

Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday, July 23

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.
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.
United Methodist: Conde worship at 8:30 a.m., coffee hour 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship at 10:30 a.m.
St. John's worship, 9 a.m.; Zion Lutheran worship, 11 a.m.
Amateur District in Groton (Redfield DQ playing Miller Outlaws at 4 p.m. followed by Northville Merchants playing Groton Locke Electric at 7 p.m.)
Region 6B Legion Tournament in Northville
State Jr. Teener Tournament in Corsica

Monday, July 24

Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, tropical fruit, whole wheat

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

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



bread.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Food Pantry open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Groton Community Center
Senior Citizens meet at Community Center with potluck at noon.
Amateur District in Groton
Jr. Legion Region Tourney, at Northville (See pairings on Page 2)

Tuesday, July 25

St. John's Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School
Senior Menu: Ranch chicken bread, rice pilaf, cauliflower and pea salad, blushing pears, whole wheat bread, fruit.
Food Pantry open 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Groton Community Center
Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Olive Grove: Bridge, Ladies League at 6 p.m.
Amateur District in Groton
Jr. Legion Region Tourney, at Northville

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL NORTHEAST REGION B JUNIORS NORTHVILLE, SD JULY 24TH AND 25TH, 2023



MONDAY, JULY 24TH

12:00 Groton Post 39 vs. Redfield Post 92

2:30 Groton Post 39 vs. Sisseton Post 50

5:00 W.I.N. Post 137 vs. Sisseton Post 50

TUESDAY, JULY 25TH

12:00 Sisseton Post 50 vs. Redfield Post 92

2:30 Redfield Post 92 vs. W.I.N. Post 137

5:00 W.I.N. Post 137 vs. Groton Post 39

- Home team will be determined by a coin flip prior to each game. W.I.N. will stay in their dugout.
- Top two teams will advance to the B Jr. State Tournament in Lennox Post 174 on August 4th-6th.
- Ties will be broken in the following order:
 - If two teams are tied:
 - Head to Head
 - Fewest runs allowed overall
 - Most runs scored overall
 - A coin flip
 - If three teams are tied:
 - Fewest runs allowed overall
 - Most runs scored overall
 - Coin flip ("odd man" out wins)



American Legion Post 39 Groton would like to thank the following contributors to the painting of the US Flag on the new Groton Water Tower.

- Bierman Farm Service
- Dacotah Bank Groton
- Flihs Farms - Larry & Val Flihs
- Groton Chamber of Commerce
- James Valley Telecommunications
- Pharis Farms
- Rix Farms Inc
- Sippel Farms
- Strom Johnson Farms - Johnson Family
- Strom Johnson Farms – Strom Family
- Voss Farms Inc

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The Groton Dairy Queen parking lot was full of motorcycles Saturday afternoon as the rally riders stopped for a refreshment. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



AVANTARA

H E L P

W A N T E D

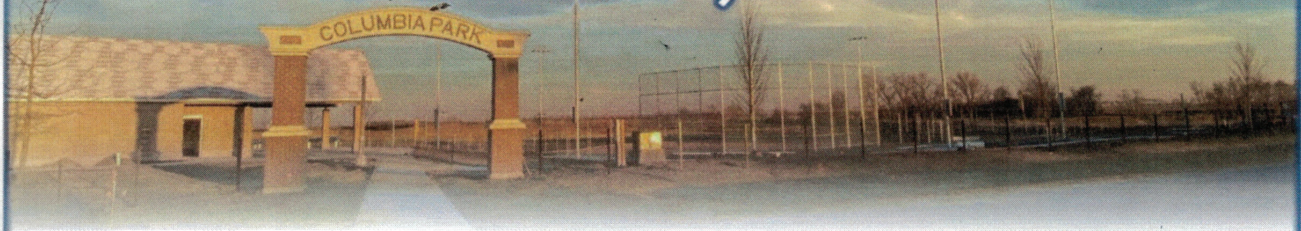
AVANTARA OF GROTON

has the following positions open:

- part-time house-keeping
- cook
- resident concierge

Apply at www.avantaragroton.com.

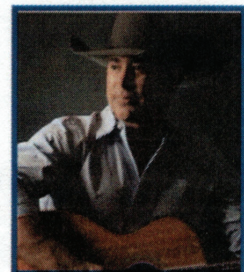
2ND ANNUAL **COLUMBIA FEST** & PARKS DEDICATION “A BLAST FROM THE PAST” **JULY 29, 2023**



COME FOR A FULL DAY OF FUN!

- 10:00 AM.....PARADE!
- 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM.....Vendors
- 11:00 AM.....Parks Dedication
- 12:00 - 3:00 PM.....Ballgames
- 3:00 - 4:00 PM.....Home Run Derby
- 4:00 - 5:00 PM.....Harry Luge Performs
- 5:00 PM.....Duck Race
- 6:00 - 8:00 PM.....Karaoke
- 9:00 PM.....Harry Luge

Lots of **GREAT ENTERTAINMENT, DELICIOUS FOOD** and **FUN ACTIVITIES**. Bring your lawn chairs and picnic blanket.



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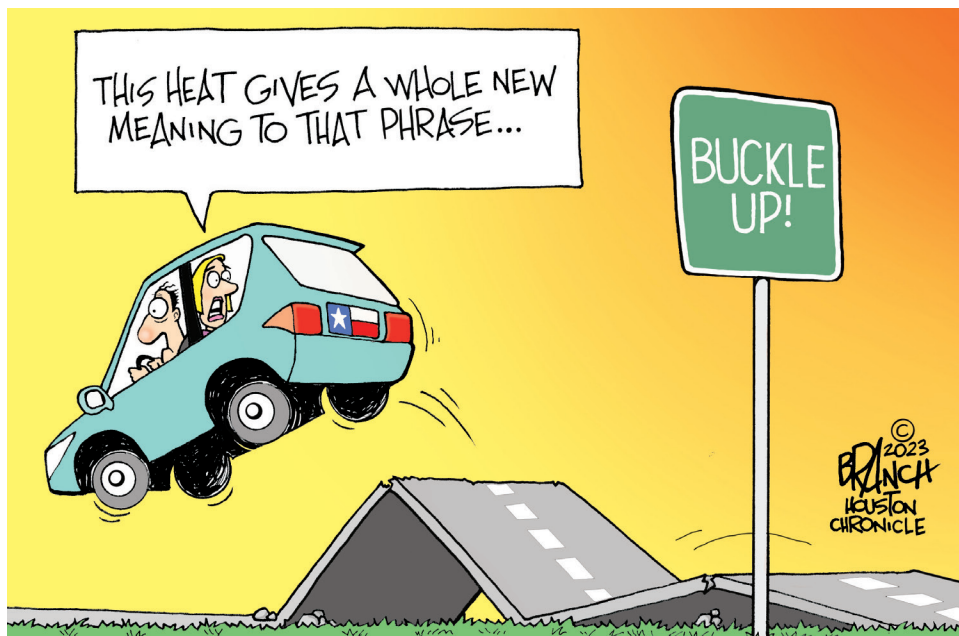
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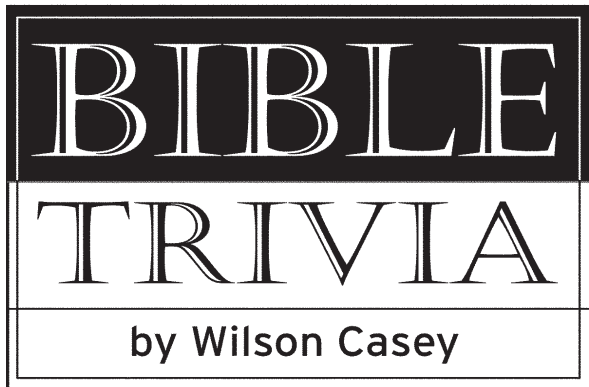


THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*...O Lord my God, You are very great:
You are clothed with honor and majesty,
who cover Yourself with light as with
a garment, who stretch out the heavens
like a curtain. He lays the beams of His
upper chambers in the waters, who makes
the clouds His chariot, who walks on
the wings of the wind, who makes His
angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.*

PSALM 104: 1-4





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

2. Whose last words were, “O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes”? *Zimri, Paul, Eli, Samson*

3. From Proverbs 18:8, “The words of a talebearer are as _____”? *Truths, Wounds, Answers, Serpents*

4. Who assumed if Isaac died that God would be able to bring him back to life? *Rebekah, Esau, Abraham, Jacob*

5. From Genesis 25:1, who was Abraham’s second wife? *Keturah, Abigail, Vashti, Candace*

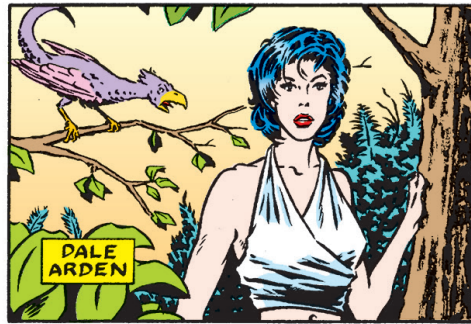
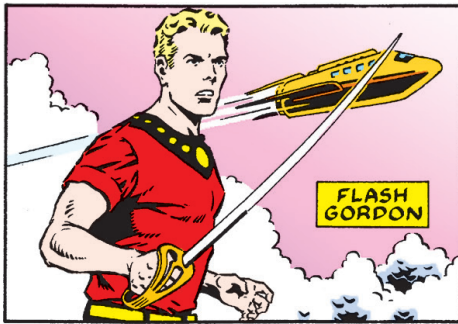
6. Who was the famed brother of Lahmi? *John the Baptist, Herod, Goliath, Paul*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Samson, 3) Wounds, 4) Abraham, 5) Keturah, 6) Goliath

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

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FLASH GORDON

By JIM KEEFE 7-23

HAVING REUNITED WITH DR. ZARKOV, FLASH AND DALE MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH MONGO'S WILDERNESS.

I FOUND ENOUGH PROVISIONS TO LAST US ONLY A FEW DAYS. OUR FIRST PRIORITY MUST BE TO FIND SHELTER.

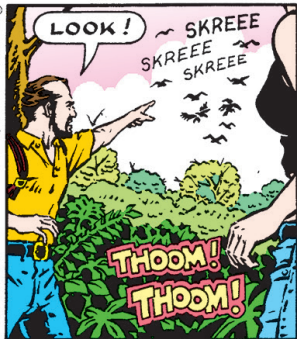
COULDN'T AGREE MORE, DOC.

FLASH, SOMETHING'S WRONG. THE JUNGLE AROUND US...

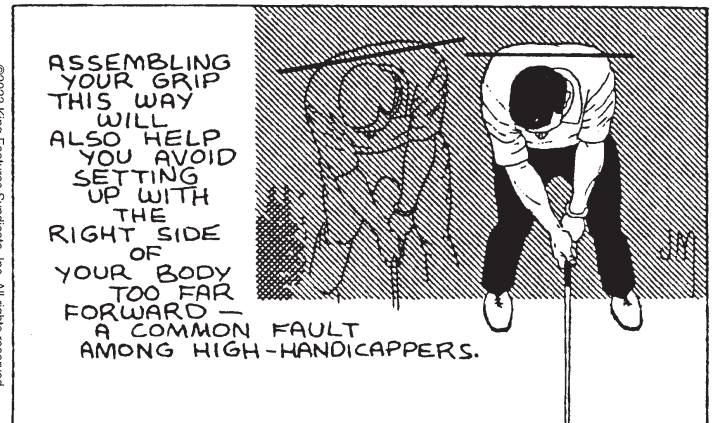
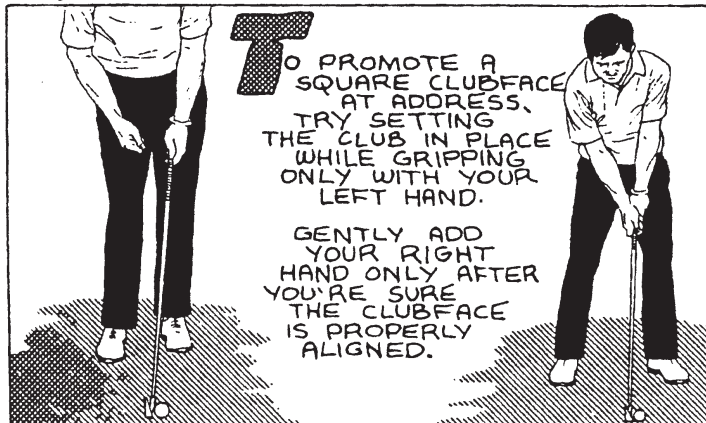
GOTCHA. IT'S QUIET... TOO QUIET.



LOOK! SKREEE SKREEE SKREEE



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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Doctors Won't Prescribe Hormone Therapy to Woman Over 60

DEAR DR. ROACH: In a recently published column, you stated, "As always, the decision belongs to the patient," while addressing a concern about the benefits and risks of stopping a statin drug. Oh, really? Then, why is it that, once I turned 60, not a single doctor will prescribe hormone replacement therapy (HRT) to stop my debilitating post-menopausal symptoms? After suffering from menopausal symptoms starting at age 42, I was finally prescribed HRT at age 57. What relief I felt, as it was the only remedy to alleviate my hot flashes, weight gain, lack of sleep and vaginal dryness.

Once I hit 60, I was ordered to stop HRT, and no one since will prescribe it for me now. I am 66, suffer from hot flashes daily and have my sleep interrupted at least five times a night with terrible night sweats. I have tried just about every over-the-counter offering with zero effectiveness.

I will gladly trade the greater risk of heart attack and stroke, and the possible shorter life span, for relief from symptoms that affect my daily quality of life. Clearly, the choice is not mine, because if I had a choice, I would ask for continued prescriptions of HRT to give me relief. Why don't I have that choice as a patient? — R.M.T.

ANSWER: A patient always has the right to refuse a treatment recommended from a physician. However, the physician has the obligation to consider the risks and benefits of a treatment, and is not obliged to prescribe a treatment that they do not think is appropriate.

If a patient asks me for a treatment that has been shown to be ineffec-

adverse effects, I don't prescribe it, but will work with the patient to find alternative treatments. For example, some nonhormonal prescription treatments are moderately effective for hot flashes and sleep disturbance, and topical estrogen is very effective for vaginal dryness.

However, the case of HRT for symptoms of menopause is more complicated, because estrogen is the most effective treatment we have for menopausal symptoms, particularly for hot flashes. There are risks to HRT, but the benefits for some women are so great that they are willing to accept some risks.

You mentioned the risk of heart disease and stroke. A landmark study called the Women's Health Initiative helped to define and quantify those (and other) risks. Its effect has been to dramatically reduce the prescribing of menopausal hormone therapy, but the results should not be interpreted to mean that hormone treatment is always inappropriate, even in women who are in their mid-60s, where risks are higher.

Moreover, a woman's entire health status should be considered when deciding whether to prescribe hormone treatments. In women with a history of an estrogen-dependent tumor (like many breast cancers), a history of a blood clot or a stroke, or a few other issues, the harm almost certainly outweighs the benefits. Otherwise, a wise clinician looks at the patient's risk for heart disease, blood clots and similar conditions. Women at a very high risk for heart disease should probably avoid estrogen. Using lower-dose estrogen by patch (rather than pills) is wise for women at moderate risk, such as those who are in their 60s.

Physicians do not want to prescribe medications that will harm their patients, and most have stopped prescribing menopausal hormone therapy entirely for women, to prevent disease. However, it still has a role in treating symptoms. I recommend you seek out an expert in treatment of menopausal treatments and have a frank discussion about your willingness to assume risk in order to have a better quality of life.

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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**Thandiwe Newton stars in "God's Country."
Courtesy of MovieStillsDB**

"Bones and All" (R) -- In his seventh directorial feature film, Italian director Luca Guadagnino teams up with actors Timothee Chalamet, Michael Stuhlbarg and Chloe Sevigny for the second time each, but beware: This film is not for the weak of heart -- or stomach. Taylor Russell ("Lost in Space") stars as Maren, an 18-year-old girl who gets abandoned by her father after years of her displaying cannibalistic tendencies. In her search to find a new home and purpose, Maren encounters fellow "eaters," including a young man named Lee (Chalamet), with whom she embarks on a road trip across the U.S. Through their journey, Lee and Maren find acceptance and love within each other in a world that would never accept their true identities. Out now. (MGM+)

"Bird Box: Barcelona" (TV-MA) -- It's been five years since the dystopian film "Bird Box," starring Sandra Bullock, swept our screens and became the third most popular Netflix movie ever. Now, Netflix released a spinoff sequel taking place in Barcelona, Spain. Mario Casas plays Sebastian, a father whose goal is to keep his daughter, Anna, safe from the roaming enigmas that cause people to immediately commit suicide upon seeing them. This time, however, they not only have to watch out for the strange beings, but also seers -- people who are able to look at these beings and live on by manipulating other humans to look at them instead. Although the seers add a fresh layer to the premise, the film has been critiqued for being too comparable to its prequel. Out now. (Netflix)

"Special Ops: Lioness" (TV-MA) -- This has been quite the year of spy-action film and TV, as another spy-thriller series makes its way onto our streaming platforms. A young marine named Cruz Manuelos (Laysla De Oliveira) goes undercover as a secret agent in the CIA's Lioness Engagement Team. Cruz is tasked with infiltrating a terrorist organization by befriending the daughter of a terrorist. A bright-eyed Cruz is told that if she's caught, she must find her own way out of it, but as the stakes rise, Cruz doubts if she has the training for this mission. The cast for "Lioness" is the main draw-in of the series, a hodgepodge of actors including Zoe Saldana, Morgan Freeman, Nicole Kidman, Michael Kelly and Sam Asghari. The first two episodes are out now. (Paramount+)

"God's Country" (R) -- Adapted from the short story "Winter Light" by James Lee Burke, this modern western film is led by actress Thandiwe Newton ("Westworld"). Newton portrays Sandra, a university professor living in rural Montana with her mother after their lives in New Orleans were uprooted by Hurricane Katrina. Following the death of her mother, Sandra begins to feel unsettled by locals in her town who leave her threatening messages when she doesn't allow them to trespass on to her property. Without much help from institutions that weren't designed to protect someone like her, Sandra is then forced to fend for herself, as the fight to protect her existence gets increasingly dangerous. Premieres July 28. (Hulu)

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1. Which artist released "Come and Stay With Me"?
2. "Believe It or Not" was the theme song on which television program?
3. Name the singer-songwriter who wrote and released "In the Midnight Hour."
4. Who wrote and released "Lay Down Beside Me"?
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "Looks like it's over, you knew I couldn't stay, She's comin' home today."

Answers

1. Marianne Faithfull, in 1965. The song was also covered by Cher on her own debut solo album the same year.

2. "The Greatest American Hero," from 1981 to 1983. Sung by Joey Scarbury, the song climbed to No. 2 on the Billboard charts. Scarbury never did find major success as a singer (although he deserved it); instead, making a name for himself writing music for other artists.

3. Wilson Pickett, in 1965. The song has been widely covered by artists around the globe, including by Bruce Springsteen, The Grateful Dead and Tina Turner.

4. Don Williams, in 1979.

5. "Sad Eyes," by Robert John, in 1979. While most songs to reach the top of pop charts at that time were disco, "Sad Eyes" was the non-disco song that helped fuel a turn against disco. It deserves a listen if only for that reason.

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GRIN and BEAR IT ^{Wagner}



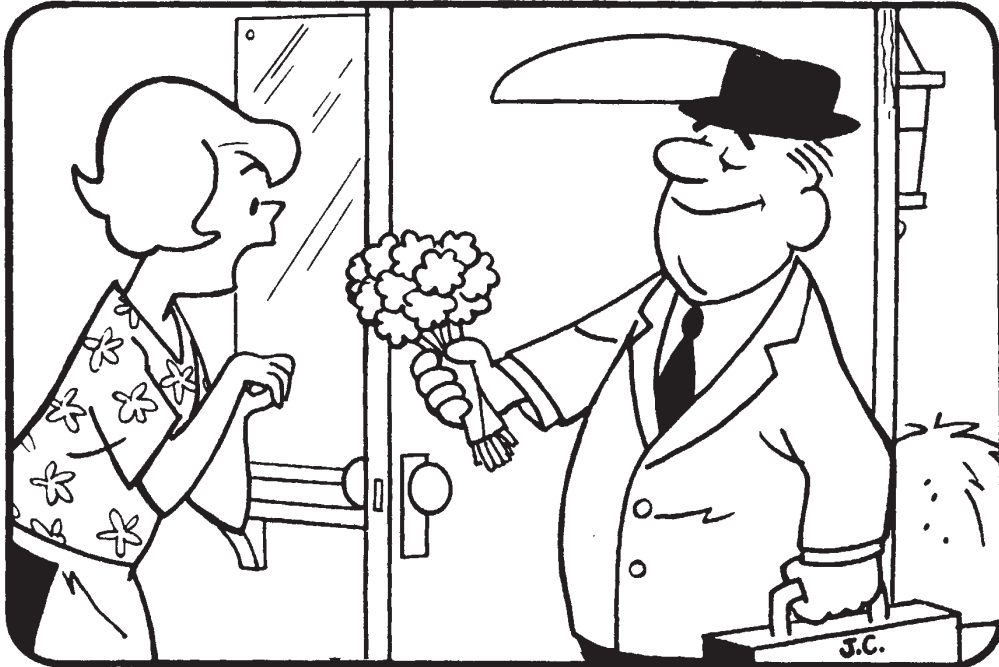
"The president is out of town, but a movie star who PLAYED a president will take your questions."

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

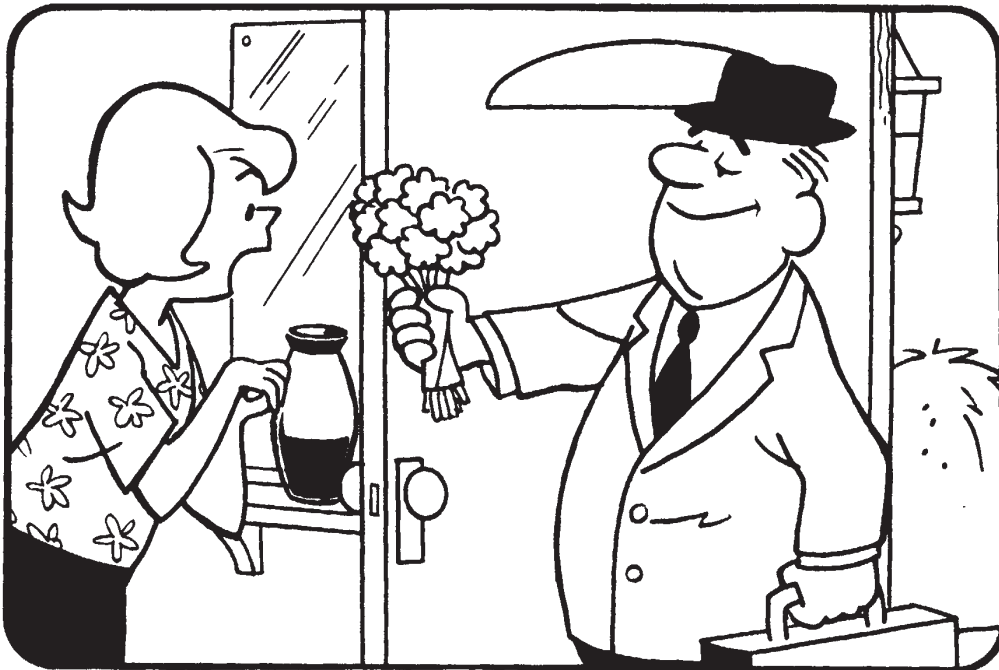


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hair is longer. 2. Vase is added. 3. Apron is removed. 4. Arm is raised. 5. Initials are missing. 6. Bush is taller.

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* Assorted hardware seems to collect in big, random piles in our tiny workshop. Nails, screws and bolts of all sizes are mixed together, tossed on the bench when a project is complete. Every so often, the kids and I make a game of sorting and organizing it using a muffin pan. It's easy to sort by size and type!

* "After cleaning my paintbrushes recently, I decided to hang them from the clothesline to dry. It worked great, as the bristles were nice and soft when they were dry. I think it helped to hang straight down." -- O.C. in Washington

* Before you start a painting project and head to the hardware store, determine what you might need and raid your recycling bin for containers.

* Here's a great way to get your lawn tools organized and off the floor: If you have any PVC pipe, you can cut some 4- or 5-inch sections and screw them into the wall vertically a foot or two from the floor in your garage. Slip the handle of your rake, garden hoe, broom, etc., down into the pipe, and it will stay stable against the wall. Make sure the pipe is wide enough.

* There are lots of shop, lawn and garden fluids that are not allowed in the trash. Contact your waste management provider to see if there is a place you can drop off hazardous waste in your community.

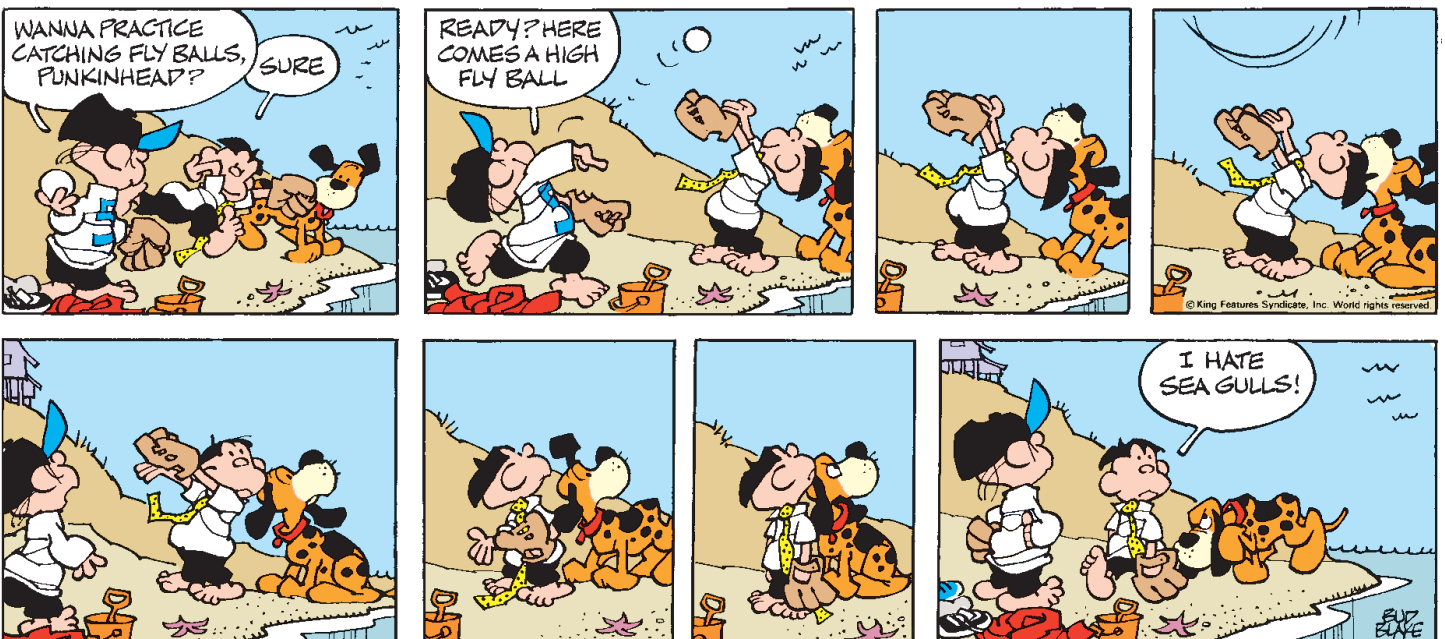
* "I needed more light over my workbench, and those hanging lights are pretty expensive. My wife had a lamp she didn't need anymore, so I inverted the lampshade and hung it from a hook on the ceiling. It's right over my workbench, and I can use it when I need it." -- W.S. in Connecticut

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

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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Satan's purchase
- 5 Chest protector
- 8 Ski lift type
- 12 Old U.S. gas brand
- 13 Piercing tool
- 14 Hindu royal
- 15 Pub potables
- 16 King, in Cannes
- 17 Choir voice
- 18 New
- 20 Pal of Pooh
- 22 Stephen of "Still Crazy"
- 23 Hobbyist's abbr.
- 24 Mineral-hardness scale name

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19			20	21				
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35			36	37					38			
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42	43				44		45			46	47	48
49					50	51			52			
53					54				55			
56					57				58			

- 27 Tot's train
- 32 Rock's Brian
- 33 Science room
- 34 Klutz
- 35 Folks from Indiana
- 38 Garrison
- 39 Flop
- 40 Ostrich's kin
- 42 Exhibited ennui
- 45 In a way
- 49 "Metamorphoses" poet
- 50 Hosp. hook-ups
- 52 Carry on
- 53 Ms. Rowlands
- 54 Golf prop
- 55 Like some vaccines
- 56 Gross
- 57 Last letter in London
- 58 Mr. Disney
- 6 — Jima
- 7 Radar dot
- 8 Dire
- 9 Hype
- 10 Pot starter
- 11 Laugh-a-minute
- 19 Concerning
- 21 Altar vow
- 24 "I'm not impressed"
- 25 Music's Yoko
- 26 Snooker
- 28 Guffaw syllable
- 29 Fanatical
- 30 Rowing need
- 31 Frequently
- 36 Half the weekend
- 37 Chemical suffix
- 38 Groove
- 41 Kansas City's st.
- 42 Quotable Berra
- 43 Opposite of "sans"
- 44 Bubblehead
- 46 O'Hara estate
- 47 Cameo shape
- 48 Fedora fabric
- 51 Victory sign

DOWN

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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WHEN THE CAT'S AWAY
THE MICE WILL PLAY
IN A VAN HALEN
TRIBUTE BAND

KOPERVAS

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THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS
POPEYE
BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

ARE DEEZIL AND HER LITTLE FRIEND JUST GONNA WASTE THE SUMMER PLAYING VIDEO GAMES?

THEY NEED A REAL HOBBY TO KEEP 'EM OCCUPIED.

ASK DEEZIL IF SHE WANTS TO WORRY ABOUT THINGS THAT AREN'T REALLY A BIG DEAL.

THEN YOU TWO CAN HAVE A HOBBY YOU BOTH SHARE.

IT'S SUMMER! YOU KIDS SHOULD BE OUTDOORS PLAYING!

DADDY IT'S TOO HOT TO PLAY OUTSIDE!

IT'S ONLY A LIL OVER A HUNDRED DEGREES. DISCOMFORT BUILDS CHARACTER.

CASTOR, YOU'RE CONFUSING "CHARACTER" WITH "HEAT STROKE."

CHILDHOOD SHOULD BE SPENT OUTSIDE. WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, I HAD A LEMONADE STAND AND--

DON'T YOU LIE TO MY GRANDBABY!

MOM?!

I COULD ALMOST NEVER GET YOU TO PLAY OUTSIDE, BUT WHEN I DID?!

YOU'D DO SOMETHING HORRIBLE LIKE SWINDLE THE NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS WITH A SHELL GAME AND I HAD TO DEAL WITH ANGRY PARENTS!

WOW, MR. OYL! WITH THIS INFO AND A CRATE TO STAND ON, I COULD REALLY LOOK UP TO YOU!

WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU BEEN LYING ABOUT, MISTER "ALWAYS ATE HIS VEGGIES"?

WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS TO ME, MOM?

CASTOR, THIS EXACT MOMENT WAS THE WHOLE REASON I LET YOU REACH ADULTHOOD!

BARNEY GOOGLE AND
SNUPPY SMITH

HEY, WHAT'S FER SUPPER ?

DANG !! I THOUGHT IT WUZ HER NIGHT !!

THAT'S ALL YA CAUGHT, PAW ?!

'FRAID SO !!

DADBURN FISH JEST WARN'T BUYIN' WHAT I WUZ A-SELLIN' T'DAY, MAW !!

WELL, HOW DO YA 'SPECT ME TO FEED TH' FOUR OF US WIF THIS LI'L THING ?!

I DON'T !!

I WRANGLD US A SUPPER INVITE FROM MISTOFER SALESMAN OF TH' MONTH !!

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Hal Foster's
Prince Valiant
BY SCHULTZ
AND YEATES

39
29

THE FALSE LADY GRUNYARD HAS ABDUCTED THE CONFUSED LORD GRUNYARD IN A SMOOTHLY EXECUTED OPERATION...

...AND BOLT TO THE COURTYARD, WHERE THE REMAINDER OF THE VISITING ENTOURAGE WAITS EXPECTANTLY. THE MOUNTED BOWMEN LAY DOWN A COVERING VOLLEY OF PRECISELY AIMED ARROWS, AND THEN ALL ARE OFF,

BEFORE THE GATE CAN BE LOWERED— OR A SHOT FIRED IN RETURN! THESE BRAZEN SCOUNDRELS, VAL THINKS, KNOW WHAT THEY ARE ABOUT.

YEATES 5/27/12

... RIGHT UNDER THE NOSE OF THE DUMBSTRUCK PRINCE VALIANT! THE ROGUES DEFTLY AND QUICKLY WORK TO DELAY PURSUIT...

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NEXT: A cold, wet trail

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

OUR NEIGHBOR'S DOGS ARE CHASING PEOPLE ON BICYCLES.

WOW...I DIDN'T KNOW DOGS COULD RIDE BICYCLES!!

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PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

A New Drug for Alzheimer's Disease

The FDA recently approved a new drug that is supposed to slow the progression of Alzheimer's.

Earlier this year, the FDA gave conditional approval to Leqembi, pending more safety and efficacy trials. Now, with "accelerated approval," the drug has full approval.

Another drug, Aduhelm, launched in June 2021, still only has conditional approval and is waiting results from more trials.

Both drugs work in a similar way, targeting the proteins in the brain. There are differences, however.

One difference between Leqembi and Aduhelm is the way it's delivered. Aduhelm is given by spinal infusion and Leqembi is given intravenously every two weeks (although other means are being studied in trials that are still going on).

Another difference is in what the drugs do: Aduhelm targets the plaques in the brain, while Leqembi targets the proteins that create the plaques.

The other is the cost. Leqembi will likely cost \$26,500 per year, although that can vary by patient weight and what schedule of maintenance dosing the patient is to get. Medicare will likely cover the majority of patients if they have a supplemental drug plan. The rest will likely pay the 20% coinsurance not covered by Medicare.

Aduhelm had much different pricing when it first came out -- \$56,000 per year. Our Medicare Part B went up by \$21.60 in 2022, up to \$170 per month, likely due to the cost of Aduhelm, which Medicare initially expected to cost close to \$3,000. Some insurers said they wouldn't cover the drug unless prices came down. The cost of the drug eventually did come down, to \$28,200.

The caveat about Leqembi, however, is that the experts point to the very small degree of slowing of early Alzheimer's in the patients in the trial. In many, the result could be quite subtle. Still, some researchers say it does buy patients time and could delay the coming of the later stages of dementia.

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1. Eden Park, Sky Stadium and Forsyth Barr Stadium are all soccer/rugby arenas located in what country?

2. What former Major League Baseball player went by the unusual nickname "Pronk"?

3. Soccer player Andres Escobar, who was murdered in 1994 as retaliation for inadvertently deflecting the ball into his own net at the FIFA World Cup, played for what national team?

4. The National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum is located in what U.S. city?

5. Physician and Olympic decathlete Tom Waddell organized what sports event that first took place in San Francisco in 1982?

6. Name the NASCAR driver, winner of the 1992 Daytona 500, who was killed in a helicopter crash in July 1993.

7. Larry David provided the voice of what real-life sports team owner in the TV comedy series "Seinfeld"?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. New Zealand.

2. Travis Hafner.

3. Colombia.

4. Oklahoma City.

5. The Gay Games (founded as the Gay Olympics).

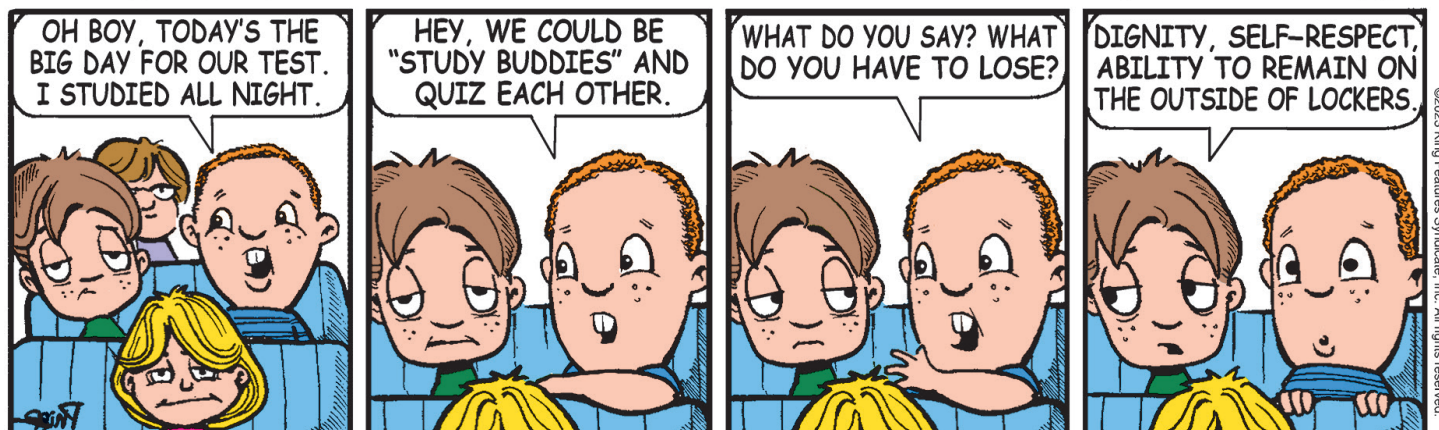
6. Davey Allison.

7. George Steinbrenner.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Adopting a 'War Dog'

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I just watched an older movie about a military dog, called "Max." How can I adopt a dog like that? -- T.T. via email

DEAR T.T.: While "Max" is a compelling movie, adopting a former military working dog takes a fair amount of research on your part, and the ability to care for dogs that have high energy and need plenty of attention and continuing training. All military dog adoptions are handled through the Department of Defense Military Working Dog Adoption Program at Lackland AFB in Texas.

Dogs eligible for adoption were retired due to age, injury or sickness. Not all dogs saw combat. Some worked in national security, while others were trained as working dogs but did not meet the standards for military service.

Be prepared for a long wait after submitting the application -- up to a year or more. First priority for adoption goes to law-enforcement agencies, if the dog is still fit for duty. If not, the dog's handler can adopt it. Only after that do dogs become available for adoption to civilians. Some dogs, sadly, are not adoptable due to temperament or severe injuries.

In addition to patience, be aware that you don't have control over what type of dog is made available; although you can state your preference on the application. Be prepared for some pre-adoption expenses as well: If selected to adopt a MWD, you'll need to travel to where the dog is being kept (most likely, Lackland) at least twice -- once to be interviewed and meet the dog, and again to pick it up if your application is approved.

To view all requirements and find out more, go to tinyurl.com/2vpjufdm.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* The blobfish gets its nickname from its saggy appearance when it's brought to the surface from the deep part of the ocean where it lives. Because it has no skeleton and very little muscle, water pressure that would crush human organs gives the animal physical structure at that depth.

* To maintain the historical accuracy of the American Colonial era, Disney World's Liberty Square was built without any restrooms. (But no, you won't find any outhouses, either.)

* And speaking of restrooms, there are public toilets

for dogs in China.

* The character of cross-dressing Corporal Klinger on the TV series "M*A*S*H" was allegedly influenced by comedian Lenny Bruce's claim that he was discharged from the Navy for saying he had "homosexual tendencies."

* Eberhard Anheuser, cofounder of the Anheuser-Busch brewery, got his start in manufacturing with soap and candles.

* Due to a technical glitch in his debit card payment processing, a man was accidentally charged 23 quadrillion dollars. As if that wasn't bad enough, since he didn't have the amount in his account, he was also charged a \$15 overdraft fee!

* Carnauba wax, which is used on cars, is the same type of wax used to give gummy candy its sheen.

* Neptune's moon, Triton, orbits the planet backward.

* To add authenticity to a fictional criminal underworld, Rockstar Games hired real-life gang members to voice background characters in Grand Theft Auto V.

* One-third of men's fragrances sold are actually worn by women.

* Amethysts got their name from the ancient Greek word "amethystos," meaning "not drunk." They were once believed to prevent intoxication.

* The "little black dress" was compared to the Ford car when it debuted in 1926, for its practicality and simplicity.

Thought for the Day: "Never rob your character to enrich your pocket." -- James Lendall Basford

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**Killing
mosquito
larvae in
standing
water**

- Add **apple cider vinegar** to standing water at a ratio of about 15% vinegar to 85% water. Larvae die within 18 hours.
- Add one tablespoon **vegetable oil** or **olive oil** per gallon of standing water; the surface is coated and larvae suffocate.
- Add a drop or two of **dish soap** per gallon of standing water; this also coats the surface and suffocates larvae.
- Mosquito "**dunks**" contain Bti, which is safe for people, pets, and other animals and insects. When added to standing water and eaten by larvae, it kills them.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: mosquitomagician.com



by Freddy Groves

Veteran Suicide in a VA Emergency Room

A veteran with a documented history of suicidal thoughts and attempts, as well as drug abuse and PTSD, committed suicide while being left unattended in a VA facility emergency room.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General investigated, and they unearthed the facts ... which are not pretty.

It's this:

The veteran showed up at the VA facility ER with bladder complaints and depression. He'd been there before, and it was noted in his file that he'd had admissions for substance abuse and suicidal thoughts.

The first medical person ("Nurse 1") did a triage, which is asking questions to decide how to classify the patient. Instead of using the computer to ask him specific questions (per policy) and record his answers, she did it from memory. Nurse 1 allegedly told the physician (who was resting in another room) there was a patient waiting. Another person, Nurse 2, did a bladder scan.

An hour later, no physician had shown up. An additional hour later, Nurse 1 left for the day and handed off the records to incoming staff.

Later a technician found the veteran on the floor of the room, dead by suicide, still unseen by a doctor.

The OIG investigation revealed:

During the investigation, Nurse 1 could not recall from memory the risk assessment questions she supposedly asked the veteran. Nurse 1 also did not actually alert the physician that patients were waiting.

The physician did not respond to an alert from Nurse 2 either about patients waiting and did not get up until the boss came on shift.

The "Door to Doc" policy was severely violated. That performance policy states that the target is 25 minutes from the time a patient walks in the door to the time he's seen by a doctor -- not the two hours and 20 minutes this veteran languished by himself.

Information surfaced that showed facility admin sought to interfere with the OIG investigation, instructing in emails that "appropriate responses to direct questions are: yes, no, I don't know, and I don't remember."

To read the whole report, see www.va.gov/oig/pubs/VAOIG-22-01540-146.pdf.

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Wishing Well®

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

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. THEATER: Which group composed the rock opera "Tommy"?
2. GEOGRAPHY: In which country is Mount Everest located?
3. LITERATURE: Which novel contains the line, "Big Brother is watching you"?
4. HISTORY: Who was the second president of the United States?
5. WEATHER: What is a cloud shaped like a flying saucer called?
6. TELEVISION: Which TV comedy features a character named Opie Taylor?
7. MOVIES: What is the name of Argus Filch's cat in the "Harry Potter" series?
8. MATH: What is the only even prime number?
9. MEDICAL: What is the common name for the ailment called dysphonia?
10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many stages are in a butterfly's life cycle?

Answers

1. The Who.
2. Nepal.
3. "1984" by George Orwell.
4. John Adams.
5. A lenticular cloud.
6. "The Andy Griffith Show."
7. Mrs. Norris.
8. Two.
9. Hoarseness.
10. Four (egg, larva, pupa and adult).

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

South Dakota Dreams: A “Freedom Works Here” Story

Alex moved to the United States from South Africa in 1995. He had lived in Seattle ever since – until the COVID pandemic and violent riots changed the city. In 2021, Alex decided that he’d had enough of the soaring cost of living and diminishing quality of life on the West Coast. He packed his bags, moved to South Dakota, and never looked back. And Alex says that moving to the Mount Rushmore State is one of the greatest decisions he’s ever made.

“I decided to go to South Dakota because I wanted to improve my situation and my life,” Alex said. “Moving to South Dakota was one of the best decisions of my life. And I can honestly say there isn’t a day that goes by where I don’t think about how thankful I am to be in South Dakota.”

Today, Alex is a dedicated job advisor with the South Dakota Department of Labor & Regulation. And with our new “Freedom Works Here” nationwide workforce recruitment campaign, he’s busier than ever.

Even with the lowest unemployment rate in the history of the nation, South Dakota still has open jobs to spare. We have more jobs than people! So we’re inviting Freedom-loving people from across America to come join our winning workforce.

More than 3,000 people have applied to find jobs in South Dakota – that’s when folks like Alex step in. As a job advisor, Alex works to connect individuals interested in moving to our state with our businesses that are in need of workers. His personal journey and firsthand experience in transitioning to a new state allow him to empathize with his clients on a profound level. For that reason, Alex is working directly with folks moving from the West Coast!

“Freedom Works Here” has already been the most successful workforce recruitment campaign in South Dakota history. The number one state for applications is California. Americans are seeing the pitfalls of far-left policies. People don’t want to live in packed communities with skyrocketing prices and politicians that don’t seem to care for their wellbeing.

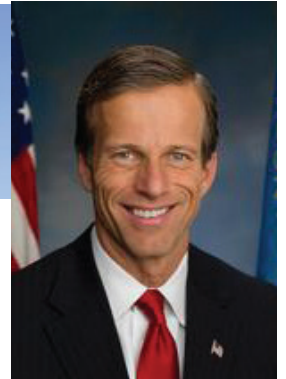
For so many of these folks, South Dakota is a beacon of hope and Freedom. Our vast lands, our thriving economy, and our patriotism set us apart. These folks really are making a statement. It’s not easy to pick up your entire life and move your family across the country, but that’s exactly what these people are doing.

We have hundreds of applicants that are already working with people like Alex. Over 550 are in the final stages of finding career opportunities to move to South Dakota. And people like Alex who have actually packed up their lives and moved here are the one that really connect with Americans from coast to coast.

Alex firmly believes that everyone deserves a chance to thrive professionally. He is committed to empowering others to achieve their dreams in South Dakota. And there are people like Alex all over our great state. People have seen that our small-town values and rural way of life work.

Freedom Works Here – and now, Americans from across the nation are working here too.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



From BRAC to B-21: Ellsworth's Mission Goes On

Just a few months after I was elected to the Senate, we got the dreaded news that Ellsworth Air Force Base was being recommended for closure. The odds of saving the base were slim. The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission in charge of these decisions rarely reversed course. But, through an all-hands effort by our congressional delegation and state and community leaders, we proved to the Air Force and the BRAC Commission that Ellsworth was too valuable to lose.

We didn't stop there, though. Having saved Ellsworth from closure, we got right to work building up the base so we would never again find ourselves in the same position. In 2007, the Air Force Financial Services Center opened at Ellsworth. The 89th Attack Squadron, which remotely commands MQ-9 Reaper aircraft, arrived a few years later. In 2015, after a nearly decade-long effort, we quadrupled the base's local training airspace, making the Powder River Training Complex the largest range in the lower 48. And in 2021, Ellsworth was designated Main Operating Base 1 for the B-21 Raider, meaning it will host the Formal Training Unit and first operational squadron.

The B-21 will extend Ellsworth's already incredible contributions to America's national security for years to come. A sixth-generation long-range bomber, the Raider has been called the future backbone of the bomber force. And that's no exaggeration. Operating from the United States, it will be able to reach targets around the world that 90 percent of our current bomber force can't. It will use stealth technologies that you have to see – or not see – to believe. And it's designed to be able to incorporate new technologies within its airframe and work alongside the technologies of tomorrow, like unmanned aircraft and artificial intelligence, enabling the B-21 to evolve with a changing threat environment.

It will be another few years before the first B-21s make their home in the Black Hills, but the men and women of Ellsworth are working hard to prepare for this important new mission. And I'm working to ensure they have everything they need to successfully carry it out. In recent years, I've secured full funding for the B-21 project and its support facilities at Ellsworth. I also worked to establish a dynamic airspace pilot program that will allow airspace boundaries to evolve as exercises progress, which is critical for training in long-range aircraft like the B-21. And I'm proud to report that this year's defense bill includes full authorization for continued B-21 development and base preparation.

Looking at Ellsworth today, it's hard to imagine that its future was in jeopardy not long ago. Once slated for closure, Ellsworth is set to be a critical part of our nation's defense long into the future. I will continue to do everything I can to support both the base's mission and the men and women who make it happen.

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



Fight or Flight?

Most of us feel a bit of dread when going to the airport. From the time we leave our front door until we reach our final destination, a lot can go wrong. Maybe it's the crowds, long lines, flight cancelations, delays, or missing baggage, we've all had our fair share of air travel problems.

A few weeks ago, I updated you about an important amendment I got included in this year's aviation bill to protect the airports in Watertown, Aberdeen, and Pierre. This week, the House passed the bipartisan aviation bill, and now it flies to the Senate. Before it passed, there was some opposition to my amendment—some other members of Congress wanted to cut Essential Air Service (EAS) airports.

Without EAS airports in Watertown, Aberdeen, and Pierre, some South Dakotans would have to drive nearly seven hours to reach the closest medium or large hub airport in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Driving this far to begin the travel journey is astonishing. America has a national commitment to infrastructure, and that includes aviation. These EAS airports connect rural America to larger airports with ease.

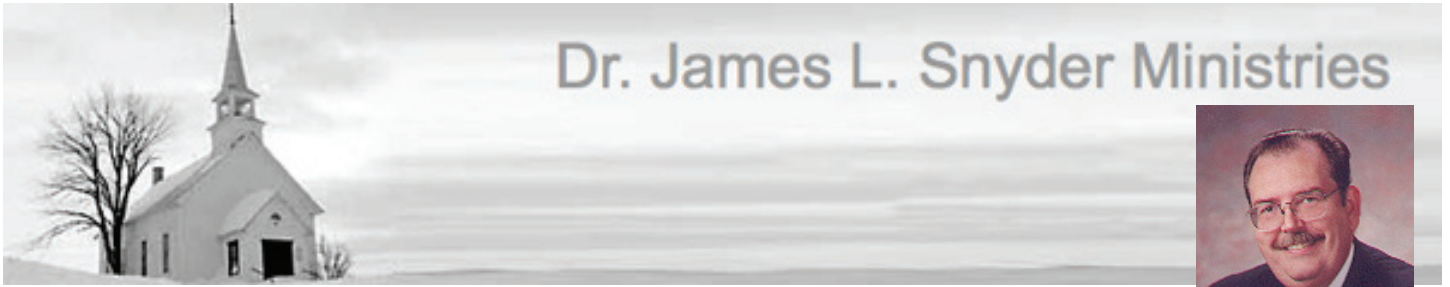
This year, we've seen multiple nationwide air service problems. In January, the FAA's computer system outage grounded all domestic flights. This spring, Southwest Airlines encountered a technology issue that caused thousands of flight cancelations and staffing issues. And to top it all off, we're also facing a pilot shortage.

The aviation bill focused on improving the passenger experience from beginning to end. My colleagues and I won the battle to support EAS airports, so you don't have to drive as far to start your flight journey. The bill also included provisions to improve efficiency in the FAA, grow the aviation workforce, ensure safety, and foster innovation in America's aviation industry.

The bill successfully passed the House with overwhelming support. I look forward to the bill getting signed into law and securing more wins for South Dakotans.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



As If I Really Could

Have you ever had the feeling that you've been hoodwinked? You can't point out the specifics, but something deep inside suggests you have been.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I had a wonderful vacation at St. Augustine, one of our favorite places to go.

Something happened toward the end of our vacation that led me to suspect I was hoodwinked, but I couldn't unwind the situation yet.

The toilet in our bathroom had clogged, and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage went to the front desk to get a plunger.

She brought the plunger back to our room and for several minutes tried fixing our toilet. I heard her in there working on it, but she didn't seem to be able to fix it, which surprised me.

I walked by the bathroom, looked in, and said something stupid, "Can I help you with that?"

The problem with that question was the response from my wife. "Yes, you can. Come in here and see if you can unplug the toilet."

I had no expectation of fixing this problem; I just wanted to sound friendly. After a few severe plunges, all of a sudden, the toilet was unplugged and working perfectly.

Looking at me, my wife said, "Wow, you fixed it. You did a great job."

Not realizing or noticing the hoodwinked element of what she was saying, I smiled and responded, "I'm so glad I could help."

Driving home the next day, she mentioned several times that she was truly grateful for the wonderful job I did with the toilet.

After an hour of driving and listening, I sensed something was wrong. I could not put my fingers on it, but I felt something was wrong somewhere in the atmosphere I was living in.

We returned from our trip, unpacked, and returned to our routine.

The next day about the middle of the morning, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came to my office and said, "I was wondering, could you come and help me with something?"

A leg on one of her tables needed to be replaced, and she could not unscrew the bolt that held it together.

Looking at me, she said, "Do you think you could unscrew that bolt for me?"

I have screwed up many things, but very few have I unscrewed. So I picked up the wrench, and after several minutes of struggling, I finally got it loose. I smiled at my wife and said, "There you are, my dear."

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Then I walked back to my office.

For the next several days, she called me to help her fix something, and most of them I could not fix. Maybe I can unscrew a screw or a bolt, but that's the extent of my fix-it ability.

At supper that night, she smiled at me and said, "I still can't get over how you fixed that toilet on our vacation."

As she smiled at me, I saw some twinkle in her eye that caused me to think something was amiss. I'm not skilled in the hoodwinking business, but I was beginning to think that the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was. She is excellent in many things, and I'm beginning to understand that if anybody can hoodwink me, it is her.

Am I being hoodwinked? And if so, what do I do about it?

I had to think this thing through in developing a plan that would work. She can see through many things, so I had to develop something to the far right of her seeing ability.

I devised a plan but did not think I could go through with it. After all, there would be a lot of plotting and, eventually, a drop or two of blood. But it might be worth it if I do it correctly.

Not too long after, she called on me for another fix-it project. I had gone over this plot in my mind 100 times and was hoping it would work.

She appeared at the door of my office one morning and asked, "Can you help me fix something? I've been working on it all morning. I just cannot get it right." Then she flashed a smile at me.

I flashed a smile back and followed her to her latest fix-it project. She had a dresser on the back porch she was trying to fix. One drawer was stuck, and she could not get the screw out to enable the drawer to come out.

She handed me the screwdriver and said, "I just can't get that screw out."

I sighed very deeply because I knew that it was now or never. I bent over with the screwdriver to be a little bit out of her sight, and as I was working on the screw, I pinched my left thumb so that it would start to bleed, and then I yelled, "Ouch."

I turned around and showed her my bloodied thumb, and boy, was it paining. She looked at me rather frightened and said, "Come with me to the bathroom, and I'll fix your thumb."

Some things are worth it.

I couldn't help but think of a verse in the Bible, "For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing" (1 Peter 3:17).

Sometimes it is better not to correct something but rather "suffer for well doing." I'm still trying to learn that.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: What exactly is "climate migration" and is it already happening?

—B.T., via email

As discussions of the climate crisis begin to shift from future tense to present, 'climate migration' has become a growing concern. But what is it? The question is stickier than one might think. By its simplest definition, the phrase refers to the voluntary or involuntary movement of people from one place to another due to adverse ecological conditions, usually caused by global warming. Conditions can include natural disasters, gradual desertification, rising sea levels or crop-destroying insect migration, to name a few.



Climate migration, which is already starting to happen around the world, could be one of the biggest impacts of our environmental profligacy.

Credit: Pexels.

And therein lies the stickiness. For one, how can we be certain that adverse environmental conditions have been caused by climate change? To be certain, we would have to refer to the relatively new science of extreme event attribution, which is often inconclusive. Then, to call someone a 'climate migrant', the climatic conditions would have to be the principal motivation for their upheaval. Most often, it is a mixture of things that cause a person to pull up roots and move, and environmental factors are hard to separate from the rest: Climate change can also increase poverty, crime and political instability.

Another legally important issue is the term 'migrant'. If the new turbulence of the environment is what forces people to move, wouldn't it be best to call them climate 'refugees'? That way the upheaved population would have greater protection, like access to legal services and planned relocation, although at the moment, the Refugee Act of 1951 does not cover climate displacement. The importance of definition and terminology is pivotal when it comes to the law, as well as recognition from host countries. Calling them refugees instead of migrants will, as the Council on Foreign Relations has said, "also be a signal from wealthier countries, which are most responsible for planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions, that there is a global responsibility to help those harmed by climate change."

And the situation could hardly be more urgent. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has determined that natural disasters alone force an annual average of 21.5 million people from their homes across the globe. In one study conducted by The New York Times, ProPublica and the Pulitzer Center, an extreme scenario could see "more than 30 million migrants [...] head toward the U.S. border over the course of the next 30 years." Climate displacement has begun, and will only increase with the coming years.

The statistics are dire, and the consequences potentially catastrophic, but host countries have the opportunity to twist the best out of a bad situation. Climate displacement could fix economic problems associated with aging populations, and fill holes in the job market. Gaia Vince of The Guardian predicts that "cities from Munich to Buffalo will begin competing with each other to attract migrants." So, yes, climate migration is happening now, and will increase with the warming and ecological disasters coming our way. Legal protection and clearer definitions are needed, but it's not all gloom. Climate migrants don't only spell disaster, they also spell opportunity for those countries wise enough to see it..



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

South Dakota ranks third in federal grassland conservation sign-ups

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - JULY 22, 2023 7:00 AM (SD SearchLight)

Only two states enrolled more land than South Dakota in the most recent sign-up period for a federal grassland conservation program.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grassland Conservation Reserve Program pays farmers to convert or keep environmentally sensitive agricultural land as grassland for 10 to 15 years.

Unlike the USDA's standard Conservation Reserve Program, the grassland program lets landowners continue making hay on the land and allowing their animals to graze it.

The program helps address climate change by conserving grasslands that pull atmospheric heat-trapping carbon dioxide into the soil. Grasslands also increase the land's resilience to drought and flooding, improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and provide habitat for wildlife.

Total national enrollments in the grasslands program reached 2.7 million acres this year. South Dakotans enrolled 325,443 acres. Nebraska ranked second with 417,865 acres, and Colorado ranked number one with 430,899 acres.

Jim Inglis, director of government affairs for Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever – an upland habitat conservation organization – said in a statement that the number of sign-ups are “a great sign for grassland habitat everywhere, as the storied program continues to provide immense benefits for a wide array of wildlife on working lands.”

The USDA prioritizes land within two national priority zones: the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and the Dust Bowl area (a reference to the region of the Great Plains affected by dust storms and erosion in the 1930s, including South Dakota).

“This year's Grassland CRP sign-up demonstrates the continued popularity, success, and value of investments in voluntary, producer-led, working lands conservation programs,” said Zach Ducheneaux, administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency, in a written statement.

A record-breaking 3.1 million acres were enrolled in the grassland conservation program last year.

South Dakota landowners interested in the program, or any other conservation program, may visit their local USDA service center and connect with a Farm Bill biologist.

Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked for five years as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

Winter is coming and the U.S. grid remains vulnerable to power plant failures

BY: ROBERT ZULLO - JULY 22, 2023 6:00 AM (SD SearchLight)

From winter storms to sweltering summer heat, there's a consensus among experts that increasing extreme weather, a shifting electric generation mix, delays in getting new power generation projects connected and the difficulties in getting new transmission lines and other infrastructure built all pose an increasing risk to the grid.

At U.S. Senate committee hearings as well as Federal Energy Regulatory Commission meetings, there have been plentiful warnings over the past few months about a coming reliability crisis.

Much of the debate has centered on what U.S. Sen. John Barasso, a Wyoming Republican, characterized at a hearing last month as "reckless policies" aimed at limiting pollution from existing power plants, retiring older fossil fuel generation facilities and speeding the transition to cleaner sources of energy to mitigate the consequences of climate change.

But there's been less sound and fury about one of the biggest factors in recent severe weather blackouts, like those across parts of the South during Winter Storm Elliott, when large numbers of fossil fuel plants, particularly those fired by natural gas, tripped offline because of freezing equipment, inability to secure fuel and other failures.

"The overwhelming threat to reliability right now is fossil plants failing to perform in the winter," said Tom Rutigliano, a senior advocate at the Natural Resources Defense Council's Sustainable FERC program.

And though FERC approved new power plant winterization standards in February, one commissioner flatly said they don't go far enough and pointed out that they don't become enforceable until 2027.

Winter might seem far off right now with much of the country in the grips of a punishing heat wave, but as it approaches, the grid is still very much vulnerable to severe storms like Elliott and Winter Storm Uri, which caused a catastrophic collapse of the Texas electric grid in 2021 that killed an estimated 246 people.

"Nothing really has fundamentally changed since last winter," said Michael Goggin, vice president of Grid Strategies, a consulting firm focused on clean energy integration. "It's just a question of do we get lucky and avoid another cold snap."

'Implement these recommendations now'

During Elliott, which brought rapidly plummeting temperatures to many parts of the country over the Christmas weekend, rolling blackouts were instituted by the Tennessee Valley Authority, which provides electricity for 153 local power companies serving 10 million people in Tennessee and parts of six surrounding states, Duke Energy in the Carolinas and several utilities in Kentucky, cutting power to hundreds of thousands of customers.

PJM, the nation's biggest regional transmission organization, coordinating electric flow for 65 million people in parts of 13 states and the District of Columbia, urged its customers to cut usage and avoided blackouts despite losing about 47,000 megawatts of capacity.

TVA said 38 of its 232 generating units were "negatively impacted, mostly due to instrumentation that froze," during the storm, taking thousands of megawatts of power offline as demand surged to historic levels.

In Duke Energy's territory in the Carolinas, the company lost about 1,300 megawatts of power output mostly from coal and gas (though no plants failed entirely) due to instrumentation issues from the cold and power imports from out of state that failed to materialize, a company spokesman said. Duke's problems threatened the broader reliability of the broader electric grid that serves more than half the country, called the Eastern Interconnection.

In PJM, gas power plants accounted for 70% of the outages. "Most outages were caused by equipment failure likely resulting from the extreme cold, though broader issues of gas availability also contributed to the outages," PJM staff wrote in a report released July 17.

"There has been a lot of talk that we must preserve the current resource mix, which in PJM is made

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predominantly of natural gas, coal and nuclear resources," said Greg Poulous, executive director the Consumer Advocates for PJM States, at a FERC forum on PJM's capacity market last month. "However I have yet to hear someone say that having 20% of coal resources and 23% of natural gas resources fail to perform during Winter Storm Elliott is acceptable. That seems to be lost in all of this."

In a separate proceeding on an inquiry into what went wrong during Elliott, FERC Chairman Willie Phillips noted that extreme weather has become more commonplace.

"This is the fifth winter storm event that we've had in the past 11 years," Phillips said. "So what seems to have been a once-in-a-generation event is now every other year."

Per a presentation by FERC staff, more than 70,000 megawatts of power generation went offline across the country during the storm, and for strikingly similar reasons as in winter storms in 2011, 2014, 2018 and 2021.

"We're finding that unplanned generating unit outages continue to be the primary challenge that are seen in all of these events," said Heather Polzin, who works in FERC's Office of Enforcement.

Both FERC and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, which is charged by federal law with setting and enforcing reliability standards for the North American power system, have repeatedly urged power generators to make the upgrades necessary to improve performance during severe weather.

"Implement these recommendations now," Phillips said. "Right now. We know, to borrow a phrase, winter is coming. Let's get ready. Let's stop this. We can do this."

But there's been some resistance, particularly from independent power producers who sell their electricity on the open market.

The Electric Power Supply Association, a trade group for competitive power generators, filed a request for a rehearing on the new winterization standards FERC approved, arguing that the standards lacked a cost-recovery mechanism and that their members could be put at a competitive disadvantage. Vertically integrated utilities, which are generally responsible for generating, transmitting and distributing electricity in a given territory, can simply pass the costs of winterization upgrades onto their ratepayers, the association said.

"Competitive generation owners lack similar opportunities," EPSA argued, noting that some power plants will also be exempted from the new rules (for technical, commercial or operational reasons). "The Feb. 16 order not only neglected to give this issue special attention, it gave this issue no attention at all."

FERC denied the request for another hearing.

"To the extent competitive generators believe that their existing rates do not offer an opportunity to recover the costs ... they may make appropriate filings," the commission wrote.

A 'tricky' fix

So if a major cause of blackouts in severe weather is power plant failures, why can't federal regulators simply force them to quickly make the upgrades necessary to improve cold weather performance?

It's not that simple, said Jim Robb, NERC's president and CEO of NERC.

"In all of our standards that we've passed, particularly if they require a change in operating practices or capital investment, you have to give the sector some time to respond to that, so there's a delay from when you pass the standard to when it's enforceable," Robb said in an interview with States Newsroom. "In between there, we jump up and down and try to promote early action as quickly as we can."

The other quandary for regulators, at a time when there's widespread concern about the pace of power plant retirements, is getting better performance from those units without prompting them to shut down.

"We don't want to cause an event that would prematurely retire any generation. ... All the stuff that's kind of the backbone of the electric grid are all under pressure economically and because of other regulatory actions. Our goal isn't to compound that," Robb said.

He added that winterizing plants in the South can be particularly challenging, since they must be able to operate in extreme heat as well as cold.

"At the same time we want to be clear that these plants need to be able to perform under the kind of conditions that we've seen five times over the last 11 years, three times over the last five and each of the last two winters," he said. "That's becoming the norm and that's got to become much more the planning

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case for the grid.”

He noted that FERC is directing his organization to take another look at exceptions related to technical feasibility in the new rules that would allow power plants to avoid making the upgrades. When they do come into effect, though, Robb said NERC believes the new standards will prevent the types of power plant failures seen during Uri and Elliott.

“It’s a tricky problem to work through but that’s what FERC came back and said we want tighter language around that,” Robb said. “I don’t disagree with them at all.”

The future of gas

Though the U.S. is currently seen as being in the midst of a big single electric transition (from fossil fuels to renewables) it’s actually at the tail end of an earlier one (from coal to gas) that hasn’t been fully reckoned with from a reliability perspective, according to some grid experts, like Rutigliano of the NRDC.

Natural gas has become a crucial part of the electric generation mix. Coal fell from 52% of U.S. power generation in 1990 to 18% in 2022 as gas climbed from 12% to 40% over that time. That’s made the electric grid that much more vulnerable to outages from gas plants, which depend on deliveries from gas pipelines and don’t typically have fuel on site like coal or nuclear power plants.

“Natural gas has failed at a very disproportionately high rate,” Rutigliano said.

Although during severe weather many gas power plants failed because of freezing equipment, others were unable to run because they weren’t able to get fuel.

“Where we haven’t seen much progress is making sure the fuel supply is firmed up,” said Devin Hartman, director of energy and environmental policy at the R Street Institute, a Washington think tank focused on policy solutions. “We really have to talk about gas industry reforms as well. There’s only so much juice we can squeeze out of this lemon on just the electric side.”

But with gas projected by some to be part of the U.S. electric generation mix for the foreseeable future, it’s crucial to make sure it can perform when called upon. Like it or not, that means more investment in gas infrastructure, Robb said, even as technologies like battery storage come into more widespread use.

“We have like five gigawatts of batteries in California right now, which is spectacular,” said Robb. “That is a ton of batteries. It’s a drop in the bucket compared to what you would ultimately need to not have natural gas on the system. ...The batteries we have are doing a lot of really great things, they’re just not everything we need them to do and nor are they likely capable of doing that.”

Hartman said it’s time to have a “conversation about prudent investment in the gas industry” so it can perform when needed, such as during severe weather.

“Natural gas, to be totally frank, is going to play a very major role in the electric fuel mix for at least a couple of decades,” he said.

A 2019 paper prepared for the American Petroleum Council noted that although natural gas power plants had become the largest users of the interstate pipeline system, “power plants, particularly those in the regional competitive wholesale electricity markets that cover most of the country, are reluctant to contract for firm transportation.” Firm contracts are those that cannot be interrupted except “under unforeseeable circumstances,” per the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

The gas industry is designed, operated and incentivized primarily to serve what Robb called its “core customers,” local gas distribution companies, not power plants.

“The gas-electric coordination issues are really very, very significant and also very challenging to resolve. Otherwise they’d be solved,” Robb said. “So we’ve got to figure out how to make that interface work in a way that it’s not right now because the failure of natural gas generation has been the common theme throughout each of the five major winter events that we’ve studied.”

However, the North American Energy Standards Board has worked for about a year and a half on a list of recommendations to improve coordination between the gas and electric power industry, he said. They would not be binding though.

Local and regional fixes

While the new power plant standards approved by federal regulators won’t become enforceable until

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2027, that doesn't mean states and the regional entities that coordinate electric flow in much of the country are toothless.

PJM is proposing changes to its capacity market, which was created to ensure power generators provide enough electric generating capacity to meet demand when the grid is under stress, such as during severe summer heat or frigid winter weather. But there's widespread concern that the system of incentives and penalties to get generators to show up when they're needed isn't working.

In North Carolina, regulators at the Utilities Commission are reviewing Duke Energy's failures during Elliott. "We always work to improve from every incident and have been applying lessons learned from that event to improve the operations of our plants during extreme conditions," Duke spokesman Jeff Brooks said.

TVA said it has made more than 250 equipment upgrades to guard against a repeat failure. Kentucky regulators have raised the possibility of fining one utility related to its attempt to recoup from ratepayers the cost of emergency power purchased during Elliott, contending that it should have done better planning.

"Our standards and our mission and our charter is to avoid large scale cascading outages," Robb, the NERC CEO, said, adding that states could and should check into utility fuel contracts, substation security and whether they have enough power generation on hand, among other issues. "States have the responsibility to ensure that their customers have power when they need it. ... States are always able to go beyond what we prescribe."

For some, there's also a broad need to promote more "demand response," the ability to cut electric demand for some nonessential customers during severe weather. Hartman, from the R Street Institute, said that in Austin during the deadly Winter Storm Uri, "we were keeping downtown vacant office buildings lit up while people in other parts of the city were without electricity."

There are calls as well for better planning and "accreditation" of the different strengths and weaknesses of generating plants, so grid operators aren't caught as much by surprise.

"If PJM is counting on gas plants to be available on short notice — their vaunted flexibility — then they should be. And they should be paying what they need to to be available if they've taken on the capacity commitment," said Casey Roberts, an attorney with the Sierra Club, at a FERC meeting on PJM's capacity market last month. Power generators, in turn, say they need more money from power markets like PJM to ensure they can get gas and be ready when needed.

For some electric grid observers, there's still a lot the federal government can do. For instance, FERC has been considering whether it should impose an interregional transfer requirement — a certain amount of electricity that can move between regional systems — to improve electric reliability. Proponents describe it as creating a grid bigger than the weather.

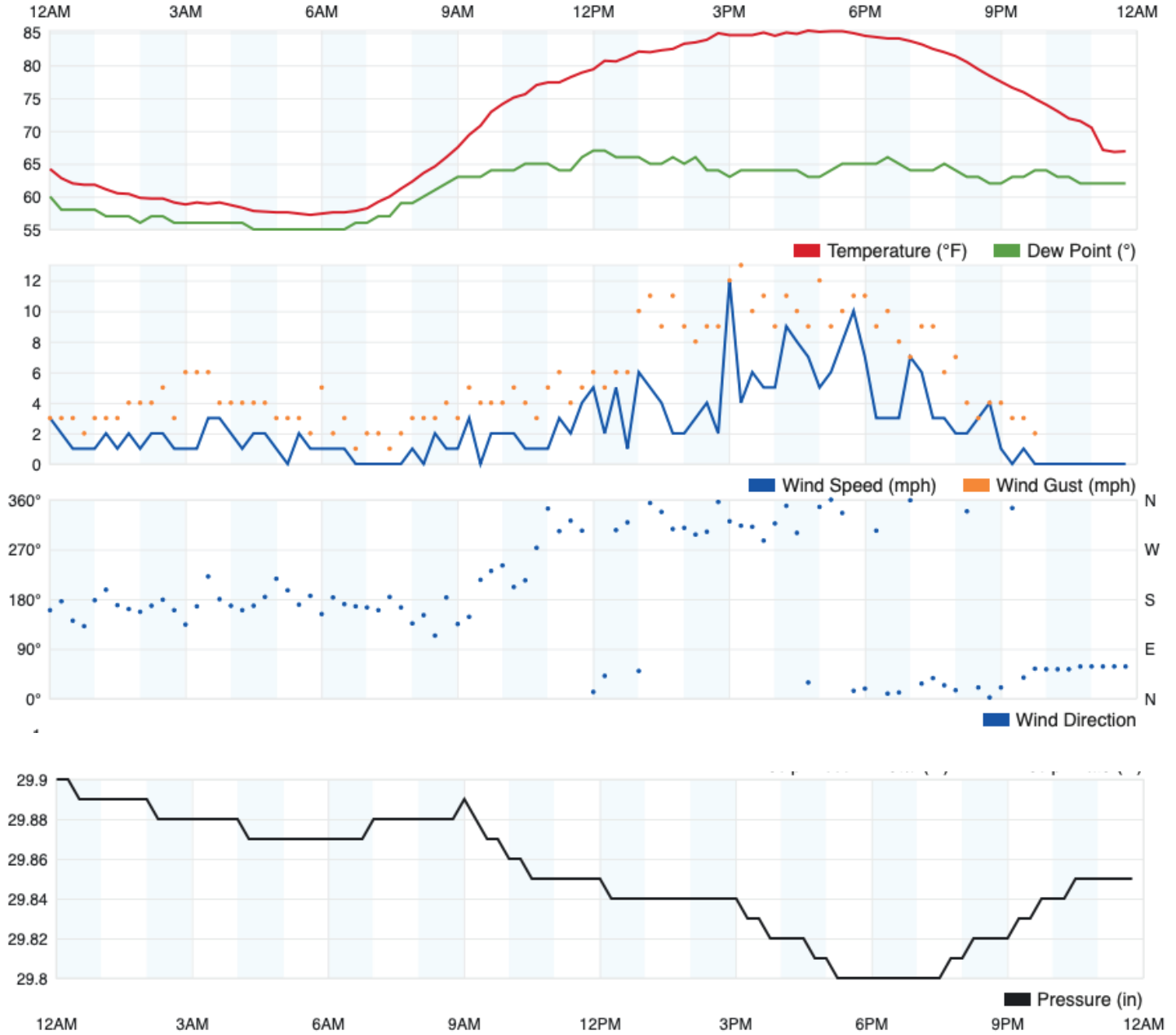
"It's an insurance policy against all these events, being able to bring power from another region," Goggin said.

Robert Zullo is a national energy reporter based in southern Illinois focusing on renewable power and the electric grid. Robert joined States Newsroom in 2018 as the founding editor of the Virginia Mercury. Before that, he spent 13 years as a reporter and editor at newspapers in Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Louisiana. He has a bachelor's degree from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. He grew up in Miami, Fla., and central New Jersey.

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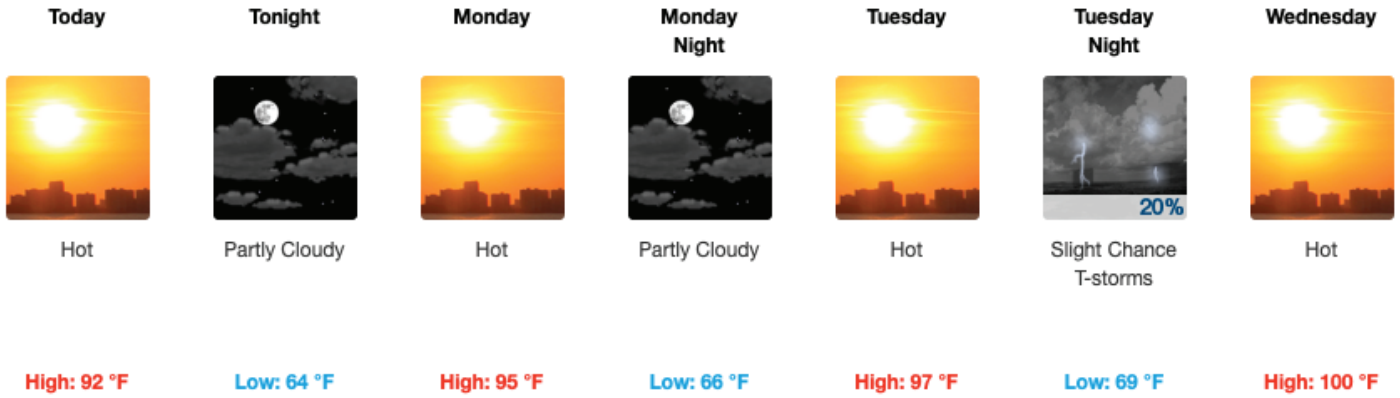
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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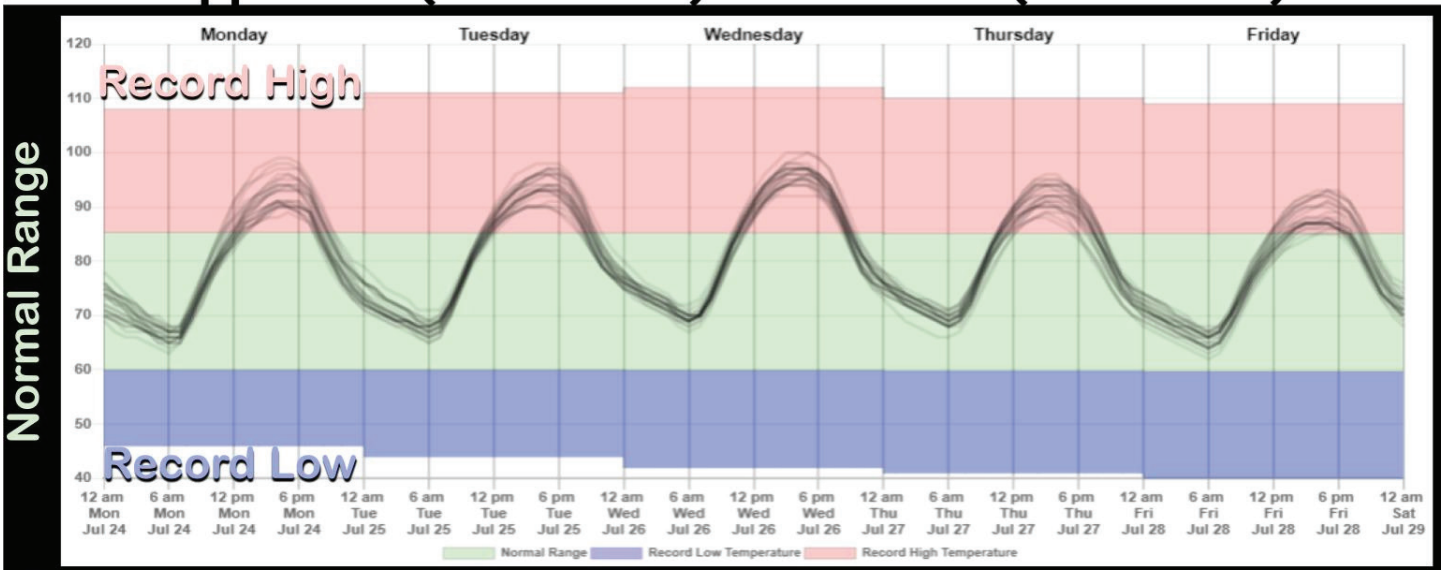


The Heat Starts Today...Minimal Chances For Moisture

July 23, 2023
3:55 AM

Today's Highs:

Upper 80s (eastern SD) to near 100 (central SD)



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

The heat kicks in today, with above normal highs for most of next week. Heat and humidity peak Wednesday with heat index values above the century mark likely. Precipitation chances look minimal as well.

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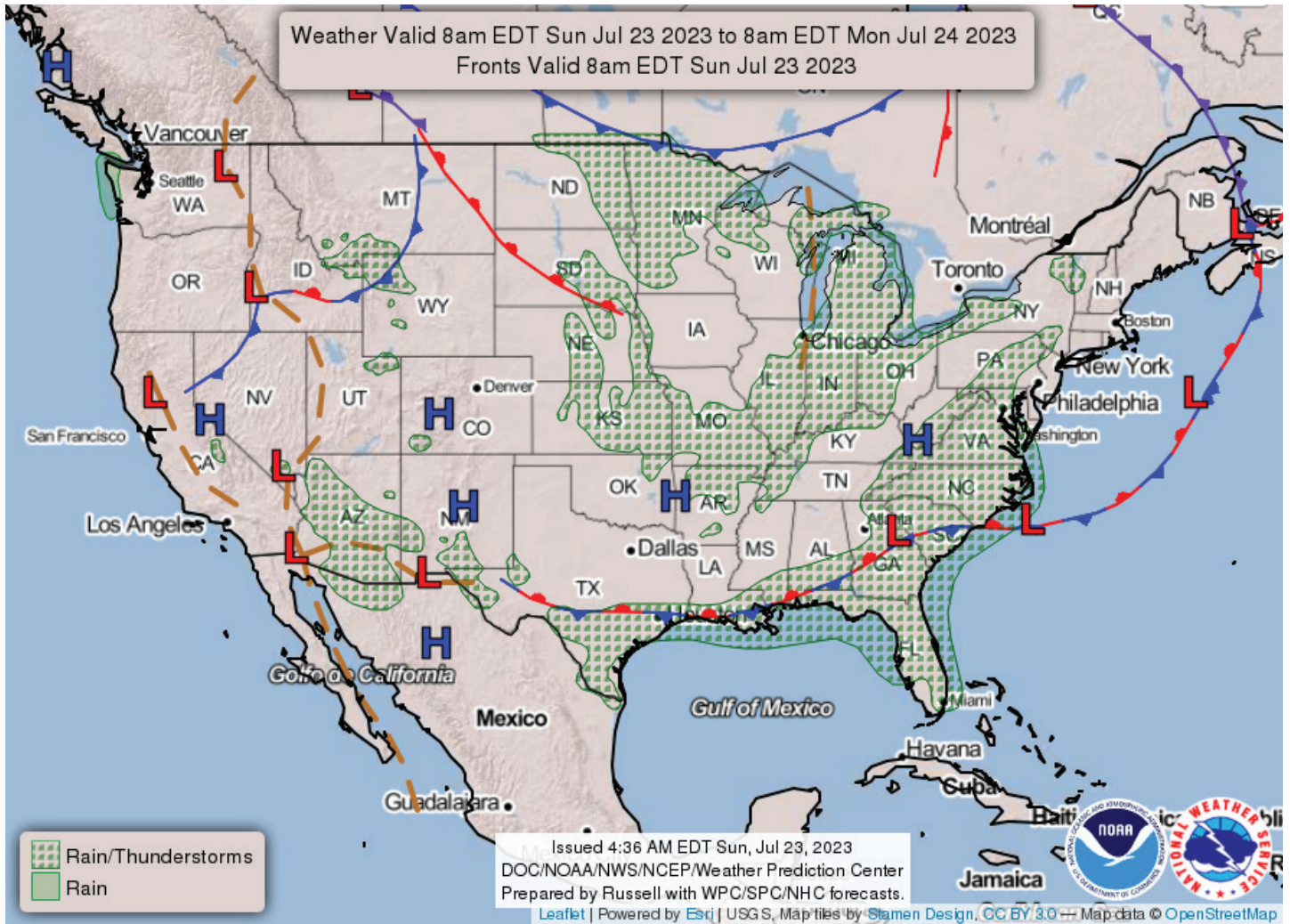
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 85 °F at 4:11 PM
Low Temp: 57 °F at 5:41 AM
Wind: 13 mph at 3:06 PM
Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 109 in 1941
Record Low: 41 in 1904
Average High: 85
Average Low: 60
Average Precip in July.: 2.44
Precip to date in July.: 1.32
Average Precip to date: 13.45
Precip Year to Date: 12.67
Sunset Tonight: 9:12:55 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:05:58 AM

Day length: 15 hours, 08 minutes



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Today in Weather History

July 23, 2007: High heat indices along with very little wind contributed to the deaths of over 2800 cattle in Brown, Spink, Day, and Marshall Counties. Most of the cattle deaths occurred on July 23rd. The high heat indices continued through the 25th with some more cattle deaths, but protective measures kept the death count down. Most of the cattle that died were on feedlots. The total loss was around 3 million dollars.

July 23, 2010: A United States record setting hailstone fell from a powerful supercell thunderstorm moving southeast across central South Dakota. The record setting hailstone fell near Vivian, South Dakota and measured 8 inches in diameter, 18.625 inches in circumference, and weighed 1.9375 pounds. This hailstone broke the previous United States record for diameter (7.0 inches - 22 June 2003 in Aurora, NE) and weight (1.67 pounds - 3 September 1970 in Coffeyville, KS). The Aurora, Nebraska hailstone will retain the record for circumference (18.75 inches). Several other stones of 6 inches or more in diameter were measured during the storm survey.

Along with the huge hail, damaging winds more than 70 mph along with an isolated tornado occurred. The large hail and high winds caused extensive damage to homes, outbuildings, and vehicles as it moved southeast across the region. Some of the hail went entirely through car windshields, roofs, garages, and campers. The hail caused five minor injuries to motorists on Interstate 90 as it went through their windshields. A child was severely injured when the large hail completely shattered the glass in the mini-van he was traveling. The child suffered numerous cuts, many requiring stitches. Click [HERE](#) for more information from NOAA.

1788: Called the George Washington's Hurricane, this storm originated near Bermuda on the 19th before making landfall in Virginia. It passed directly over the Lower Chesapeake Bay and Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington. This track is very similar to the path of the Chesapeake-Potomac hurricane of 1933. At Norfolk, winds increased at 5 p.m. on the 23rd with the wind originating from the northeast. At 12:30 a.m., the wind suddenly shifted to the south and "blew a perfect hurricane, tearing down chimneys, fences"...some corn was also leveled. Also, large trees were uprooted, and houses were moved from their foundations.

Port Royal and Hobb's Hole experienced a violent northeast gale which drove several vessels ashore. In Fredricksburg, vast quantities of corn, tobacco, and fruit were destroyed. Houses and trees fell in significant numbers across Northumberland, Lancaster, Richmond, and Westmoreland counties. Crops were destroyed, and many livestock perished in Lower Mathews County. Many plantations saw their houses leveled. Homes were flooded with water six feet deep, and several inhabitants drowned.

Historical figures of the time logged the storm's antics. George Washington noted the sinking of the small ship Federalist and uprooted trees. Colonel James Madison, the father of the future president, experienced the passing of great winds and rains near Orange. In Alexandria, damage to wheat, tobacco, and corn was "beyond description." The information above is from the Weather Prediction Center and noted American historian David Ludlum.

1898 - A two hour thunderstorm deluged Atlanta, GA, with 4.32 inches of rain. More than a foot of water flooded Union Depot. Many street car motors burned out while trying to run through flooded streets. It grew so dark before the afternoon storm that gas lights were needed. (The Weather Channel)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in Lower Michigan and northern Ohio, over eastern sections of the Dakotas, and over the Central High Plains Region. Showers and thunderstorms soaked Wilmington, NC, with another two inches of rain, following six and a half inches the previous day. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Morning thunderstorms in the central U.S. drenched central Oklahoma with up to six inches of rain. Afternoon thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 85 mph at Fort Smith, AR. Evening thunderstorms over Florida spawned a tornado which touched down three times in south Fort Myers causing nearly three quarters of a million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2011: Chicago set an all-time daily record rainfall when 6.86 inches fell during the early morning hours of Saturday, July 23, 2011, at O'Hare airport. The previous daily record was 6.64 inches set on September 13, 2008.

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

GOD'S WILL

Following the morning sermon, a young college student asked the pastor for a few minutes of his time. Agreeing, the pastor asked the student to meet him in his study.

"Pastor," the student began, "I did not completely understand what you meant by Christians being willing to do God's will. What is God's will for my life?"

Handing the student a sheet of paper with nothing on it, the pastor said, "It's signing your name at the bottom of this blank sheet of paper and letting God fill it in as He chooses." God has a special, specific plan for each of us. It is a good plan, a pleasing plan, and a perfect plan that He designed for every day of our lives. One problem most of us have, however, is that we go to Him with what we want or want to do, and then ask Him to agree with us. That is not the way He works. Our plans are to come from Him.

We can only be what He wants us to be and do what He wants us to do if we go to Him with a blank sheet of paper and ask Him to "fill it in." We must spend time with Him in prayer and read His Word carefully, asking Him to open our minds to His ways. We must go to Him, trusting Him for His best for our lives, and then have open minds, willing hearts and listening ears, waiting for Him to speak.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to be willing to be able to give up anything and everything for You, but not give You up for anything. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Romans 12:1-2



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

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2023 Community Events

- 01/29/2023 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed, 10am-1pm, Community Center
- 01/29/2023 85th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 01/31/2023-02/03/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Drop Off 6-9pm, Community Center
- 02/04/2023-02/05/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Sale 1-5pm, Community Center
- 02/25/2023 Littles and Me, Art Making 10-11:30am, Wage Memorial Library
- 03/25/2023 Spring Vendor Fair, 10am-3pm, Community Center
- 04/01/2023 Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39 6-11:30pm
- 04/06/2023 Groton Career Development Event
- 04/08/2023 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)
- 04/22/2023 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 04/23/2023 Princess Prom 4:30-8pm (Sunday after GHS Prom)
- 05/06/2023 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/29/2023 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 06/16/2023 SDSU Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament
- 06/17/2023 Groton Triathlon
- 07/04/2023 Couples Firecracker Golf Tournament
- 07/09/2023 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/26/2023 GGA Burger Fundraiser Lunch at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 08/04/2023 Wine on Nine 6pm
- 08/10/2023 Family Fun Fest, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 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:
07.21.23

29 40 47 50 57 25

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$820,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.22.23

1 20 23 36 41 1

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$6,200,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.22.23

15 22 23 30 44 5

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 9 Mins 56 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.22.23

4 5 12 23 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$20,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.22.23

31 37 39 54 65 14

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.22.23

25 27 36 37 63 7

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$28,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

Hun Sen set to win by landslide in Cambodian elections with opposition suppressed and critics purged

By SOPHENG CHEANG and DAVID RISING Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Counting of ballots began Sunday in Cambodia's general election in which longtime Prime Minister Hun Sen's party is all but assured a landslide victory thanks to the effective suppression and intimidation of any real opposition. His critics say the process has made a farce of democracy in the Southeast Asian nation.

The European Union, the United States and other Western countries refused to send observers, saying the election lacked the conditions to be considered free and fair. That left international officials from Russia, China and Guinea-Bissau to watch as Hun Sen voted shortly after the polls opened at 7 a.m. Sunday in his home district outside of the capital, Phnom Penh.

He held his ballot high for all to see, before depositing it into the silver metal box and leaving the station, pausing to take selfies and shake hands with supporters outside.

The longest-serving leader in Asia, Hun Sen has steadily consolidated power with his strong-arm tactics over the last 38 years. But, at age 70, he has suggested he will hand off the premiership during the upcoming five-year term to his oldest son, Hun Manet, perhaps as early as the first month after the elections.

Hun Manet, 45, has a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point as well as a master's from NYU and a Ph.D. from Bristol University in Britain. He is currently chief of Cambodia's army.

Despite his Western education, however, observers don't expect any immediate shifts in policy from that of his father, who has steadily drawn Cambodia closer to China in recent years.

"I don't think anyone expects Hun Sen to sort of disappear once Hun Manet is prime minister," said Astrid Norén-Nilsson, a Cambodia expert at Sweden's Lund University. "I think they will probably be working closely together and I don't think that there is a big difference in their political outlook, including foreign policy."

Hun Manet is just part of what is expected to be a broader generational change, with the ruling Cambodian People's Party planning to install younger leaders into most ministerial positions.

"That's going to be the big change of guard, that's what I'm watching," Norén-Nilsson said. "It's all about the transition, it's all about who's going to come in and in what positions they find themselves."

At the station where Hun Sen cast his ballot, voter Nan Sy, a former lawmaker himself with a smaller royalist party, said the main issue for him was stability.

"Without stability we cannot talk about education, we cannot talk about development," the 59-year-old said without saying who he voted for.

There were few reports of any protests against the elections, but Gen. Khieu Sopheak, Cambodia's national police spokesperson, said 27 people were being sought over allegations they called for voters to spoil their ballots in a Telegram chat channel. He said there had been two arrests at polling stations as well.

Hun Sen had been a middle-ranking commander in the radical communist Khmer Rouge responsible for genocide in the 1970s before defecting to Vietnam. When Vietnam ousted the Khmer Rouge from power in 1979, he quickly became a senior member of the new Cambodian government installed by Hanoi.

A wily and sometimes ruthless politician, Hun Sen has maintained power as an autocrat in a nominally democratic framework.

His party's stranglehold on power faltered in 2013 elections, in which the opposition Cambodian National Rescue Party won 44% of the popular vote to CPP's 48%. Hun Sen responded to the wake-up call by going after leaders of the opposition, primarily through sympathetic courts, which eventually dissolved the party after local elections in 2017 when it again fared well.

Ahead of Sunday's election, the Candlelight Party, the unofficial successor to the CNRP and only other contender capable of mounting a credible challenge, was barred on a technicality from contesting the polls by the National Election Committee.

While virtually assuring another landslide victory for Hun Sen and his party, the methods have prompted widespread criticism from rights groups.

Human Rights Watch said the "election bears little resemblance to an actual democratic process," while the Asian Network for Free Elections, an umbrella organization of almost 20 regional NGOs, said the National Election Commission had showed a "clear bias" toward the CPP in barring the Candlelight Party.

"Such disqualification further exacerbates the imbalanced and unjust political environment, leaving minimal room for opposition voices to compete on equal footing with the ruling party," the group said in a joint statement.

"Moreover, the shrinking space available for civil society and the deliberate targeting of human rights defenders and activists raise serious alarm. The constriction of civic space undermines the active participation of civil society in the electoral process without fear of reprisal."

After the "vastly unpopular" way the opposition was neutralized in 2018, this time around there is little sign of widespread popular discontent, Norén-Nilsson said, because Hun Sen and the CPP have done a very effective job over the past five years of building a sense among many Cambodians that they are part of a new national project.

The strategy has involved careful messaging, with sweeping slogans like "small country, big heart," and little talk about policy, she said.

"It's really quite astonishing how the CPP has managed to gain at least acceptance for what we see now," she said. "If before people thought that the glass was half empty, now it's half full, so you focus more on what you have than don't have."

With the Candlelight Party out of the running, the largest beneficiary of any anti-CPP vote will likely be FUNCINPEC, a royalist party whose name is an unwieldy French acronym for the National Front for an Independent, Neutral and Cooperative Cambodia.

Founded in 1981 by Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's former king, the party defeated the CPP in 1993 U.N.-run elections, but his son, Norodom Ranariddh, ended up having to agree to a co-prime ministership with Hun Sen.

Today's party president, Norodom Chakravuth, who returned from France to take control of the party a little over a year ago after the death of his father Norodom Ranariddh, told The Associated Press that his sights are more on the 2028 election but is hoping this time to possibly win one or two seats.

The latest Russian strike on Ukraine's Odesa leaves 1 dead, many hurt and a cathedral badly damaged

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

ODESA, Ukraine (AP) — Russia struck the Ukrainian Black Sea city of Odesa again on Sunday, local officials said, keeping up a barrage of attacks that has damaged critical port infrastructure in southern Ukraine in the past week. At least one person was killed and 22 others wounded in the attack in the early hours.

Regional Governor Oleh Kiper said that four children were among those wounded in the blasts, which severely damaged the historic Transfiguration Cathedral, a landmark Orthodox cathedral in the city.

Russia has been launching persistent attacks on Odesa, a key hub for exporting grain, since Moscow canceled a landmark grain deal on Monday amid Kyiv's grinding efforts to retake its occupied territories.

Kiper noted that six residential buildings, including apartment buildings, were destroyed by the strikes.

In one such case in downtown Odesa, some people became trapped in their apartments as a result of the damage caused by the attack, which left rubble strewn in the street and partly blocking the road, and damage to power lines.

Svitlana Molcharova, 85, was rescued by emergency service workers. But after she received first medical aid, she refused to leave her destroyed apartment.

"I will stay here," she said to the emergency service worker who advised her to leave.

"I woke up when the ceiling started to fall on me. I rushed into the corridor," said Ivan Kovalenko, 19, another resident of the building. He came to Odesa having fled the city of Mykolaiv in search of a safer

place to live after his house was destroyed.

"That's how I lost my home in Mykolaiv, and here, I lost my rented apartment. "

In his home, the ceiling partially collapsed, the balcony came off the side of the building, and all the windows were blown out.

The Transfiguration Cathedral, one of the most important and largest Orthodox Cathedrals in Odesa, was severely damaged.

"The destruction is enormous, half of the cathedral is now roofless," said Archdeacon Andrii Palchuk, as cathedral workers brought documents and valuable items out of the severely building, the floor of which was inundated with water used by firefighters to extinguish the fire.

Palchuk said the damage was caused by a direct hit from a Russian missile that penetrated the building down to the basement and caused significant damage. Two people who were inside at the time of the strike were wounded.

"But with God's help, we will restore it," he said, bursting into tears.

Odesa's historic center was designated an endangered World Heritage Site by the United Nations' cultural agency, UNESCO, earlier this year, despite Russian opposition.

Russia's Defense Ministry said Sunday that Russian forces had attacked sites in Odesa, "where terrorist acts against the Russian Federation were being prepared."

The ministry said in a statement that the strikes were carried out with sea- and air-based long-range high-precision weapons, and that there are "foreign mercenaries" at the targeted sites.

In a later statement, the ministry denied that its attacks had struck the Transfiguration Cathedral, claiming that the destruction of the cathedral was likely due to "the fall of a Ukrainian anti-aircraft guided missile."

Earlier Russian attacks this week crippled significant parts of export facilities in Odesa and nearby Chornomorsk and destroyed 60,000 tons of grain, according to Ukraine's Agriculture Ministry.

The attacks come days after President Vladimir Putin pulled Russia out of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, a wartime deal that enabled Ukraine's exports to reach many countries facing the threat of hunger.

Putin vowed to retaliate against Kyiv for an attack Monday on the crucial Kerch Bridge linking Russia with the Crimean Peninsula, which the Kremlin illegally annexed in 2014.

In other developments:

– Russian president Vladimir Putin and Belarusian president Alexander Lukashenko are meeting on Sunday in St Petersburg, two days after Moscow warned Poland that any aggression against its neighbor and ally Belarus, would be considered an attack on Russia. Putin announced near the start of the meeting that talks would also take place on Monday, and declared that Kyiv's counteroffensive had failed.

– Kharkiv regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov reported Sunday morning that two people were killed in Russian strikes on the northeastern province on Saturday, when Russia attacked populated areas of the Kharkiv, Chuhuiv, Kupiansk and Iziium districts.

– Donetsk regional Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said Sunday that four residents of the eastern region were killed on Saturday, with 11 further wounded.

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

Israel's Netanyahu recovers from a heart procedure while his judicial overhaul plan moves forward

By TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was recovering in a hospital on Sunday after an emergency heart procedure while opposition to his government's contentious judicial overhaul plan reached a fever pitch and unrest gripped the country.

Netanyahu's doctors said on Sunday the heart pacemaker implantation went smoothly and that Netanyahu, 73, felt fine. According to his office, he was expected to be discharged later in the day. But tensions were surging as lawmakers began a marathon debate over the first major piece of the overhaul, ahead of

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a vote in parliament enshrining it into law on Monday.

Mass protests were set to continue. Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets across Israel on Saturday night, while thousands marched into Jerusalem and camped out near the Knesset, or parliament, ahead of Monday's vote.

Netanyahu's sudden hospitalization added another dizzying twist to an already dramatic series of events that are certain to shape Israel's future. It comes as the longest-serving Israeli leader faces the gravest challenge of his leadership and the country's worst domestic crisis which has shaken the economy, forged cracks in the country's military and tested the delicate social fabric that holds the polarized country together.

Lawmakers began their debate despite the hospitalization. In a fiery speech launching the session, Simcha Rothman, a main driver of the overhaul, denounced the courts, saying they damaged Israel's democratic fundamentals by arbitrarily striking down government decisions.

"This small clause is meant to restore democracy to the state of Israel," Rothman said. "I call on Knesset members to approve the bill."

Still Netanyahu's health woes disrupted his routine. The weekly Cabinet meeting scheduled for Sunday morning was postponed and Israeli Army Radio reported that a security assessment of the effect of the legal dispute on the military was also taken off Netanyahu's schedule.

Netanyahu's office said that he was sedated during the implantation and that a top deputy, Justice Minister Yariv Levin, stood in for him while he underwent the procedure. Levin, a close confidant of the prime minister, is the mastermind of the overhaul.

In a brief video statement before the implantation, Netanyahu said he "feels excellent" and planned to push forward with the judicial overhaul as soon as he was released, adding that he expected to be released in time to go to the Knesset for Monday's vote.

Legislators are set to vote on an overhaul measure that would limit the Supreme Court's oversight powers by preventing judges from striking down government decisions on the basis that they are "unreasonable." Monday's vote would mark the first major piece of legislation to be approved.

Proponents say the current "reasonability" standard gives judges excessive powers over decision-making by elected officials. Critics say removing the standard, which is invoked infrequently, would allow the government to pass arbitrary decisions, make improper appointments or firings and open the door to corruption.

The overhaul also calls for other sweeping changes aimed at curbing the powers of the judiciary, from limiting the Supreme Court's ability to challenge parliamentary decisions, to changing the way judges are selected.

Speaking in parliament, opposition leader Yair Lapid called for Netanyahu to resume compromise talks and lauded the protesters for standing up to the government.

"The government of Israel launched a war of attrition against the citizens of Israel and discovered the people can't be broken. We won't give up on our children's future," he said.

Protesters, who come from a wide swath of Israeli society, see the overhaul as a power grab fueled by personal and political grievances of Netanyahu — who is on trial for corruption charges — and his partners who want to deepen Israel's control of the occupied West Bank and perpetuate controversial draft exemptions for ultra-Orthodox men.

Netanyahu was rushed to hospital in the middle of the night a week after being hospitalized for what doctors said was dehydration. They released him then after implanting a device to monitor his heart but he was hospitalized again Sunday because it showed anomalies, prompting the need for a pacemaker.

Professor Roy Beinart, senior physician and director at the Davidai Arrhythmia Center at Sheba Medical Center's Heart Institute, said in a video that the prime minister needed the pacemaker because he experienced "a temporary arrhythmia," or irregular heartbeat, Saturday evening.

"The implantation went smoothly, without any complications. He is not in a life-threatening condition," Beinart said. "He feels great and is returning to his daily routine."

Further ratcheting up the pressure on the Israeli leader, military reservists in fast-rising numbers have been declaring their refusal to serve under a government taking steps that they see as setting the country

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on a path to dictatorship. Those moves have prompted fears that the military's preparedness could be compromised.

Among them are essential fighter pilots and ground air force personnel. Some 10,000 reservists from across the military announced Saturday night that they too would stop showing up for duty. Over 100 retired security chiefs publicly supported the growing ranks of military reservists who plan to stop reporting for duty if the overhaul is advanced.

"These are dangerous cracks," military chief Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi wrote in a letter to soldiers Sunday meant to address the tensions. "If we will not be a strong and cohesive military, if the best do not serve in the IDF, we will no longer be able to exist as a country in the region."

Netanyahu and his far-right allies announced the overhaul plan in January, days after taking office. They claim the plan is needed to curb what they say are the excessive powers of unelected judges. Critics say the plan will destroy the country's system of checks and balances and put it on the path toward authoritarian rule. U.S. President Joe Biden has urged Netanyahu to halt the plan and seek a broad consensus.

Netanyahu paused the overhaul in March after intense pressure by protesters and labor strikes that halted outgoing flights and shut down parts of the economy. After talks to find a compromise failed, he said his government was pressing on with the overhaul.

Netanyahu keeps a busy schedule and his office says he is in good health. But over the years, it has released few details concerning his well-being or medical records.

A pacemaker is used when a patient's heart beats too slowly, which can cause fainting spells, according to the National Institutes of Health. It can also be used to treat heart failure. By sending electrical pulses to the heart, the device keeps a person's heartbeat at a normal rhythm. Patients with pacemakers often return to regular activities within a few days, according to NIH. A hospital stay of at least a day is usually required.

Heavy rains in Afghanistan unleash flash floods that kill 12 people and leave 40 missing

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Heavy flooding from seasonal rains in Afghanistan has killed at least 12 people and left dozens missing, according to a Taliban spokesman and local officials.

Government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said Sunday that around 40 people are missing after the flash flooding late Saturday night in the Jalrez district of Maidan Wardak province, west of Kabul.

He added that all relevant authorities have been ordered to provide necessary assistance to the people in the affected areas.

The provincial governor's office in a statement said that hundreds of homes are either damaged or destroyed and the missing people are believed to be under the rubble of collapsed homes.

The statement also said that hundreds of hectares of agricultural land were washed out and destroyed and the highway between the capital Kabul and the central Bamiyan province is also closed due to the floods.

Voting begins in Spain in an election that could see another EU country swing to the right

By CIARÁN GILES Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Polling began Sunday in Spain in a general election that could make the country the latest European Union member to swing to the political right.

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez called the early election after his Spanish Socialist Workers Party and its far-left partner, Unidas Podemos, took a severe beating in local and regional elections in May. Sánchez has been premier since 2018.

Most opinion polls for Sunday's voting have put the right-wing Popular Party, which won the May vote, ahead of the Socialists but likely needing the support of the extreme right Vox party if they want to form a government.

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Such a coalition would return a far-right force to the Spanish government for the first time since the country transitioned to democracy in the late 1970s following the nearly 40-year rule of dictator Francisco Franco.

A PP-Vox government would mean another EU member has moved firmly to the right, a trend seen recently in Sweden, Finland and Italy. Countries such as Germany and France are concerned by what such a shift would portend for EU immigration and climate policies.

Spain's two main leftist parties are pro-EU participation. On the right, the PP is also in favor of the EU, but Vox is not.

The election comes as Spain holds the EU's rotating presidency Sánchez had hoped to use the six-month term to showcase the advances his government had made. An election defeat for Sánchez could see the PP taking over the EU presidency reins.

Sánchez was one of the first to vote, casting his ballot in a polling station in Madrid

Commenting later on the large number of foreign media covering the election, he said: "This means that what happens today is going to be very important not just for us but also for Europe and I think that should also make us reflect."

"I don't want to say I'm optimistic or not. I have good vibrations," Sánchez added.

The Socialists and a new movement called Sumar that brings together 15 small leftist parties for the first time hope to pull off an upset victory.

With no party expected to garner an absolute majority, the choice is basically between another leftist coalition and a partnership of the right and the far right.

Polling stations for the 37 million voters opened at 9 a.m. (0700) GMT and will close at 8 p.m. (1800 GMT). Near-final results are expected by midnight.

The election takes place at the height of summer, with millions of voters likely to be vacationing away from their regular polling places. But postal voting requests have soared, and officials have estimated a 70% election turnout.

Coming on the tail of a month of heat waves, temperatures are expected to average above 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) and to rise between 5 and 10 degrees Celsius above normal in many parts of the country Sunday.

Sánchez's government has steered Spain through the COVID-19 pandemic and dealt with an inflation-driven economic downturn made worse by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

But his dependency on fringe parties to keep his minority coalition afloat, including separatist forces from Catalonia and the Basque Country, and his passing of a slew of liberal-minded laws may cost him his job.

The right-wing parties dislike everything about Sánchez, saying he has betrayed and ruined Spain. They vow to roll back dozens of his laws, many of which have benefited millions of citizens and thousands of companies.

School board in Missouri, now controlled by conservatives, revokes anti-racism resolution

By JIM SALTER Associated Press

O'FALLON, Mo. (AP) — In the national reckoning that followed the police killing of George Floyd three years ago, about 2,000 protesters took to the streets in a St. Louis suburb and urged the mostly white Francis Howell School District to address racial discrimination. The school board responded with a resolution promising to do better.

Now the board, led by new conservative board members elected since last year, has revoked that anti-racism resolution and copies of it will be removed from school buildings.

The resolution passed in August 2020 "pledges to our learning community that we will speak firmly against any racism, discrimination, and senseless violence against people regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, immigration status, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or ability.

"We will promote racial healing, especially for our Black and brown students and families," the resolution

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states. "We will no longer be silent."

The board's decision follows a trend that began with backlash against COVID-19 pandemic policies in places around the nation. School board elections have become intense political battlegrounds, with political action groups successfully electing candidates promising to take action against teachings on race and sexuality, remove books deemed offensive and stop transgender-inclusive sports teams.

The Francis Howell district is among Missouri's largest, with 17,000 students, about 87% of whom are white. The vote, which came during an often contentious meeting Thursday, rescinded resolutions 75 days after "a majority of current Board of Education members were not signatories to the resolution or did not otherwise vote to adopt the resolution."

While a few others also will be canceled, the anti-racism resolution was clearly the focus. Dozens of people opposed to its revocation packed the board meeting, many holding signs reading, "Forward, not backward."

Kimberly Thompson, who is Black, attended Francis Howell schools in the 1970s and 1980s, and her two children graduated from the district. She described several instances of racism and urged the board to stand by its 2020 commitment.

"This resolution means hope to me, hope of a better Francis Howell School District," Thompson said. "It means setting expectations for behavior for students and staff regardless of their personal opinions."

The board's vice president, Randy Cook, said phrases in the resolution such as "systemic racism" aren't defined and mean different things to different people. Another board member, Jane Puszkas, said the resolution served no purpose.

"What has it really done," she asked. "How effective has it really been?"

Since the resolution was adopted, the makeup of the board has flipped. Just two board members remain from 2020. Five new members elected in April 2022 and April 2023 had the backing of the conservative political action committee Francis Howell Families.

In 2021, the PAC described the anti-racism resolution as "woke activism" and drafted an alternative resolution to oppose "all acts of racial discrimination, including the act of promoting tenets of the racially-divisive Critical Race Theory, labels of white privilege, enforced equity of outcomes, identity politics, intersectionalism, and Marxism."

Cook, who was elected in 2022 and sponsored the revocation, said there is no plan to adopt that alternative or any other.

"In my opinion, the school board doesn't need to be in the business of dividing the community," Cook said. "We just need to stick to the business of educating students here and stay out of the national politics."

Many districts are dealing with debates over topics mislabeled as critical race theory. School administrators say the scholarly theory centered on the idea that racism is systemic in the nation's institutions is not taught in K-12 schools.

Others assert that school systems are mispending money, perpetuating divisions and shaming white children by pursuing initiatives they view as critical race theory in disguise.

In 2021, the Ohio State Board of Education rescinded an anti-racism and equity resolution that also was adopted after Floyd was killed by a Minneapolis police officer in May 2020. It was replaced with a statement promoting academic excellence without respect to "race, ethnicity or creed."

Racial issues remain especially sensitive in the St. Louis region, nine years after a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, fatally shot 18-year-old Michael Brown during a street confrontation. Officer Darren Wilson was not charged and the shooting led to months of often violent protests, becoming a catalyst for the national Black Lives Matter movement.

Revoking the Francis Howell resolution "sets a precedent for what's to come," St. Charles County NAACP President Zebrina Looney warned.

"I think this is only the beginning for what this new board is set out to do," Looney said.

Israel's Netanyahu goes to hospital for pacemaker. He says he will push ahead with judicial overhaul

By JULIA FRANKEL and JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was rushed to the hospital early Sunday for an emergency implantation of a heart pacemaker, plunging Israel into deeper turmoil after widespread protests over his contentious judicial overhaul plan.

A physician at the Sheba Medical Center said later that the procedure went well and Netanyahu felt fine.

In announcing the hospitalization, Netanyahu's office said that he would be sedated and that a top deputy, Justice Minister Yariv Levin, would stand in for him while he underwent the procedure. In a brief video statement before the implantation, Netanyahu said he "feels excellent" and planned to push forward with the judicial overhaul as soon as he was released.

Netanyahu's announcement, issued well after midnight, came a week after he was hospitalized at Sheba for what was described as dehydration. It also came after a tumultuous day that saw some of the largest protests to date against the judicial overhaul plan.

Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets across Israel on Saturday night, while thousands marched into Jerusalem and camped out near the Knesset, or parliament, ahead of a vote expected Monday that would approve a key portion of the overhaul.

Further ratcheting up the pressure on the Israeli leader, over 100 retired security chiefs came out in favor of the growing ranks of military reservists who say they will stop reporting for duty if the plan is passed.

Netanyahu and his far-right allies announced the overhaul plan in January, days after taking office. They claim the plan is needed to curb what they say are the excessive powers of unelected judges. Critics say the plan will destroy the country's system of checks and balances and put it on the path toward authoritarian rule. U.S. President Joe Biden has urged Netanyahu to halt the plan and seek a broad consensus.

Netanyahu, 73, keeps a busy schedule and his office says he is in good health. But over the years, it has released few details or medical records. On July 15, he was rushed to Sheba with dizziness. He later said he had been out in the hot sun and had not drunk enough water.

His return for the pacemaker procedure indicated his health troubles were more serious than initially indicated. In the video, Netanyahu said that he was outfitted with a monitor after last week's hospitalization and that when an alarm beeped late Saturday, it meant he required a pacemaker right away.

"I feel excellent, but I listen to my doctors," he said.

Professor Roy Beinart, senior physician and director at the Davidai Arrhythmia Center at Sheba's Heart Institute, said in a video that Netanyahu was called in to get the pacemaker because he experienced "a temporary arrhythmia," or irregular heartbeat, Saturday evening.

"The implantation went smoothly, without any complications. He is not in a life-threatening condition. He feels great and is returning to his daily routine," Beinart said.

It was not immediately clear what the hospitalization meant for the judicial overhaul, which has bitterly divided the nation. Netanyahu said he expected to be released in time to go to the Knesset for Monday's vote. In the meantime, his office said the weekly meeting of his Cabinet, usually held each Sunday morning, had been postponed.

A pacemaker is used when a patient's heart beats too slowly, which can cause fainting spells, according to the National Institutes of Health. It can also be used to treat heart failure. By sending electrical pulses to the heart, the device keeps a person's heartbeat at a normal rhythm. Patients with pacemakers often return to regular activities within a few days, according to NIH.

The procedure normally involves a doctor inserting the pacemaker near the collarbone, according to Mayo Clinic. A hospital stay of at least a day is usually required.

As Netanyahu spoke, thousands of Israelis camped out in Jerusalem's main park, just a short walk from the Knesset, after completing a four-day march from Tel Aviv to rally opposition to the judicial overhaul. Late Saturday, hundreds of thousands of Israelis took to the streets in Tel Aviv and other cities in a last-ditch show of force hoping to head off the judicial overhaul.

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In scorching heat that reached 33 C (91 F), the procession into Jerusalem turned the city's main entrance into a sea of blue and white Israeli flags as marchers completed the last leg of a four-day, 70-kilometer (45-mile) trek from Tel Aviv.

The marchers, who grew from hundreds to thousands as the march progressed, were welcomed in Jerusalem by throngs of cheering protesters before they set up camp in rows of small white tents.

The proposed overhaul has drawn harsh criticism from business and medical leaders, and a fast-rising number of military reservists in key units have said they will stop reporting for duty if the plan passes, raising concern that Israel's security could be threatened. An additional 10,000 reservists announced they were suspending duty Saturday night, according to "Brothers in Arms," a protest group representing retired soldiers.

More than 100 top former security chiefs, including retired military commanders, police commissioners and heads of intelligence agencies, joined those calls on Saturday, signing a letter to Netanyahu accusing him of compromising Israel's military and urging him to halt the legislation.

The signatories included Ehud Barak, a former Israeli prime minister, and Moshe Yaalon, a former army chief and defense minister. Both are political rivals of Netanyahu.

"The legislation is crushing those things shared by Israeli society, is tearing the people apart, disintegrating the IDF and inflicting fatal blows on Israel's security," the former officials wrote.

In his statement, Netanyahu said he would continue to seek a compromise with his opponents. He paused the plan in March after widespread demonstrations, but he revived it last month after compromise talks collapsed.

Israel Katz, a senior Cabinet minister from Netanyahu's Likud party, said the bill would pass one way or another Monday and rejected the pressure from the ranks of the military, the most respected institution among Israel's Jewish majority. "There is a clear attempt here to use military service to force the government to change policy," he told Channel 12 TV.

The overhaul measure would limit the Supreme Court's oversight powers by preventing judges from striking down government decisions on the basis that they are "unreasonable."

Proponents say the current "reasonability" standard gives judges excessive powers over decision making by elected officials. Critics say removing the standard, which is invoked only in rare cases, would allow the government to pass arbitrary decisions, make improper appointments or firings and open the door to corruption.

Monday's vote would mark the first major piece of legislation to be approved.

The overhaul also calls for other sweeping changes aimed at curbing the powers of the judiciary, from limiting the Supreme Court's ability to challenge parliamentary decisions, to changing the way judges are selected.

Protesters, who come from a wide swath of Israeli society, see the overhaul as a power grab fueled by personal and political grievances of Netanyahu, who is on trial for corruption charges, and his partners, who want to deepen Israel's control of the occupied West Bank and perpetuate controversial draft exemptions for ultra-Orthodox men.

Democrats eye Wisconsin high court's new liberal majority to win abortion and redistricting rulings

By SCOTT BAUER Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin's Supreme Court will flip from majority conservative to liberal control in August and Democrats have high hopes the change will lead to the state's abortion ban being overturned and its maps redrawn to weaken GOP control of the Legislature and congressional districts.

Democrats in the perennial battleground state focused on abortion to elect a liberal majority to the court for the first time in 15 years. The Democratic Party spent \$8 million to tilt the court's 4-3 conservative majority by one seat with the election of Janet Protasiewicz, who spoke in favor of abortion rights and

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against the Republican-drawn map in a campaign. Her April victory broke national spending records for a state Supreme Court race.

Still, there are no guarantees. Republicans were angered when a conservative candidate they backed in 2019 turned out to sometimes side with liberal justices.

While the court is widely expected to weigh in on abortion and redistricting, liberals also are talking about bringing new challenges to school choice, voter ID, the 12-year-old law that effectively ended collective bargaining for most public workers and other laws backed by Republicans.

"When you don't know the extent of the battle you may have to fight, it's concerning," said attorney Rick Esenberg, president of the conservative Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty. "It's very concerning."

Some issues could take years to reach the court, said liberal attorney Pester Pines, who like Esenberg has argued numerous times before the state Supreme Court. Unlike under the conservative majority, Pines said the new liberal court will be unlikely to rule on cases before lower courts have heard them.

"They're not going to do it," Pines said.

There is already a pending case challenging Wisconsin's pre-Civil War era abortion ban, and a circuit court judge ruled earlier this month that it can proceed, while also calling into question whether the law actually bans abortions.

The case is expected to reach the Supreme Court within months. Protasiewicz all but promised to overturn the ban by repeatedly speaking out for abortion rights, winning support from Planned Parenthood and others.

"When you're a politician and you're perceived by the voters as making a promise, and you don't keep it, they get angry," Esenberg said.

There is no current redistricting lawsuit, but Democrats or their allies are expected to file a new challenge this summer seeking new districts before the 2024 election.

The state Supreme Court upheld Republican-drawn maps in 2022. Those maps, widely regarded as among the most gerrymandered in the country, have helped Republicans increase their hold on the Legislature to near supermajority levels, even as Democrats have won statewide elections, including Tony Evers as governor in 2018 and 2022 and Joe Biden in 2020.

Protasiewicz declared those maps to be "rigged" and said during the campaign they should be given another look. Democrats also hope for new congressional maps improving their chances in the state's two most competitive House districts, held by Republicans.

"What we want to see is maps that are fair and that represent the will of the people and the actual make up of their state," Democratic strategist Melissa Baldauff said.

Four of the past six presidential elections in Wisconsin have been decided by less than a percentage point. The outgoing conservative court came within one vote of overturning Biden's win in 2020. The new court will be in control to hear any challenges leading up to the election and in the months after.

That includes voting rules. Courts have repeatedly upheld Wisconsin's voter ID requirement, in place since 2011, but some Democrats see a chance to challenge it again, particularly over what IDs can legally be shown. There is also a looming fight over the state's top elections administrator.

"It seems to me that the most consequential topics that could come before the new court would have to do with elections," said Alan Ball, a Marquette University Law School history professor who runs a statistical analysis blog of the court and tendencies of justices.

Considering comments Protasiewicz made during the campaign, "it's really hard for me to imagine she would not side with the liberals on those issues," Ball said.

A national Democratic law firm filed a lawsuit on Thursday seeking to undo a Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling last year banning absentee ballot drop boxes. The case could make its way to the state high court before the 2024 presidential election.

Other sticky issues that have garnered bipartisan criticism, including powers of the governor, also could come before the new court.

Evers surprised many with a veto this year putting in place a school spending increase for 400 years. Republicans said a challenge was likely.

In 2021, the court struck down three of Evers' previous partial vetoes but failed to give clear guidance on what is allowed.

A Wisconsin governor's veto power is expansive and used by Republicans and Democrats, but the new court could weigh in on whether it should be scaled back. Esenberg, who brought the previous case challenging Evers' veto powers, said he expected another legal challenge in light of the 400-year veto.

Scholarships have helped displaced Afghan students find homes on university campuses across the US

By JAMIE STENGLE Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — As the Taliban swept back into power in Afghanistan in the summer of 2021, Fahima Sultani and her fellow university students tried for days to get into the Kabul airport, only to be turned away by gun-wielding extremists.

"No education, just go back home," she recalled one shouting.

Nearly two years later, Sultani, now 21, is safely in the U.S. and working toward her bachelor's degree in data science at Arizona State University in Tempe on a scholarship. When she's not studying, she likes to hike up nearby Tempe Butte, the kind of outing she enjoyed in her mountainous homeland.

Seeing students like Sultani rush to leave in August 2021 as the U.S. withdrew from Afghanistan after 20 years, colleges, universities and other groups across the U.S. started piecing together the funding for hundreds of scholarships so they could continue their education outside of their home country.

Women of Sultani's generation, born around the time the U.S. ousted the Taliban after the 9/11 attacks in 2001, grew up attending school and watching as women pursued careers. The Taliban's return upended those freedoms.

"Within minutes of the collapse of the government in Kabul, U.S. universities said, 'We'll take one;' 'We'll take three;' 'We'll take a professor;' 'We'll take a student,'" said Allan Goodman, CEO of the Institute of International Education, a global not-for-profit that helps fund such scholarships.

The fears leading the students to quickly board flights were soon justified as the Taliban ushered in a harsh Islamic rule: Girls cannot attend school beyond the sixth grade and women, once again required to wear burqas, have been banned from universities, parks and gyms and are restricted from most employment.

Sultani is one of more than 60 Afghan women who arrived at ASU by December 2021 after fleeing Afghanistan, where she'd been studying online through Asian University for Women in Bangladesh during the pandemic.

"These women came out of a crisis, a traumatic experience, boarded a plane not knowing where they were going, ended up in the U.S.," said Susan Edgington, executive director and head of operations of ASU's Global Academic Initiatives.

After making their way to universities and colleges across the U.S. over the last two years, many are nearing graduation and planning their futures.

Mashal Aziz, 22, was a few months from graduating from American University of Afghanistan when Kabul fell and she boarded a plane. After leaving, she began scouring the internet, researching which schools were offering scholarships and what organizations might be able to help.

"You've already left everything and you are thinking maybe there are barriers for your higher education," Aziz said.

She and three other Afghan students arrived at Northeastern University in Boston in January 2022 after first being taken to Qatar and then a military base in New Jersey.

Aziz graduated this spring with a bachelor's degree in finance and accounting management. She plans to start working on her master's degree in finance this fall at Northeastern.

The hurdles for students who left can include everything from needing help to overcome language barriers to getting credit for the courses they completed in their home country to affording tuition, Aziz said.

Just two days after the fall of Kabul, the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma announced it had created two

Nervous Republicans turn to New Hampshire in hopes of stopping Trump

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

HUDSON, N.H. (AP) — They acknowledge Donald Trump's dominance, but weary Republicans across New Hampshire — even inside the governor's office — are fighting to stop the former president from winning the first-in-the-nation primary.

For now, however, they're relying on little more than hope and prayers.

Look no further than Mike Pence, Trump's former vice president, who repeatedly appealed to voters' faith this week as he tried to resurrect his anemic presidential campaign while courting a few dozen voters in a former state lawmaker's backyard.

"I truly do believe that different times call for different leadership," Pence told his modest crowd. "I know you all are going to do your job, because I have faith. I have faith in the American people."

More than a dozen high-profile Republicans are looking to New Hampshire, the state long known for shining on political underdogs, to help stop Trump's march toward a third consecutive Republican presidential nomination. But so far, none has cracked the veneer of inevitability that has followed Trump through the early states on the presidential primary calendar despite — or perhaps because of — his mounting legal challenges.

A significant portion of the Republican electorate remains open to a new presidential nominee with less baggage than Trump. But months after many of them entered the race, there is little sign that the former president's rivals are breaking through.

The strongest Trump alternative on paper, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, has already begun to lay off staff amid unexpected financial challenges and stagnant poll numbers. Others have failed to break out of the single digits in early polls. And as Trump braces for the possibility of a third criminal indictment, his hold on the party appears to be stronger than ever.

Pence, perhaps more than anyone, has been dragged down by the powerful undertow of Trumpism that has reshaped the political landscape for much of the last decade.

Pence barely registered in a new poll released this week by the University of New Hampshire. And he admitted this week that he does not yet have enough donors to qualify for the opening presidential debate next month, an extraordinary position for a former vice president to find himself in. During multiple stops in New Hampshire this week, he appealed to voters to donate even \$1 to boost his numbers.

"Obviously, he wishes he was doing better," said New Hampshire Republican Gov. Chris Sununu. "You're not going to find a better character and a better person than someone like Mike Pence. He's just such a great guy. But his message, for whatever reason, isn't quite resonating with folks."

Pence has managed to draw the wrath of Trump loyalists and critics alike.

Among those who dislike Trump, Pence is viewed as a Trump acolyte who enabled his bad behavior for four years. And those who love Trump blame Pence for not blocking the certification of Joe Biden's presidential victory on Jan. 6, 2021 — a power that the former vice president did not have.

Trump loyalists famously chanted, "Hang Mike Pence" while storming the U.S. Capitol and his political standing within the Republican Party has never recovered.

"I think Mike Pence is genuinely destroyed," said former New Hampshire GOP chair Jennifer Horn. "He cannot win. There's no circumstance and no race that Mike Pence will ever win. It's sad."

New Hampshire, a state that has traditionally shied away from the type religious conservatism Pence espouses, would be an unlikely staging ground for a comeback for the evangelical Christian who launched his 2024 campaign in Iowa. Still, politicians of all stripes have managed to break through over the years in a state that has often rewarded those willing to invest time and attention.

Former President Bill Clinton became the "comeback kid" after finishing second here in 1992. The state also helped resurrect Republican John McCain's struggling campaign in 2008.

Still, the road to relevance for anyone not named Trump in 2024 will be steep.

Pence is essentially trying to reinvent himself as he reintroduces himself to New Hampshire voters. He

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and his staff have embraced a new mantra: "He is well-known but not known well."

At his first New Hampshire stop this week, Pence largely avoided talking about his years as vice president and did not utter Trump's name. He introduced himself this way: "I'm Mike Pence. I'm from Indiana. And I'm running for president."

Pence's message on the stump is a throwback of sorts to the GOP's conservative platform before Trump's big-government populism took over.

He called for a muscular foreign policy, a recommitment to social conservative values and a sharp reduction in federal spending. He did not mention his support for a federal abortion ban. Breaking from Trump, he also endorsed changes to Social Security for people under 40 to ensure the government-backed safety net program is financially stable.

He spoke with authority, but Pence's political challenges loomed over his New Hampshire tour.

The host of Wednesday's event, former state Senate majority leader Bob Clegg, encouraged every attendee to donate \$1 to the Pence campaign to ensure he reaches the 40,000 individual donor threshold set by the Republican National Committee to qualify.

"They can give more," Pence quipped with a smile. He later added, "We're working around the clock to make sure we get enough donors to be up on that debate stage."

Despite some chuckles, Pence's allies privately acknowledge that failing to qualify for the first GOP debate would be a political death sentence.

Pence's national chairman, veteran Republican strategist Chip Saltsman, would say only, "We're getting there" when asked how close the campaign was to the donor threshold.

Saltsman dismissed Pence's struggles as a byproduct of the crowded field, which includes wealthy candidates like North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, who offered donors gift cards, and others like DeSantis, whose allied super PAC raised more than \$100 million.

"It's a lot of ebb and flow," Saltsman said. "And one thing I know for a fact is I haven't seen a frontrunner in the summer make it to the Iowa caucus or the New Hampshire primary in the winter yet."

Sununu, the New Hampshire governor, is also betting on the weight of history to help stop Trump. He noted that primary voters typically wait until a few weeks before the primary to finalize their decision.

New Hampshire's primary is still six months away.

In an interview, Sununu warned that Trump has no chance of winning the general election and would drag down the rest of the party with him if he's on the November ballot.

"I'm hoping that most people come to their senses," Sununu said. "There's still plenty of time for this roller coaster ride to play out."

Meanwhile, Pence is seeking the assistance of a higher power.

"This is a nation of faith," he told the modest collection of primary voters gathered in Clegg's backyard. "If we will steer our party to a future built on those time-honored conservative principles that have carried our party to victory and to success for the American people over the last 50 years, and if we renew our faith in Him who has guided this great nation since they first set foot on Plymouth Rock — not too far from here — I truly do believe the best days for the greatest nation on earth are yet to come."

Biden will establish a national monument honoring Emmett Till, the Black teen lynched in Mississippi

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden will establish a national monument honoring Emmett Till, the Black teenager from Chicago who was abducted, tortured and killed in 1955 after he was accused of whistling at a white woman in Mississippi, and his mother, a White House official said Saturday.

Biden will sign a proclamation on Tuesday to create the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument across three sites in Illinois and Mississippi, according to the official. The individual spoke on condition of anonymity because the White House had not formally announced the president's plans.

Tuesday is the anniversary of Emmett Till's birth in 1941.

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The monument will protect places that are central to the story of Till's life and death at age 14, the acquittal of his white killers and his mother's activism. Till's mother's insistence on an open casket to show the world how her son had been brutalized and Jet's magazine's decision to publish photos of his mutilated body helped galvanize the Civil Rights Movement.

Biden's decision also comes at a fraught time in the United States over matters concerning race. Conservative leaders are pushing back against the teaching of slavery and Black history in public schools, as well as the incorporation of diversity, equity and inclusion programs from college classrooms to corporate boardrooms.

On Friday, Vice President Kamala Harris criticized a revised Black history curriculum in Florida that includes teaching that enslaved people benefited from the skills they learned at the hands of the people who denied them freedom. The Florida Board of Education approved the curriculum to satisfy legislation signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican presidential candidate who has accused public schools of liberal indoctrination.

"How is it that anyone could suggest that in the midst of these atrocities that there was any benefit to being subjected to this level of dehumanization?" Harris asked in a speech delivered from Jacksonville, Florida.

DeSantis said he had no role in devising his state's new education standards but defended the components on how enslaved people benefited.

"All of that is rooted in whatever is factual," he said in response.

The monument to Till and his mother will include three sites in the two states.

The Illinois site is Roberts Temple Church of God in Christ in Bronzeville, a historically Black neighborhood on Chicago's South Side. Thousands of people gathered at the church to mourn Emmett Till in September 1955.

The Mississippi locations are Graball Landing, believed to be where Till's mutilated body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River, and the Tallahatchie County Second District Courthouse in Sumner, Mississippi, where Till's killers were tried and acquitted by an all-white jury.

Till was visiting relatives in Mississippi when Carolyn Bryant Donham said the 14-year-old Till whistled and made sexual advances at her while she worked in a store in the small community of Money.

Till was later abducted and his body eventually pulled from the Tallahatchie River, where he had been tossed after he was shot and weighted down with a cotton gin fan.

Two white men, Roy Bryant and his half-brother J.W. Milam, were tried on murder charges about a month after Till was killed, but an all-white Mississippi jury acquitted them. Months later, they confessed to killing Till in a paid interview with Look magazine. Bryant was married to Donham in 1955. She died earlier this year.

The monument will be the fourth Biden has created since taking office in 2021, and just his latest tribute to the younger Till.

For Black History Month this year, Biden hosted a screening of the movie "Till," a drama about his lynching.

In March 2022, Biden signed the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act into law. Congress had first considered such legislation more than 120 years ago.

The Justice Department announced in December 2021 that it was closing its investigation into Till's killing.

Judge orders Montana health clinic to pay nearly \$6 million over false asbestos claims

By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A health clinic in a Montana town plagued by deadly asbestos contamination must pay the government almost \$6 million in penalties and damages after it submitted hundreds of false asbestos claims, a judge ruled.

The 337 false claims made patients eligible for Medicare and other benefits they shouldn't have received. The federally funded clinic has been at the forefront of the medical response to deadly pollution from

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mining near Libby, Montana

The judgement against the Center for Asbestos Related Disease clinic comes in a federal case filed by BNSF Railway in 2019 under the False Claims Act, which allows private parties to sue on the government's behalf.

BNSF — which is itself a defendant in hundreds of asbestos-related lawsuits — alleged the center submitted claims on behalf of patients without sufficient confirmation they had asbestos-related disease.

After a seven-person jury agreed last month, U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen said in a July 18 order that he was imposing a stiff penalty to prevent future misconduct.

Christensen said he was concerned in particular that the clinic's high-profile doctor, Brad Black, had diagnosed himself with asbestos-related disease and that a nurse signed off for benefits for her own mother.

The judge also cited evidence at trial of high rates of opioid prescriptions from the clinic for people who may not have had a legitimate asbestos-related diagnosis.

The clinic demonstrated "a reckless disregard for proper medical procedure and the legal requirements of government programs," the judge wrote.

As instructed by the law, the judge tripled the \$1.1 million in damages found by the jury, to almost \$3.3 million, and imposed \$2.6 million in additional penalties.

The judge awarded BNSF 25% of the proceeds, as allowed under the False Claims Act. Federal prosecutors previously declined to intervene in the case, and there have been no criminal charges brought against the clinic.

The clinic's attorneys appealed the jury's verdict to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Thursday. Clinic director Tracy McNew has said the facility could be forced into bankruptcy if forced to pay a multi-million-dollar judgement.

McNew and Black did not immediately respond to messages Saturday seeking comment.

The verdict also could harm the clinic's reputation and potentially undermine lawsuits by asbestos victims against BNSF and others that courts have held liable for contamination that's turned Libby into one of the nation's deadliest polluted sites. BNSF operated a railyard in town through which asbestos-tainted vermiculite was transported from the nearby W.R. Grace Co. mine.

Railway spokesperson Lena Kent said the clinic's actions wasted taxpayer money while diverting resources from people in legitimate need.

"The focus of this trial was on CARD's treatment of the hundreds of people who were not sick," Kent said. "It's a sad chapter in this saga that this trial was necessary to restore the focus on those who are truly impacted and who should continue to have access to the benefits and care they deserve."

The Libby area was declared a Superfund site two decades ago following media reports that mine workers and their families were getting sick and dying due to hazardous asbestos dust.

Health officials have said at least 400 people have been killed and thousands sickened from asbestos exposure in the Libby area.

The clinic has certified more than 3,400 people with asbestos-related diseases and received more than \$20 million in federal funding, according to court documents.

Hampering the clinic's defense in the false claims case was a ruling that barred testimony from former U.S. Sen. Max Baucus of Montana. Baucus helped craft a provision in the Affordable Care Act that made Libby asbestos victims eligible for government benefits. He's said the clinic was acting in line with that law.

Asbestos-related diseases can range from a thickening of a person's lung cavity that can hamper breathing to deadly cancer.

Exposure to even a minuscule amount of asbestos can cause lung problems, according to scientists. Symptoms can take decades to develop.

Barbie mania sweeps Latin America, but sometimes takes on a macabre tone

By MARK STEVENSON Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Latin America is taking Barbie mania to an extreme, with everything from pink-colored tacos and pastries, commercial planes bearing the Barbie logo, political ads and even Barbie-themed protests.

But it's not all high heels and pom-poms: Barbie mania in the region has taken on a darker, macabre tone.

In Peru, anti-government demonstrators this week dressed up two women in pink and put them in giant Barbie boxes in the main square of Lima, the capital, to protest current President Dina Boluarte, under whose administration police have often clashed with protesters.

One actress, whose box was labeled "Barbie Dictator," held a pink gun. The doll, according to the box legend, "includes tear gas and dum-dum bullets." Another protester's box was labeled "Genocidal Barbie."

Meanwhile, stores, street vendors and restaurants throughout Latin America are offering up all sorts of Barbie-themed goodies.

In Mexico, there are Barbie tortillas (the corn dough is colored pink with beet juice, with some imprinted with an edible-dye pony-tailed Barbie silhouette); Barbie pastries and Barbie tacos (marinated pork meat served in pink tortillas and accompanied by a strawberry milkshake).

An entire Barbie-themed restaurant opened this week in Guayaquil, Ecuador; it is — of course — built to resemble Barbie's house.

Volaris, a Mexican airline, has painted one of its jets with a Barbie logo and, according to a promotional video, the plane will be piloted by Barbie, not Ken.

The pink craze in the region is such that Barbie mania has now spread into politics.

In Guatemala, presidential candidate Sandra Torres shared a musical TikTok video pitching her as a Barbie who "wants prosperity for all."

Mexican street sellers are peddling a Barbie doll modeled on presidential hopeful Claudia Sheinbaum, a real-life scientist-turned-politician whose own (real) ponytail has become her branding trademark.

The office of Colombian President Gustavo Petro recently raised hackles with a Barbie-theme video — including clips from the film's trailer — to promote an independence day tour of the country. His office quickly removed the poorly made video.

Beyond the pony tails and fun food, there is a darker undercurrent.

In Mexico, a Barbie homage doll sparked controversy when a sister of one of Mexico's 111,000 missing people began sewing Barbie outfits to costume the doll as a "Searching Mother" — a member of a group of volunteers who fan out across Mexico's dusty plains to search for gravesites that might contain their children's remains. Most of the missing appear to have been abducted — and killed — by drug cartels or kidnapping gangs.

This Barbie is clad in a wide-brimmed hat and a sun hood, wears a T-shirt bearing the photo of a missing man and camouflage pants and comes equipped with a shovel. Her creator, volunteer searcher Delia Quiroa, hopes to publicize the plight of mothers who have to carry out the searches and investigations police won't do, and at the same time raise money to continue searching.

One group of volunteer searchers in the western state of Jalisco — the state with the highest number of missing people — questioned whether casting Barbie as the victim of a horrible crime is appropriate.

Barbie "has evolved into a representation of strong, independent women who can do what they want and chase their dreams," the volunteer search group Light of Hope wrote in a statement. "Nobody who is searching for a missing child, spouse or a sibling is doing what they want to do, much less chasing a dream."

"It seems to us an abomination that girls see being a Searching Mother as something normal," the group added.

Quiroa, from the northern border state of Tamaulipas, said her creation is almost an anti-Barbie.

"Barbie is everything a person wants to be, but this is a Barbie who doesn't want to be," she said. "She is what nobody wants to be. Nobody wants to be a searcher, nobody wants to be looking for a family

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scholarships for Afghans seeking refuge in the U.S. Later, the university created five more scholarships that went to some of the young Afghans who settled in the area. Five more Afghans have received scholarships to study there this fall.

Danielle Macdonald, an associate anthropology professor at the school, has organized a regular meetup between TU students and college-aged Afghans who have settled in the Tulsa area.

Around two dozen young people attend the events, where they talk about everything from U.S. slang to finding jobs. Their outings have included visiting a museum and going to a basketball game, Macdonald said.

"It's become a really lovely community," she said.

For many young people leaving Afghanistan, familiarity with the U.S. made the country a natural destination.

That was the case for Hamasa Zeerak, 24, and her 30-year-old husband, Hussain Saifnijat. In Kabul, Zeerak attended the American University of Afghanistan, while Saifnijat worked for a U.S.-based technology company.

They both began studying at Rutgers University, in New Jersey, last fall. He may be able to graduate as early as this fall with a master's degree in electrical and computer engineering. She is studying to get her bachelor's degree in business administration and graduates in 2025.

"My worries were a lot at the beginning because I was thinking about how to continue our life in America; how can we find a job?" Zeerak said. "It was stressful at the beginning but everything goes smooth."

Sultani, like many others who left Afghanistan, often thinks about those who remained behind, including her sister, who had been studying at a university, but now must stay home.

"I can go to universities while millions of girls back in Afghanistan, they do not have this opportunity that I have," Sultani said. "I can dress the way I want and millions of girls now in Afghanistan, they do not have this opportunity."

There will be 20 Afghans studying this fall at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. Atifa Kabuli, 46, had studied nursing there for the last two semesters but now is focused on studying for exams that will allow her to practice medicine in the U.S.

Older than most of the arriving students, Kabuli left behind her career as an obstetrician and gynecologist. During the Taliban's first rule, from 1996 to 2001, she was only able to continue her education by studying in Pakistan.

When the Taliban regained control, she knew she and her husband would have to leave so their daughters, now 15 and 10, would be able to continue going to school. Her time at WKU, she said, helped her find the confidence to pursue a medical license in the U.S.

Since the initial flurry of scholarships, efforts to assist Afghan students have continued, including the creation of the Qatar Scholarship for Afghans Project, which has helped fund 250 scholarships at dozens of U.S. colleges and universities.

But there are still more young people in need of support to continue their educations in the U.S. or even reach the U.S. from Afghanistan or other countries, explained Jonah Kokodyniak, a senior vice president at the Institute of International Education.

Yasamin Sohrabi, 26, is among those still trying to find a way to the U.S. Sohrabi, who had been studying law at American University of Afghanistan, realized as the withdrawal of U.S. forces neared that she might need to go overseas to continue her studies. The day after the Taliban took Kabul, she learned of her admission to WKU but wasn't able to get into the airport to leave Afghanistan.

A year later, she and her younger sister, who also has been accepted at the university, got visas to Pakistan. Now they are trying to find a way to get into the U.S. Their brother, who accompanied them to Pakistan, is applying to the school, as well.

Sohrabi said she and her siblings try not to focus on what they have lost, but instead on how to get to the U.S. to continue their studies.

"That's one of the things in these days we think about," she said. "It keeps us going."

member.”

Quiroa has been looking for her brother Roberto since he was kidnapped by drug cartel gunmen in March 2014. Despite carrying out its own searches and pressuring authorities to investigate, the family knows nothing about his whereabouts.

“I think of this as a doll more directed to women, to us, not for girls to play with,” Quiroa said.

Vanessa Munguía, widely regarded as Latin America’s leading Barbie collector — she numbers her collection in the thousands — says Barbie is particularly popular in Latin America because, until a couple of decades ago, most girls’ toys here depicted maternal, home-maker roles.

“Barbie was the only toy I found that told me that there were a million other possibilities. I could be an astronaut, I could be a teacher,” said Munguía, who became lawyer.

Asked about depicting Barbie as a “Searching Mother” or any of the other incarnations of the doll, Munguía says she finds it a very valid expression.

“I think that’s exactly what what we like in Barbie, that we can make her out to be whatever we need her to be at that moment,” she said.

___ Associated Press writer Franklin Briceño in Lima, Peru, contributed to this report

Family expresses gratitude after body believed to be missing girl found; search for boy continues

WASHINGTON CROSSING, Pa. (AP) — The family of a 2-year-old girl swept away along with another child by a flash flood that engulfed their vehicle on a Pennsylvania road is expressing gratitude at the discovery of a body believed to be hers.

The body was found early Friday evening in the Delaware River near a Philadelphia wastewater treatment plant about 30 miles (50 kilometers) from where Matilda Sheils was carried away, authorities said Friday night. The Philadelphia medical examiner’s office plans an autopsy. The search continues for Matilda’s 9-month-old brother, Conrad.

“We are grateful that our little Mattie has been brought home to us. We are still praying for the return of Conrad,” the family said in a statement posted Saturday by Upper Makefield Township police.

Family members also expressed “continued gratitude for the overwhelming outpouring of love, support, and concern from the community and from people around the country as rescue workers have worked tirelessly to find Mattie and Conrad.”

“Thank you all, again, for your compassion and your kindness. We are humbled,” the statement said.

The family from Charleston, South Carolina, was visiting relatives and friends in the area and were on their way to a barbecue on the evening of July 15 when their vehicle was hit by a “wall of water,” according to Upper Makefield Fire Chief Tim Brewer. Their mother, 32-year-old Katie Seley, was also killed in the flood, authorities said.

The children’s father, Jim Sheils, grabbed the couple’s 4-year-old son, while Seley and a grandmother grabbed the other children, Brewer said. Sheils and the son made it to safety, but Seley and the grandmother were swept away. The grandmother survived.

Four other people drowned in the area, according to the Bucks County Coroner’s office: Enzo Depiero, 78, and Linda Depiero, 74, of Newtown; Yuko Love, 64, of Newtown; and Susan Barnhart, 53, of Titusville, New Jersey.

The deaths and the search for the children have led to an outpouring of support, particularly in social media, in the suburb about 35 miles (60 kilometers) north of Philadelphia.

Drone hits Crimean ammunition depot as strikes kill, wound civilians and journalists in Ukraine

By FELIPE DANA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — A Ukrainian drone strike Saturday caused a massive explosion at an ammunition depot in Russia-annexed Crimea, forcing the evacuation of nearby homes in the latest attack since Moscow canceled a landmark grain deal amid Kyiv's grinding efforts to retake its occupied territories.

The attack on the depot in central Crimea sent huge plumes of black smoke skyward and came five days after Ukraine struck a key bridge that links Russia to the peninsula it illegally annexed in 2014 and after Moscow suspended a wartime deal that allowed Ukraine to safely export its grain through the Black Sea.

Sergey Aksyonov, the Kremlin-appointed head of Crimea, said in a Telegram post that there were no immediate reports of casualties from the strike, but that authorities were evacuating civilians within a 5-kilometer (3-mile) radius of the blast site.

The Ukrainian military took credit for the strike, saying it destroyed an oil depot and Russian military warehouses in Oktyabske, in the Krasnohvardiiske region of Crimea, though without specifying which weapons it used.

A Crimean news channel posted videos Saturday showing plumes of smoke billowing above rooftops and fields near Oktyabske, a small settlement next to an oil depot and a small military airport, as loud explosions rumbled in the background. In one video, a man can be heard saying the smoke and blast noises seemed to be coming from the direction of the airport.

The strike came during a week in which Ukraine attacked the Kerch Bridge and Russia, in what it described as "retribution" for the bridge attack, bombarded southern Ukrainian port cities, damaging critical infrastructure including grain and oil terminals.

Ukraine also attacked the bridge in October, when a truck bomb blew up two of its sections, which took months to repair. Moscow decried that assault as an act of terrorism and retaliated by bombarding Ukraine's civilian infrastructure, targeting the country's power grid over the winter.

The Kerch Bridge is a conspicuous symbol of Moscow's claims on Crimea and an essential land link to the peninsula. The \$3.6 billion, 19-kilometer (nearly 12-mile) bridge is the longest in Europe and is crucial for Russia's military operations in southern Ukraine.

Speaking at the Aspen security forum via video link, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called the bridge a legitimate target for Ukraine, noting that Russia has used it to ferry military supplies and it must be "neutralized."

In a video address to the nation later Saturday, Zelenskyy said he had a phone call with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg to discuss "our steps to unblock and ensure the stable operation of the grain corridor" following Russia's withdrawal from the grain deal.

Zelenskyy said they agreed to hold a meeting of the Ukraine-NATO Council in the nearest days for consultations on the issue. "We can overcome the security crisis in the Black Sea," he said.

As fierce fighting continues in Ukraine's bid to retake territory from Russia, Russian shelling killed at least two civilians and wounded four others on Saturday, Ukrainian officials reported. A 52-year-old woman died in Kupiansk, a town in the northeastern Kharkiv region, while another person was killed in a cross-border Russian attack on a village in the neighboring Sumy province.

Earlier Saturday, Ukrainian officials reported that Russian attacks on 11 regions across the country on Friday and overnight had killed at least eight civilians and wounded others.

A DW cameraman was injured Saturday by shrapnel from Russian cluster munitions that also killed one Ukrainian soldier and wounded several others near the town of Druzhkivka, in the eastern Donetsk region, the German broadcaster said in a statement. Cameraman Ievgen Shylko was part of a team sent to report from the Ukrainian army training ground about 23 kilometers (14 miles) away from the frontline, it said.

"We were filming the Ukrainian army during target practice when suddenly we heard several explosions," DW correspondent Mathias Bölinger said. "We lay down, more explosions followed, we saw people were wounded. Later, the Ukrainian army confirmed that we had been fired at with cluster munitions."

Cluster munitions, which open in the air and release multiple small bomblets, are banned by more than 100 countries because of their threat to civilians, but they have been used extensively by both sides in the war.

The Pentagon has said the cluster munitions the U.S. recently gave to Ukraine will give Kyiv critically needed ammunition to help bolster its counteroffensive.

The Russian Defense Ministry announced that a group of Russian journalists came under artillery fire in the southern Zaporizhzhia region. In an online statement, it said four correspondents for pro-Kremlin media had been struck by cluster munitions and that one of them, Rostislav Zhuravlev of the state RIA Novosti news agency, later died from his injuries.

The Kremlin-installed head of the Russia-occupied parts of the Zaporizhzhia region, Yevhen Balitsky, claimed in a Telegram post that the journalists were traveling in a civilian vehicle that was hit by shelling. The claims couldn't be independently verified.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova denounced the attack on journalists as a "heinous crime" in which the U.S. and its allies were complicit.

The Ukrainian air force on Saturday morning said that overnight, it had brought down 14 Russian drones, including five Iranian-made ones, over the country's southeast, where battles are raging. In a regular social media update, the air force said that all Iranian-made Shahed exploding drones launched by Russian troops during the night were brought down, pointing to Ukraine's increasing success rate in neutralizing them.

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

Jamie Foxx tells fans in an Instagram message that he is recovering from an illness

By KEN MILLER Associated Press

Academy Award winning actor, singer and comedian Jamie Foxx said in an Instagram video that he is recovering from an undisclosed medical condition.

"I went to hell and back, and my road to recovery has some potholes as well, but I'm coming back," Foxx, appearing thin and wearing a dark pullover shirt, said in the three minute, 15 second video. "I'm able to work."

Foxx, 55, was hospitalized in April with what his daughter, Corinne Fox, described at the time as a "medical complication" and Foxx did not disclose the nature of his condition in his first public comments since being hospitalized.

"I just didn't want you to see me like that ... I didn't want you to see me with tubes running out of me and trying to figure out if I was going to make it through," Foxx said, thanking his daughter, sister, God and medical professionals for saving his life.

"I went through something that I thought I would never, ever go through," Foxx said.

"Every once in a while I just burst into tears ... because it's been tough, man, I was sick ... but now I've got my legs under me so you're going to see me," Foxx said.

Castmates of Foxx's recent movie "They Cloned Tyrone" — David Alan Grier, Teyonah Parris and Tamberla Perry — told The Associated Press at the Los Angeles premiere of the movie on June 28 that they miss the star.

"Just praying that he gets better and takes whatever time he needs to heal," Perry said.

Foxx, born Eric Marlon Bishop in 1967 in Terrell, Texas, was a stand-up comedian before breaking into television with various roles on Fox TV's musical-comedy "In Living Color" in 1990.

Foxx won the Academy Award for best actor for his portrayal of Ray Charles in the 2004 biographical film "Ray" and a Grammy in 2010 for the song "Blame It."

His other credit's include "The Jamie Foxx Show," "Collateral," and "Django Unchained."

Tony Bennett left his heart to generations of music fans

By DAVID BAUDER AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — What do Paul McCartney, Queen Latifah, Lady Gaga and Stevie Wonder have in common?

Oh, and Aretha Franklin, k.d. lang, Bono and Billy Joel. Not to mention Carrie Underwood, Judy Garland, John Legend and Placido Domingo. And let's not forget...

Stop. Listing all of the musicians who performed duets with Tony Bennett would take up our remaining space. His place in music history is already secure.

Bennett, who died at 96 on Friday, was indeed "the last of the great saloon singers of the mid-20th century," as Charles J. Gans wrote for The Associated Press. Yet that summation befits a man frozen in time, consigned to a specific era, and Tony Bennett was anything but that.

Instead, Bennett transcended generations in a way few musicians have.

He was rightly beloved by older listeners for the way he interpreted the works of songwriters Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern and George Gershwin in a strong and stalwart voice that remained true into his 90s. He was influenced by and helped popularize jazz, and marched with the Rev. Martin Luther King to fight for civil rights.

He was also admired by those who, if they left their hearts in San Francisco, it was at the corner of Haight-Ashbury, or a trendy dance club.

"I have to think it comes down to the man itself," said singer Ben Folds, at age 56 four decades younger than Bennett was at the end.

"You hear his voice, it's super kind, casual and in the moment," Folds said. "His phrasing is that way, too. There's nothing that sounds uptight. It's very generous. A lot of people in his generation didn't have that appeal because at the end of the day, you didn't feel that they cared about you."

Many of Bennett's successful late-career duets were a tribute to the savvy marketing of his son and manager, Danny, who kept his dad's career going long past most peers hit their expiration date.

But famous duet partners could have said no. Few did.

Don't think they didn't notice the sweet and tender manner he brought to the studio working with people like Lady Gaga and Amy Winehouse, Folds said. Bennett's duet with Winehouse on "Body and Soul" was the last studio recording she made before she died.

Gaga, the New Yorker born Stefani Germanotta who could appreciate the New Yorker born Anthony Benedetto, became like family and ushered him through musical triumphs with love even as he suffered from Alzheimer's Disease. Bennett drew and signed an image of Miles Davis' trumpet that Gaga wears as a tattoo on her arm.

k.d. lang's formidable voice bowed to no one when she brought it to a series of memorable performances with Bennett in the 1990s.

"He was a place of refuge for the American songbook," lang told the Associated Press. "He made sure that he loved a song. He would not sing any song that he didn't love."

Make no mistake: Bennett brought the goods. Watch a video of him coming on to a Shea Stadium stage to sing "New York State of Mind" with Billy Joel. His guest steals the song, and Joel beams as he watches.

His handiwork has just been blessed by Tony Bennett.

At a San Francisco fundraiser a few years ago, with Alzheimer's insidious impact already apparent, Folds watched stunned as Bennett switched from remarks to a few bars of "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," in perfect pitch.

Bennett exuded an older generation's class, always performing in a tuxedo or tailored suit. In a Los Angeles hotel room in 1994 when an earthquake hit before dawn, Bennett took the time to change into a suit before joining bathrobe-wearing evacuees, the Los Angeles Times noted.

In all of the work he did with contemporary artists, he never sounded age inappropriate, said music critic Jim Farber. Bennett always bent them to his musical will, never the other way around, he said.

"There's this multitude of singers, from Gaga to Diana Krall to John Mayer," lang said. "Now they can carry a certain understanding that they received firsthand from him."

Something more important was usually happening in the audience.

Two years ago, writer Christine Passarella recalled sitting in lawn chairs in a Brooklyn park in the 1980s with her mother and baby daughter, listening to Bennett sing.

"Seeing him live felt like watching an uncle embracing me and my mom, as his music helped us remember my father, my mom's one and only love," she wrote.

Countless numbers of people remember similar moments with family over the years, hearing Bennett's voice wash warmly over them while sitting with a mother or father, a son or daughter. I'm among them.

That is, ultimately, a legacy to be treasured above all.

This story corrects Bennett's age at death to 96, not 95.

Protesters try to storm Baghdad's Green Zone over the burning of Quran and Iraqi flag in Denmark

By ALI JABAR and JARI TANNER Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Tensions flared again in Iraq on Saturday over a series of recent protests in Europe involving the desecration of the Quran, Islam's holy book, which sparked a debate over the balance between freedom of speech and religious sensitivities.

Hundreds of protesters attempted to storm Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone that houses foreign embassies and the seat of Iraq's government early on Saturday, following reports that an ultranationalist group burned a copy of the Quran in front of the Iraqi Embassy in the Danish capital, Copenhagen, the previous day.

The protest came two days after people angered by the planned burning of the Islamic holy book in Sweden stormed the Swedish Embassy in Baghdad.

Security forces on Saturday pushed back the protesters, who blocked the Jumhuriya bridge leading to the Green Zone, preventing them from reaching the Danish Embassy.

Elsewhere in Iraq, protesters burned three caravans belonging to a demining project run by the the Danish Refugee Council in the city of Basra in the south, local police said in a statement. The fire was extinguished by civil defense responders, and there were "no human casualties, only material losses," the statement said.

The council confirmed in an emailed statement to The Associated Press that its premises in Basra "came under armed attack" early Saturday.

"We deplore this attack — aid workers should never be a target of violence," Lulu Thapa, the Danish Refugee Council's executive director for the Middle East, said.

Iraq's prime minister has cut diplomatic ties with Sweden in protest over the desecration of the Quran in that country.

An Iraqi asylum-seeker who burned a copy of the Quran during a demonstration last month in Stockholm had threatened to do the same thing again on Thursday but ultimately stopped short of setting fire to the book.

The man — an Iraqi of Christian origin living in Stockholm, now a self-described atheist — did, however, kick and step on it, and did the same with an Iraqi flag and a photo of influential Iraqi Shiite cleric and political leader Muqtada al-Sadr and of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The right to hold public demonstrations is protected by the constitution in Sweden, and blasphemy laws were abandoned in the 1970s. Police generally give permission based on whether they believe a public gathering can be held without major disruptions or safety risks.

On Friday afternoon, thousands protested peacefully in Iraq and other Muslim-majority countries.

In Iran, the powerful Revolutionary Guard's chief, Gen. Hossein Salami, said that "we do not allow those who insult the Quran to be safe", the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported Saturday.

Muslims "will decree a severe punishment for the perpetrators of these crimes," he continued.

In the incident in Copenhagen, according to Danish media reports, members of the ultranationalist group

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Danske Patrioters burned a copy of the Quran and an Iraqi flag in front of the Iraqi Embassy, livestreaming the action on Facebook.

Copenhagen police spokeswoman Trine Fisker told the AP that "a very small demonstration" with fewer than 10 people took place Friday afternoon across the street from the Iraqi Embassy and that a book was burned.

"We do not know what book it was," she said. "Apparently they tried to burn the Iraqi flag and after that, somebody stepped on it."

Fisker said the "political angle is not for the police to comment" on, but the "event was peaceful ... from a police perspective."

The Danish government on Saturday condemned the demonstration. Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen called the action a "stupidity that a small handful of individuals did."

"It is a shameful act to violate the religion of others," he told Danish public broadcaster DR. "This applies both to the burning of Qurans and other religious symbols. It has no other purpose than to provoke and create division."

The incident prompted the protests in Baghdad overnight. Chanting in support of the anti-Western Shiite cleric al-Sadr and carrying images of him and the flag associated with his movement, along with the Iraqi flag, hundreds of protesters attempted to enter the Green Zone and clashed with security forces before dispersing.

Later, the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned in a statement "in strong and repeated terms, the incident of abuse against the holy Quran and the flag of the Republic of Iraq in front of the Iraqi Embassy in Denmark."

It called the international community "to stand urgently and responsibly towards these atrocities that violate social peace and coexistence around the world," the statement read.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani criticized the desecration of the Quran in Denmark and said the Danish government should be held responsible for preventing such acts and should pursue and punish those behind them, the ministry's website said.

The ministry also summoned the Danish ambassador to Tehran, Jesper Vahr, the state-run IRNA news agency reported.

The report said that Vahr was told Iran believes that if the Danish government had acted effectively, "we would not have witnessed such a blasphemous act today."

On Saturday evening, more than a thousand protesters gathered again in central Baghdad but did not attempt to storm the Green Zone for a second time. They burned Swedish and LGBTQ+ flags and chanted against the United States, Israel, Sweden and Denmark, before dispersing peacefully after a couple of hours.

Tanner reported from Helsinki, Finland. Associated Press writers Abdulrahman Zeyad in Baghdad, Abby Sewell in Beirut and Amir Vahdat in Tehran, Iran, contributed to this report.

Today in History: July 23, Amy Winehouse dies at age 27

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, July 23, the 204th day of 2023. There are 161 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 23, 1983, an Air Canada Boeing 767 ran out of fuel while flying from Montreal to Edmonton; the pilots were able to glide the jetliner to a safe emergency landing in Gimli, Manitoba. (The near-disaster occurred because the fuel had been erroneously measured in pounds instead of kilograms at a time when Canada was converting to the metric system.)

On this date:

In 1958, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II named the first four women to peerage in the House of Lords.

In 1967, five days of deadly rioting erupted in Detroit as an early morning police raid on an unlicensed bar resulted in a confrontation with local residents, escalating into violence that spread into other parts

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of the city; 43 people were killed.

In 1982, actor Vic Morrow and two child actors, 7-year-old Myca Dinh Le and 6-year-old Renee Shin-Yi Chen, were killed when a helicopter crashed on top of them during filming of a Vietnam War scene for "Twilight Zone: The Movie." (Director John Landis and four associates were later acquitted of manslaughter charges.)

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush announced his choice of Judge David Souter of New Hampshire to succeed the retiring Justice William J. Brennan on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1996, at the Atlanta Olympics, Kerri Strug made a heroic final vault despite torn ligaments in her left ankle as the U.S. women gymnasts clinched their first-ever Olympic team gold medal.

In 1997, the search for Andrew Cunanan, the suspected killer of designer Gianni Versace and others, ended as police found his body on a houseboat in Miami Beach, an apparent suicide.

In 1999, the space shuttle Columbia blasted off with the world's most powerful X-ray telescope and Eileen Collins became the first woman to command a U.S. space flight.

In 2003, Massachusetts' attorney general issued a report saying clergy members and others in the Boston Archdiocese had probably sexually abused more than 1,000 people over a period of six decades.

In 2006, Tiger Woods became the first player since Tom Watson in 1982-83 to win consecutive British Open titles.

In 2011, singer Amy Winehouse, 27, was found dead in her London home from accidental alcohol poisoning.

In 2019, Boris Johnson won the contest to lead Britain's governing Conservative Party, putting him in line to become the country's prime minister the following day.

In 2020, the virus-delayed and shortened Major League Baseball season began with the World Series champion Washington Nationals hosting the New York Yankees at an empty Nationals Park; Dr. Anthony Fauci threw out the ceremonial first ball.

Ten years ago: With a high-stakes showdown vote looming in the House, the White House and congressional backers of the National Security Agency's surveillance program warned that ending the massive collection of phone records from millions of Americans would put the nation at risk for another terrorist attack. (The next day, the House narrowly voted against halting the NSA program.) Nine people were killed in Cairo in fighting between opponents and supporters of former Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi.

Five years ago: The White House said President Donald Trump was considering revoking the security clearances of six former top national security officials who had been critical of his administration. The New York Daily News cut half of its newsroom staff, including the paper's editor in chief. The Senate, by a vote of 86-9, confirmed Pentagon official Robert Wilkie to be secretary of Veterans Affairs. The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency suspended swimming star Ryan Lochte (LAHK'-tee) from competition for a year for violating anti-doping rules by getting an intravenous injection of vitamins.

One year ago: The World Health Organization said the expanding monkeypox outbreak in more than 70 countries was an "extraordinary" situation that qualified as a global emergency. Russian missiles hit Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odesa just hours after Moscow and Kyiv signed deals to allow grain exports to resume from there. Ukraine's Foreign Ministry denounced the airstrikes as a "spit in the face" to Turkey and the United Nations, which brokered the agreements.

Today's Birthdays: Retired Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy is 87. Actor Ronny Cox is 85. Actor Larry Manetti is 80. Rock singer David Essex is 76. Singer-songwriter-politician John Hall is 75. Actor Belinda Montgomery is 73. Rock musician Blair Thornton (Bachman Turner Overdrive) is 73. Actor-writer Lydia Cornell is 70. Actor Woody Harrelson is 62. Rock musician Martin Gore (Depeche Mode) is 62. Actor Eriq LaSalle is 61. Rock musician Yuval Gabay is 60. Rock musician Slash is 58. Model-actor Stephanie Seymour is 55. Sen. Raphael Warnock, D-Ga., is 54. Actor Charisma Carpenter is 53. R&B singer Sam Watters is 53. Country singer Alison Krauss is 52. R&B singer Dalvin DeGrate is 52. Rock musician Chad Gracey (Live) is 52. Actor-comedian Marlon Wayans is 51. Country singer Shannon Brown is 50. Actor Kathryn Hahn is 50. Retired MLB All-Star Nomar Garciaparra is 50. Former White House intern Monica Lewinsky is 50. Actor Stephanie March is 49. Actor Shane McRae is 46. R&B singer Michelle Williams is 43. Actor Paul Wesley is 41. Actor Krysta Rodriguez is 39. Actor Daniel Radcliffe is 34. Actor Lili Simmons is 30.