritant in a pet's ear canal.

The symptoms are probably very familiar to you. Dark discharge from the ears, accompanied by an unusual, dank odor, frequent head shaking, scratching at the ears, and perhaps some scabbing of the outer ear. A veterinarian can pinpoint redness and swelling inside the ear canal as well.

Treatment should always start at the veterinarian's office. There, cleaning and disinfection of the ear will be done, and then your dog will likely be prescribed medication -- typically eardrops -- to be administered for up to 10 days. After treatment is complete, you'll want to prevent future infections by gently cleaning Max's ears with an ear cleaning solution for dogs and cotton balls (not Q-tips).

Getting a big dog to hold still for treatment can be a struggle. Here's one method: If he's very reactive, try to stand over Max with one leg on each side and his head facing forward, away from you. Hold him under his muzzle and apply the medication or cleaning solution to one ear and massage the base of the ear for 30 seconds. Let go of his muzzle and allow him to shake his head. Repeat on the other side. Finish by gently swiping the ear canal with cotton balls.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* Competitive swimmer Tim Duncan grew up in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where he trained for the 1992 Olympics, until Hurricane Hugo destroyed his island's only Olympic-size pool. Since the only alternative was to swim in the ocean, and he was afraid of sharks, he decided to play basketball instead.

* Red Bull was developed in Thailand as an energy drink for truck drivers.

* Georg Gartner, a German POW, escaped his American prison camp near the end of World War II and lived in America for 40 years under a fake name

before finally confessing his true identity on "The Today Show."

* History's longest prison sentence, a whopping 384,912 years, was given to a mailman -- for not delivering the mail.

* Johnny Depp dropped out of high school to become a rock musician. When he attempted to return two weeks later, the principal told him to follow his dream of being a musician.

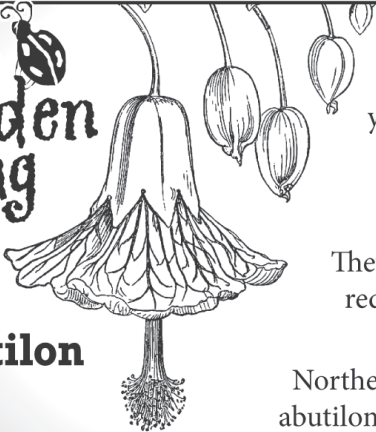
* A shopping center in Zimbabwe uses an air conditioning system inspired by African termite hills. Ventilated and cooled by natural means, it uses less than 10% of the energy of a conventional building its size.

* The largest-known bird nest belonged to a pair of bald eagles and measured 9 feet wide by 20 feet deep, with an estimated weight of 4,400 pounds.

* Colorblind people tend to have better night vision and can sometimes see a luminosity of colors that normal-sighted people can't. As a result, the U.S. Army discovered that they could perceive camouflage colors that are difficult for those with normal color vision to see, giving them the unique ability to better make out hidden enemies at night.

Thought for the Day: "If you are working on something that you really care about, you don't have to be pushed. The vision pulls you." -- Steve Jobs

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The Garden Bug

Abutilon

These broadleaf evergreen shrubs can be grown outdoors year-round in warmer climates, growing as high as 10 feet. Abutilon plants like full sun to partial shade and rich soil. They bear large flowers that can be red, salmon, pink, yellow, orange, white or bicolored.

Northern gardeners may wish to keep abutilon in containers outdoors during summer, then bring them indoors before the first frost. When keeping them indoors, keep the light exposure and watering levels moderate. You can battle any pests seen on your abutilon by spraying neem oil on main trunks and stems. - Brenda Weaver

Source: www.thespruce.com



by Freddy Groves

Burial at a National Cemetery

No one wants to think about it, but have you made your final plans? Have you put them in writing for those you leave behind so they'll know what your wishes are once you pass away? There are steps you can take now to make it easier on them when the time comes.

First, determine whether you're eligible for burial in a Department of Veterans Affairs national cemetery. If you're uncertain, go to va.gov/burials-memorials and click on "Eligibility" toward the middle of the page.

Gather up your required documents -- you'll need several, including DD-214 -- and submit them with your application for a pre-need determination (VA Form 40-10007), which means the question of eligibility will be resolved beforehand. Choose a VA national cemetery. If you need help filling out the paperwork, call them at 800-535-1117.

Then be sure your loved ones know you've taken the pre-approval steps and where your documents will be kept.

Be sure your final paperwork includes information for the Veterans Legacy Memorial website (www.vlm.cem.va.gov). The VLM currently has 4.5 million veterans memorialized. (For some unexplainable reason, this does not include veterans buried at Arlington National Cemetery, and we'd love to know why.) Information on each veteran includes name, dates of birth and death, rank, war period, decorations and more. Friends and family are allowed to upload images, a bio, stories and any historical documents.

In your stash of documents you might include a favorite photo or two that you'd like to have added to the VLM later. There's even a "Follow A Veteran" feature to send email alerts if any additional content is added to a veteran's listing. The listing for a veteran is done the day of interment, and listings go back to the Revolutionary War.

As a note: Only veterans are listed in the VLM. Spouses buried with the veteran are not included.

For help accessing the VLM site and uploading documents or photos, call them at 866-245-1490.

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Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. GEOGRAPHY: How many U.S. states border Canada?
2. THEATER: The musical "My Fair Lady" is based on which play?
3. SCIENCE: Who was the first person to win Nobel prizes in two different sciences?
4. MOVIES: Which 1997 movie featured a character named Jack Dawson?
5. TELEVISION: What is the name of Ross's pet monkey in "Friends"?
6. LANGUAGE: How many languages exist worldwide?
7. FOOD & DRINK: Which country produces Manchego cheese?
8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many track and field events are in a decathlon?
9. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president had the most children?
10. MUSIC: What is the title of Britney Spears' first album?

Answers

1. 13.
2. "Pygmalion," by George Bernard Shaw.
3. Marie Curie, physics and chemistry.
4. "Titanic."
5. Marcel.
6. More than 7,000.
7. Spain.
8. 10.
9. John Tyler, who fathered 15 children.
10. "... Baby One More Time."

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Building a Winning Workforce

My first job consisted of a list of farm chores – feed the horses, check the cows, clean the barns. But it was never my intention to keep that job forever. It wasn't my dad's wish for me either. At one time, my dad suggested that my sister and I should become famous auctioneers. He used to say that the "Arnold Sisters" could travel the Midwest entertaining crowds while helping families get the most for their treasures.

I often laugh when I think about what could have been. As it turns out, being an auctioneer requires a license. And getting that license took too many steps for my teenage self. Now, as Governor, I realize that many South Dakotans have similar hoops to jump through to reach their dreams.

I recently announced an investment of \$7.9 million for businesses across South Dakota to develop new and expand existing Registered Apprenticeship Programs. Apprenticeships provide on-the-job training for folks wanting to earn a new license or pick up a new skill. They allow people to get the training they need while earning a wage to take care of themselves and their families.

When I've asked business owners across the state why they do not have apprenticeship programs, their answer is almost always a lack of funds. South Dakota has never made an investment like this in apprenticeships. I realize that government dollars often come with strings attached, but we won't dictate how businesses use these grants. They invest in apprenticeship programs, then we get out of the way and let them do what they need to succeed.

Our unemployment is at 1.9% – that's not only the lowest in state history, but the lowest in American history. Even so, we're still struggling to fill our open jobs. Thanks to these apprenticeship programs, individuals won't have to leave their job or delay joining the workforce to get the training they need to enter the career of their dreams.

I also signed an Executive Order expanding job opportunities to South Dakotans without a postsecondary degree. It requires executive branch agencies to consider work and life experiences during the hiring process when a college degree is not required to perform the duties of the job.

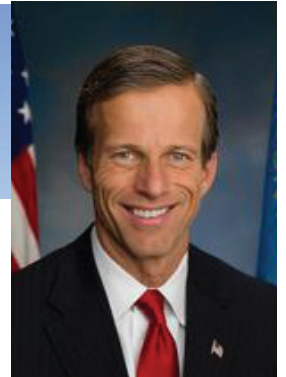
There are many cases where lived experiences are more valuable than academic degrees. Take me, for instance – I took classes for many years, but I did not graduate with my bachelor's degree until I was already a member of Congress. I think it's safe to say that not have that degree didn't hold me back, and it shouldn't prevent qualified South Dakotans from accomplishing their goals either.

I firmly believe that the state that has the workers will be the state that succeeds.

South Dakota has the lowest unemployment in the nation, but we aren't settling. We are continuing to make our state even better. We're making it easier for folks who want to work, who are qualified to work, to actually get to work.

Who knows, maybe in my retirement years I'll find the time to finally get that auctioneering license. It would certainly be an easier process now than it was when I was a teen.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



There's No Substitute for Energy Security

A reliable, affordable, and secure energy supply helps to reduce energy costs, strengthen the economy, and protect our national security. Over the last few years, though, the Biden administration has used the heavy hand of government to discourage production of conventional energy in the United States, shocking utility and fuel prices, increasing our dependence on foreign energy, and imperiling our energy security now and into the future.

In his first week in office, the president canceled the Keystone XL pipeline and froze new oil and gas leases on federal lands, sending a clear signal to American oil and gas producers that his administration would take little interest in increasing domestic energy production. The president, with the help of congressional Democrats, continued this hostile agenda by raising taxes on domestic energy producers, which will further increase South Dakotans' energy bills. And now, the president is pursuing a host of regulations that will effectively require two out of three new cars to be electric in the next 10 years, increase costs on truckers, and shutter power plants in 22 states.

Hardworking Americans are feeling the consequences of the president's anti-conventional energy agenda. Since the president took office, the cost of energy has increased by more than one-third, and the national average for a gallon of gas hasn't been below \$3 in nearly two years. Rather than shifting to policies that deliver for working families, the president has doubled down on his Green New Deal-style agenda at home and sought foreign oil from countries that often don't share our interests.

I've long been a supporter of renewable energy, and I'm proud that South Dakota is a leader in clean energy sources like hydroelectric and biofuels. But the president's singular focus on transitioning to green energy is a problem because we still need conventional fuels to deliver dependable and affordable energy to Americans. The nation's largest electricity grid operator recently warned that fossil fuel power plants are being forced to retire twice as fast as renewables can be brought on line, which is a recipe for blackouts, brownouts, and power rationing.

The Biden administration made the right decision by allowing the summertime sale of E15 fuel for 2023, an effort I led in the Senate. Filling up with E15 saved Americans \$57 million at the pump last summer, and renewing this policy will provide relief from an expected surge in gas prices, especially as the summer driving season gets fully underway. But more needs to be done to secure reliable and affordable energy in the long-term, including making year-round E15 sales permanent.

Republicans are committed to supporting alternative energy while responsibly developing and deploying the conventional energy we need to keep the energy grid reliable and Americans' energy costs down. The Republican-led House of Representatives recently passed a comprehensive bill to advance conventional energy development and clean energy technologies while reversing some of the president's most harmful actions. Unfortunately, Democrats have declared this common-sense bill to bolster U.S. energy security "dead on arrival" in the Senate.

The dangers of President Biden's misguided green transition are clear. It's time for the president to work with Republicans toward an all-of-the-above energy policy that balances clean energy development with maintaining our energy security today. Doing so will bring down costs for South Dakotans in the short-term and promote America's economic strength and national security in the long-term.



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



Encouraging Work, Not Cutting Funding

A couple weeks ago, this opinion piece was published on CNN. It's directed at my bill, the America Works Act. In the piece, the writers make broad, misleading claims about welfare work requirements legislation.

Let's debunk their claims:

MYTH: The America Works Act "take(s) food from the mouths of babies."

FACT: My bill does NOT affect any family or able-bodied adult with children under the age of seven. This bill won't take benefits away from people who are able-bodied without dependents, as long as they work, go to school, or participate in training programs.

MYTH: The America Works Act cuts funding to SNAP.

FACT: My bill doesn't reduce funding or reallocate any funding. This bill makes no changes to the SNAP budget.

MYTH: The America Works Act hurts needy families.

FACT: The America Works Act doesn't take aid from needy families. It encourages able-bodied adults who don't have children under the age of seven in their house to work, go to school, volunteer, or receive training for 20 hours per week. It doesn't restrict any benefits for families who cannot work, have a disability, or have young children. At seven years old, children are in school full time and eligible to receive free or reduced lunch. I know life is complicated and not all difficult situations will fit into these exemptions. That's why my bill maintains flexibility for states to exempt an additional 12% of their caseloads from the work requirements.

MYTH: The America Works Act creates burdensome work requirements.

FACT: These work requirements currently exist. However, the requirements were paused for the last three years because of COVID-19. In May, they will be enforced again. My bill aligns with these requirements that have been law for decades, but my bill will close the loopholes that states have used to ignore those existing federal work requirements.

MYTH: People on SNAP are doing everything they can to make ends meet.

FACT: My bill is targeted to encourage the approximately 1.36 million people who are able-bodied and don't have any dependents who reported zero dollars of income. There are 11 million open jobs in America that can be filled by these same 1.36 million people.

MYTH: SNAP funding is already being cut. Now Republicans are cutting it even more.

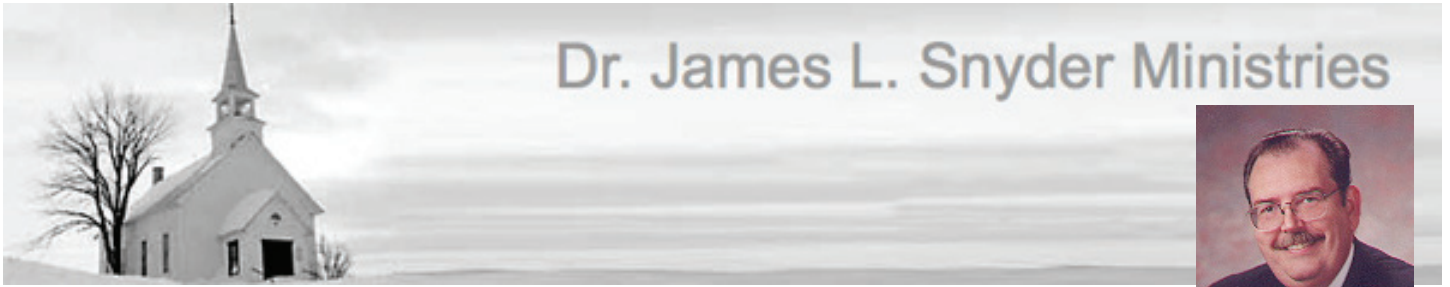
FACT: SNAP received additional funding throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, understandably, to help families and individuals who were suddenly faced with financial difficulty. But now, we all agree the pandemic is over. SNAP funding levels are reverting to normal, pre-pandemic numbers, not below. This provision was passed last year by a Democrat-controlled Congress and signed into law by President Biden.

During no part of drafting or leading this bill were my colleagues or I trying to take benefits away from people who need it. The America Works Act is an attempt to incentivize those who can work, to work, and to contribute to our society, fill job openings, and better their own lives through work and education.

We want Americans to have better lives. We want people to achieve the American dream—leaving our country a better place than when we grew up and leaving our kids to have a better life than we did—that's what my bill will help achieve.

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It's Not a Mess Unless I Do It



When it comes to words, everybody has their own definition. Someone says one word and another person thinks it's altogether something else.

For example, when someone says vegetable, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage thinks broccoli. On the other side of the dinner table, I think carrot cake. We have never been able to come together on this word.

I often get in trouble when at a restaurant. The waitress comes to take our order, then looks at me and asks what vegetable I wanted. I reply, "I'll have carrot cake for my vegetable today."

I then smile, knowing I was in deep trouble.

The waitress smiled back at me and said, "Okay, sir." Then went back to process our order.

When the order came, there on my plate was the vegetable of the day, a slice of carrot cake. I tipped that waitress rather generously. I love it when a plan comes together.

Our most significant contention with words is the word, "mess."

As far as I know, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is an expert in defining a mess. I'm an expert when it comes to creating a mess.

She has everything well organized and in its proper place.

All you have to do is walk into her craft room and you will discover what a well-organized room looks like. She has everything in its place and knows exactly where to go when she needs something.

Every time I walk into her craft room, I get dizzy. In that room everything has a place and is in its proper place. I could never work in that environment.

If you walk into my office, you will find the epitome of what a mess looks like. If I can't create a mess, it doesn't exist.

My wife is anti-mess and hates mess with a passion, and often I find her sneaking into my office trying to organize my mess.

Last week I was working on a project, and I needed something, so I went where I saw it last. Unfortunately, it was not there, and I could not find it. I was in a panic mode because I needed that for what I was working on.

As I was searching through my office, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage stepped in and said, "What are you looking for?"

I said, "It's nothing you would know anything about." I continued searching.

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She persisted in knowing what I was looking for; finally, I gave in and told her what I was looking for.

"Oh, that," she said, "it's right over here." She walked over to one of the bookcases, pulled it out and handed it to me. I just looked at her, not knowing how to respond.

What she needs to understand is that my mess is an organized mess to my standards. Just because it isn't organized as she would like doesn't mean it's not organized in some fashion.

My definition of mess is "Making Everything Self-Sufficient."

I had a crazy thought, which is nothing new for me, to show her how important it is for people not to interfere with their space and leave their mess alone.

I found out about a project she was working on, and some ideas began dancing in my head. (Thank you Chubby Checker.) One question took the bow: What if? I thought about that for a long time and tried to figure out how to implement it.

She had to go away for the day with one of our daughters and do some shopping, so this was the right time to exercise my plan.

I went into her craft room and stood quietly for a few minutes to get the dizziness out of my head. Then, once that left, I began looking around to see how to set up my plan.

I saw a project on her desk that she was working on at the time..

Then I began picking up a few things from the table and put them in places she would not think of looking. It took me a while to work it all out, but I was diligent in my plan.

The next day after breakfast, we went to our rooms to work on our projects.

I was so eager to hear what would happen in The Craft Room. I heard some rustling around and heard someone in that room taking some profound sighs. Then I heard her say, "Where did I put that?"

I was so excited to hear my plan coming together. I went to her craft room, and looking in I said, "My dear, what are you looking for?"

She said something to the effect that I would not know anything about that. I persisted, and finally, she told me what she was looking for, and with a big smile, I said, "Oh, that's right over here." So I picked it up, brought it back, and laid it on her desk.

I smiled at her, but my smile was not reciprocated in any degree. It's nice when a mess comes together.

Thinking about this, I was reminded of what David said in Psalm 119:11, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

Words are important and the most important word is the word of God. Hiding God's word in my heart will always lead me in the right direction and bring me to that place of blessing.

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EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: I am looking for more stuff I can binge watch on my TV. Any environmental documentaries you'd recommend?

-- Couch Potato, via email

power of film is in its capacity to transport viewers to places we might not have been able to go before. Nature documentaries in particular bring us close to ecosystems and species that are beyond most people's reach. They can reinvigorate the environmental movement, as with *An Inconvenient Truth*, or expose environmental travesties, like *Blackfish's* exposé of *Seaworld*. Here are a few recent environmental documentaries filled with incredible footage and a wealth of information.

A documentary that touches on the powerful cross section between mental health and nature, *The Scale of Hope* centers on a former White House climate advisor, Molly Kawahata, as she prepares for an intense climb in Alaska. Kawahata examines the various ways hikers, travelers and climbers can use their passion to advocate for climate conservation in this Patagonia-produced film. Or follow Alex Honnold, a free solo climber famous for his ascent of *El Capitan* in Yosemite, as he travels to the Amazon with National Geographic in *Explorer: The Last Tepui*. He attempts to get biologist Bruce Means to the top of a tepui while they learn why tepuis are necessary to Amazonian biodiversity.

Take a deep dive into the lives of whales with *Secrets of Whales*, a mini-docuseries, also produced by National Geographic. Each episode looks at a different whale species and at its relationship dynamics and survival techniques. Another ocean-focused documentary is *Seaspiracy*, which examines the validity of 'sustainable' fisheries and advocates for a fish-free diet to protect marine environments. The filmmakers work shines a light on illegal fishing practices and the detrimental effects of ghost nets and overfishing.

For those interested in examining how their diet can affect climate change, check out *Meat Me Halfway* with Brian Kateman, an investigative documentary about mindful meat consumption. Kateman founded the *reducetarian* movement; this movie encourages viewers to reduce their meat intake, as total vegetarianism or veganism isn't realistic for everybody.

Fire of Love is a visually stunning documentary using footage shot by the two main subjects - volcanologists Katia and Maurice Krafft. The movie follows the Krafft's expeditions, from Mt. St. Helens in Washington to Mt. Unzen in Japan, as they perform research on active volcanoes. This documentary also highlights the importance of preparedness for environmental disasters, as they commit to informing at-risk regions about the importance of evacuations.

Against all odds, *The Year Earth Changed* found the bright side of lockdowns, isolation and travel restrictions: Certain ecosystems thrived during the height of COVID-19 pandemic. Whales were recorded using completely new sounds, able to communicate without boat noises acting as obstacles, and female sea turtles had the benefit of empty beaches during nesting season. The documentary shows the benefits of taking a step back and offering back to nature the space that humans have dominated for decades.

And for a quick but impactful watch, try *After Ice*. This twelve-minute film compares footage of Icelandic glaciers in the twenty-first century with archival footage from the National Land Survey of Iceland. After dedicating just an hour or two toward one of the documentaries, you might find yourself looking at the environmental movement with a new perspective.

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

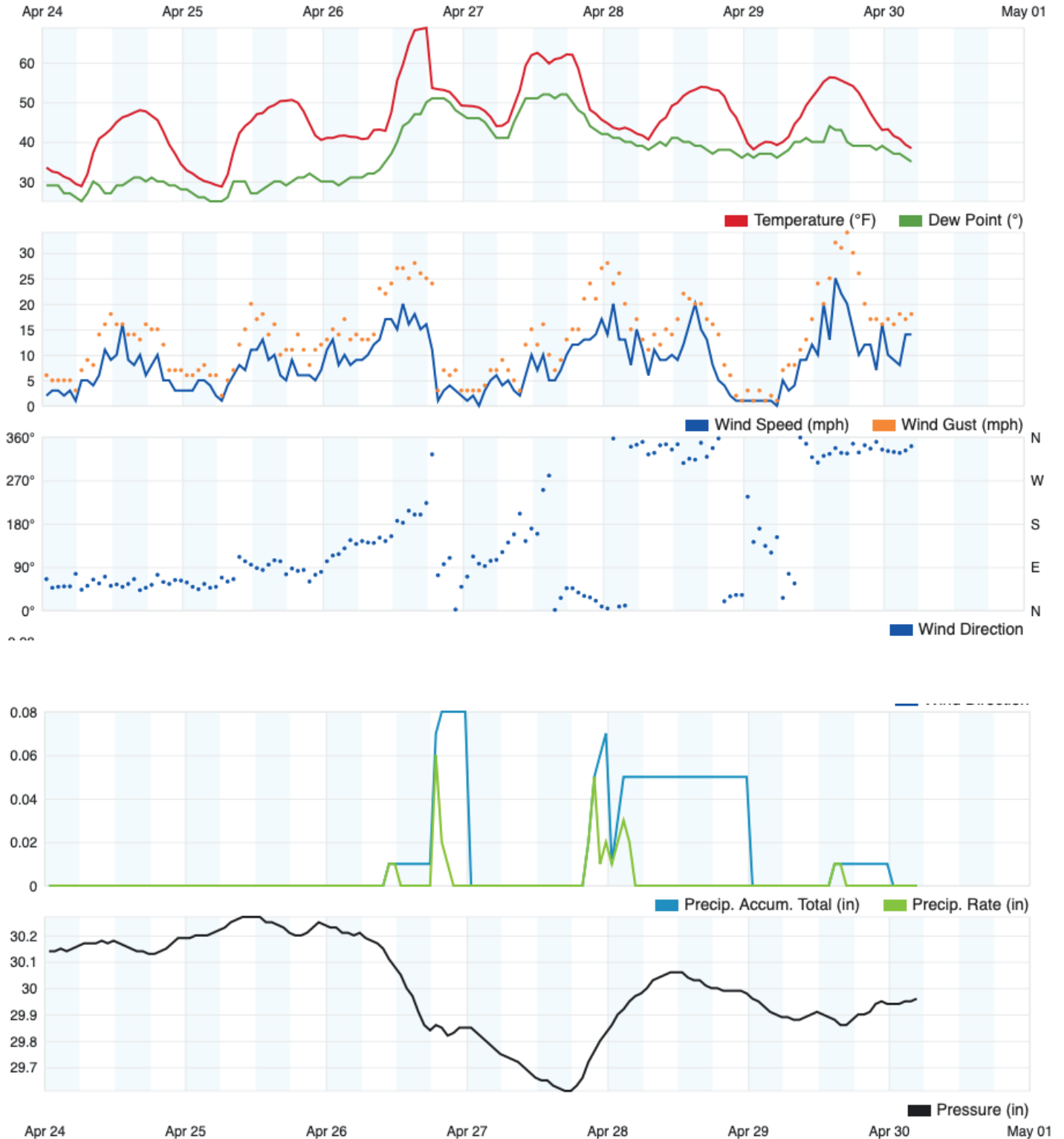


Environmental documentaries like *The Scale of Hope* raise awareness for how each and every one of us can do our part in preventing cataclysmic climate change.

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Past Week's Groton Weather Graphs



Broton Daily Independent

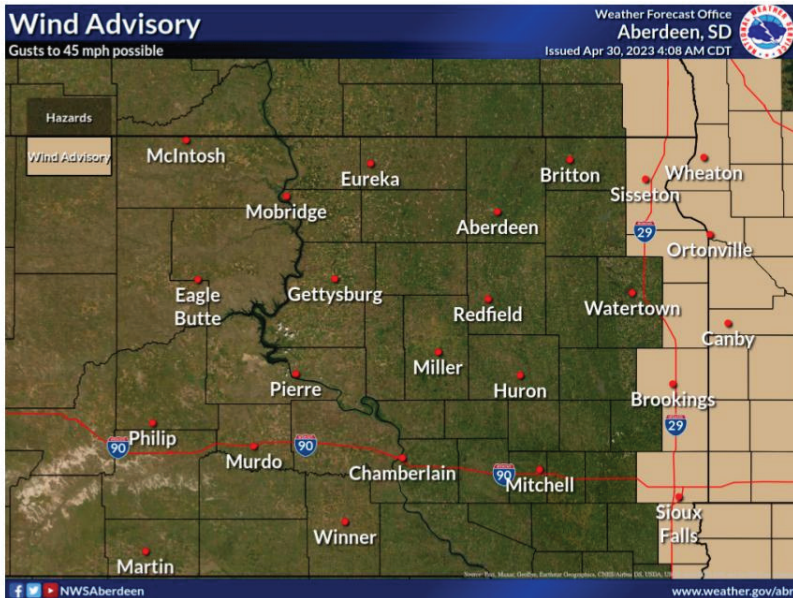
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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear and Blustery then Clear	Sunny and Breezy	Clear and Blustery then Clear	Sunny	Clear	Sunny
High: 53 °F	Low: 31 °F	High: 54 °F	Low: 30 °F	High: 62 °F	Low: 36 °F	High: 73 °F



Windy Today and Monday

April 30, 2023
4:15 AM



Maximum Wind Gust Forecast

	4/30 Sun			5/1 Mon			Maximum	
	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm		6pm
Aberdeen	35	37	35	25	31	31	31	37
Britton	37	39	35	29	30	32	32	39
Brookings	43	44	37	29	39	39	35	44
Chamberlain	30	31	28	14	25	28	23	31
Eagle Butte	25	24	24	13	16	20	17	25
Eureka	31	33	32	15	28	31	25	33
Gettysburg	28	31	28	16	23	25	24	31
Huron	33	37	35	25	32	35	35	37
Kennebec	30	30	29	13	18	24	24	30
McIntosh	24	23	24	12	15	17	17	24
Milbank	41	44	39	32	33	37	33	44
Miller	31	33	33	18	25	28	26	33
Mobridge	24	25	24	10	18	22	22	25
Murdo	28	28	23	12	15	17	17	28
Pierre	24	24	23	12	15	20	21	24
Redfield	32	36	35	22	30	30	30	36
Sisseton	40	44	39	32	33	37	33	44
Watertown	38	41	38	29	32	35	33	41
Webster	40	43	39	31	35	37	37	43
Wheaton	41	45	39	30	36	37	32	45

*Table values in mph
**Created: 3 am CDT Sun 4/30/2023
***Values are maximums over the period beginning at the time shown.



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Windy conditions are expected today, with the strongest winds across the far eastern part of the region where a Wind Advisory will be in effect from mid morning into the early evening hours. Increased fire danger is likely east of the Missouri River this afternoon as well.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 57 °F at 3:25 PM

Low Temp: 38 °F at 1:16 AM

Wind: 35 mph at 3:31 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 14 hours, 18 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 98 in 1992

Record Low: 5 in 1966

Average High: 64

Average Low: 37

Average Precip in April.: 1.91

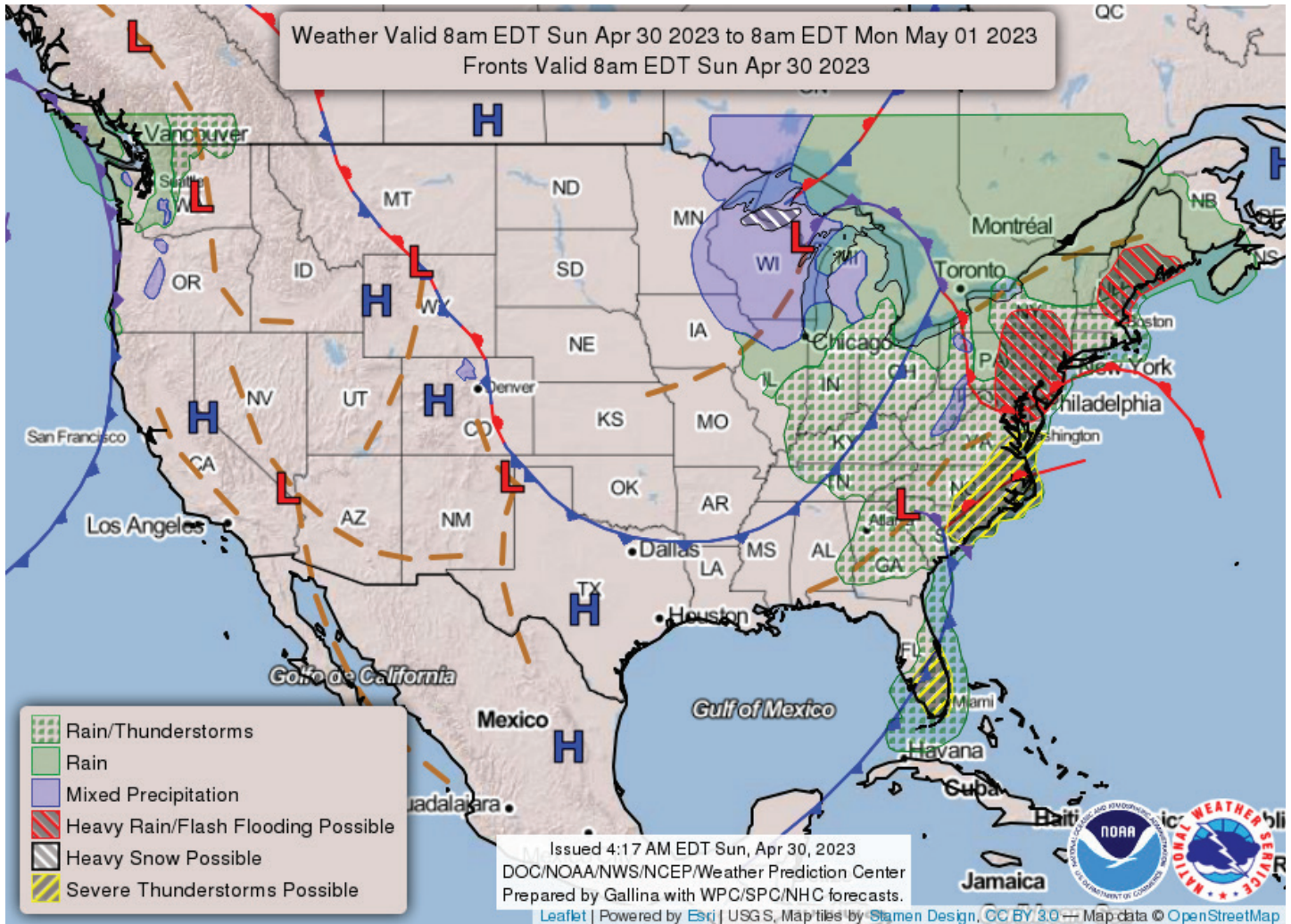
Precip to date in April.: 1.79

Average Precip to date: 3.97

Precip Year to Date: 5.72

Sunset Tonight: 8:38:56 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:18:47 AM



Today in Weather History

April 30, 1942: A tornado hit three farms near the northeastern edge of Castlewood. One barn was blown apart, and debris was swept into the house, killing one person. Damage from the estimated F2 tornado was \$20,000.

April 30, 2011: An unyielding low-pressure system moving across North Dakota brought high winds to much of central into parts of northeast South Dakota. Northwest winds of 35 to 50 mph with gusts to over 60 mph occurred from the morning to the late evening of the 30th. The high winds did cause some property damage across the region. A semi was tipped over on Highway 50 in Buffalo County; a large sign was brought down in Highmore, with some damage to security lights and twisted traffic signals in Pierre. Some of the highest wind gusts included 59 mph at Eagle Butte, 61 mph at Oacoma, 66 mph in Corson County, and 69 mph at Hayes in Stanley County.

1852 - A tornado, following the same track as the famous "Tri-state Tornado" of 1925, struck the town of New Harmony IND. Just sixteen persons were killed by the twister, due to the sparse settlement. The "Tri-state Tornado" killed 695 persons. (David Ludlum)

1888: 246 people died in the world's deadliest hailstorm in India. Hailstones were reportedly the size of baseballs. 1600 domesticated animals at Moradabad perished.

1924: A significant tornado outbreak occurred from Alabama to Virginia on the 29 through the 30th. 26 tornadoes were of F2 intensity or greater. A total of 111 people were killed, and over 1,100 injured. An estimated F4 tornado tore through Steedman and Horrell Hill, SC. This tornado killed 55 people.

1953: An F4 tornado 300 yards in width leveled homes on the north side of Warner-Robins Georgia, and barracks on the south side of the Warner-Robins Air Force Base. 19 people were killed and were 300 injured. Estimated damage was \$15 million.

1953 - A tornado 300 yards in width leveled homes on the north side of Warner-Robins GA, and barracks on the south side of the Warner-Robins Air Force Base. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in Idaho, Utah, Wyoming and Montana. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 100 mph in Lincoln, Mineral and Sanders counties. Twenty-three cities in the central and southeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Memphis TN was the hot spot in the nation with a record high of 94 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A cold front produced high winds in the southwestern U.S. Winds gusting to 90 mph in southwestern Utah downed power lines, and damaged trees and outbuildings. The high winds also downed power lines in Nevada, completely knocking out power in the town of Henderson. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in central and eastern Texas. Hail three inches in diameter was reported at Cool, and thunderstorm winds gusted to 80 mph at Hillsboro. For the first time of record Oklahoma City went through the entire month of April without a single thunderstorm. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data) (The Weather Channel)

1990 - Late afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in southern Virginia and the Carolinas, with tennis ball size hail reported southeast of Chesnee SC. Thunderstorms moving over the Chesapeake Bay flooded U.S. Highway 50 on Kent Island MD with several inches of water resulting in a seventeen-mile long traffic jam. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

GOODBYE. WE'RE MOVING!"

The discussion at dinner centered on the family's move to New York. That evening as she was saying her bedtime prayers with her mother, little Suzanne concluded them by saying, "Goodbye, Jesus. I guess we won't be talking anymore. We are moving to New York and I'm not sure you can hear me from there."

Our Heavenly Father is not confined to any city or church. He has no set hours or days off. We do not need an appointment, and He has no secretary to screen His calls. He's always there when we need Him for anything and everything. In fact, it is almost beyond belief that we have direct and immediate access to the Creator of the Universe.

When He encourages us to "call upon me," He concludes this invitation by saying that He will personally "answer us." What a gracious and generous guarantee from a loving and faithful Heavenly Father. Wherever we are and whenever any need arises, He's there waiting and listening for our call.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for the promise that You listen, hear and will answer our prayers when we call for help. Increase our faith in Your promises. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come. Jeremiah 33:3



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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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
04.28.23

18 38 53 62 64 20

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$52,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
04.29.23

2 5 8 36 51 2

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$2,600,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
04.29.23

17 19 34 36 37 8

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 28 Mins 26 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
04.29.23

4 9 11 13 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$43,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
04.29.23

3 13 36 50 61 16

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
04.29.23

16 53 54 57 65 8

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$60,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

Pope in final Mass in Budapest urges Hungary to open doors

By NICOLE WINFIELD and JUSTIN SPIKE Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Pope Francis urged Hungarians to open their doors to others on Sunday, as he wrapped up a weekend visit with a plea for an end to Russia's war in Ukraine and for Europe to welcome migrants and the poor.

Francis issued the appeal from the banks of the Danube as he celebrated Mass on Budapest's Kossuth Lajos Square, with the Hungarian Parliament and Budapest's famed Chain Bridge as a backdrop.

The celebration provided the visual highlight of Francis' three-day visit that has been dominated by the Vatican's concern for the plight of neighboring Ukraine.

Citing local organizers, the Vatican said some 50,000 people participated in the Mass, more than 30,000 of them in the square on a brilliantly sunny spring morning. Among them were President Katalin Novak and Hungary's right-wing populist prime minister, Viktor Orban, whose lukewarm support for Ukraine has rankled fellow European Union members.

Francis has expressed appreciation for Hungary's recent welcome of Ukrainian refugees. But he has challenged Orban's hard-line anti-immigration policies, which in 2015-2016 included building a razor wire fence on the border with Serbia to stop people from entering. Upon arrival, Francis urged Hungary and Europe to welcome those who are fleeing war, poverty and climate change, calling for safe and legal migration corridors.

"How sad and painful it is to see closed doors," Francis said in his Sunday homily on the Danube. "The closed doors of our selfishness with regard to others; the closed doors of our individualism amid a society of growing isolation; the closed doors of our indifference towards the underprivileged and those who suffer; the doors we close towards those who are foreign or unlike us, towards migrants or the poor," Francis said.

After the Mass, Francis had a final event in Budapest before returning to Rome: a speech on European culture at the Pazmany Peter Catholic University.

The 86-year-old Francis has tried to forge a diplomatic balancing act in his pleas to end Russia's war, expressing solidarity with Ukraine while keeping the door open to dialogue with Moscow. On Saturday, he prayed with Ukrainian refugees and then met with an envoy of Russian Patriarch Kirill, who has firmly supported Moscow's invasion and justified it as a metaphysical battle against the liberal West.

Francis kissed the cross of Metropolitan Hilarion in a sign of respect for the Russian Orthodox Church during what the Vatican said was a "cordial" 20-minute meeting at the Vatican's embassy in Budapest. Hilarion, who developed good relations with the Vatican as Kirill's longtime foreign minister, said he briefed Francis on his work now as the Moscow Patriarchate's representative in Budapest.

Hilarion attended Francis' Sunday Mass, along with representatives of Hungary's other Christian churches and Jewish community, Vatican News said.

Francis' visit to Hungary, his second in as many years, brought him as close as he's been to the Ukrainian front but also to the heart of Europe, where Orban's avowedly right-wing Christian government has cast itself as a bulwark against a secularizing Western world.

Francis, though, has used the visit to call for the continent to find again its spirit of unity and purpose, referencing Budapest's bridges across the Danube as symbols of unity and connection.

The site for his final Mass couldn't have been more appropriate for that message: The sprawling square is named for one of Hungary's most famous statesmen who served as its first prime minister after the 1848-1849 revolution against Habsburg rule. It is separated from the left bank of the Danube river only by Hungary's iconic neo-Gothic parliament, the country's largest building and home of its National Assembly. Nearby is the Chain Bridge, one of several bridges spanning the river and linking the Pest and Buda sides of the city. ____

Associated Press religion coverage receives support through the AP's collaboration with The Conversation

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US, with funding from Lilly Endowment Inc. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

'Woolly delinquents' celebrate Charles' coronation in yarn

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Heather Howarth tugged at King Charles III's ears and tittered with satisfaction.

The other ladies who gather to knit and natter in her small English village thought the ears should be bigger. But when creating a crocheted likeness of the new king, she was determined not to cause offense.

"He might not like this one," she said reaching out to give the king a fond pat. "But he'll love his Grenadier Guards!"

Howarth and her friends in the village of Hurst, a stone's throw from Reading, west of London, have fashioned a woolly coronation procession to rival the pomp and circumstance that will take place when Charles is crowned on May 6 at Westminster Abbey. Sheathing the 29 posts that circle the community pond with their knitted and crocheted creations, the women have recreated the cast of characters set to attend the big event.

There's the king, of course, the queen consort and the Archbishop of Canterbury. And lots of Grenadier Guards. They even threw in Paddington Bear — a sort of honorary member of the royal family after he shared tea with the late Queen Elizabeth II in a film celebrating her 70 years on the throne.

The Hurst Hookers are part of a phenomenon that has taken hold across Britain in recent years, with guerrilla knitters and crochet enthusiasts celebrating holidays and royal occasions by decorating the nation's iconic red post boxes and other public spaces with their handiwork. There's no money in it, and the creations are sometimes stolen. But they do it anyway because they have fun brightening their communities, even if no one asked them to.

"Yarn bombers" around the country have been hard at work for months creating everything from golden coaches to crenelated castles and jewel-encrusted crowns that will add fuzzy bits of color to the coronation festivities.

But how to explain the Hurst Hookers?

This is a group that got started during the coronavirus pandemic, meeting every couple of weeks at the local cricket club when Britain's intermittent lockdowns would permit. It's bring your own gin and tonic, but there's tea for anyone who wants it. When the 18 women aren't meeting up for crocheting and community, they keep in touch via WhatsApp. The pings are so incessant at least one member has had to turn off her alerts.

They began planning and creating their coronation scene in early September, soon after the queen died and Charles became king. By April, it was finally time to install it.

The "guerrilla" action began just after 5:30 p.m. on a recent Friday as the setting sun bathed the newly cleaned pond in a peaceful light.

Clad in jackets and sweaters on a chilly spring night, the women arrived with their creations tucked inside huge shopping bags emblazoned with supermarket logos, then swooped down on the posts surrounding the pond.

There was little stealth, but much determination.

First they pulled out the crocheted likenesses of Charles, wearing a crown and a cape fashioned from an old Christmas stocking, and Camilla, with a flash of unruly blond hair. Then came the archbishop, whose spectacles rest on a bulbous woolen nose. And finally, the red-coated guardsmen.

Quick as you like, the figures were pulled down over the posts and firmly stapled in place, with the precisely embroidered medals, moustaches, sergeant stripes and other embellishments getting an extra staple or three.

"King Charles wants our support, doesn't he?" Howarth said. "How else do I show that I am supporting him?"

Valerie Thorn, who did the embroidery, carefully researched all the decorations, so that every medal was from a different campaign in which the guards participated. The insignia on Charles' chest is so precise

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that from a few feet you mistake it for the real thing. The archbishop's miter, modeled after the one he wore at his installation, is immediately recognizable.

So far, the fat sergeant character seems to be the village favorite.

A Daily Mail newspaper columnist described crafters such as these as "unhinged ... woolly delinquents." Rather than taking offense, the ladies of the Hurst Hookers embraced the jibe.

"I'm going to embroider that on a T-shirt," said Thorn, 76, with pride. "If I am unhinged, what is wrong with that?"

And when the installation was almost complete, there was the moment to put the icing on the confection.

Pip Etheridge pulled out a resplendent copy of St. Edward's Crown — the crown that will be placed on Charles' head next weekend — and handed it to Janette Vorster because she didn't want to be in the pictures.

In a procession all their own, the group trooped to the village store for the piece de resistance, installing the crown atop the post box out front.

As they chatted around the post box, the group debated whether their handiwork was more about the coronation or about themselves. They giggled, talked about posting the photos on social media and wondered what the neighbors might say. And they just kept laughing.

"If you swapped that one with the real one," Etheridge asked, nodding to her crown, "do you think he'd notice?"

150 years later, Dixon bridge tragedy among nation's worst

By JOHN O'CONNOR Associated Press

DIXON, Ill. (AP) — Gertie Wadsworth was in the arms of her grandmother that bright day when sunshine dissolved distasteful memories of a long, brutal winter. Christan Goble held the 3 1/2-year-old girl in a crowd of more than 200 on the bridge over the Rock River. After a procession down Galena Avenue from the Baptist Church on May 4, 1873, the Rev. J.H. Pratt began baptizing parishioners in the brisk, rapid current.

Then, with a sharp crack and a crescendo of shrieking spectators loaded on the pedestrian walkway in front of towering trusses, the 4-year-old bridge twisted, splintered and rolled over. Forty-six people perished, many immured by the unrelenting gridiron just below the water's surface. Along with 56 injuries, the Truesdell bridge tragedy, 150 years ago Thursday, remains the worst vehicular-bridge disaster in American history.

"It's not as though the bridge just collapsed and went straight down," says Tom Wadsworth, 70, a retired magazine editor and expert on the calamity. "It turns over on top of these people. ... As the (Chicago) Tribune said, the truss 'fell over with the weight and imprisoned the doomed in an iron cage with which they sunk and from which there was no escape.'"

Wadsworth wouldn't be telling the story had Gertie Wadsworth, his great-grandmother, not survived. Family lore holds that as Goble, 51, plunged to her death, she tossed the toddler into the river beyond the reach of the failing superstructure. The tot was rescued downstream.

Post-Civil War Dixon, 103 miles (166 kilometers) west of Chicago, was a growing city split by the formidable Rock River, a tributary of the Mississippi on which, a few miles north and a half-century later, a young Ronald Reagan would work as a lifeguard after the future president's family moved to Dixon in 1920.

For decades, wooden bridges had succumbed to raging floods. Fed-up voters in 1868 demanded an iron bridge. The city council chose Lucius Truesdell's design from 14 proposals despite the city engineer's warnings about its lack of uniformity and strength.

The \$75,000 toll bridge opened in January 1869 to great fanfare, even though — just weeks earlier — a Truesdell bridge in Elgin had collapsed. It was repaired and failed again six months later. The Truesdell design carried traffic in other Illinois cities, including Chicago.

Newspapers post-disaster dubbed Dixon's span "The Truesdell Trap" and "The Patent Wholesale Drowning Machine." It was shocking how the ironwork had slammed atop victims like a gate.

"You could look down and see their faces. They couldn't get to the surface because all that iron was

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on top of them," Wadsworth said. "It's frightening to look down, but to look up and to see daylight, to be only 12 inches (30 centimeters) from air?"

The location of the May 4 crowd, clumped on the west walkway, helps explain why four of five fatalities were women, along with many children and teenagers. Chivalrous men surrendered prime bridge viewing spots to women and girls and stepped to the bank, Wadsworth said. Boys climbed atop the trusses.

But contemporary women's fashion might also be to blame, Wadsworth theorizes. The 1870s ushered in a heavy, layered bustle at the rear of floor-length dresses supported underneath by a crinolette, a series of fabric-covered metal half-hoops.

"You're not going to win any Olympic swimming races wearing one of these things," Wadsworth said.

Drowning, referred to in news reports as "strangulation," took many. Others met an even more gruesome demise. The crisscrossed iron in the latticework pivoted like shears, slicing into victims such as 16-year-old Katie Sterling, who was so entangled it took two days to cut her free.

Several bodies were recovered miles away. Lizzie Mackey, 17, was recovered at Sterling, 14 miles (23 kilometers) downstream. The youngest victims were sisters Alpheia and Lucia Hendrix, ages 6 and 4, according to Patrick Gorman, another student of the tragedy who helped raise money in 2011 for a marker listing the names of the fatalities.

A new memorial will be dedicated at the site on Sunday, May 7.

Pratt was wracked by guilt, admitting he had detained the crowd longer than necessary to extol the benefits of "coming to Jesus." But he was a hero that day.

"He started grabbing them by the hair and by the shoulder and by the pants," Wadsworth said. "He knew what the riverbed was like. He'd walked out there many times for baptism ceremonies, so he knew how far he could get and grab people and he got 10 or 15 himself."

A century-and-a-half later, Truesdell's casualties keep it atop the worst failures of vehicular bridges in American history. The foundering of the Silver Bridge over the Ohio River from Ohio to West Virginia in 1967 also claimed 46 lives but there were nine injuries compared with 56 in Dixon.

The horrific 1981 collapse of a Kansas City hotel's pedestrian walkways resulted in 114 deaths, the most of any crumbled span in U.S. history.

Separating it from the Truesdell affair are four railroad bridge incidents, including another in Illinois. In 1887, a trestle dropped from under a train at Chatsworth, 103 miles (166 kilometers) southwest of Chicago, killing 82 passengers as cars were flung into one another like a telescope as they slammed the opposite embankment.

Like he had done in the Elgin collapse, Truesdell blamed sabotage for the Dixon failure. In a letter to a newspaper in Massachusetts, where he lived, he defended himself feebly:

"It is nearly 18 years since I began building iron bridges, and the Elgin and Dixon bridges are the only ones that have fallen, and no loss of life except at Dixon. Can as much be said of any other plan?"

___ Follow John O'Connor at <https://twitter.com/apoconnor>

DIY trans care evades barriers in Missouri, other states

By HANNAH SCHOENBAUM and SUMMER BALLENTINE Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — With her insurance about to run out and Republicans in her home state of Missouri ramping up rhetoric against gender-affirming health care, Erin Stille nervously visited a foreign pharmaceutical site as a "last resort" to ensure she could continue getting the hormones she needs.

Stille, 26, sent a \$300 bank transfer to a Taiwan-based supplier for a 6-month supply of estrogen patches and androgen-blocking pills. For three weeks she feared she'd been scammed but breathed a sigh of relief when a large package arrived at her home in St. Peters.

"It's definitely a little scary," Stille said. "Taking a chance like this, I could have my money stolen and there's not much I can do about it. But I figured, at this point, that the benefits outweigh the risks."

Stille, and others nationwide, are scrambling to form contingency plans as Republican politicians rapidly erode access to the gender-affirming treatments many credit as life-saving.

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Fears became even more pronounced in Missouri this month after Republican Attorney General Andrew Bailey issued a first-of-its-kind emergency rule that places strict restrictions on that care for minors — and adults.

While some doctors say self-medicating trans health care is dangerous, Stille is among a growing population who say they see no other option.

If enacted, the Missouri rule will require people to have experienced an “intense pattern” of documented gender dysphoria for three years and to have received at least 15 hourly sessions with a therapist over 18 months or more before receiving puberty blockers, hormones, surgery or other treatment.

Patients also must first be screened for autism and “social media addiction,” and any psychiatric symptoms from mental health issues will have to be treated and resolved. Some people will be able to maintain their prescriptions while undergoing the required assessments, which aren’t affordable for many.

Some transgender Missourians and health care providers sued to overthrow the rule, and a St. Louis judge pushed back its effective date from last Thursday to Monday at 5 p.m. as she weighs whether to block its enforcement as the lawsuit proceeds in court. A ruling is expected Monday.

Bailey has touted the rule as a way to shield residents, especially minors, from what he describes as experimental treatments, but puberty blockers and sex hormones have been prescribed for decades and are widely considered medically necessary for many trans people.

Some gender-affirming treatment providers in Missouri are already planning to cut back on care.

Vivent Health Interim President and CEO Brandon Hill said doctors are worried about meeting documentation requirements for new patients, so clinics in St. Louis and Kansas City will only provide gender-affirming health care to current patients. Vivent Health provides HIV-focused and LGBTQ+ friendly health care in St. Louis, Kansas City and other states.

“Do-it-yourself hormone replacement therapy” has become an increasingly common way for trans residents of restrictive states to avoid involuntarily stopping hormone treatment. Trans people like Stille have been discreetly circulating a comprehensive a guide and a digital master list of hormone suppliers, some more reliable than others, through social media.

This online marketplace, known as the gray market, is comprised of unregulated suppliers who sell legitimate medications, sometimes name-brand, outside the distribution channels authorized by the manufacturers. Some trans people in GOP-controlled states that have not yet enacted bans are buying from these suppliers to build an emergency stockpile.

But self-administering hormones without adequate supervision can be “extraordinarily dangerous,” especially for those taking testosterone, said Dr. Robert Lash, chief medical officer at the Endocrine Society, which represents specialists who treat hormone conditions.

Although taking testosterone can help trans men develop some desired physical features, it also increases their risk of a blood clot or stroke. Lash said doctors need to closely monitor a patient’s red blood cell count, lipids and liver function and adjust their dosage accordingly. Estrogen use can also increase risk of blood clots, he said.

“These are powerful medications with a lot of effects on a lot of body systems, not all of which are good,” Lash said. “Taking these hormones on your own is just an invitation to running into problems. People need to be extraordinarily careful when using them and really shouldn’t without medical supervision.”

He cautioned against taking hormones from any unregulated pharmacy, veterinary source or overseas provider.

Even for those willing to assume the risks, not all trans people have the same level of access. Trans men like Levi Sobel, a 30-year-old from Springfield, are finding it much more difficult to source testosterone than other hormones.

Testosterone is classified in the U.S. as a Schedule III controlled substance, along with ketamine and some opioids, and is subjected to more regulations than the typical prescription drug.

Sobel said unregulated testosterone providers are “pretty much nonexistent” in the U.S., and it’s unwise to buy from international sellers because of the higher likelihood of the hormone being seized by U.S.

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Customs and Border Protection.

"This makes it essentially impossible for me to stockpile in the same ways my transfeminine friends can," Sobel said. "The best I can do to stretch it is to make sure I'm using every last drop from every vial."

Stacy Cay, an autistic trans woman and comedian in Kansas City, has already saved up enough injectable estrogen to last about a year. The more she can stockpile, the more time she has to prepare her plan to relocate if the emergency rule isn't blocked in court, she said.

"This feels like the end of Kansas City being my home," Cay said. "It feels like it's being taken away."

Others, like Ellie Bridgman, a gas station attendant in Union, are employing a unique strategy to stockpile hormones. The 23-year-old, who said the attorney general's rule would cut off her treatment access because she's autistic and has depression, started injecting only a half dose of estrogen before her routine blood tests so her hormone levels would read low.

This led her doctor to increase her prescription.

Bridgman said she may consider decreasing her dosage to conserve medication or supplement her supply with an unregulated purchase. Stockpiling is her "No. 1 priority." Without hormone replacement therapy, she said, "the suicidal thoughts and ideation comes back stronger than ever. This is my lifeline."

Schoenbaum reported from Raleigh, North Carolina.

Should school use 'Warrior' nickname? Tribe to have last say

By CAROLYN THOMPSON Associated Press

SALAMANCA, N.Y. (AP) — The profile of a Native American man, a braid trailing down and feather jutting up, is tiled into a high school hallway, dyed into the weight room carpet and laid into the turf of the football field at Salamanca city schools.

School leaders say the omnipresent logo and "Warrior" name for the school athletic teams are sources of pride here, in the only U.S. city built on land leased from a Native American reservation.

But as New York joins states moving to ban schools' use of Indigenous nicknames and mascots because they diminish Native cultures, the tribe may have the last say over whether the logo stays. When the state Board of Regents this month voted to prohibit public schools' use of Indigenous names, it included an exception for districts that receive written approval from a federally recognized tribal nation in New York.

It has put the tribe in an awkward spot.

While the Seneca Indian Nation's leader has endorsed the ban, some citizens of the nation want to keep the logo, which was designed by a Seneca artist in the 1970s. About 38% of students in the public school system south of Buffalo, near the Pennsylvania line, are Native American, mostly citizens of the Seneca tribe.

"The logo really represents us as a community," said Marijah Skye, a 17-year-old student and Seneca citizen.

Superintendent Mark Beehler said he thinks it's unfair of the Regents to put any tribal nation in the middle, where its decision could upset students and the community.

"I'm really not comfortable going to the Seneca Nation and having them potentially be the bad guy here," Beehler said in an interview.

On Tuesday, the school board authorized seeking approval from the Seneca Nation to keep the logo and Warrior nickname. The Seneca Nation did not immediately issue a decision.

New York is one of at least 20 states that have taken or are considering action to address Native-themed mascots used by public schools, according to the National Congress of American Indians, which tracks the issue.

In 2001, former New York Education Commissioner Richard Mills said using Native American symbols or depictions as mascots can become "a barrier to building a safe and nurturing school community and improving academic achievement for all students." Today, there are more than 100 schools representing over 50 New York districts that still have such mascots.

Nationwide, 966 districts have Native "themed" mascots, according to NCAI's database, with "Braves,"

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"Chiefs," "Warriors" and "Indians" the most widely used. A push to do away with such mascots gained momentum with a campaign targeting the name of the NFL's Washington team, which in 2022 renamed itself as the Commanders.

Seneca President Rickey Armstrong Sr. endorsed New York's ban when it was proposed in November, while acknowledging the Salamanca school system's "unique relationship" with the 8,000-member nation.

"We believe the state's provision for agreements between school districts and Native nations should be rare and limited, rather than an open invitation for districts to go 'approval shopping' among Native nations," Armstrong said.

He said the nation, which operates a resort casino in Salamanca and others in Buffalo and Niagara Falls, said it would "carefully consider" how the standard may apply within the community.

Oregon, Washington state and Connecticut are among those with similar laws, forbidding schools to use Native American nicknames unless they have permission from a tribe. Last year, the school board for Montville, Connecticut, voted to drop its "Indians" nickname after the neighboring Mohegan Tribe, owner of the Mohegan Sun casino, said it would prefer a different name.

In Salamanca, school officials have been preparing for the possibility of change, soliciting community input at forums and surveying students. Beehler said the majority, but not all, of those who weighed in supported the continued use of the logo and Warriors nickname.

Salamanca resident Michala Redeye, a Seneca citizen, said Native and non-Native residents have largely united around keeping the logo. That's notable in a city that has seen divisions over issues including the property tax-exempt status of Native residents and the city's required lease payments to the Seneca Nation.

"I feel like a lot of the comments and stuff that has been put out there about the logo reminds people of why they're in the community, what they love about the community. They're tied to being a Salamanca Warrior," said Redeye, who coordinates Native American programming in the schools.

Several students who belong to the Seneca Nation said the image stirs a sense of pride.

"It's widely known," 14-year-old Jaxon Crouse said, "especially around territory as a school, and it's kind of just the community."

The Associated Press education team receives support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Battle for late Johnny Winter's music to play out in court

By DAVE COLLINS Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Nearly nine years after Johnny Winter's death, a battle for control of the legendary blues guitarist's music is being fought in court with allegations of theft and greed flying back and forth.

The legal fight pits Winter's former personal manager and bandmate, Paul Nelson, against the family of the bluesman's late wife, Susan, who died in 2019.

Winter's in-laws say Nelson and his wife improperly took more than \$1.5 million from Winter's music business, including auctioning off some of the late musician's guitars.

Nelson and his wife have countersued, saying Susan Winter's siblings swooped in when she was medicated and dying of cancer and tricked her into giving them control of Winter's music, stripping away Nelson's rights as the beneficiary of Susan's Winter's estate.

The case was scheduled to go to trial in a Connecticut court in April, but was rescheduled for September.

At stake is ownership of Winter's music catalogue, proceeds from record and merchandise sales and authority to approve any commercial use of his songs, the value of which is uncertain.

"The case is about preserving Johnny Winter's legacy and vindicating and making sure the Nelsons haven't improperly taken the moneys rightfully owed to the plaintiffs," said Timothy Diemand, a lawyer for the Susan Winter's siblings, Bonnie and Christopher Warford.

Nelson wants to be reinstated as the beneficiary of Susan Winter's estate.

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"The Plaintiffs orchestrated the wrongful termination of Paul Nelson during a difficult time in Susan Winter's last year of life," the Nelsons said in a statement released by their lawyer, Matthew Mason. They said it was clear that both Johnny and Susan Winter wanted Nelson to be responsible for Johnny Winter's music and legacy.

John Dawson Winter III was born and raised in Beaumont, Texas. He burst onto the world blues scene in the 1960s, dazzling crowds with his fast licks while his trademark long, white hair flew about from under his cowboy hat. He and his brother Edgar — both born with albinism — were both reknowned musicians.

Winter played at Woodstock in 1969 and went on to produce albums for Blues icon Muddy Waters in addition to his own music. In 1988 he was inducted into the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame.

Rolling Stone magazine listed him as the No. 63 best guitar player of all time in 2015. He released more than two dozen albums and was nominated for several Grammy awards, winning his first one posthumously in 2015 for Best Blues Album for "Step Back." Nelson produced the album and also took home a Grammy for it.

Winter, who spent two decades living in Easton, Connecticut, before his death, battled heroin addiction for years and credited Nelson, whom he met in 1999, with helping him get off methadone, according to the 2014 documentary "Johnny Winter: Down & Dirty."

Before he got clean, bandmates and friends said they were concerned because of his frail appearance and trouble talking. Nelson also credits himself with reviving Winter's music career.

The Winters and Nelsons became good friends. Paul Nelson played guitar in Johnny Winter's band and started running his music company beginning in 2005. Nelson's wife, Marion Nelson, did bookkeeping for the Winters and the music business, according to legal filings in the lawsuit.

Winter died at the age of 70 on July 16, 2014, in a hotel room just outside Zurich, Switzerland, while on tour. Susan Winter and Paul Nelson have said the cause of death was likely emphysema.

Susan Winter was the sole beneficiary of her husband's estate, which she put in a trust in late 2016. She named herself as the trust's sole trustee and Nelson as the successor trustee, meaning he would inherit the rights to Johnny Winter's music after she died.

But in June 2019, four months before her death from lung cancer, Susan Winter removed Nelson as the successor and replaced him with her sister and brother.

The Nelsons allege in their lawsuit that Bonnie and Christopher Warford got control by lying to their sister, wrongly telling her the Nelsons were mismanaging the music business and her affairs.

The Warfords' lawsuit accuses the Nelsons of improperly taking more than \$1.5 million out of Winter's business "under the guise of royalty income, commissions, reimbursements, fees, social media expenses and other mechanisms, while obfuscating and misrepresenting these dealings to Susan Winter."

They have also accused the Nelsons of taking three of Winter's guitars, worth about \$300,000 total, and selling them at auction without permission. The Nelsons deny the allegation.

"In short, this is the classic case of a manager taking advantage of an artist-client, and worse here, an artist's surviving family," Diemand wrote in a legal filing.

It's not clear why Edgar Winter, a noted musician in his own right, was not involved in his brother's estate after his death. Edgar Winter and his representatives did not return phone and email messages seeking comment.

The Warfords' lawsuit is similar to one the Winters filed against Johnny Winter's former manager Teddy Slatius for alleged financial wrongdoing around 2005. Slatius died in late 2005. It's not clear what happened with the lawsuit.

"Johnny and Susan have been battling lawsuits all their lives, and still can't rest in peace," said Mary Lou Sullivan, who wrote a biography titled "Raisin' Cane: The Wild and Raucous Story of Johnny Winter" published in 2010.

Both the Warfords, of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Nelsons, of Weston, Connecticut, declined interview requests by The Associated Press.

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Murray scores 34, Nuggets beat Suns 125-107 in Game 1

By PAT GRAHAM AP Sports Writer

DENVER (AP) — Jamal Murray kept imploring the crowd to get louder and louder with each trip down the floor.

As if the Nuggets point guard even needed to. His play was already rocking the arena.

Murray scored 34 points, hitting six of Denver's 16 3-pointers, and the Nuggets sprinted past the Phoenix Suns 125-107 on Saturday night in Game 1 of their second-round series.

"He's a bad man," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said.

Any response to that adulation?

"Thanks?" Murray said. "Appreciate it. ... I'm just playing my game. ... I'm doing whatever it takes to win."

And maybe show a nation that doesn't always get to watch the Nuggets — you know, because they're usually on so late — what the players have known all season: They're talented and worthy of their top seed in the Western Conference. They don't mind if the Suns, as the fourth seed, are the trendy pick to beat them, either.

"We're going to keep doing what we're doing, keep proving everybody wrong," Murray said.

Reigning back-to-back NBA MVP Nikola Jokic had 24 points and 19 rebounds, while Aaron Gordon finished with 23 points. But this was the Murray Show, where he went 6 of 10 from 3-point land and frequently exhorted for more noise from the already raucous crowd.

"Let's be honest, some of the shots he hit tonight I don't think anybody could have stopped him," Suns coach Monty Williams said.

Kevin Durant scored 29 points and grabbed 14 boards for the Suns, with Devin Booker adding 27 points and Chris Paul 11. Booker averaged 37.2 points in a first-round series win over the Los Angeles Clippers.

"I thought that they were just more physical, played with more force," Williams said. "We've got to regroup and do a much better job of playing with pace on offense."

Game 2 is Monday night in Denver.

This is a different sort of playoff series than two years ago, when the Suns swept the Nuggets in the second round. Back then, Denver was without Murray after he tore his ACL.

Now healthy, Murray is flashing his 2020 form inside the NBA bubble that helped Denver advance to the Western Conference finals.

"Jamal just continues to add to the legend of playoff Jamal," Malone said.

Murray had the play of the night when he stole a pass, split defenders Paul and Durant at top speed and knocked in a layup high off the glass. It brought the capacity crowd to its feet.

The dynamic point guard was far from done energizing the fans, hitting a 3-pointer with just under 7 minutes remaining. He implored them for more noise, even holding a hand to his ear.

Leading 106-95 with 7:40 remaining, the Nuggets went on a 14-0 run to put away the game. Denver led by as much as 25 and improved to 38-7 at home through the regular season and playoffs.

Durant cut off a question about whether he was surprised by the Nuggets.

Because he's not.

"They're the No. 1 seed for a reason. They got a two-time MVP. They've got a deep team. I'm not surprised," Durant said. "We've got our work cut out for us."

The difference was the 3-point line, where the Nuggets outscored the Suns by a 48-21 margin. That and turnovers, where the Suns had 16, including seven by Durant.

"I've got to be way more careful with the ball," Durant said. "I've to look to either shoot the ball or make the correct pass. ... I dang got near half our turnovers. We'll be fine. I think we've just got to play with confidence, shoot with confidence and see what happens next game."

TIP-INS

Suns: Williams used his challenge early — with 55.4 seconds left in the first quarter — when Booker was called for a charge on a made a basket. It paid off as the call was overturned and Booker awarded a free throw, which he made. ... Deandre Ayton scored 14 points. ... Durant has 4,730 playoff points to

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move closer to passing Karl Malone (4,761) seventh place on the NBA's postseason points leaderboard.

Nuggets: Malone called a timeout 32 seconds into the second half to settle his team down. Malone said the conversation was simple: "Wake up," he recounted. ... Bruce Brown had 14 points.

PAUL PRAISE

As Paul approaches his 38th birthday next week, Malone said the one thing that hasn't changed over the years is Paul's elite competitiveness.

"He'll be 55 years old, playing in a rec league back in North Carolina, and he's going to be the same guy," Malone said. "The guy hates to lose, ultra-competitive and one of the greatest leaders I've ever been around. ... No matter what stage of his career, he still finds a way to impact winning at a high level."

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

Known for laughs, DC dinner spotlights risks of journalism

By FARNOUSH AMIRI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House Correspondents' Association dinner — known for its fun albeit ferocious jabs at Washington — took a more solemn tone this year as President Joe Biden acknowledged the several American journalists under siege in authoritarian countries around the world.

"We are here to send a message to the country and, quite frankly, to the world: The free press is a pillar, maybe the pillar, of a free society, not the enemy," Biden said in his speech.

The president and first lady Jill Biden, upon arriving at the Washington Hilton on Saturday, met privately with the parents of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, who has been imprisoned in Russia since March. He was charged with spying, despite strong denials from his employer and the U.S. government. Some guests wore buttons with "Free Evan" printed on them.

Also among the 2,600 people attending the gala was Debra Tice, the mother of Austin Tice, who has not been heard from since disappearing at a checkpoint in Syria in 2012. U.S. officials say they operate under the assumption that he is alive and are working to try to bring him home.

"Journalism is not a crime. Evan and Austin should be released immediately along with every other American detained abroad," Biden said. "I promise you, I am working like hell to get them home."

The Bidens also made a beeline for Brittney Griner, the WNBA star and Olympic gold medalist who was detained in Russia for nearly 10 months last year before her release in a prisoner swap. Griner attended with her wife, Cherelle, as guests of CBS News.

"This time last year we were praying for you, Brittney," Biden said to the basketball star.

The annual black-tie dinner drew a wide array of celebrities and media moguls to Washington, with parties being held across the capital. Among those in attendance were actor Liev Schreiber, singer John Legend and his wife, Chrissy Teigen, the model and television personality.

Actor and former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger opened the dinner with a pre-taped video about the importance of a free and independent press, calling reporters an "ally of the people." Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris were seated on the stage along with comedian Roy Wood Jr., a correspondent for "The Daily Show," who was the featured entertainer.

While Biden spent the majority of his speech focused on the issue of press freedom, he took time to take jabs at some of his most vocal political critics. The occasion is a familiar and comfortable one for Biden, who attended several of the dinners as vice president to Barack Obama. The Washington event returned last year after being sidelined by the pandemic in 2020 and 2021. Biden was the first president in six years to accept the invitation after Donald Trump shunned the event while in office.

But this year, he came not only as the commander in chief but as a presidential contender.

He started his punchlines with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, taking direct aim at a recent bill Republicans passed that would lift the debt ceiling in exchange for a series of budget cuts, including some of Biden's key legislative achievements.

"The last time Republicans voted for something that hapless it took 15 tries," Biden said, referring to the

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gruesome fight McCarthy endured to become speaker in January.

And he didn't stop there, going after Fox Corp. Chairman Rupert Murdoch about his age. "And you call me old?" he told the crowd.

Biden even made a couple of self-deprecating jokes, mostly surrounding criticism of his age as he mounts a second bid for reelection. "I believe in the First Amendment and not just because my good friend Jimmy Madison wrote it," he said to a roaring crowd.

Wood, who took the stage after Biden, also zeroed in on the president's age.

"We should be inspired by the events in France. They rioted when the retirement age went up two years to 64," Wood said. "Meanwhile in America, we have an 80-year-old man, begging us for four more years."

Machado leads 11-HR Mexico City slugfest, Padres top Giants

By CARLOS RODRIGUEZ Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — By the time Manny Machado put San Diego ahead for good, hitting home runs in Mexico City's thin air was old hat.

Machado overcame a seventh-inning deficit with his second homer, the 11th of the night, and the Padres outslugged the San Francisco Giants 16-11 Saturday in Major League Baseball's first regular-season game in the Mexican capital.

Nelson Cruz, Juan Soto, Fernando Tatis and Xander Bogaerts also went deep for the Padres, who out-homered the Giants 6-5 and outhit them 17-13 in the thin air of Estadio Alfredo Harp Helú.

After each home run, the Padres topped the triumphant hitter with a mariachi sombrero in the dugout. Machado said Tatis bought the green, red, white and black hat Friday night at the team hotel and the group weighed using it to celebrate or a mask wrestler Rey Mysterio gave to Machado.

"If we can keep hitting like that, maybe we'll bring the mask and the sombrero to San Diego," Machado said. "We are going to use them tomorrow for sure".

A crowd of 19,611 filled the ballpark, which opened in 2019, for a game that stretched to 3 hours, 44 minutes. At 7,349 feet above sea level, this two-game series is the highest elevation for big league games. MLB's previous regular-season trips to Mexico were for games in Monterrey in 2016, '18 and '19.

"For moments it felt like more than just a game, it felt more like a parade," Padres manager, Bob Melvin said of the electric atmosphere.

San Francisco's Brandon Crawford and Lamonte Wade Jr. hit consecutive homers in the fourth off Joe Musgrove, with Crawford's going 482 feet and Wade's 474.

Mitch Haniger went deep against Musgrove in the fifth with his first home run for San Francisco, and the Giants went ahead 11-10 with consecutive longballs in the seventh against Steven Wilson. Blake Sabol hit a two-run homer and David Villar connected five pitches later.

That lead didn't last long against the Padres, who were the home team and scored in seven of eight innings in which they batted.

Tatis doubled off Tyler Rogers (0-1) and Machado hit his fourth home run of the season. The Padres tacked on four more runs in the eighth, when Trent Grisham hit a two-run double against Scott Alexander and Cruz a two-run single off John Brebbia.

Cruz went 5 for 6 with four RBIs and became the oldest player to homer for the Padres when he went deep leading off the third inning against Sean Manaea. Cruz was 42 years, 302 days, surpassing Rickey Henderson at 42 years, 283 days on Oct. 4, 2001.

"I'm just happy to be out there helping the team win. I'm not interested so much on the records", Cruz said.

Soto and Bogaerts homered on consecutive pitches from Jakob Junis in the fourth, among four sets of back-to-back homers. Tatis and Machado went deep in a three-pitch span against Junis in the fifth.

Bogaerts became the first player to homer in regular-season games in four countries, adding to his previous drives in the U.S., Canada and England.

Tom Cogrove (1-0), a 26-year-old left-hander who played at Manhattan College, won in his major league

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debut in the seventh for the Padres. He relieved in the seventh with a runner at third and retired Joc Pederson on a groundout.

Thairo Estrada had four hits, and Estrada and Haniger each drove in three runs.

San Francisco wore black jerseys with "Los Gigantes" across the chest while San Diego was in its Nike City Connect uniforms of pink, gold and green on white.

The Giants trailed 3-0 and 5-2, went ahead 8-5 with a six-run fourth and fell behind 9-8 in the fifth. After holding the Padres scoreless for the only time in the sixth inning, the Giants took an 11-10 lead in the seventh.

Manaea allowed five runs and five hits in just two innings, and Musgrove gave up seven runs and six hits in 3 1/3 innings.

ENJOYING THE TRIP

Camilo Doval, Sean Hjelle, John Brevia, Tristan Beck, Ricardo Genovés, Brett Wisely, Mike Yaztrzemski, Haniger and Junis did not waste an opportunity to be in Mexico City and ventured to go the Arena Mexico to watch the famous "Lucha Libre." Players got a chance to meet some of the wrestlers and took photos with them wearing masks.

KAPLER'S ADVENTURES

Giants manager Gabe Kapler got lost Friday trying to get from the team hotel to the ballpark when he used public transportation. He took a team bus Saturday but said on Friday night he tried to take the subway to a concert by the Spanish singer Rosalia. He could not get there.

"The station close to the hotel was jammed packed and then the trains were full and people that were savvy enough could push through" Kapler said. "I did not feel confident doing that, so I went upstairs to try to get an Uber and could not get one, so I went to another taco place and got a beer, I was not disappointed."

UNIFORM WATCH

San Diego's jerseys were predominantly white with a pink right sleeve, a green one on the left and pink numbers on the back and front. The team said that they were inspired by the landscape of San Diego and Baja California.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Padres: IF/OF Brandon Dion was recalled from Triple-A El Paso as the team's 27th man for the series.

Giants: IF/OF Brett Wisely was added to the roster as the 27th player for the Mexico series. Wisely, in 12 Triple-A games, is batting .304 with eight RBIs. ... Crawford left in the middle of the the fourth inning with right calf tightness.

UP NEXT

RHP Yu Darvish (1-2, 3.00 ERA) is set to start Sunday for the Padres and RHP Alex Cobb (1-1, 1.91) for the Giants.

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

AP Report Cards: Texans, Eagles get highest NFL draft grades

By ROB MAADDI AP Pro Football Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Texans got two of the best players in the NFL draft in the first three picks. The Eagles added three more defensive standouts from Georgia.

While it takes two or three years to judge whether players panned out, it's easy to identify the potential winners of the 2023 NFL draft.

Houston selected quarterback C.J. Stroud at No. 2 and traded up to get Alabama edge rusher Will Anderson Jr. with the third pick. In a 10-minute span, the Texans added two players who could dramatically change the future of the franchise.

Defending NFC champion Philadelphia needed to replenish the defense so it looked toward the two-time national champion Bulldogs. The Eagles moved up one spot to No. 9 for defensive tackle Jalen Carter, a

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player widely considered the most talented in the draft who slipped because of off-field issues.

At No. 30, Philly added edge Nolan Smith. General manager Howie Roseman still wasn't finished. He got Georgia cornerback Kelee Ringo in the fourth round and added another former Bulldog, acquiring running back De'Andre Swift in a trade with Detroit. The Eagles have drafted five Georgia players in the past two years.

Here are AP's early grades on each team's overall draft:

ARIZONA CARDINALS: B

OT Paris Johnson Jr. (6) will protect QB Kyler Murray. Addressed defensive needs with DE BJ Ojulari and CB Garrett Williams. OL Jon Gaines II and LB Owen Pappoe were value picks in Day 3.

ATLANTA FALCONS: C-

RB Bijan Robinson should be a superstar but No. 8 was too high. Teams win Super Bowls with late-round picks and undrafted free agents carrying the ball. OT Matthew Bergeron and DE Zach Harrison bolster both lines.

BALTIMORE RAVENS: C+

With Odell Beckham Jr. in the flock, should've addressed the secondary in the first round instead of taking WR Zay Flowers at No. 22. Went defense with next three picks.

BUFFALO BILLS: B

Traded up for TE Dalton Kincaid at No. 25 despite other needs. Got better value in second round with OL O'Cyrus Torrence and third round with LB Dorian Williams.

CAROLINA PANTHERS: B-

No. 1 pick Bryce Young has superior talent but needs to overcome size concerns. WR Jonathan Mingo is a playmaker. OL Chandler Zavala highlighted Day 3 picks.

CHICAGO BEARS: A

Moved down one spot and got OT Darnell Wright (10) to anchor the O-line. DL Gervon Dexter Sr., RB Roschon Johnson, WR Tyler Scott, LB Noah Sewell and CB Terrell Smith are among an impressive haul.

CINCINNATI BENGALS: B

DE Myles Murphy (28) was projected among the top 15. Upgraded secondary with CB DJ Turner and S Jordan Battle.

CLEVELAND BROWNS: B

Didn't pick until WR Cedric Tillman at No. 74. OT Dawand Jones and DL Isaiah McGuire bolster the trenches. CB Cameron Mitchell was solid value in fifth round.

DALLAS COWBOYS: B+

DT Mazi Smith (26) and LB DeMarvion Overshown should make immediate impact. TE Luke Schoonmaker gives Dak Prescott another playmaker.

DENVER BRONCOS: B+

Gave Russell Wilson another option with WR Marvin Mims at No. 63. LB Drew Sanders, CB Riley Moss and S JL Skinner strengthen the defense.

DETROIT LIONS: C

LB Jack Campbell (18), TE Sam LaPorta, S Brian Branch and QB Hendon Hooker help make up for reaching way too high for RB Jahmyr Gibbs at No. 12.

GREEN BAY PACKERS: B-

Added talented DE Lukas Van Ness (13), and helped Jordan Love with additions of TE Luke Musgrave, WR Jayden Reed, TE Tucker Kraft and WR Dontayvion Wicks.

HOUSTON TEXANS: A+

Stroud and Anderson are the headliners. OL Juice Scruggs, WR Nathaniel Dell and DE Dylan Horton improve a poor roster.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS: A-

QB Anthony Richardson (4) is raw but has the most upside of all the QBs. Had the best Day 3, getting OT Blake Freeland, DL Adetomiwa Adebawore, CB Darius Rush, S Daniel Scott, TE Will Mallory and RB

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Evan Hull.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS: B+

Improved offense with first three picks: OT Anton Harrison (27), TE Brenton Strange and RB Tank Bigsby. WR Parker Washington could be a steal in the sixth round.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS: C+

Reached for DE Felix Anudike-Uzomah at No. 31. WR Rashee Rice and OT Wanya Morris in Day 2 fill holes.

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS: B+

Tyree Wilson (7) is a game-changer. TE Michael Mayer and WR Tre Tucker bolster receiving group. DL Byron Young at No. 70 is questionable.

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS: C+

Quentin Johnston (21) was the second WR off the board with better options available. Addressed defense on Day 2 with DL Tuli Tuipulotu and LB Daiyan Henley.

LOS ANGELES RAMS: B

Selected 14 players, including 11 on Day 3 starting with QB Stetson Bennett. Didn't have a first for seventh straight year but added plenty of depth.

MIAMI DOLPHINS: B+

Had only four picks and no first but came away with talented CB Cam Smith, RB Devon Achane and WR Elijah Higgins.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS: A

WR Jordan Addison (23) replaces Adam Thielen. CBs Mekhi Blackmon and Jay Ward upgrade secondary.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS: B+

Traded down and still got talented CB Christian Gonzalez at No. 17. Focused on defense in Day 2 with DE Keion White and S Marte Mapu. Trading up for K Chad Ryland in fourth round was baffling.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS: B

DL Bryan Bresee made sense at No. 29 but DE Isaiah Foskey seemed too early at No. 40. Got value in Day 3 with OL Nick Saldiveri, S Jordan Howden and WR A.T. Perry.

NEW YORK GIANTS: A-

CB Deonte Banks (24) and OL John Michael Schmitz fill needs. Stole WR Jalin Hyatt in the third round.

NEW YORK JETS: B

DE Will McDonald IV (15) needs to perform quickly to justify going that high. OT Carter Warren, RB Israel Abanikanda and CB Jarrick Bernard-Converse highlighted an outstanding Day 3 haul.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES: A+

Carter, Smith, Ringo plus OT Tyler Steen and S Sydney Brown in the third round and a trade for Swift already make Roseman a favorite for executive of the year.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS: A

Moved up for OT Broderick Jones (14). Got first-round talent in CB Joey Porter Jr. and TE Darnell Washington in Day 2.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS: C-

CB Ji'Ayir Brown with their first pick at No. 87 and CB Darrell Luter Jr. in fifth round were the best picks in a draft that included K Jake Moody in the third round.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS: A

Got the best players at their position with CB Devon Witherspoon (5) and WR Jaxon Smith-Njigba (20) in the first round. DE Derick Hall and OL Anthony Bradford highlight a strong overall group.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS: B-

Taking DT Calijah Kancey at No. 19 over Will Levis shows commitment to Kyle Trask/Baker Mayfield QB competition. OL Cody Mauch, TE Payne Durham and WR Trey Palmer graded well at their spots.

TENNESSEE TITANS: B+

Took OL Peter Skoronski over Levis at No. 11 and ended up with the QB anyway in the second round. Added RB Tyjae Spears, TE Josh Whyle, OT Jaelyn Duncan and WR Colton Dowell in an all-offense draft.

WASHINGTON COMMANDERS: C+

Took Emmanuel Forbes (16) early in an excellent CB draft class. Further bolstered secondary with S Jartavius Martin in second round. Day 3 RB Chris Rodriguez Jr. has upside.

AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/hub/nfl> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

Texas man kills 5 neighbors after they complained of gunfire

By JUAN A. LOZANO and PAUL J. WEBER Associated Press

CLEVELAND, Texas (AP) — A Texas man went next door with a rifle and fatally shot five of his neighbors, including an 8-year-old boy, after they asked him to stop firing rounds in his yard because they were trying to sleep, authorities said Saturday.

The suspect, identified as 38-year-old Francisco Oropeza, remained at large more than 18 hours after the shooting and authorities warned that he might still be armed. The attack happened just before midnight Friday near the town of Cleveland, north of Houston, on a street where some residents say it is not uncommon to hear neighbors unwind by firing off guns.

San Jacinto County Sheriff Greg Capers said Oropeza used an AR-style rifle, and as the search for him dragged into Saturday evening, authorities had widened their efforts to as far as "10 to 20 miles" from the murder scene. He said Oropeza may still have a weapon but that he believes authorities have the rifle used in the shooting.

Capers said they found clothes and a phone while combing a rural area that includes dense layers of forest but that tracking dogs had lost the scent.

"He could be anywhere now," Capers said.

Capers said the victims were between the ages of 8 and 31 years old and that all were believed to be from Honduras. All were shot "from the neck up," he said.

The attack was the latest act of gun violence in what has been a record pace of mass shootings in the U.S. so far this year, some of which have also involved semiautomatic rifles.

The mass killings have played out in a variety of places — a Nashville school, a Kentucky bank, a Southern California dance hall, and now a rural Texas neighborhood inside a single-story home.

Capers said there were 10 people in the house — some of whom had just moved there earlier in the week — but that no one else was injured. He said two of the victims were found in a bedroom laying over two children in an apparent attempt to shield them.

A total of three children found covered in blood in the home were taken to a hospital but found to be uninjured, Capers said.

FBI spokesperson Christina Garza said investigators do not believe everyone at the home were members of a single family. The victims were identified as Sonia Argentina Guzman, 25; Diana Velazquez Alvarado, 21; Julisa Molina Rivera, 31; Jose Jonathan Casarez, 18; and Daniel Enrique Laso, 8.

The confrontation followed the neighbors walking up to the fence and asking the suspect to stop shooting rounds, Capers said. The suspect responded by telling them that it was his property, Capers said, and one person in the house got a video of the suspect walking up to the front door with the rifle.

The shooting took place on a rural pothole-riddled street where single-story homes sit on wide 1-acre lots and are surrounded by a thick canopy of trees. A horse could be seen behind the victim's home, while in the front yard of Oropeza's house a dog and chickens wandered.

Rene Arevalo Sr., who lives a few houses down, said he heard gunshots around midnight but didn't think anything of it.

"It's a normal thing people do around here, especially on Fridays after work," Arevalo said. "They get home and start drinking in their backyards and shooting out there."

Capers said his deputies had been to Oropeza's home at least once before and spoken with him about "shooting his gun in the yard." It was not clear whether any action was taken at the time. At a news conference Saturday evening, the sheriff said firing a gun on your own property can be illegal, but he did not say whether Oropeza had previously broken the law.

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Capers said the new arrivals in the home had moved from Houston earlier in the week, but he said he did not know whether they were planning to stay there.

Across the U.S. since Jan. 1, there have been at least 18 shootings that left four or more people dead, according to a database maintained by The Associated Press and USA Today, in partnership with Northeastern University. The violence is sparked by a range of motives: murder-suicides and domestic violence; gang retaliation; school shootings; and workplace vendettas.

Texas has confronted multiple mass shootings in recent years, including last year's attack at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde; a racist attack at an El Paso Walmart in 2019; and a gunman opening fire at a church in the tiny town of Sutherland Springs in 2017.

Republican leaders in Texas have continually rejected calls for new firearm restrictions, including this year over the protests of several families whose children were killed in Uvalde.

A few months ago, Arevalo said Oropeza threatened to kill his dog after it got loose in the neighborhood and chased the pit bull in his truck.

"I tell my wife all the time, 'Stay away from the neighbors. Don't argue with them. You never know how they're going to react,'" Arevalo said. "I tell her that because Texas is a state where you don't know who has a gun and who is going to react that way."

A previous version of this story, based on information from a San Jacinto County prosecutor, incorrectly identified one of the victims as 15 years old.

Weber reported from Austin, Texas. Associated Press writer Ken Miller contributed to this report.

Army identifies 3 soldiers killed in Alaska helicopter crash

By MARTHA BELLISLE Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — The U.S. Army identified on Saturday the three soldiers who were killed when two helicopters collided in Alaska while returning from a training mission.

The helicopters were headed to Fort Wainwright from a mission in the Donnelly Training Area when they crashed at 1:39 p.m. Thursday, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) east of Healy.

The U.S. Army announced Friday that it has grounded aviation units for training after 12 soldiers died within the last month in helicopter crashes in Alaska and Kentucky.

"The move grounds all Army aviators, except those participating in critical missions, until they complete the required training," the Army said in a statement.

Killed in Thursday's crash were Chief Warrant Officer 3 Christopher Robert Eramo, 39, of Oneonta, New York; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kyle D. McKenna, 28, of Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Warrant Officer 1 Stewart Duane Wayment, 32, of North Logan, Utah.

A fourth soldier was injured and was taken to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital and was listed in stable condition. He was not identified Saturday.

"The battalion is devastated and mourning the loss of three of our best," said Lt. Col. Matthew C. Carlsen, the 1-25th AB commander. Their loss can't be compared to the suffering felt by the soldiers' families, he said.

"The entire team has come together to focus our thoughts, prayers, and actions to provide and sustain them with whatever comfort and support they need at this time, and I promise that this will continue long into the future," he said.

A Safety Investigation Team from the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center, based at Fort Novosel, Alabama, is leading the safety investigation, officials said in an email.

Department of Defense instructions and Army regulations prohibit the investigators from releasing any information to the public concerning the causes, analysis or internal recommendations, the statement said.

"The loss of these Soldiers is devastating and is being felt by family, friends and military communities across Alaska," said Maj. Gen. Brian Eifler, commanding general of the 11th Airborne Division. "The families of Fort Wainwright and 1-25 are as strong a team as I've ever seen. Our hearts are heavy, and our

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thoughts and prayers are with the families, friends and loved ones of the fallen.”

California man gets 4 1/2 years for role in US Capitol riot

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Southern California man who assaulted police with pepper spray during the storming of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, was sentenced to 4 1/2 years in prison, federal authorities announced.

Jeffrey Scott Brown, 56, of Santa Ana received a sentence of 54 months in federal prison for felony and misdemeanor charges related to the mob attack by supporters of former President Donald Trump, the U.S. Department of Justice said in a Friday press statement.

More than 1,000 individuals have been arrested, including more than 320 people who have been charged with assaulting or impeding law enforcement, the DOJ said. Trump supporters that day tried to stop Congress from certifying presidential election results for Joe Biden, a Democrat, over Trump, a Republican.

Brown and two co-defendants were found guilty at trial in December.

Peter J. Schwartz of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, is scheduled to be sentenced in May. It was not clear why Markus Maly of Fincastle, Virginia, was not sentenced Friday as scheduled.

Prosecutors had sought a sentence of 70 months for Brown, who they say dove toward the front of a makeshift police line and used on officers a stolen can of pepper spray handed to him by Schwartz.

Brown’s attorney, Samuel C. Moore, sought 40 months in prison, according to court documents.

Moore said that the conduct involved “less than 10 minutes of Mr. Brown’s life” and the alleged pepper spray “did not make contact with any specific victim.” Still, Moore wrote, Brown admits he should never have been in the Capitol tunnel that day and that he takes responsibility for doing so.

Son of rap exec Big U forges own path with NFL’s Chargers

By JOE REEDY AP Sports Writer

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP) — Daiyan Henley grew up with a well-known father. The spotlight is now shining on him after he was selected in the third round of the NFL draft by his hometown Los Angeles Chargers.

Henley, who played linebacker at Washington State, was the 85th overall selection on Friday night.

Record executive Eugene “Big U” Henley has worked with many prominent West Coast rappers, including Snoop Dogg, Kurupt and the late Nipsey Hussle. The elder Henley also helped produce and was featured in the 2021 FX documentary series “Hip Hop Uncovered.”

“I might be one of the most famous people he knows now. It’s just crazy just to be on the flip side of that aspect,” Daiyan Henley said at the team complex on Saturday.

Eugene now runs a nonprofit called Developing Options, which works to help at-risk youth in Los Angeles. Daiyan’s mother, Stacey, also works for the foundation.

Henley said his parents deserve a lot of credit for his success.

When it comes to the docuseries featuring his father, Henley said he had already known most of the stories that were told, but there were still a couple that were new to him.

Besides his connection to music, Big U is a former gang leader. He was arrested in a drug sting and served 12 years of a 23-year sentence.

“This guy did a lot of stuff in his past and gets on me about having a ‘C’ in class. That’s the type of dad that I had,” Henley said. “When I look at that documentary, I’m already deep in college and I’m thinking, ‘Hey, man. You were wildin’ back then. I’m over here getting scolded for having a C or leaving some trash somewhere.’ Which, you can’t do that.”

Henley’s football career has been an interesting journey. He grew up in South Central Los Angeles and played at Crenshaw, one of the city’s top high school programs. He was primarily a quarterback but ended up playing five different positions, including kicker.

Henley began his college career at Nevada in 2017 and played receiver his first two seasons. He moved to safety in 2019, but played only four games before suffering a season-ending injury and being redshirted. After two years in the secondary, he moved to linebacker in 2021 and led the team with 103 tackles.

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Henley transferred to Washington State last season and was a first-team All-Pac 12 selection. He was second in the conference with 106 tackles and his 12 stops for loss were tied for fifth.

He also played in all four coverage and return units on special teams with the Cougars, and is expected to immediately contribute in those areas for the Chargers.

While Henley and his parents are happy he was drafted by a hometown team, he joked that being nearby has its drawbacks.

"As much as I'm excited, I got to figure out how to keep my mom away from my address, so if you guys have any ideas on how to hide an address from your mother, I need those tips," he said, laughing.

AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/hub/nfl> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

Trump ups competition with DeSantis in planning trip to Iowa

By THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The competition between Donald Trump and Ron DeSantis is intensifying as the former president is scheduling a return trip to Iowa on the same day that the Florida governor was already going to be in the state that will kick off the Republican contest for the White House.

A Trump campaign official said Saturday that the former president plans to be in Iowa on May 13 to headline an organizing rally at a sprawling park in downtown Des Moines. That's when DeSantis was already slated to headline Iowa Rep. Randy Feenstra's annual summer fundraiser in northwest Iowa and speak at a party fundraiser later that evening in Cedar Rapids.

The Trump campaign official, who requested anonymity to discuss the trip before it was announced, said the Des Moines organizing rally has been in the planning stage for weeks and is aimed at identifying caucus supporters and volunteers.

The move is a sign of the escalating competition between the two men who, at least for now, are leading contenders for the Republican presidential nomination. Trump and his allies have become increasingly emboldened in their efforts to attack and marginalize DeSantis, who is expected to announce his White House bid sometime after the Florida Legislature wraps up its work in the coming week.

But Trump's trip is also notable for its emphasis on the type of ground-level organizing that is vital in Iowa politics and was often missing during his 2016 campaign, when Texas Sen. Ted Cruz overtook him and won the state's GOP caucuses.

Trump has been almost singularly focused on swinging at DeSantis, whom he has attacked for policy positions on entitlement reform, his loyalty to conservative causes, even his character. While DeSantis has largely ignored Trump's jabs, a pro-DeSantis super political action committee, Never Back Down, began to respond in paid ads this month.

Meanwhile, the super PAC promoting DeSantis is hiring Iowa staff to begin organizing support for the governor before he enters the race.

The stakes for both men are particularly high in Iowa, where the caucuses in February offer opportunities for them to cement their status atop the GOP. A poor performance, however, would give an opening for other Republicans to mount an upstart campaign.

Trump's 2016 Iowa campaign was a seat-of-the-pants operation disparately managed by campaign newcomers who, including the candidate, had little idea what the caucuses are. The roughly 1,700 precinct-level Republican political meetings, vestiges of prairie civic life, include a presidential preference question but require in-person participation on a typically frigid winter evening.

Eight years ago, Trump's Iowa team had left contact information for roughly 10,000 Iowans interested in supporting him unprocessed before the caucuses, where Trump had led in lead-up polls, but fell short against Cruz's more organized campaign.

Armed with not just refined 2016 caucus data but information collected during two national campaigns, Trump's advisers says they are building a data and digital engagement strategy they say would put him in position to win the caucuses. It's an expectation Iowa GOP strategists say is an absolute must for the

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former president, who carried Iowa comfortably in the 2016 and 2020 general elections.

Meantime Never Back Down, run by DeSantis' 2022 Florida re-election campaign senior strategist, Phil Cox, has named Iowa Republican operatives to its roster as it seeks to tap into interested GOP activists as the Iowa 2024 campaign gets underway. Among them are Ryan Koopmans, the former chief of staff to Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds.

The group has been airing TV advertisements in Iowa and other early-voting states, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada, for weeks, and plans to launch a new one Monday.

AP Interview: Pelosi says Ukraine, democracy 'must win'

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — "We thought we could die."

The Russian invasion had just begun when Nancy Pelosi made a surprise visit to Ukraine, the House speaker then the highest-ranking elected U.S. official to lead a congressional delegation to Kyiv.

Pelosi and the lawmakers were ushered under the cloak of secrecy into the capital city, an undisclosed passage that even to this day she will not divulge.

"It was very, it was dangerous," Pelosi told The Associated Press before Sunday's one-year anniversary of that trip.

"We never feared about it, but we thought we could die because we're visiting a serious, serious war zone," Pelosi said. "We had great protection, but nonetheless, a war — theater of war."

Pelosi's visit was as unusual as it was historic, opening a fresh diplomatic channel between the U.S. and Ukraine that has only deepened with the prolonged war. In the year since, a long list of congressional leaders, senators and chairs of powerful committees, both Democrats and Republicans, followed her lead, punctuated by President Joe Biden's own visit this year.

The steady stream of arrivals in Kyiv has served to amplify a political and military partnership between the U.S. and Ukraine for the world to see, one that will be tested anew when Congress is again expected this year to help fund the war to defeat Russia.

"We must win. We must bring this to a positive conclusion — for the people of Ukraine and for our country," Pelosi said.

"There is a fight in the world now between democracy and autocracy, its manifestation at the time is in Ukraine."

With a new Republican majority in the House whose Trump-aligned members have balked at overseas investments, Pelosi, a Democrat, remains confident the Congress will continue backing Ukraine as part of a broader U.S. commitment to democracy abroad in the face of authoritarian aggression.

"Support for Ukraine has been bipartisan and bicameral, in both houses of Congress by both parties, and the American people support democracy in Ukraine," Pelosi told AP. "I believe that we will continue to support as long as we need to support democracy ... as long as it takes to win."

Now the speaker emerita, an honorary title bestowed by Democrats, Pelosi is circumspect about her role as a U.S. emissary abroad. Having visited 87 countries during her time in office, many as the trailblazing first woman to be the House speaker, she set a new standard for pointing the gavel outward as she focused attention on the world beyond U.S. shores.

In her office tucked away at the Capitol, Pelosi shared many of the honors and mementos she has received from abroad, including the honorary passport she was given on her trip to Ukraine, among her final stops as speaker.

It's a signature political style, building on Pelosi's decades of work on the House Intelligence Committee, but one that a new generation of House leaders may — or may not — chose to emulate.

The new Speaker Kevin McCarthy hosted Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library this month, the Republican leader's first foray as leader into foreign affairs.

Democrat Hakeem Jeffries took his own first trip abroad as House minority leader, leading congressional delegations last week to Ghana and Israel.

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Pelosi said it's up to the new leaders what they will do on the global stage.

"Other speakers have understood our national security — we take an oath to protect and defend — and so we have to reach out with our values and our strength to make sure that happens," she said.

"I just want to say that this, for me, was the most logical thing to do," Pelosi said.

When Pelosi arrived in Kyiv, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy stood outside to meet the U.S. officials, a photo that ricocheted around the world as a show of support for the young democracy fighting Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion.

"The courage of the president in greeting us on the street rather than us just meeting him in his office was yet again another symbol of the courage of the people of Ukraine," she said.

Pelosi told Zelenskyy in a video released at the time "your fight is a fight for everyone."

A year on, with no end to the war in sight, Pelosi said: "I would have hoped that it would have been over by now."

Pelosi's travel abroad has not been without political challenges, and controversy. During the Trump era she acted as an alternative emissary overseas, reassuring allies that the U.S. remained a partner despite the Republican president's "America First" neo-isolationist approach to foreign policy.

Last year, in one of her final trips as speaker, Pelosi touched down with a delegation in Taipei, crowds lining the streets to cheer her arrival, a visit with the Taiwanese president that drew a sharp rebuke from Beijing, which counts the island as its own.

"Cowardly," she said about the military exercises China launched in the aftermath of her trip.

Pelosi offered rare praise for McCarthy's own meeting with Tsai, particularly its bipartisan nature and the choice of venue, the historic Reagan library.

"That was really quite a message and quite an optic to be there. And so I salute what he did," she said.

In one of her closing acts as House speaker in December, Pelosi hosted Zelenskyy for a joint address to Congress. The visit evoked the one made by Winston Churchill, the prime minister of Britain, at Christmas-time in 1941 to speak to Congress in the Senate chamber of a "long and hard war" during World War II.

Zelenskyy presented to Congress a Ukrainian flag signed by front-line troops that Pelosi said will eventually be displayed at the U.S. Capitol.

The world has changed much since Pelosi joined Congress — one of her first trips abroad was in 1991, when she dared to unfurl a pro-democracy banner in Beijing's Tiananmen Square shortly after the student demonstrations that ended in a massacre.

After the long wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, it's again Russia and China that remain front of her mind.

"The role of Putin in terms of Russia that is a bigger threat than it was when I came to Congress," she said. A decade after the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, she said, Putin went up.

"That's where the fight for democracy is taking place," she said.

And, she said, despite the work she and others in Congress have done to point out the concerns over China's military and economic rise, and its human rights record, "that has only gotten worse."

Often mentioned as someone who could become an actual ambassador — there have been musings that Biden could nominate her to Rome or beyond — Pelosi said she is focused on her two-year term in office, no longer the House speaker but the representative from San Francisco.

"Right now my plan is to serve my constituents," Pelosi said. "I like having 750,000 bosses, rather than one."

Details revealed about King Charles III's coronation service

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — It will be a coronation of many faiths and many languages.

King Charles III, keen to show that he can be a unifying figure for everyone in the United Kingdom, will be crowned in a ceremony that will for the first time include the active participation of faiths other than the Church of England.

Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh leaders will take part in various aspects of the coronation, the

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Archbishop of Canterbury's office said Saturday, as it revealed details of a service it described as an act of Christian worship that will reflect contemporary society.

The ceremony also will include female bishops for the first time, as well as hymns and prayers sung in Welsh, Scottish Gaelic and Irish Gaelic, as well as English.

"The service contains new elements that reflect the diversity of our contemporary society," Archbishop Justin Welby, spiritual leader of the Church of England, said in a statement. "It is my prayer that all who share in this service, whether they are of faith or no faith, will find ancient wisdom and new hope that brings inspiration and joy."

The coronation ceremony reflects Charles' efforts to show that the 1,000-year-old monarchy is still relevant in a country that is much more diverse than it was when his mother was crowned 70 years ago. While the king is the supreme governor of the Church of England, the latest census showed that less than half of the population now describe themselves as Christian.

Built around the theme "Called to Serve," the coronation service will begin with one of the youngest members of the congregation — a Chapel Royal chorister — greeting the king. Charles will respond by saying, "In His name and after His example, I come not to be served but to serve."

The moment is meant to underscore the importance of young people in the world today, according to Lambeth Palace, the home of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The service will also include many historic elements underscoring the ancient traditions through which power has been passed on to new kings and queens throughout the centuries.

In the most sacred part of the service, the Archbishop of Canterbury will anoint the king with oil, consecrating him and setting him apart from his subjects.

A screen will cover Charles at this moment, and the anointing won't be visible on television or to most people in the abbey, except for a few senior members of the clergy.

"When the screen which will surround the coronation chair is removed, the king is revealed to us all as someone who has taken on the responsibility of serving God and serving the people," a Lambeth Palace spokesperson said while speaking on customary condition of anonymity.

This will be followed by the presentation of the coronation regalia, sacred objects like the orb and scepter that symbolize the monarch's power and responsibilities.

In another innovation that reflects the changed religious landscape in Britain, members of the House of Lords from the Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh traditions will present the king with objects with no explicit Christian symbolism.

The new king will then be crowned and the refrain "God Save the King" will echo through the Abbey.

After Charles is crowned, the traditional homage of the peers will be replaced by an "homage of the people," in which people in the Abbey and those watching on television will be invited to affirm their allegiance to the king.

Camilla will then be anointed, in a form similar to that of Queen Elizabeth, the queen mother, in 1937. However, Camilla's anointing won't be hidden behind a screen.

The congregation will also be invited to say the Lord's Prayer' in the language of their choice.

Just before Charles sets off in the Gold State Coach for a procession on the streets of London, the leaders and representatives of faith communities will deliver a greeting in unison. The greeting won't be amplified out of respect for those who are observing the Jewish sabbath and are barred from using electrical devices, Lambeth Palace said.

US conducts 1st evacuation of its citizens from Sudan war

By ZEKE MILLER, COLLEEN LONG, MATTHEW LEE and ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hundreds of Americans fleeing two weeks of deadly fighting in Sudan reached the east African nation's port Saturday in the first U.S.-run evacuation, completing a dangerous land journey under escort of armed drones.

American unmanned aircraft, which have been keeping an eye on overland evacuation routes for days,

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provided armed overwatch for a bus convoy carrying 200 to 300 Americans over 500 miles, or 800 kilometers, to Port Sudan, a place of relative safety, U.S. officials said.

The U.S., which had none of its officials on the ground for the evacuation, has been criticized by families of trapped Americans in Sudan for initially ruling out any U.S.-run evacuation for Americans who wanted out, calling it too dangerous.

U.S. special operations troops briefly flew to the capital, Khartoum, on April 22 to airlift out American staffers at the embassy and other American government personnel. Several thousand U.S. citizens were left behind, many of them dual-nationals.

More than a dozen other nations had already been carrying out evacuations for their citizens, using a mix of military planes, navy vessels and on the ground personnel.

A wide-ranging group of international mediators — including African and Arab nations, the United Nations and the United States — has only managed to achieve a series of fragile temporary cease-fires that failed to stop clashes but created enough of a lull for tens of thousands of Sudanese to flee to safer areas and for foreign nations to evacuate thousands of their citizens by land, air and sea.

Since the conflict between two rival generals broke out April 15, the U.S. has warned its citizens that they needed to find their own way out of the country, though U.S. officials have tried to link up Americans with other nations' evacuation efforts. But that changed as U.S. officials exploited a relative lull in the fighting and, from afar, organized their own convoy for Americans, officials said.

Without the evacuation flights near the capital that other countries have been offering their citizens, many U.S. citizens have been left to make the dangerous overland journey from Khartoum to the country's main Red Sea port, Port Sudan. One Sudanese-American family that made the trip earlier described passing through numerous checkpoints manned by armed men and passing bodies lying in the street and vehicles of other fleeing families who had been killed along the way.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said the convoy carried U.S. citizens, local people employed by the U.S. and citizens of allied countries. "We reiterate our warning to Americans not to travel to Sudan," he said.

From Port Sudan, away from the fighting, the Americans in the convoy can seek spots on vessels crossing the Red Sea to the Saudi port city of Jeddah. U.S. officials also are working with Saudi Arabia to see if one of the kingdom's naval vessels can carry a larger number of Americans to Jeddah.

U.S. consular officials will be waiting for the Americans once they reach the dock in Jeddah, but there are no U.S. personnel in Port Sudan, officials said.

Two Americans are confirmed killed in the fighting that erupted April 15. One was a U.S. civilian whom officials said was caught in crossfire. The other was an Iowa City, Iowa, doctor, who was stabbed to death in front of his house and family in Khartoum, in the lawless violence that has accompanied the fighting.

In all, the fighting in the east African country has killed more than 500 people.

Flood concerns rise as Mississippi River crests in Iowa city

DUBUQUE, Iowa (AP) — The surging Mississippi River was cresting in Iowa on Saturday as melting snow from Minnesota and Wisconsin continues to push up river levels, the National Weather Service said.

The weather service said the river was cresting between 23 and 24.3 feet (7 and 7.4 meters) in Dubuque, a city on the Mississippi about 200 miles (320 kilometers) east of Des Moines. The river was expected to crest at 21.9 feet (6.7 meters) in Bellevue, Iowa, on Saturday night.

The river is not expected to see many record crests in the next week, but the weather service said Saturday's levels would come close to 1993 and 2001 records between 23.9 and 25.4 feet (7.3 and 7.7 meters) as the river moves down its 2,300-mile (3,700-kilometer) length before reaching the Gulf of Mexico.

Dubuque has closed its floodgates for only the third time ever in response to flooding. Further south in the Quad Cities — five adjoining cities along the river in Iowa and Illinois — the river is expected to crest at 21.6 feet (6.6 meters) Monday. Some roads and parks near the river are closed.

Officials in towns along the river have said they are optimistic they will escape severe flooding this year,

thanks to improved floodwalls and other prevention measures.

Despite some flooding in Wisconsin earlier in the week, the weather service said states farther south could be spared major flooding damage because tributaries in Iowa, Illinois and other states are running lower than usual, providing paths for runoff from the Mississippi.

NYC partly shutter 4 parking garages after deadly collapse

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — After the deadly collapse of a parking structure in lower Manhattan, New York City building officials swept through dozens of parking garages and ordered four of them to immediately shutter because of structural defects that “deteriorated to the point where they were now posing an immediate threat to public safety.”

Two of the parking garages have apartments above them — a 25-story high-rise in downtown Manhattan and an eight-story building in Chinatown — but officials said the residential areas appear to be in no danger.

City officials directed the owners of the parking facilities to make immediate repairs to corroded concrete and other damage.

Inspections were launched soon after a three-story stand-alone parking structure, about a century old, imploded into shards of concrete and twisted metal on April 18, crushing to death its manager.

“This work was done in the interest of public safety, and out of an abundance of caution,” said Department of Buildings spokesperson Andrew Rudansky.

“During our sweep of 78 parking structures, we found four locations where structural concerns necessitated areas of the buildings to be immediately vacated,” he said.

The city last year began mandating that parking structures be inspected by owners at least once every six years. The first wave of garages, located from the southern tip of Manhattan to the lower Central Park area, have until the end of the year to complete initial inspections.

The structure that collapsed earlier this month had not yet completed its required inspection, city officials said.

Why it collapsed is still under investigation but the building had been previously cited for various structural defects, including signs of corrosion in concrete called “spalling.”

Two decades ago, city inspectors cited the property owner for failing to properly maintain the building, finding at the time that there were “cracks and defects” in the concrete. A more recent inspection in fall 2013 showed no further structural issues, building officials said.

The garage, a few blocks from City Hall and the Brooklyn Bridge, caved in just as the first trickles of patrons were beginning to return to the garage after work.

The collapse shook nearby buildings and terrified people who described the sound of the falling structure as a massive explosion and compared the experience to a violent earthquake.

Enterprise Ann Parking, which operated the garage on Ann Street, said it was cooperating with authorities on the probe.

Inspectors have since visited 17 parking garages managed by the same company, as well as 61 additional buildings with parking garages that had open structural citations.

They found four properties with structural damage in the parking garages where the damage was so bad, the city issued vacate orders to at least parts of the structures.

Underneath the 25-story building in lower Manhattan, inspectors found concrete slabs “extensively corroded, with spalled concrete on the underside of two-floor slab ceilings.” As a result, more than half of the garage is now off-limits and its operators ordered to provide protected pathways in those places.

But engineers found no need to vacate any residential areas of the building.

Similarly, building officials said residents could stay put in a Chinatown apartment building despite finding “numerous severely deteriorated and rusted steel beams, with excessive cracked and spalling concrete piers.”

A two-story parking structure in Brooklyn was in such disrepair, the city said, that it ordered the shut-

tering of the entire structure. Another two-story structure in the borough was partially closed because of extensively corroded beams and deteriorated vehicle ramps.

The four buildings can't reopen until repairs are made and pass inspection.

Because inspections of parking garages continue, officials said there could be more enforcement action to come.

Meanwhile, crews continue clearing debris from the fallen structure.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg had opened an investigation into the collapse.

An initial investigation by the building department noted that all three floors of the garage partially or completely collapsed. The garage's rear wall partially collapsed, and the front facade bulged.

Frustration grows over wait on OxyContin maker's settlement

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

More than a year after OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma reached a tentative settlement over the toll of opioids that was accepted nearly universally by the groups suing the company — including thousands of people injured by the drug — money is still not rolling out.

Parties waiting to finalize the deal are waiting for a court to rule on the legality of a key detail: whether members of the Sackler family who own the company can be protected from lawsuits over OxyContin in exchange for handing over up to \$6 billion in cash over time plus the company itself.

This week — days before the one-year anniversary of the April 29, 2022, appeals court arguments on the matter — lawyers told judges that the wait is causing problems.

Lawyers on multiple sides of the case, including those representing Purdue, asked the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York to issue a ruling or provide an update soon, saying the efforts to use the funds to fight the opioid crisis can't begin until the money can start to flow.

While it's not unusual for an appeals panel to take a year or more from a hearing until it releases a decision, this case was originally fast-tracked by the court. At the hearing last year, there were signs that the three-judge panel might not rule unanimously.

A lawyer for creditors told a U.S. bankruptcy court in another filing this week that the wait is a problem for other reasons. The lawyer, Arik Preis, wrote that as long as the funds aren't distributed, "the vast majority of more than \$6 billion that could be put to use to abate the opioid crisis and compensate individual claimants continuing to accrue interest in Sackler accounts."

While most of Purdue's creditors have signed onto the settlement, the U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee is objecting.

With the case stretching out, the legal costs continue to mount, too. Purdue reported in a court filing that as of March 31, it had spent about \$900 million on nonrecurring legal fees since it filed for bankruptcy in 2019 as part of an effort to settle its lawsuits.

Purdue's proposed settlement is not the biggest in a series of opioid-related settlements in recent years that totals over \$50 billion, but it is large and closely watched because of the blame many have given the company for its role in sparking the crisis with its marketing of OxyContin starting in the 1990s.

The settlement also is the only one so far where some of the money is to go directly to people who lost loved ones or years of their own lives to opioids. About 149,000 individuals made claims and could receive between about \$3,500 and \$48,000 each from the settlement.

One of them, Lindsey Arrington, does not know how much she'll qualify to be paid. The Everett, Washington, woman whose substance abuse disorder began with OxyContin she used as a teenager, said money would be helpful.

"I'm 12 years into my recovery from addiction and I'm still cleaning up the financial wreckage," she said.

There were debts, including paying back the Washington state government for assistance she should not have received because her son, now 14, was not living with her at the time.

And some money could help her relationship with him. "I owe it to him to use some of the money to do something for him or with him as a symbolic gesture of the time that we lost, that we could have had together had it not been what I was going through," she said.

Stephanie Lubinski, one of about two dozen victims who testified at a hearing last year that Sackler family

members attended by Zoom, doesn't know how much she might be granted under the settlement either. In the grips of an opioid addiction, her husband, a former Minneapolis firefighter, killed himself in 2020.

Lubinski, who has cancer, hopes to have the settlement in hand while she's alive so she can pass it to her adult children.

"It's like by keeping it going and going," she said, "we're replaying all the emotions and suffering."

Royal Drama: King's fractious family on stage at coronation

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — King Charles III lives in a palace, travels in a chauffeur-driven Bentley and is one of Britain's richest men, but he's similar to many of his subjects in one very basic way: His family life is complicated — very complicated.

There's a second wife, an embarrassing brother, and an angry son and daughter-in-law, all with allies who aren't shy about whispering family secrets in the ears of friendly reporters.

The new king will hope to keep a lid on those tensions when his royally blended family joins as many as 2,800 guests for Charles' coronation on May 6 at Westminster Abbey. All except Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, are attending.

How Charles manages his family drama over the coming weeks and years is crucial to the king's efforts to preserve and protect the 1,000-year-old hereditary monarchy he now embodies. Without the respect of the public, the House of Windsor risks being lumped together with pop stars, social media influencers and reality TV contestants as fodder for the British tabloids, undermining the cachet that underpins its role in public life.

Royal historian Hugo Vickers says people should look past the sensational headlines and focus on what Charles accomplishes now that he is king.

"In a sense, he sort of becomes a new man when he becomes king," said Vickers, author of "Coronation: The Crowning of Elizabeth II."

"Look at him as he is now, look at him the way he is approaching everything, look at his positivity and look at how right he's been on so many issues," he added. "Unfortunately, he had those difficult times with his marriages and some of the other issues, but we live in a very tricky era."

The horror show came back to haunt Charles last week, when the king's estranged younger son, Prince Harry, dropped a new round of allegations Tuesday about the royal family into the middle of the coronation buildup.

In written evidence for his invasion of privacy claim against a British newspaper, Harry claimed his father prevented him from filing the lawsuit a decade ago. The prince said Charles didn't want to dredge up graphic testimony about his extramarital affair with the former Camilla Parker-Bowles when he was married to the late Princess Diana.

Diana was the mother of Harry and his elder brother and heir to the throne, William, the Prince of Wales. Camilla, now the queen consort, went on to marry Charles in 2005 and will be crowned alongside her husband at Westminster Abbey.

If the past is any indication, attention will now shift to body language, seating plans and even wardrobe choices during the coronation, as royal watchers look for any signs of a thaw in the family tensions.

But Joe Little, managing editor of Majesty magazine, doesn't expect Harry to have a lot of contact with the rest of his family. In any case, Harry won't be in the U.K. for long, so there's not much time for fence mending.

"The stuff that we discovered (Tuesday) is really not going to help his cause," Little said. "But, you know, will there be time to go over all that with the king and the Prince of Wales? Unlikely."

The royal soap opera didn't begin with the current generation of royals. After all, Edward VIII sparked a constitutional crisis in 1936 when he abdicated the throne to marry the twice-divorced American Wallis Simpson.

Charles' grandfather, George VI, is credited with saving the monarchy with a life of low-key public service after he replaced his flamboyant elder brother. The late Queen Elizabeth II burnished the family's reputa-

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tion during a 70-year reign, in which she became a symbol of stability who cheered the nation's victories and comforted it during darker times.

But Charles grew up in a different era, under the glare of media attention as deference to the monarchy faded.

He has been a controversial figure ever since the very public breakdown of his marriage to Diana, who was revered by many people for her looks and her compassion.

Diana alleged that there had been "three people" in the marriage, pointing the finger at Charles' long-time love Camilla Parker-Bowles.

Camilla, initially reviled by Diana's fans, has worked hard to rehabilitate her image. Her ex-husband and their children are expected to attend the coronation, with her grandsons serving as pages of honor.

She supports a raft of causes, ranging from adult literacy to protecting the victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. But even that effort has sparked tensions.

Harry claimed in his memoir "Spare" that the senior royals leaked unflattering stories about him to the news media in return for more favorable coverage, particularly to improve Camilla's image.

At the time of their marriage in 2018, Harry and Meghan were celebrated as the new face of the monarchy. Meghan, a biracial American actress, brought a touch of Hollywood glamour to the royal family and many observers hoped she would help the Windsors connect with younger people in an increasingly multicultural nation.

Those hopes quickly crumbled amid allegations that palace officials were insensitive to Meghan's mental health struggles as she adjusted to royal life.

Harry and Meghan walked away from frontline royal duties three years ago and moved to California, from which they have lobbed repeated critiques at the House of Windsor.

In a 2021 interview with Oprah Winfrey they hinted at racism in the palace, alleging that one unidentified member of the royal family had inquired about the color of their unborn son's skin before his birth.

Harry, in a Netflix series broadcast last year, said the episode was an example of unconscious bias and that the royal family needed to "learn and grow" so it could be "part of the solution rather than part of the problem."

The repeated attacks led to months of speculation about whether the couple would be invited to the coronation. The palace finally answered that question two weeks ago when it announced that Harry would attend but Meghan would remain in California with their two children.

And then there is Charles' brother Prince Andrew, who became a toxic time bomb inside the royal family when the world learned about his friendship with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and the financier's long-time girlfriend, Ghislaine Maxwell.

Epstein, who was convicted of sex crimes in 2008, died in a New York jail cell in 2019 while awaiting trial on a second set of charges. Maxwell was convicted last year of helping procure young girls for Epstein and is serving a 20-year sentence at a federal prison in Florida.

Andrew gave up his royal duties in 2019 after a disastrous interview with the BBC in which he tried to explain away his links to Epstein and Maxwell. He was stripped of his honorary military titles and patronages as he prepared to defend a civil lawsuit filed by a woman who said she was forced to have sex with the prince when she was a teenager.

Andrew denied the allegations but settled the suit last year before it came to trial. While terms of the agreement weren't released, The Sun newspaper reported that Charles and the late queen paid the bulk of the estimated 7 million pound (\$8.7 million) settlement.

"I think it was inevitable that when Charles became king, a lot of the personal stuff would come back to haunt him," Little said. "I think as far as the king is concerned, he just has to shrug his shoulders and get on with the job in hand."

Follow AP's coverage of King Charles III at <https://apnews.com/hub/king-charles-iii>

Be tough in seizing Iran oil, bipartisan senators urge Biden

By CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A dozen senators are making a bipartisan appeal to President Joe Biden to reinvigorate the power of U.S. authorities to seize Iranian oil assets under an enforcement program they say has been allowed to languish.

Despite existing sanctions, Iranian oil exports jumped 35% last year and proceeds are being used to sponsor attacks on U.S. citizens and service members as well as allies, the senators said in a letter to the president.

Brinkmanship at sea was on display Thursday when masked Iranian navy commandos seized a U.S.-bound oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman, one of several vessels it has taken as bargaining chips in negotiations with the West. Without providing evidence, Tehran said the tanker had run into an Iranian vessel.

Specifically, the senators, led by Republican Joni Ernst of Iowa and Democrat Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut — both from the Armed Services Committee — complain that the Homeland Security Department's security investigations office has been constrained in seizure operations by lack of money.

Since the enforcement program started in 2019, the office has seized nearly \$228 million in Iranian crude and fuel oil linked to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, designated as a terrorist organization by the U.S., the senators said in the letter sent this past week.

But they said the office has not recently been given money that is available under the Treasury Forfeiture Fund to conduct seizures of Iranian oil.

"It is unacceptable that a U.S. government program, which makes the United States and its allies safer, provides funds to remediate the victims of terrorism, and generates income for the United States in a cost-effective manner, has been allowed to languish," the letter says.

The push is coming from a diverse group of senators, among them Republicans Ted Cruz of Texas and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, and Democrats Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Ron Wyden of Oregon. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Dust to dust? New Mexicans fight to save old adobe churches

By GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO Associated Press

CORDOVA, New Mexico (AP) — Ever since missionaries started building churches out of mud 400 years ago in what was the isolated frontier of the Spanish empire, tiny mountain communities like Cordova relied on their own resources to keep the faith going.

Thousands of miles from religious and lay seats of power, everything from priests to sculptors to paint pigments was hard to come by. Villagers instituted lay church caretakers called "mayordomos," and filled chapels with elaborate altarpieces made of local wood and varnished with pine sap.

Today, threatened by depopulation, dwindling congregations and fading traditions, some of their descendants are fighting to save these historic adobe structures from literally crumbling back to the earth they were built with.

"Our ancestors put blood and sweat in this place for us to have Jesus present. This is the root of my faith," said Angelo Sandoval on a chilly spring day inside the 1830s church of St. Anthony, where he serves as mayordomo in his native Cordova. "We're not just a church, we're not just a religion — we have roots."

From the local dirt they're made of to the generations of family memories they hold, these churches anchor a uniquely New Mexican way of life for their communities, many of which no longer have schools or stores, and struggle with chronic poverty and addiction.

An estimated 500 Catholic mission churches remain in northern New Mexico, where the Rocky Mountains taper off into desert mesas to the west and endless plains to the east.

It's becoming increasingly difficult to find the necessary investment — hundreds of thousands of dollars, plus specialized conservation skills and families willing to serve as mayordomos — to preserve them, especially since most are used for only a few services each year.

"It's truly a labor of love," said the Rev. Rob Yaksich, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows in Las Vegas, New

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Mexico, which oversees 23 rural churches, most in adobe, spread over a large territory. "When the faithful generation is gone, are they going to be a museum or serve their purpose? This old, deep-rooted Spanish Catholicism is experiencing serious disruption."

Fidel Trujillo is mayordomo of the pink-stuccoed San José church in the hamlet of Ledoux where he grew up. With his wife and other family members, he keeps it spotless even though only two Masses per year are celebrated here regularly.

"Our 'antepasados' (ancestors) did a tremendous job in handing over the faith, and it's our job now," Trujillo said in the characteristic mix of Spanish and English that many speak in this region. While he's also active in the main parish in the nearby town of Mora, he brings his children, 6 and 4, as often as he can to San José.

"This serves as a retreat and grounding for us," he added. "I much prefer coming to these 'capillas' (chapels). It's a compass that guides where your heart really belongs."

Each mission church is devoted to a particular saint, for whom the community develops special veneration. When New Mexico's largest wildfire last spring charred forests close to the San José church, and Trujillo was displaced for a month, he took the statue of St. Joseph with him.

In the small town of Bernalillo, Catholic faithful have kept a vow to St. Lawrence for more than 300 years that includes one family each year setting up an altar with his image in their home – and making it available 24/7 to anyone who wants to pray.

"They have knocked at my door at 2 a.m. and I've let them in," said mayordoma Barbara Finley.

Her home is near the historic adobe Santuario de San Lorenzo, which the community fought to keep even though a larger church was built next door.

"Four hundred years ago, life was very difficult in this part of the world, the remote inland frontier of the Spanish empire," explained Felix López, a master "santero" – the artists who sculpt, paint and conserve saint figures in New Mexico's unique devotional style, born of historical isolation. "People needed these 'santos.' They were a source of comfort and refuge."

In intervening centuries, most were stolen, sold or damaged, according to Bernadette Lucero, director, curator and archivist for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, which has inventories of its hundreds of churches since the 1600s.

But how much these expressive sculptures and paintings still matter to local communities is evident where they survive in original form, as they do at the mission churches in Cordova, Truchas and Las Trampas on the mountain road from Santa Fe to Taos.

"Saints are the spiritual go-to; they can be highly powerful," said Victor Goler, a master santero who just completed conserving the altarpieces, or "reredos," in Las Trampas' mid-18th century church. "It's important for the community to have a connection. Their feeling is a lot deeper and that's what keeps it going."

On a recent Sunday at Truchas' 1760s Holy Rosary church, López pointed out the rich decorative details that centuries of smoke and grime had hidden until he meticulously removed them with the absorbent inside of sourdough bread.

"I'm a devout Catholic, and I do this as meditation, as a form of prayer," said López, who's been a santero for five decades and whose family hails from this village perched on a ridge at 7,000 feet (2,100 meters).

A few miles down the valley in Cordova, Jerry Sandoval – another santero and the mayordomo's uncle – says a prayer to each saint before starting to sculpt their image out of pine, cottonwood or aspen. He then paints them with natural pigments – purple is made of crushed bugs, for example – and varnishes them with the sap of piñon, the stocky pine tree that dots the countryside.

He also helped conserve the colorful, centuries-old reredos at the local church, where many children come back for traditional Christmas and Easter prayers – giving both Sandovals hope that the younger generations will learn to be attached to their church.

"They see all this," Jerry Sandoval said in front of the richly decorated altarpieces from St. Anthony church. "Lots of people call it tradition, but we call it faith."

For the Rev. Sebastian Lee, who as administrator of the popular Santuario de Chimayó complex a few

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miles away also oversees these mission churches, fostering local attachment is a daunting challenge as congregations shrink even faster since the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I want missions to be where people can taste culture and religiosity. They're very healing, you're soaked with people's faith," Lee said as pilgrims filed past his tiny adobe-walled office into the main sanctuary at Chimayó. "I wonder how to help them, because sooner or later one mission is not going to have enough people."

The archdiocese's Catholic Foundation provides small grants, and several organizations have been founded to help conservation efforts.

Frank Graziano hopes his non-profit Nuevo Mexico Profundo, which supported the Cordova conservation, can obtain the necessary permit from the archdiocese to restore the 1840s church of San Geronimo. Deep cracks break apart its adobe walls and bug nests buzz in a gaping hole by one of the windows.

The surrounding village, in a wide valley in the shadow of Hermit Peak, is almost entirely depopulated, making it unlikely that the community will step in for the necessary upkeep. Exposed to rain and snow, adobe needs a fresh replastering of dirt, sand and straw every couple of years lest it dissolve.

That makes local buy-in and some kind of ongoing activity, even just funerals, fundamental to long-term preservation, said Jake Barrow, program director at Cornerstones, which has worked on more than 300 churches and other structures.

When volunteers started fundraising for the mission in Truchas, the community suspected it would be turned into an art gallery, said mayordoma Aggie Vigil. They came around when she shared the dream to make the old adobe church, then unstable and infested with gophers, viable for Mass again.

But with fewer priests and fewer faithful, taking some rural missions off the church's roster might be inevitable, said the Rev. Andy Pavlak, who serves on the archdiocese's commission for preservation of historic churches.

"We have two choices: Either return to the community, or back to the earth they came from. We can't save them all," said Pavlak, who for nearly a decade ministered to 10 churches in Socorro County, the oldest from 1615. "The adobe is made from the earth. Adam and Eve were made from the earth. We're all going to the earth. How do we do it with dignity?"

Running his hand over the smooth adobe walls he restored at the 1880s Santo Niño de Atocha chapel in Monte Aplanado, a hamlet nestled in a high mountain valley, Leo Paul Pacheco argued that the answer might hinge on the faith of lay people like him.

He and his son belong to one of the many brotherhoods, known as "penitentes" for their devotion to penance and prayer for souls in purgatory, that historians credit with fulfilling the church's role of religious and social work when frontier dangers kept priests away.

The brothers still help set a model as their county struggles with unemployment and the drug crisis, Pacheco said. "We lift our community in prayer. What we do is to highlight and share aspects of community that bring bonds."

Longer term, it will be up to future generations to leverage their faith to save these historic churches.

"They still have access to the same dirt," Pacheco said as the adobe walls' sand particles and straw sparkled in the sun. "They will provide."

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Life-size sculpture of euthanized walrus unveiled in Norway

HELSINKI (AP) — A walrus that became a global celebrity last year after it was seen frolicking and basking in a Oslo fjord before it was euthanized by the authorities has been honored with a bronze sculpture in Norway.

The life-size sculpture by Norwegian artist Astri Tonoian was unveiled Saturday at the Oslo marina not far from the place where the actual 600-kilogram (1,300-pound) mammal was seen resting and relaxing

during the summer of 2022.

The walrus, named Freya, quickly became a popular attraction among Oslo residents but Norwegian authorities later made a decision to euthanize it — causing public outrage — because they said people hadn't followed recommendations to keep a safe distance away from the massive animal.

Norwegian news agency NTB said a crowdfunding campaign was kicked off last fall to finance the sculpture. The private initiative managed to gather about 270,000 Norwegian kroner (\$25,000) by October, NTB said.

Pope in Hungary meets with Ukrainian refugees, Russian envoy

By NICOLE WINFIELD and JUSTIN SPIKE Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Pope Francis plunged into both sides of Russia's war with Ukraine on Saturday, greeting some of the 2.5 million Ukrainian refugees who have fled across the border to Hungary during a public prayer service and then meeting privately with an envoy of the Russian Orthodox Church that has strongly supported the war.

Francis maintained the Vatican's tradition of diplomatic neutrality during his second day in Budapest, where he's on a weekend visit to minister to Hungary's Catholic faithful.

Starting the day, he thanked Hungarians for welcoming Ukrainian refugees and urged them to help anyone in need. He called for a culture of charity in a country where the prime minister has justified firm anti-immigration policies with fears that migration threatens Europe's Christian culture.

Speaking in the white-brick St. Elizabeth's church, named for a princess who renounced her wealth to care for the poor, Francis recalled that the Gospel instructs Christians to show love and compassion to all, especially those experiencing poverty and "even those who are not believers."

"The love that Jesus gives us and commands us to practice can help to uproot the evils of indifference and selfishness from society, from our cities and the places where we live — indifference is a plague — and to rekindle hope for a new, more just and fraternal world, where all can feel at home," he said.

Hungary's nationalist government has implemented firm anti-immigration policies and refused to accept many asylum-seekers trying to enter the country through its southern border, leading to prolonged legal disputes with the European Union.

The conservative populist prime minister, Viktor Orbán, has said that migration threatens to replace Europe's Christian culture. Orbán, who has held office since 2010, has hinged multiple election campaigns on the threats he alleges that migrants and refugees pose to Hungarians.

While Orbán's government has consistently rejected asylum-seekers from the Middle East and Africa, around 2.5 million Ukrainians fleeing war in their country found open doors. Around 35,000 of the refugees remain in Hungary and have registered for temporary protection there, according to the U.N.

One who has chosen to stay was Olesia Misiats, a nurse who worked in a Kyiv COVID-19 hospital when she fled with her mother and two daughters on Feb. 24, 2022 — the day Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

First she went to the Netherlands, but high costs compelled her to move to Hungary, where she said she has found an apartment and given birth to her third daughter, Mila, who was in the pews Saturday with her mother and sister.

"Here it's safe," Misiats said of her new life. She said that she hopes to return to Kyiv one day, but for now she and her children are adapting. "I want to go back home. There it's my life — it was my life," she said. "But the war changed my life."

Immediately after greeting and encouraging the refugees, Francis visited the Greek Catholic church next door, which has been providing aid to refugees. And then he met with the Russian Orthodox Church's representative in Hungary, Metropolitan Hilarion, who developed close relations with the Vatican during his years as the Russian church's foreign minister. The Vatican said the 20-minute meeting at the Holy See's embassy in Budapest was "cordial."

The Russian church's strong support for the Kremlin's war has rankled the Vatican and prevented a sec-

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and papal meeting with Patriarch Kirill, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church and an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Francis and Kirill had a 2016 encounter in Cuba that marked the first between a pope and the head of the Russian church. They had planned a second one in June, but the meeting has been indefinitely postponed over Kirill's support for the war.

In a statement, Hilarion's office said that he briefed Francis on the social and educational activities of the Russian church in Hungary and its relations with the Catholic Church here. He said that he gave the pope an Italian translation of a six-volume opus on the life of Christ.

Francis' visit to Hungary, his second in as many years, is bringing him as close as he's come to the front lines of the war. Upon arriving in Budapest on Friday, he denounced the "adolescent belligerence" that had brought war back to European soil and demanded the EU recover its values of peaceful unity to end it.

There were conspicuously few people of color in the pews of St. Elizabeth's church. Among them was artist and filmmaker Abouzar Soltani, a refugee from Iran who spent 553 days in one of Hungary's transit zones with his 10-year-old son, Armin, after Hungarian authorities rejected their asylum claims in 2018.

Soltani later said of their 18 months staying in container shelters that they felt like "fish in an aquarium." When a European court decision closed the transit zones, Soltani opted to remain in Hungary, where he still lives.

At the end of the event, a band of Hungarian Roma musicians serenaded the pontiff, drawing a standing ovation and cheers from the crowd and a thumbs-up from Francis.

Francis started his Saturday visiting with children who have visual and physical disabilities. In the afternoon, he had his first big public event in Hungary, a youth rally at the city's sports stadium where he was given a singularly Hungarian gift: A Rubik's Cube, the colorful puzzle invented by Hungarian architect Erno Rubik.

In an event staged like a rock concert, Francis jazzed up the crowd riding around in a mini golf cart-like vehicle. And he repeated his frequent appeal to young people to put aside their cellphones and get back to socializing face-to-face: "Please don't virtualize your lives," he said to laughs.

Francis wraps up his visit with an open-air Mass on Sunday and speech at Pazmany Peter Catholic University in Budapest.

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Judge in Catholic bankruptcy recuses over church donations

By JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

A federal judge overseeing the New Orleans Roman Catholic bankruptcy recused himself in a late-night reversal that came a week after an Associated Press report showed he donated tens of thousands of dollars to the archdiocese and consistently ruled in favor of the church in the case involving nearly 500 clergy sex abuse victims.

U.S. District Judge Greg Guidry initially announced hours after the AP report that he would stay on the case, citing the opinion of fellow federal judges that no "reasonable person" could question his impartiality. But amid mounting pressure and persistent questions, he changed course late Friday in a terse, one-page filing.

"I have decided to recuse myself from this matter in order to avoid any possible appearance of personal bias or prejudice," Guidry wrote.

The 62-year-old jurist has overseen the 3-year-old bankruptcy in an appellate role, and his recusal is likely to throw the case into disarray and trigger new hearings and appeals of every consequential ruling he's made.

But legal experts say it was the only action to take under the circumstances, citing federal law that calls on judges to step aside in any proceeding in which their "impartiality might reasonably be questioned."

"This was a clear and blatant conflict that existed for some time," said Joel Friedman, a longtime legal

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analyst in New Orleans who is now a law professor at Arizona State University. "It creates the exact problem the rules are designed to avoid, the impression to the public that he's not an impartial decisionmaker."

Guidry's recusal underscores how tightly woven the church is in the city's power structure, a coziness perhaps best exemplified when executives of the NFL's New Orleans Saints secretly advised the archdiocese on public relations messaging at the height of its clergy abuse crisis.

AP's review of campaign-finance records showed that Guidry, since being nominated to the federal bench in 2019 by then-President Donald Trump, gave nearly \$50,000 to local Catholic charities from leftover political contributions from his decade serving as a Louisiana Supreme Court justice. Most of that giving, \$36,000, came in the months after the archdiocese sought Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in May 2020 amid a crush of sexual abuse lawsuits.

Guidry also served on the board of Catholic Charities, the archdiocese's charitable arm, between 2000 and 2008, as the archdiocese was navigating an earlier wave of sex abuse lawsuits.

In the bankruptcy, Guidry frequently issued key rulings that altered the momentum of the bankruptcy and benefited the archdiocese.

Just last month, he upheld a \$400,000 sanction against Richard Trahant, a veteran attorney for clergy abuse victims who was accused of violating a sweeping confidentiality order when he warned a local principal that his school had hired a priest who admitted to sex abuse. He also rebuffed at least one request to unseal secret church documents, part of a trove of records detailing clergy abuse in New Orleans going back decades.

Guidry referred the potential conflict to the Washington-based Committee on Codes of Conduct, which noted that none of the charities he donated to "has been or is an actual party" in the bankruptcy.

It also noted that Guidry's eight years on the board of Catholic Charities ended more than a decade before the bankruptcy and that his church contributions amounted to less than 25% of the campaign funds he had available to donate.

"Based upon that advice and based upon my certainty that I can be fair and impartial, I have decided not to recuse myself," Guidry told attorneys in the case on April 21.

But it was not clear what details Guidry shared with the committee, and he refused to release its advisory opinion. The opinion also raised eyebrows because one of the judges Guidry consulted on the potential conflict, Jennifer Walker Elrod, is scheduled to hear an appeal from the bankruptcy next week for the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

"We have no reason to rely on this secret opinion because we have no idea what the analysis is," said Kathleen Clark, a legal ethics professor at Washington University in St. Louis, adding it was "utterly reasonable to question Guidry's ability to be impartial under these circumstances."

"The public shouldn't have to rely on a judge's personal certainty about his own rectitude," Clark added. "The fact that he would even make this assertion shows how misguided and ethically blind this judge is."

Charles Hall, a spokesman for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, said Guidry had no comment beyond the recusal order.

James Adams, a creditor in the bankruptcy who alleges he was abused by a priest as a fifth grader in 1980, says the judge's recusal was long overdue.

"Like the church, some federal judges will often do the right thing only after the press begins to investigate and question them," he said. "Inflated ego and arrogance can be a dangerous side effect of putting on a black robe."

Mustian reported from New York. Contact AP's global investigative team at Investigative@ap.org.

NYC transit agency pulls the brake on Twitter service alerts

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Shortly after midnight Thursday, several New York City subway trains slowed to a crawl as emergency crews tended to a person discovered on the tracks in Manhattan.

The delays were flagged for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's rail control center, where a customer service agent typed up a straightforward warning for early-morning riders to consider alternate routes.

But while the message was quickly posted to the MTA's website and app, the alert never made it to the subway system's Twitter account, with its 1 million followers. The agency's access to the platform's back-end, officials soon learned, had been suspended by Twitter without warning.

It was the second such breakdown in two weeks and the reaction inside the MTA was swift. By Thursday afternoon, senior executives agreed to cease publishing service alerts to the platform altogether.

The decision put the country's largest transportation network among a growing number of accounts, from National Public Radio to Elton John, who have reduced their Twitter presence or left the platform since its takeover by Elon Musk.

It also caught riders, and some in the MTA, off guard, even as at least one other transit agency considered following suit.

"The train schedule is always messed up. It's convenient to have the answers all in one place," lamented Brandon Gubitosa, a Queens resident, who said he checked for service alerts on the MTA's Twitter feed before leaving for his commute each morning. "There should be some responsibility for Twitter to make sure this service doesn't disappear."

For its part, Twitter has signaled that the days of private accounts disseminating troves of information at no cost may be ending. Last month, the company announced a new pricing system that would charge for access to its application programming interface, or API, which is used by accounts that post frequent alerts, such as transit and weather agencies.

MTA officials estimated the cost could run as high as \$50,000 a month. For a transit agency that faces a multibillion dollar deficit, paying that much raised concerns.

"The amount that is being posed is astronomical," said Shanifah Rieara, the MTA's acting chief customer officer. "We are all about bringing ridership back. We should not be paying to communicate service alerts to our customers."

Those that don't agree to pay, Twitter warned, will begin to see their service "deprecate," a process that some agencies say is already underway.

A spokesperson for Chicago Transit Authority confirmed they were considering ending alerts, citing what they described as Twitter's "diminished" effectiveness for real-time transit information.

On Friday, the Bay Area Rapid Transit System announced its alerts were temporarily unavailable due to technological issues, though a spokesperson said they hoped to have the issue fixed soon.

Beyond the pricing, MTA officials offered other reasons for leaving Twitter, including the added vitriol and the move away from a chronological timeline.

They also pointed to a desire to push customers toward existing in-house products that provide the same information about service disruptions, such as a pair of apps known as MYmta and TrainTime. They provide times for the subway and commuter rail system, respectively.

A request for comment was sent to Twitter's communications office. Twitter responded only with an automated reply.

The MTA's decision to scale back its use of Twitter comes as many institutional users of the platform wrestle with changes Musk has made in an effort to make the service profitable, including asking users to pay for checkmarks on their accounts that formerly served as a form of identity verification.

Service alerts are valuable tools on New York City's massive rail and bus system, where mechanical problems, track fires, repair work and other issues can cause subway trains to get delayed or diverted to lines where they don't ordinarily run.

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Only a few years ago, riders were often left in the dark about those changes until they were already on subway platforms, where transit workers would bark announcements through scratchy speakers or hang paper signs about changes.

Now, information about service, including the real-time position of subway cars, are available through a variety of electronic sources, both on people's smartphones and in stations. Consumer research has suggested that subway riders seeking information on Twitter account for a relatively narrow slice of riders.

Last month, more than 3 million people visited the MTA's homepage, which also has the updates on service disruptions that once appeared on Twitter, and nearly 2 million others used the two apps, according to an authority spokesperson.

In addition to service alerts, the MTA's customer service agents use Twitter to provide real-time responses to questions and concerns — a back-and-forth that often serves to calm riders' frayed nerves.

Last month, the agency sent out 21,000 replies on Twitter — responses that offered a valuable public window into the MTA's customer service policy, according to Rachael Fauss, a senior policy advisor at the watchdog group Reinvent Albany.

"There was a personalization to it that was interesting," Fauss said. "There's an opportunity to see how the MTA responds to riders that you don't get without Twitter."

For now, the agency said it would continue responding to customers on Twitter. But officials acknowledged there were no guarantees about whether that would remain the case long term.

"The MTA gets blamed for a host of things, so we need a reliant and resilient way to communicate," said Rieara. "In (Twitter's) current stage, we can't put our customers in a position to be guessing whether or not they have the most updated information."

Russian official: Ukrainian drones strike Crimea oil depot

By DAVID RISING Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — A massive fire erupted at an oil depot in Crimea after it was hit by two of Ukraine's drones, a Russia-appointed official there reported Saturday, the latest in a series of attacks on the annexed peninsula as Russia braces for an expected Ukrainian counteroffensive.

Mikhail Razvozhayev, the Moscow-installed governor of Sevastopol, a port city in Crimea, posted videos and photos of the blaze on his Telegram channel.

Razvozhayev said the fire at the city's harbor was assigned the highest ranking in terms of how complicated it will be to extinguish. However, he reported that the open blaze had been contained.

Razvozhayev said the oil depot was attacked by "two enemy drones," and four oil tanks burned down. A third drone was shot down from the sky, and one more was deactivated through radio-electronic means, according to Crimea's Moscow-appointed governor, Sergei Aksyonov.

Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014, a move that most of the world considered illegal. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in an interview this week that his country will seeking to reclaim the peninsula in the upcoming counteroffensive.

Russian President Vladimir Putin traveled to Crimea last month to mark the ninth anniversary of the Black Sea peninsula's annexation from Ukraine. Putin's visit took place the day after the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for the Russian leader accusing him of war crimes.

The attack reported in Sevastopol comes a day after Russia fired more than 20 cruise missiles and two drones at Ukraine, killing at least 23 people. Almost all of the victims died when two missiles slammed into an apartment building in the city of Uman, located in central Ukraine.

Six children were among the dead, Ukrainian Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said Saturday, adding that 22 of the 23 bodies recovered have been identified. Two women remained missing, Klymenko said.

Russian forces launched more drones at Ukraine overnight. Ukraine's Air Force Command said two Iranian-made self-exploding Shahed drones were intercepted, and a reconnaissance drone was shot down on Saturday morning.

Razvozhayev said the oil depot fire did not cause any casualties and would not hinder fuel supplies in

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Sevastopol. The city has been subject to regular attack attempts with drones, especially in recent weeks.

Earlier this week, Razvozhayev reported that the Russian military destroyed a Ukrainian sea drone that attempted to attack the harbor and another one blew up, shattering windows in several apartment buildings, but not inflicting any other damage.

Ukraine's military intelligence spokesperson, Andriy Yusov, told the RBC Ukraine news site on Saturday that the oil depot fire was "God's punishment" for "the murdered civilians in Uman, including five children."

He said that more than 10 tanks containing oil products for Russia's Black Sea Fleet were destroyed in Sevastopol, but stopped short of acknowledging Ukraine's responsibility for a drone attack. The difference between the number of tanks Yusov and Razvozhayev gave could not be immediately reconciled.

After previous attacks on Crimea, Kyiv also wouldn't openly claim responsibility, but emphasized that the country had the right to strike any target in response to Russian aggression.

Elsewhere, Ukrainian forces shelled the city of Nova Kakhovka, according to Moscow-installed authorities in the Russian-occupied part of southern Ukraine's Kherson province. "Severe artillery fire" cut off power in the city, the officials said.

The Ukrainian-controlled part of the province also came under fire on Saturday. Russian shelling in the area of the village of Bilozerka killed one person and wounded another, according to the Kherson prosecutor's office.

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

Georgia's Kemp veers from Trump, but state GOP not moving on

By JEFF AMY Associated Press

BUFORD, Ga. (AP) — A slate of Georgia Republicans led by Gov. Brian Kemp handily won reelection last year over far-right primary opponents endorsed by Donald Trump and backed by the state party chairperson, showing the limits of the former president and his 2020 election lies in the critical swing state.

Despite those stinging primary losses, the state GOP is showing little interest in moving on from Trump.

Last weekend, Republicans in Georgia's 1st Congressional District, which includes Savannah, elected as their chair Kandiss Taylor, a Kemp gubernatorial challenger who ran on a "Jesus Guns Babies" platform and denies the legitimacy of her primary defeat. In metro Atlanta's 6th Congressional District, Republican activists considered a resolution rejecting the results of the 2020 election and declaring Democrat Joe Biden the "acting" president.

"In many ways, the Georgia Republican Party is a train that has left Crazytown, and the governor is trying to present a scenario and lead and demonstrate that that's not the path to success," said John Watson, a former state Republican Party chair aligned with Kemp.

Kemp and a handful of other elected Republicans said this week that they won't attend the state's GOP convention in June, when the new leader of the state party will be chosen, citing unhappiness with current party leaders.

Georgia is one of a number of states where far-right Republicans aligned with Trump are joining the ranks of party leadership, giving them increasing influence over the party's direction. But mounting electoral losses, including in last year's midterms, raise questions about whether the state parties are growing out of step with the voters they're supposed to represent.

Republican delegates in Michigan earlier this year elected Kristina Karamo as state party chair, elevating an election conspiracist who was defeated in November in her secretary of state race. In Kansas, Mike Brown, a conspiracy theorist who lost his primary bid for secretary of state, was named chair of the state party. And in Idaho, Dorothy Moon, an election denier and former state representative, became state GOP chair last year shortly after her unsuccessful primary run for secretary of state.

In addition to concerns about the party's direction, Georgia Republican incumbents are still mad at outgoing party Chair David Shafer, who promoted a Trump-aligned ticket of primary challengers against them in last year's primaries. Those state officials, including Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger and

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Attorney General Chris Carr, not only won their primaries but also went on to beat their Democratic rivals by convincing margins.

"I am going to stand up with those that believe in electing and supporting Republicans, but I don't think it's right when you have a party that went after an entire statewide ticket and undermined our ability to get elected," Carr said Wednesday after a bill-signing in Buford.

Carr and others voice hope that one of the three candidates running to replace Shafer as party chair will patch things up. Chairman since 2019, Shafer is stepping down while a target of investigation by Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis into attempts to overturn Biden's Democratic victory in Georgia in 2020.

Shafer said he isn't seeking reelection because he wants to refocus on his family.

Republicans have also lost three races for U.S. Senate since January 2021 under Shafer. Democratic Sens. Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock, representing a once reliably Republican state, provide the margin of Senate control for their party.

Kemp has been trying to promote a Trump-divergent vision for Republicans since shortly after the 2020 election, when he defied the then-president's demands to help overturn Trump's narrow loss in the state. His impressive win over Democrat Stacey Abrams last year stoked presidential speculation, but Kemp has said he's not going to seek the White House in 2024. He has, however, been angling for national influence through the Republican Governors Association and could be setting up a 2026 Senate run against Ossoff.

"If you look in the rearview mirror too long while you're driving, you're going to look up, and you're going to be running into somebody, and that's not going to be good," Kemp told CNN in mid-April, shortly after delivering the same message at the Republican National Committee donors' retreat in Nashville.

But it's not Kemp who elects the leader of the state party — it's activists. And that setup has caused conflict before.

Kemp got booed at the 2021 state party convention, and some members tried to censure Republican Gov. Nathan Deal, Kemp's predecessor. Deal skipped the two conventions in his second term.

"The people show up at party events are not representative of Georgia's Republican primary electorate," said Brian Robinson, a political consultant who was Deal's chief spokesperson. "They are, by and large, much further to the right, much more ideologically driven."

The discord is also raising questions about whether control of the party apparatus matters anymore. In Georgia, voters don't register by party and can participate in whatever primary they like. Unlike in some states, Georgia party leaders can't kick candidates off the primary ballot for disloyalty. And a recent Georgia law allows Kemp and some other state officials to raise unlimited sums of money and coordinate with campaigns, which used to be key party functions.

Kemp kept his political operation running after his reelection and loaned its get-out-the-vote effort to the unsuccessful Senate runoff campaign of Herschel Walker, while forming a federal political action committee that lets the governor influence races for Congress and president.

"I don't have a rift with the state GOP," Kemp told reporters Tuesday in Atlanta. "You know, I just think that to win, we have to have a robust ground operation. The state GOP was not doing that. And so we did that ourselves."

The three candidates running to lead the state party acknowledge that a new chair needs to focus on rebuilding an organization that has shrunk to two employees, increase fundraising and do more to train party activists how to win votes. Shafer is backing Josh McKoon, a former state senator who is now a lawyer for the state technical college system. McKoon acknowledges a need for unity, saying that a focus on ousting Biden in 2024 should help.

"There's been a lot of infighting, not just within the primary, but between Republicans, between party officials and elected officials," McKoon said. "We've got to lay that aside."

But Watson said that may be hard to achieve if activists aren't ready to change.

"If the party and the party organization continues to focus on conspiracy, backward looking, fringe ideas, fringe policies, then again it will have completed its path to irrelevance," Watson said.

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Today in History: April 30, George Washington's oath

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, April 30, the 120th day of 2023. There are 245 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 30, 1945, as Soviet troops approached his Berlin bunker, Adolf Hitler took his own life, as did his wife of one day, Eva Braun.

On this date:

In 1789, George Washington took the oath of office in New York as the first president of the United States.

In 1803, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France for 60 million francs, the equivalent of about \$15 million.

In 1812, Louisiana became the 18th state of the Union.

In 1900, engineer John Luther "Casey" Jones of the Illinois Central Railroad died in a train wreck near Vaughan, Mississippi, after staying at the controls in a successful effort to save the passengers.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed a resolution officially confirming the name of Hoover Dam, which had also come to be known as "Boulder Dam."

In 1958, Britain's Life Peerages Act 1958 allowed women to become members of the House of Lords.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon announced the U.S. was sending troops into Cambodia, an action that sparked widespread protest.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon announced the resignations of top aides H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and White House counsel John Dean, who was actually fired.

In 1975, the Vietnam War ended as the South Vietnamese capital of Saigon fell to Communist forces.

In 1983, blues singer and guitarist Muddy Waters died in Westmont, Illinois, at age 68.

In 1993, top-ranked women's tennis player Monica Seles was stabbed in the back during a match in Hamburg, Germany, by a man who described himself as a fan of second-ranked German player Steffi Graf. (The man, convicted of causing grievous bodily harm, was given a suspended sentence.)

In 2004, Arabs expressed outrage at graphic photographs of naked Iraqi prisoners being humiliated by U.S. military police; President George W. Bush condemned the mistreatment of prisoners, saying "that's not the way we do things in America."

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama said he wanted more information about chemical weapons use in the Syrian civil war before deciding on escalating U.S. military or diplomatic responses, despite earlier assertions that use of such weapons would be a "game-changer." The FDA lowered to 15 the age at which females could buy the Plan B emergency contraceptive without a prescription, and said it no longer had to be kept behind pharmacy counters. Willem-Alexander became the first Dutch king in more than a century as his mother, Beatrix, abdicated after 33 years as queen.

Five years ago: Central Americans who traveled in a caravan through Mexico to the U.S. border near San Diego began turning themselves in to U.S. authorities to seek asylum in a challenge to the Trump administration. New details emerged on a rift between White House Chief of Staff John Kelly and President Donald Trump, with one former administration official saying Kelly had privately called Trump "an idiot." (Trump announced in December that Kelly would be leaving at the end of the year.)

One year ago: Ukrainian forces fought village by village to hold back a Russian advance through the country's east, while the United Nations worked to broker an evacuation of the approximately 100,000 civilians remaining in the last Ukrainian stronghold in the bombed-out ruins of the port city of Mariupol. A tornado barreled through parts of Kansas, damaging multiple buildings, injuring several people and leaving more than 6,500 without power. Naomi Judd, the Kentucky-born singer of the Grammy-winning duo The Judds and mother of Wynonna and Ashley Judd, died at age 76.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Willie Nelson is 90. Actor Burt Young is 83. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden is 77. Movie director Allan Arkush is 75. Actor Perry King is 75. Singer-musician Wayne Kramer is 75. Singer Merrill Osmond is 70. Movie director Jane Campion is 69. Movie director Lars von Trier is 67. Former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper is 64. Actor Paul Gross is 64. Basketball Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas

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is 62. Actor Adrian Pasdar is 58. Rock singer J.R. Richards (Dishwalla) is 56. Rapper Turbo B (Snap) is 56. Rock musician Clark Vogeler (Toadies) is 54. R&B singer Chris "Choc" Dalrymple (Soul For Real) is 52. Rock musician Chris Henderson (3 Doors Down) is 52. Country singer Carolyn Dawn Johnson is 53. Actor Lisa Dean Ryan is 52. R&B singer Akon is 51. R&B singer Jeff Timmons (98 Degrees) is 50. Actor Johnny Galecki is 48. Actor Sam Heughan is 43. Actor Kunal Nayyar is 42. Rapper Lloyd Banks is 41. Actor Kirsten Dunst is 41. Actor Dianna Agron is 37. Country singer Brandon Lancaster is 34. Rapper/producer Travis Scott is 32.