

# Groton Daily Independent

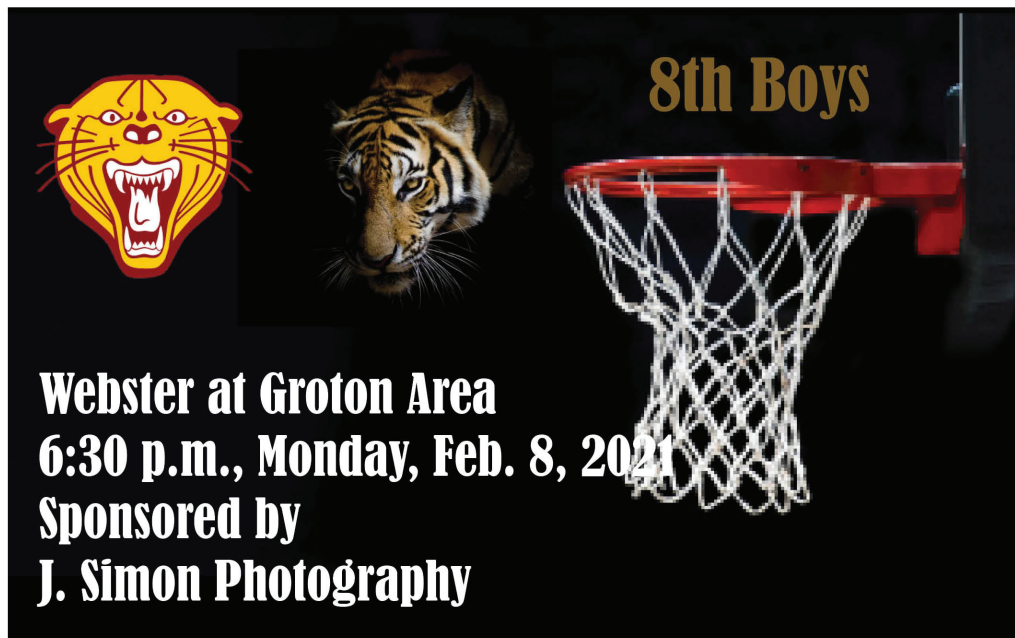
Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 1 of 63

- [1- Today on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [2- Glimpses From Greenfield](#)
- [4- ADT Ad](#)
- [5- Prairie Doc: Hey Doc, Who's on First?](#)
- [6- DirecTV Ad](#)
- [7- Upcoming Schedule](#)
- [8- Inogen Ad](#)
- [9- Lana's Annals-Week 4 House of Representatives](#)
- [10- Physicans Life Insurance Ad](#)
- [11- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller](#)
- [12- School Board Agenda](#)
- [13- National Debt Relief Ad](#)
- [14- Weekly Vikings Roundup](#)
- [15- Yesterday's COVID-19 UPDATE](#)
- [22- Life Alert Ad](#)
- [23- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)
- [24- Weather Pages](#)
- [28- Daily Devotional](#)
- [29- American Standard Shower Ad](#)
- [30- News from the Associated Press](#)

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for the Soul

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AT ALL COSTS, AND  
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-DENIS WAITLEY



**8th Boys**

**Webster at Groton Area**  
**6:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 8, 2021**  
**Sponsored by**  
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## **OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 2 of 63

## Glimpses From Greenfield

As I concluded last week's article, I mentioned an issue I was bringing regarding the SD High School Activities Association. I visited with other interested parties and worked on an amendment prior to my bill pitch SB 128 in committee last Thursday. In short, what SB 128 seeks to do is uphold a law passed in 2013 that said public schools could not enter into "exclusive" agreements with media outlets. This had begun to happen, and the legislature clamped down on that, again, with respect to schools that were funded with public dollars. Collectively, we felt that it was inappropriate to allow for winners and losers, thus forcing some media outlets to be precluded from broadcasting and/or covering games. Fast forward to present-day, and the SDHSAA has struck an agreement with the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) that has served as a conduit for the NFHS to claim to have a loophole around the ban on exclusive media rights at our public schools. So, in effect, now an out-of-state organization has a competitive advantage over our in-state media outlets and journalists. In fairness, after a bill was brought last year, the SDHSAA attempted to remediate a couple of the issues that were highlighted in committee testimony. However, issues still remained, and proponents from liveticket.tv, the SD Newspaper Association, and the SD Broadcasters' Association all testified in favor of the bill. SB 128 was held over until a subsequent meeting under the understanding that we are going to continue to work on settling on language everybody can be happy with. I did have a very nice conversation with the Executive Director of the SDHSAA after the committee hearing, and we have both committed to communicating in the next week to resolve the issues that remain.

SB 87 seeks to allow nonprofit agricultural organizations to offer health benefit plans to their members under certain circumstances. This would be akin to benefit plans offered by healthcare sharing ministries. The goal would be to allow people another option for healthcare coverage outside the bounds of normal insurance. We heard from individuals who participate in alternative health benefit plans that their premiums are a fraction of typical regulated insurance policies, and their coverage meets their needs. While the legislation stipulates that the policy is offered under this program would have to identify that it is not insurance and is not regulated, this is not unprecedented. After many people contacted their senators, the bill passed by a margin of 19-15. I look for this issue to continue to be hotly contested as it moves over to the House. While plans such as this are not for everybody, they do offer a unique opportunity for people to obtain potentially more affordable healthcare coverage outside the bounds of the status quo.

SB 101 identifies an issue concerning warranty agreements that has previously been unaddressed. The best way to explain this is to give an example. Take for instance a semi truck that is comprised of parts from several different manufacturers. If the owner encounters issues and seeks repairs, in some circumstances the truck manufacturer says the problems weren't caused by their negligence. Therefore, the owner is left paying for the repairs of the faulty part. This legislation would make clear that all manufacturers of all components they are the burden for ensuring the integrity and honoring the warranty of the parts they were responsible for creating. Over the years, I have seen a number of warranty-related issues that devolved to nothing but controversy. However, this bill did not have any opponents in committee and it passed the Senate floor, 32-0.

Finally, I will say that things aren't always as they are portrayed online. In the past week, I was tagged at least twice in posts on social media about bills that were completely misconstrued. In one instance, I am the Senate Prime Sponsor on a 72-section House Bill seeking to provide the regulatory framework for the implementation regarding Constitutional Amendment A. There are two sponsors because of the technical nature of the bill and our desire to confine the messaging to two spokespersons. The first section is designed to reflect the foundation for the remainder of the bill. It seeks to recognize the very delicate nature of passing legislation of a still-federally-prohibited drug while compelling legislative action

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 3 of 63

because of the vote of support of the people. The second section recognizes that Constitutional Amendment A is being litigated and says if it is struck down, the law will be null-and-void. This helps to bring more legislators into the fold, while recognizing that right now we are under a time crunch to establish a legal framework, whereas if Constitutional Amendment A fails to pass judicial muster, we will have at least one more year to readdress the issue. It is very important that we do our best to get things right as we venture into uncharted waters. That is what the remaining 70 sections of the bill speak to. Whatever a major mainstream news site chose to report on their website, I do not know, but I heard from a strong supporter of Amendment A and the bill I've been speaking of that their story was a hatchet job and did not do the legislation justice. Surprise, SURPRISE! Regarding the other issue, just because six or seven committee members vote a certain way and the headline reads, "Republicans Vote to Reject X", that does not necessarily mean every Republican in the legislature or the state feels the same way. The bill regarding security expenses and the Governor's travel was not before my committee nor was it even introduced on the Senate side, so I had not read it with a fine-toothed comb. Because it was not in front of my committee, I did not hear the arguments for or against it, and I did not vote on it. Since the bill was a House Bill, it would have had a long slog before it was in front of me. I will note the bill was brought by Republicans. My predisposition was that the bill would probably not accomplish its goal, because it would've required a signature of the very person who had denied previous requests for information, so it was probably nothing but a political statement, but I would have listened to the arguments if it had made its way through the process. However, much to the dismay of the angry left and the self-proclaimed most-conservative-among-us, it did not see the light of day. I cannot take credit for that, so I make no apology if you were offended by the actions of others. Moreover, accusing me on social media of being responsible for this would be similar to giving me the credit for my beloved Cubs winning the 2016 World Series. I was on the sidelines and had a cursory knowledge of what was going on, but I was extremely far-removed from the final disposition of either outcome.

One parting thought...I have received personal messages from people who have read my articles. I truly appreciate it. I try to provide you with insights as to what is going on with bills that apply to a broad cross-section of the electorate. I respect that we may not always agree. I even acknowledge that from time-to-time I may arrive at the wrong conclusion. Rest assured, though, that I try to be thorough in the decision-making process and cast a well-informed vote.

God bless each of you!

Brock Greenfield

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 4 of 63

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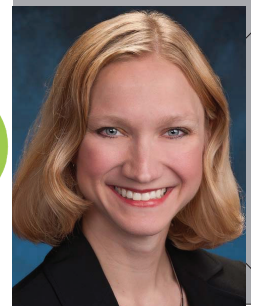
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DF-CD-NP-Q121

## Hey Doc, Who's on First?

Many people are familiar with the classic Abbott and Costello comedy skit "Who's on First?" For those who are not familiar, the routine is a hilarious interaction between the two comedians as they discuss players on a baseball team while using confusing references such as "who's on first" and "what's on second." The audience can see that Abbott believes he is clearly communicating the player names to Costello,



By Jill Kruse, DO ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

but it digresses into a laughable experience of misunderstanding and frustration for both parties. The men become increasingly angry as the conversation goes on and each feel that the other is not listening.

This situation may be funny in the world of entertainment, but it can be disastrous when it happens between doctor and patient. At times, conversation in the exam room can inadvertently go down a similar path of confusion. I recall one such experience when I was showing an x-ray to a patient. I pointed out, "Here is the fracture." The patient looked at me, gave a sigh of relief and said, "Thank goodness doc, I was afraid you were going to tell me that it was broken." At that moment I realized my choice of words had not provided the clarity I intended. Thankfully, this patient spoke out which alerted me to the misunderstanding allowing me to rectify it immediately.

Those of us in the medical field must be always mindful to ensure that we explain things in clear, everyday language. I apologize for our failures, which do happen. I also ask for your help. Doctors are human and we may incorrectly assume that our patients understand what we are saying, especially if our patients do not tell us otherwise.

Healthcare is a partnership which requires communication from both patient and doctor. It is important to recognize that not all cultures and generations feel empowered to question a doctor. Other patients hesitate to ask what they feel might be perceived as a "silly" question. In addition, patients have varying levels of education and experience when it comes to participating in medical conversations. Sometimes it helps the patient to have a family member or friend in the room to help the patient feel at ease and convey information.

Doctors strive to be sensitive to these situations, to welcome and encourage questions, then listen closely when the patient speaks. No doctor I know will intentionally or maliciously confuse a patient. We welcome your participation so both patient and doctor can best understand what care is needed. Let's work together and keep the conversation going to make sure we both know "who's on first" and "what's on second" when it comes to your health."

Jill Kruse, D.O. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org) and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 6 of 63



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# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 7 of 63

## Upcoming Schedule

### Monday, Feb. 8

Junior High Basketball in the Groton Arena with Webster. 7th grade at 5:30 p.m. followed by 8th grade game. The 8th grade game will be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM sponsored by J. Simon Photography.

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

### Tuesday, Feb. 9

Girls Basketball hosts Tiospa Zina. JV game (Ed and Connie Stauch) at 6 p.m. followed by varsity.

### Wednesday, Feb. 10

LifeTouch Pictures in GHS Gym, 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

### Thursday, Feb. 11

Parent-Teacher Conference, 1:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Basketball Doubleheader with Milbank in Groton. JV girls (Trent and Heather Traphagen) at 4 p.m. followed by JV boys, Varsity Girls and Varsity Boys.

### Saturday, Feb. 12

Basketball Doubleheader at Mobridge. JV girls (Rich and Tami Zimney) at 1 p.m., JV boys at 2 p.m., Varsity Girls at 3 p.m. followed by Varsity Boys.

### Monday, Feb. 15

Junior High Basketball at Aberdeen Roncalli Elementary School (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.)

Boys Basketball at Aberdeen Roncalli (C game at 5 p.m., JV at 6:15 and Varsity at 7:30).

**Tuesday, Feb. 16:** Girls Basketball hosts Warner with JV at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity.

### Thursday, Feb. 18

Junior High Basketball hosts Mobridge-Pollock in the Arena. 7th at 6 p.m., 8th at 7 p.m.

### Friday, Feb. 19

Basketball Doubleheader with Deuel in Groton. JV girls at 4 p.m., JV boys at 5 p.m. followed by Varsity Girls and Varsity Boys.

### Saturday, Feb. 20

Regional Wrestling Tournament in Groton, 10 a.m.

**Monday, Feb. 22:** Boys Basketball hosts Warner with JV at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity.

**Tuesday, Feb. 23:** GBB Region

**Thursday, Feb. 25:** GBB Region

### Friday, Feb. 26

Boys Basketball hosts Aberdeen Christian. JV at 6 p.m. followed by Varsity.

**Tuesday, March 2:** BBB Region

**Thursday, March 4:** GBB SoDAK 16

**Friday, March 5:** BBB Region

**Tuesday, March 9:** BBB SoDAK 16

March 11-13: State Girls Basketball Tournament in Watertown

March 18-20: State Boys Basketball Tournament in Sioux Falls



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# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 9 of 63

## Lana's Annals-Week 4 House of Representatives

Greetings! It may be cold outside, but bills are heating up in the House as they continue to go through committees. Some will go onto the floor for debate while others meet their demise.

In local government we talked about HB1117, a bill that asks approval to have remote council meetings. Now I would be first to say that in this year remote meetings were helpful. especially for legislative decision making meetings vs. in person special session; however, the question is whether this should be the norm or not. I think there may be unintended consequences. Patrons who want to be a part of, for example, a city council meeting may not be able to hook up to join online. No place in the bill provides for a designated physical location. The question then remains: how will this affect transparency? I voted against this, but the bill passed onto the floor 7-6. We will see what others think.

HB1085, redefining classifying ag as land for tax purposes, was first defeated on the floor, was reconsidered, and then passed. The biggest opponent pointed out the many people in his west river home area raise vegetables, chickens, and hay, all of which they can sell at market. The question then becomes whether or not these small acreages should have an ag classification. I felt that some may be trying to use this classification to eliminate paying higher property taxes so I voted in favor of curtailing this. HB1085 passed and will now move over to the Senate government committee.

Our education committee listened to a proposal by LATC, Watertown. They want to build new classrooms and an archway. The claim was that they had to turn away 250 students as they had no room for them to enroll in certain programs.. While HB1144 lacked detail or blueprint, it was passed onto the Appropriations Committee to see how this fits into the budget.

Also requested was money for Mitchell Tech for a new precision ag building. They mentioned that it would help 180 students to start with. It calls for funding to be used for an animal and veterinarian unit, soil testing, just name two. They had a precise drawing as to how this building would look. We also passed that onto appropriations as we felt the bill to be worthy of discussion.

I invited Secretary of Ed. Sanderson in to discuss an appropriations item which requests 900,000 dollars to be used for history/civics materials and structured plans for teaching about our foundations. One of the programs, "We the People" (1776 program) could be implemented in schools that want to pilot programs which could start at an early level and have stepping stones which would flow smoothly into every year thereafter. I suggested that we have complete buy in from applicants so schools could teach about our country, the Constitution, and Framers who worked to shape our documents.

We have a limited number of committee meetings left before crossover day. The homeschool bill will be introduced in the Senate ed. committee on Tuesday. It is SB177, and it should spark interest and discussion.

The premier scholarship program is due also to be discussed. Again, it requires us to match a donated 50 million for college scholarships, followed by another gifted 50 million if we approve our proposal.

HB1053, which I co-sponsored, was also debated on the House floor. The purpose was to assess a fee on electric vehicles as a road repair assessment. The original had been 100 dollars, but it was amended down to 50 dollars. I voted in favor as I thought it was a fairness issue. Electric vehicles use our roads and pay no gas tax money.. As people continue to have a mindset of adopting "green" ideas, it may be that those assessments have to increase. Until next week, be warm and safe

Sincerely,

Rep. Lana Greenfield

lana.greenfield@sd legislature.gov

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# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 11 of 63

**#350 in a series**

## **Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller**

This is going to be brief—today's numbers and the weekly summary, nothing more. I'm tired, and so I'm taking the day off.

Everything seems to be going our way. We continue to show decreases. I am worried about the effects of today's partying, and we still have those variants on the horizon; but so far, so good. Here's a milestone: We reported just 92,000 new cases today. We haven't been under 100,000 new cases in a day for a bit over three months. I know this is a Sunday, but this is still a big deal. Unfortunately, we still managed to pass the 27 million-case mark today with 27,041,000, a 0.3% increase from yesterday. Here's the history:

April 28 – 1 million – 98 days  
June 11 – 2 million – 44 days  
July 8 – 3 million – 27 days  
July 23 – 4 million – 15 days  
August 9 – 5 million – 17 days  
August 31 – 6 million – 22 days  
September 24 – 7 million – 24 days  
October 15 – 8 million – 21 days  
October 29 – 9 million – 14 days  
November 8 – 10 million – 10 days  
November 15 – 11 million – 7 days  
November 21 – 12 million – 6 days  
November 27 – 13 million – 6 days  
December 3 – 14 million – 6 days  
December 7 – 15 million – 4 days  
December 12 – 16 million – 5 days  
December 17 – 17 million – 5 days  
December 21 – 18 million – 4 days  
December 26 – 19 million – 5 days  
December 31 – 20 million – 5 days  
January 5 – 21 million – 5 days  
January 9 – 22 million – 4 days  
January 13 – 23 million – 4 days  
January 18 – 24 million – 5 days  
January 23 – 25 million – 5 days  
January 30 – 26 million – 7 days  
February 7 – 27 million – 8 days

It's been just about three months since it took this many days between millions; hoping that trend continues. We've been over 90,000 cases for a solid fourteen weeks and over 70,000 for fifteen weeks. Hospitalizations have been declining for over four weeks and are getting close to 50,000 below the record. There are 84,233 people hospitalized with this virus today.

We're down to 34 states and territories in the red zone, 18 in orange, and four in yellow. One-week increase in total cases was 1,044,200 last week, and the seven-day average dipped well below one million this week at just 830,300. Two-week increase was 2,234,300 last week and is now below two million this week at 1,874,500; that's well below where we were last Sunday. I have us at a one-week daily average new-case number of 118,614.3; this is a decline of over 20 percent in a week.

I track 54 states and US territories, including the District of Columbia; and the number of these showing two-week rates of increase greater than 25% is still one. We have 23 states and territories with growth rates above the US growth rate. Highest per capita rates of increase are in South Carolina, Arkansas, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Texas; most of these were among the leaders a week ago too.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 12 of 63

There were 1472 deaths reported today, a 0.3% increase to 463,237. Average daily deaths is back down again, but still above two weeks ago. We're at 3140.0 this week, still pretty scary. This is the twelfth consecutive week since spring we've reported over 10,000 deaths. States with the most per capita deaths over the past week are Alabama, Tennessee, Arizona, South Carolina, California, and Mississippi—pretty much the same cast of characters as last week. The dying is not done yet.

And that's all I have tonight.

Be well. We'll talk again.

## GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

### School Board Meeting

February 8, 2021 – 7:00 PM – Groton Area Elementary Commons

#### AGENDA:

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

#### POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

#### CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of January 11, 2021 school board meeting as drafted or amended.
2. Approval of January 2021 Financial Report, Custodial Accounts, and Investments.
3. Approval of January 2021 Transportation Report
4. Approval of January 2021 School Lunch Report
5. Approve open enrollment applications #21-19 and #21-20.

#### OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

6. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
7. Program Overview Presentations...
  - a. **Technology**...A. Helvig
  - b. **Library/Media**...B. Madsen, T. Dunker
8. Continued discussion and necessary action on District response to COVID-19.
  - a. Quarantine Protocols
9. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. District revenues report.
2. First reading of recommended policy change to policy ABAA Parent and Family Engagement.
3. Discussion on 2021-2022 School District Calendar.
4. Discussion or action on GHS Arena seat sponsorship program.
5. Approve resignation/retirement of Brian Schuring at end of the 2020-2021 school year.
6. Approve resignation of Brooke Compton at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.
7. Executive session pursuant SDCL1-25-2(1) for personnel – Superintendent evaluation.

#### ADJOURN

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# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 14 of 63

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers are the last NFL team standing after defeating the Kansas City Chiefs 31-9 on Sunday. Tom Brady will be the main storyline in the weeks and months to come after winning his seventh NFL Championship, but it was a whole-team effort for the Bucs in Super Bowl LV – made even more impressive by the fact that there was basically no offseason for all the Bucs’ new pieces because of the pandemic. We’ll break down the game, and if you didn’t watch the game don’t worry, we’ll also talk about the other main event: the commercials!



By Jordan Wright

Tom Brady, who won the Super Bowl MVP award for his performance, was practically perfect against a stout Chiefs defense. He completed 21 of 29 passes for 201 yards and three touchdowns. The stats aren’t mind-blowing, but this game was out of reach by the third quarter and Brady only threw three passes in the final fifteen minutes of the game. At 43-years of age, Tom Brady is still at the top of his game and will undoubtedly be back next season for a shot at an eighth ring.

The Bucs’ offense was well balanced. Running backs Leonard Fournette and Ronald Jones II combined for 150 yards on 28 carries (5.4 yards per carry). Fournette was one of many star players who elected to join Tom Brady in Tampa Bay, along with Rob Gronkowski and Antonio Brown, and all of those players were rewarded with touchdowns on Sunday.

The Buccaneers’ defense was in for a tall task, trying to stop a Chiefs’ offense that was led by Patrick Mahomes, but they held strong all game long. Led by linebacker Devin White, the Bucs’ defense was harassing Mahomes from beginning to end – racking up three sacks and eight quarterback hits. The Bucs also intercepted two passes and broke up eight more. One stat to sum up how good the Bucs’ defense was on Sunday: this was the first game in Mahomes’ career (NFL and college) that his team failed to score a touchdown.

The biggest reason for Mahomes’ struggles in the Super Bowl was the Chiefs’ offensive line (or lack thereof). Down their two starting tackles, Kansas City was unable to stop Tampa Bay’s ferocious pass rush and give their All-Star quarterback time to throw the ball. Mahomes finished the game with 270 yards, completing 26 of 49 passes for 270 yards, zero touchdowns and two interceptions. With the Bucs focused on stopping the pass, the Chiefs were able to get the ground game going (107 yards on 17 carries), but it was too little too late. This was a poor game for Kansas City, but there is no doubt this team will be competing for championships for many years to come.

## The Commercials

Every year, millions of Americans watch the Super Bowl just for the commercials. Here are the top three commercials this year...

Number three – Doritos decided the best way to advertise their 3D potato chips was to make a commercial featuring a one-dimensional Matthew McConaughey. The commercial was slightly unsettling, but there were some funny moments, including when he was in a coffee shop and the barista couldn’t see him because he was standing sideways.

Number two – A commercial with Will Ferrell is almost sure to be a hit, and GM’s commercial didn’t disappoint. Ferrell discovered that Norway sells more electric vehicles per capita than the U.S., so he recruits Kenan Thompson and Awkwafina to travel to Norway in an effort to claim the top spot for America.

Number one – the Frito Lays commercial that was narrated by Marshawn Lynch was my favorite of the night. It technically premiered before the big game started, but that won’t stop me from putting it on this list. The commercial not only had plenty of hilarious moments, but it was also a perfect segue for the Super Bowl.

Skol!

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 15 of 63

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased Among Cases	Community Spread	% RT-PCR Test Positivity Rate (Weekly)
Aurora	451	427	834	15	Moderate	5.00%
Beadle	2623	2526	5586	39	Moderate	4.64%
Bennett	378	363	1139	9	Minimal	0.93%
Bon Homme	1499	1473	1998	24	Minimal	1.56%
Brookings	3475	3318	11179	35	Substantial	3.32%
Brown	5016	4777	12043	79	Substantial	11.35%
Brule	680	666	1805	9	Moderate	7.50%
Buffalo	419	403	879	13	Minimal	16.00%
Butte	961	925	3078	20	Moderate	6.60%
Campbell	126	120	244	4	Moderate	13.64%
Charles Mix	1233	1190	3778	18	Substantial	10.00%
Clark	355	330	914	4	Moderate	0.00%
Clay	1761	1726	4958	15	Substantial	3.20%
Codington	3788	3620	9252	75	Substantial	9.29%
Corson	461	445	983	11	Minimal	13.04%
Custer	730	709	2599	12	Moderate	8.45%
Davison	2910	2812	6200	59	Substantial	4.35%
Day	623	571	1679	28	Substantial	10.53%
Deuel	460	446	1077	8	Moderate	11.63%
Dewey	1390	1356	3721	21	Substantial	6.45%
Douglas	415	399	870	9	Minimal	6.67%
Edmunds	467	440	982	11	Substantial	6.67%
Fall River	512	487	2495	15	Moderate	9.52%
Faulk	345	320	666	13	Moderate	6.67%
Grant	929	855	2104	37	Substantial	18.75%
Gregory	514	466	1185	27	Moderate	0.00%
Haakon	244	231	512	9	Minimal	0.00%
Hamlin	672	616	1681	38	Moderate	8.06%
Hand	323	311	763	6	Minimal	4.55%
Hanson	341	326	673	4	Moderate	22.58%
Harding	91	89	175	1	None	0.00%
Hughes	2222	2146	6232	33	Substantial	2.01%
Hutchinson	766	722	2228	24	Moderate	8.33%

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 16 of 63

Hyde	135	133	390	1	None	0.00%
Jackson	270	253	892	14	None	0.00%
Jerauld	268	246	535	16	Minimal	8.33%
Jones	82	81	208	0	Minimal	7.14%
Kingsbury	611	584	1557	13	Moderate	6.00%
Lake	1152	1098	3097	17	Substantial	5.88%
Lawrence	2766	2689	8182	44	Moderate	7.19%
Lincoln	7522	7294	19194	75	Substantial	10.27%
Lyman	591	577	1823	10	Moderate	7.69%
Marshall	289	278	1111	5	Moderate	4.84%
McCook	724	691	1535	24	Moderate	13.95%
McPherson	236	221	530	4	Moderate	2.52%
Meade	2496	2414	7312	31	Substantial	10.38%
Mellette	241	236	707	2	Minimal	8.70%
Miner	269	245	544	7	Moderate	28.57%
Minnehaha	27257	26376	73933	319	Substantial	8.64%
Moody	604	576	1684	16	Substantial	6.67%
Oglala Lakota	2042	1962	6482	44	Substantial	10.78%
Pennington	12494	12061	37508	177	Substantial	8.97%
Perkins	339	314	756	12	Substantial	27.50%
Potter	354	337	793	3	Moderate	8.70%
Roberts	1117	1062	3958	35	Substantial	9.63%
Sanborn	325	318	656	3	Minimal	3.39%
Spink	787	727	2040	25	Substantial	12.36%
Stanley	320	309	875	2	Moderate	0.00%
Sully	135	131	290	3	Minimal	0.00%
Todd	1214	1176	4041	26	Substantial	4.27%
Tripp	659	636	1425	15	Moderate	6.98%
Turner	1046	985	2577	50	Moderate	2.74%
Union	1899	1796	5830	39	Substantial	9.91%
Walworth	709	674	1763	15	Moderate	3.75%
Yankton	2759	2686	8844	28	Substantial	4.37%
Ziebach	337	327	849	9	Minimal	0.00%
Unassigned	0	0	1801	0		



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 17 of 63

## South Dakota



### AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range with Years	# of Cases	# of Deaths Among Cases
0-9 years	4271	0
10-19 years	12220	0
20-29 years	19578	4
30-39 years	17975	15
40-49 years	15588	34
50-59 years	15387	106
60-69 years	12491	239
70-79 years	6676	410
80+ years	5043	1001

### SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths Among Cases
Female	56985	857
Male	52244	952

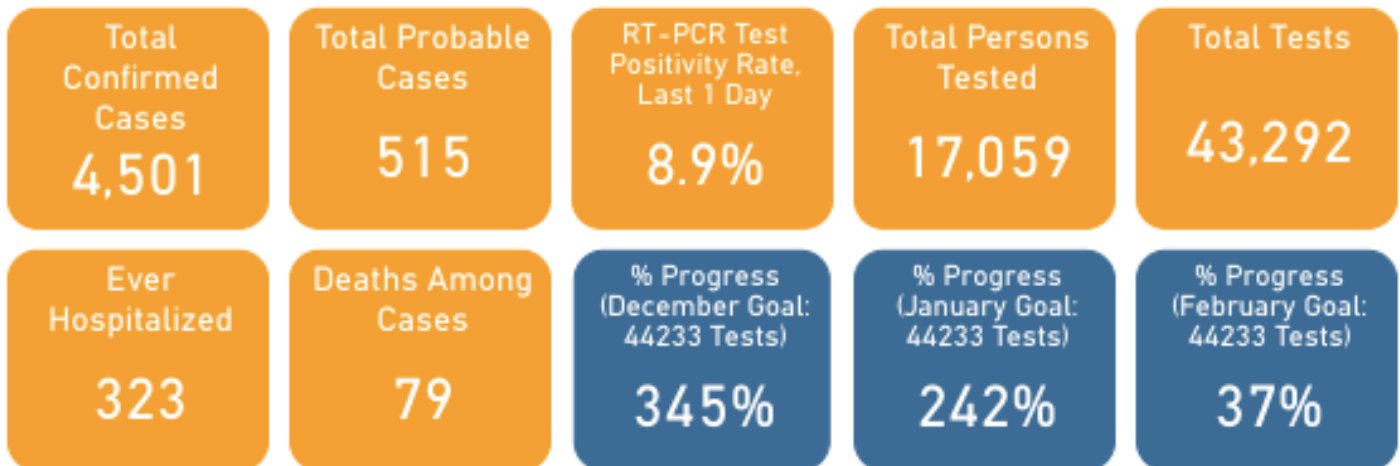
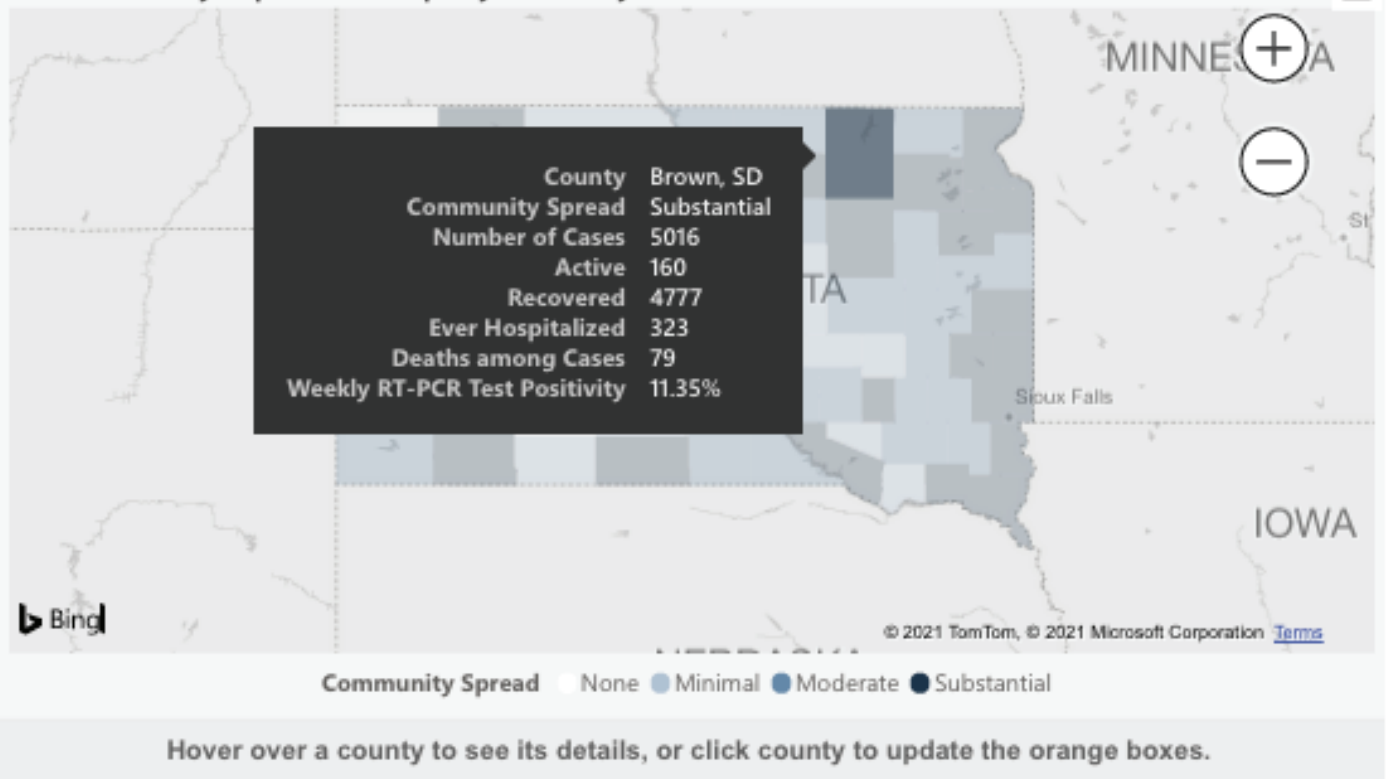
# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 18 of 63

## Brown County



### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



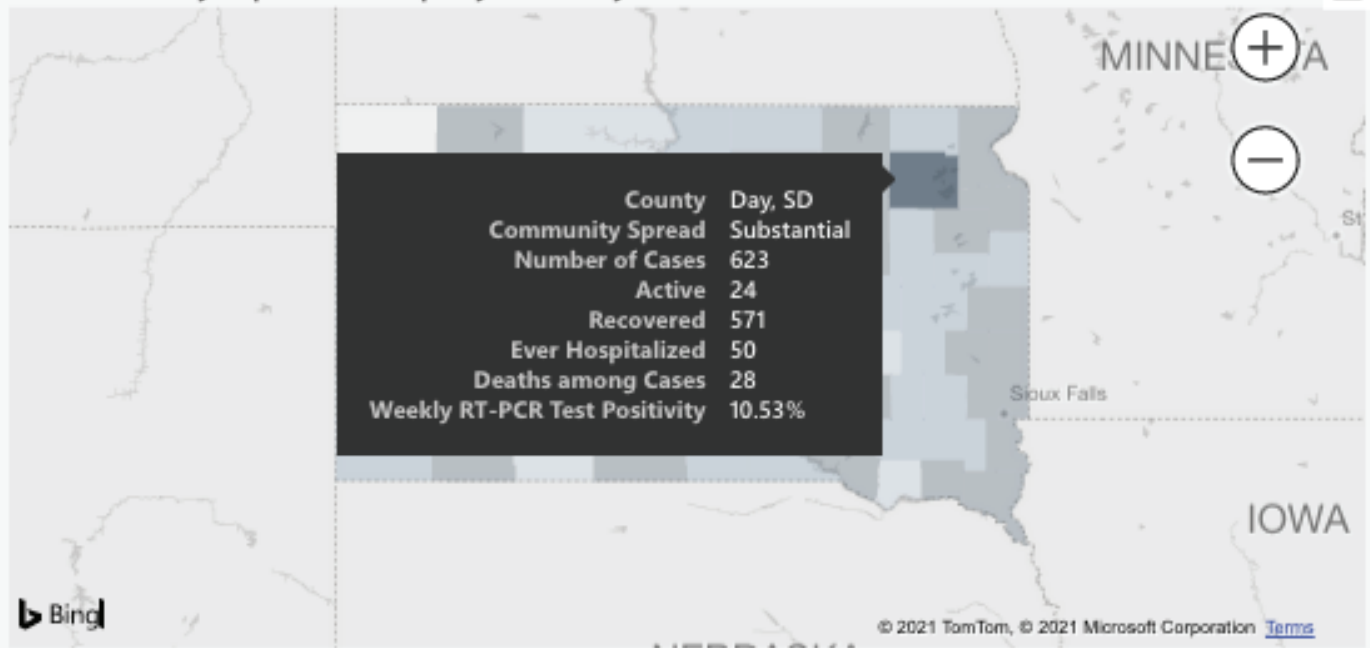
# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 19 of 63

## Day County

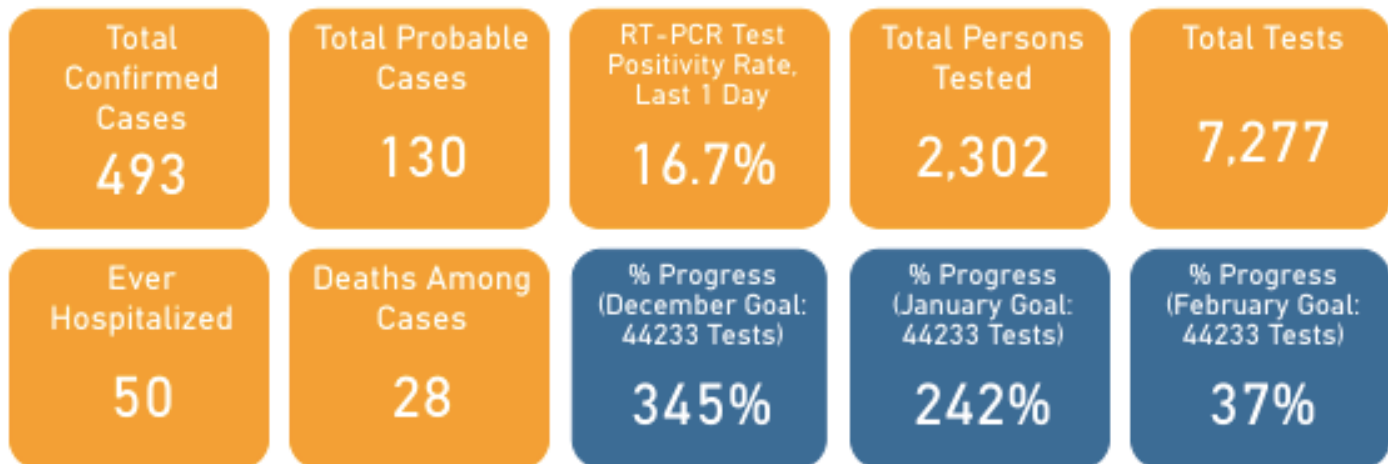


### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread: None (white), Minimal (light blue), Moderate (medium blue), Substantial (dark blue)

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



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 20 of 63

## Vaccinations

### Total Doses Administered

124,265

### Total Persons Administered a Vaccine

85,604

Manufacturer	Number of Doses
Moderna	66,029
Pfizer	58,236

Doses	Number of Recipients
Moderna - 1 dose	25,725
Moderna - Series Complete	20,152
Pfizer - 1 dose	21,218
Pfizer - Series Complete	18,509

County	# Doses	# Persons (1 dose)	# Persons (2 doses)	Total # Persons
Aurora	293	111	91	202
Beadle	2374	1,142	616	1,758
Bennett*	205	123	41	164
Bon Homme*	1163	321	421	742
Brookings	3434	1,460	987	2,447
Brown	5546	1,774	1,886	3,660
Brule*	760	366	197	563
Buffalo*	83	75	4	79
Butte	665	387	139	526
Campbell	474	110	182	292
Charles Mix*	1095	369	363	732
Clark	458	234	112	346
Clay	2049	757	646	1,403
Codington*	4069	1,619	1,225	2,844
Corson*	83	57	13	70
Custer*	942	480	231	711
Davison	3369	729	1,320	2,049
Day*	953	425	264	689
Deuel	556	270	143	413
Dewey*	193	85	54	139
Douglas*	536	144	196	340
Edmunds	422	182	120	302
Fall River*	1074	488	293	781
Faulk	287	215	36	251
Grant*	981	263	359	622
Gregory*	657	207	225	432
Haakon*	241	87	77	164

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 21 of 63

Hamlin	673	305	184	489
Hand	516	184	166	350
Hanson	165	39	63	102
Harding	25	19	3	22
Hughes*	2887	1,267	810	2,077
Hutchinson*	1379	343	518	861
Hyde*	242	60	91	151
Jackson*	162	92	35	127
Jerauld	234	100	67	167
Jones*	265	101	82	183
Kingsbury	802	304	249	553
Lake	1425	629	398	1,027
Lawrence	2569	1,645	462	2,107
Lincoln	11957	3,251	4,353	7,604
Lyman*	267	159	54	213
Marshall*	603	317	143	460
McCook	839	323	258	581
McPherson	80	40	20	60
Meade*	2132	1,194	469	1,663
Mellette*	17	5	6	11
Miner	333	133	100	233
Minnehaha	33395	11,475	10,960	22,435
Moody*	595	197	199	396
Oglala Lakota*	57	37	10	47
Pennington*	13726	6,646	3,540	10,186
Perkins*	178	106	36	142
Potter	295	73	111	184
Roberts*	1484	996	244	1,240
Sanborn	363	195	84	279
Spink	1253	329	462	791
Stanley*	415	175	120	295
Sully	121	73	24	97
Todd*	74	26	24	50
Tripp*	853	363	245	608
Turner	1552	492	530	1,022
Union	824	320	252	572
Walworth*	767	325	221	546
Yankton	4684	1,250	1,717	2,967
Ziebach*	32	14	9	23
Other	3063	861	1,101	1,962

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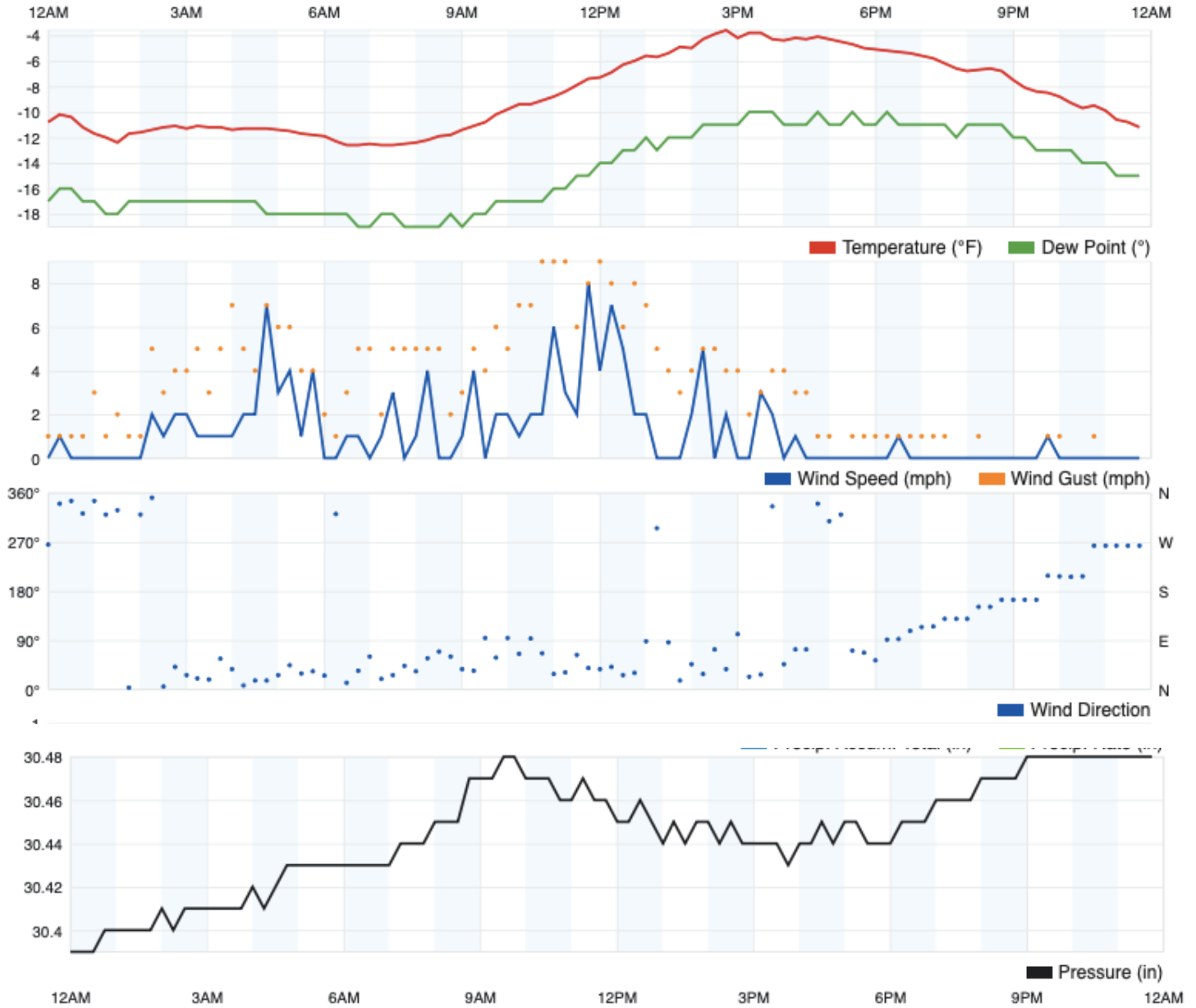
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# Groton Daily Independent

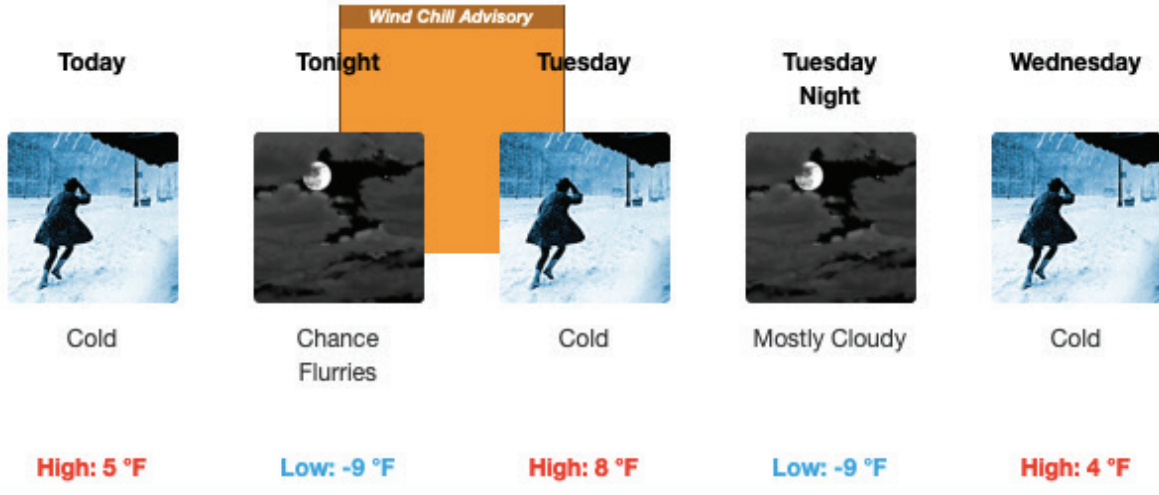
Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 23 of 63

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 24 of 63



## FRIGID WEEK AHEAD

An extended period of cold air with bitterly to dangerously cold wind chills continues

	High Temperature						Low Temperature						Min Wind Chill					
	2/8	2/9	2/10	2/11	2/12	2/13	2/8	2/9	2/10	2/11	2/12	2/13	2/8	2/9	2/10	2/11	2/12	2/13
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Aberdeen	4	9	4	-2	-1	-1	-14	-9	-8	-10	-12	-15	-24	-24	-24	-29	-32	-35
Fort Pierre	12	15	12	6	3	4	-9	-1	-1	-4	-8	-13	-19	-12	-14	-21	-27	-31
Milbank	3	8	3	-4	-2	-2	-12	-9	-9	-12	-14	-14	-27	-22	-21	-28	-31	-32
Mobridge	9	11	7	2	2	3	-18	-7	-8	-6	-10	-14	-28	-23	-24	-24	-28	-31
North Eagle Butte	6	9	6	0	-2	0	-15	-7	-6	-8	-12	-15	-27	-24	-24	-28	-32	-34
Ortonville	4	9	3	-3	-1	-1	-17	-7	-8	-12	-13	-15	-17	-20	-20	-28	-29	-34
Pierre	11	14	12	6	3	4	-9	-1	-1	-4	-8	-13	-19	-12	-14	-21	-27	-31
Redfield	5	10	6	0	0	1	-19	-7	-5	-8	-11	-14	-32	-20	-20	-25	-29	-32
Sisseton	2	6	1	-5	-3	-3	-13	-9	-9	-11	-13	-14	-27	-26	-25	-30	-33	-35
Watertown	2	7	3	-5	-4	-3	-18	-9	-8	-13	-16	-19	-31	-22	-21	-31	-36	-39

NWS Aberdeen, SD  
Updated: 2/8/2021 4:35 AM CST

Dress in layers, Cover exposed skin, Limit outdoor time,  
Don't forget about pets, Check vehicle safety kit



An Arctic air mass will remain firmly entrenched across the region through the work week, and next weekend, with bitterly to dangerously cold wind chills each morning. Frostbite will be possible on exposed skin in as little as 10 to 30 minutes.




# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 25 of 63

## FROSTBITE

A victim is often unaware of frostbite because frozen tissue is numb.



**Signs & Symptoms**


- Redness or pain in any skin area may be the first sign of frostbite.

**Other signs include:**

- a white or grayish-yellow skin area
- skin that feels unusually firm or waxy
- numbness

## HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia often occurs at very cold temperatures, but can occur at cool temperatures (above 40°F), if a person is wet (from rain, sweat or cold water) and becomes chilled.




**Signs & Symptoms**

**Adults:**


- shivering
- exhaustion
- confusion
- fumbling hands
- memory loss
- slurred speech
- drowsiness

**Infants:**

- bright red, cold skin
- very low energy




**If a person's temperature is below 95° get medical attention immediately.**



### Wind Chill Chart


Wind (mph)

Calm	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
40	36	34	32	30	29	28	28	27	26	26	25	25
35	31	27	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	19	18	17
30	25	21	19	17	16	15	14	13	12	12	11	10
25	19	15	13	11	9	8	7	6	5	4	4	3
20	13	9	6	4	3	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-3	-4
15	7	3	0	-2	-4	-5	-7	-8	-9	-10	-11	-11
10	1	-4	-7	-9	-11	-12	-14	-15	-16	-17	-18	-19
5	-5	-10	-13	-15	-17	-19	-21	-22	-23	-24	-25	-26
0	-11	-16	-19	-22	-24	-26	-27	-29	-30	-31	-32	-33
-5	-16	-22	-26	-29	-31	-33	-34	-36	-37	-38	-39	-40
-10	-22	-28	-32	-35	-37	-39	-41	-43	-44	-45	-46	-48
-15	-28	-35	-39	-42	-44	-46	-48	-50	-51	-52	-54	-55
-20	-34	-41	-45	-48	-51	-53	-55	-57	-58	-60	-61	-62
-25	-40	-47	-51	-55	-58	-60	-62	-64	-65	-67	-68	-69
-30	-46	-53	-58	-61	-64	-67	-69	-71	-72	-74	-75	-76
-35	-52	-59	-64	-68	-71	-73	-76	-78	-79	-81	-82	-84
-40	-57	-66	-71	-74	-78	-80	-82	-84	-86	-88	-89	-91
-45	-63	-72	-77	-81	-84	-87	-89	-91	-93	-95	-97	-98



**Frostbite Times**

- 30 minutes
- 10 minutes
- 5 minutes



**Do you know the symptoms of frostbite and hypothermia? An extended period of cold weather and low wind chills will result in the potential for frostbite in as little as 30 minutes most mornings through the upcoming work week.**

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 26 of 63

## Today in Weather History

February 8, 2000: A very warm airmass was over central and northeast South Dakota where record highs were set in Aberdeen, Pierre, and Sisseton. Aberdeen rose to 62 degrees, Sisseton rose to 53 degrees, and Pierre rose to a warm 69 degrees.

1956: From February 1-8, heavy snow fell over the Panhandle of Texas. Snowfall amounts include 43 inches in Vega, 24 inches in Hereford, and 14 inches in Amarillo. This storm caused 23 deaths and numerous injuries. It snowed continuously for 92 hours in some locations.

1968: The highest 1-day snow at the Savannah Airport in South Carolina occurs on this date when 3.6 inches of snow fell.

1989: Mammoth traffic jams in Los Angeles area as freak snow struck California. Snow was reported from the beaches of Malibu to the desert around Palm Springs.

2013: A nor'easter produced heavy snowfall over the New England states. Total snowfall in Boston, Massachusetts, reached 24.9 inches, the fifth-highest total ever recorded in the city. New York City officially recorded 11.4 inches of snow at Central Park, and Portland, Maine, set a record of 31.9 inches. Hamden, Connecticut recorded the highest snowfall of the storm at 40 inches. Many surrounding cities picked up at least 1 foot. In addition to the significant snowfall totals, hurricane-force wind gusts were recorded, reaching 102 mph in Nova Scotia, 89 mph at Mount Desert Rock, Maine, and 84 mph off the coast of Cutchunk, Massachusetts. Boston experienced a storm surge of 4.2 ft. The storm affected Atlantic Canada after hitting the Northeastern United States.

1835 - A severe cold wave gripped the southeastern U.S. The mercury dipped to 8 above at Jacksonville FL, and to zero at Savannah GA. Orange trees were killed to the roots. (David Ludlum)

1936 - The temperature at Denver CO plunged to a record 30 degrees below zero. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1985 - Blue Canyon, CA, set a 24-hour February snowfall record by receiving 42 inches of snow from February 7th-8th.

1987 - A powerful storm produced blizzard conditions in the Great Lakes Region. Winds gusted to 86 mph at Janesville WI and Cleveland OH received 12 inches of snow. North winds of 50 to 70 mph raised the water level of southern Lake Michigan two feet, and produced waves 12 to 18 feet high, causing seven million dollars damage along the Chicago area shoreline. It was the most damage caused by shoreline flooding and erosion in the history of the city of Chicago. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Arctic air invaded the north central U.S. Hibbing MN reported a morning low of 30 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - A winter storm over California produced snow from the beaches of Malibu to the desert canyons around Palm Springs, and the snow created mammoth traffic jams in the Los Angeles Basin. Sixteen cities in the western U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Marysville CA reported an all-time record low reading of 21 degrees above zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Unseasonably mild weather prevailed across the south central and eastern U.S. Twenty-two cities, including five in Michigan, reported record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 53 degrees at Flint MI surpassed their previous record by ten degrees, and the high of 66 degrees at Burlington IA exceeded their old record by eight degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

2009 - Snow falls at levels above elevations of 11,000 feet on the Big Island's Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea in Hawaii. The Weather Doctor

# Groton Daily Independent

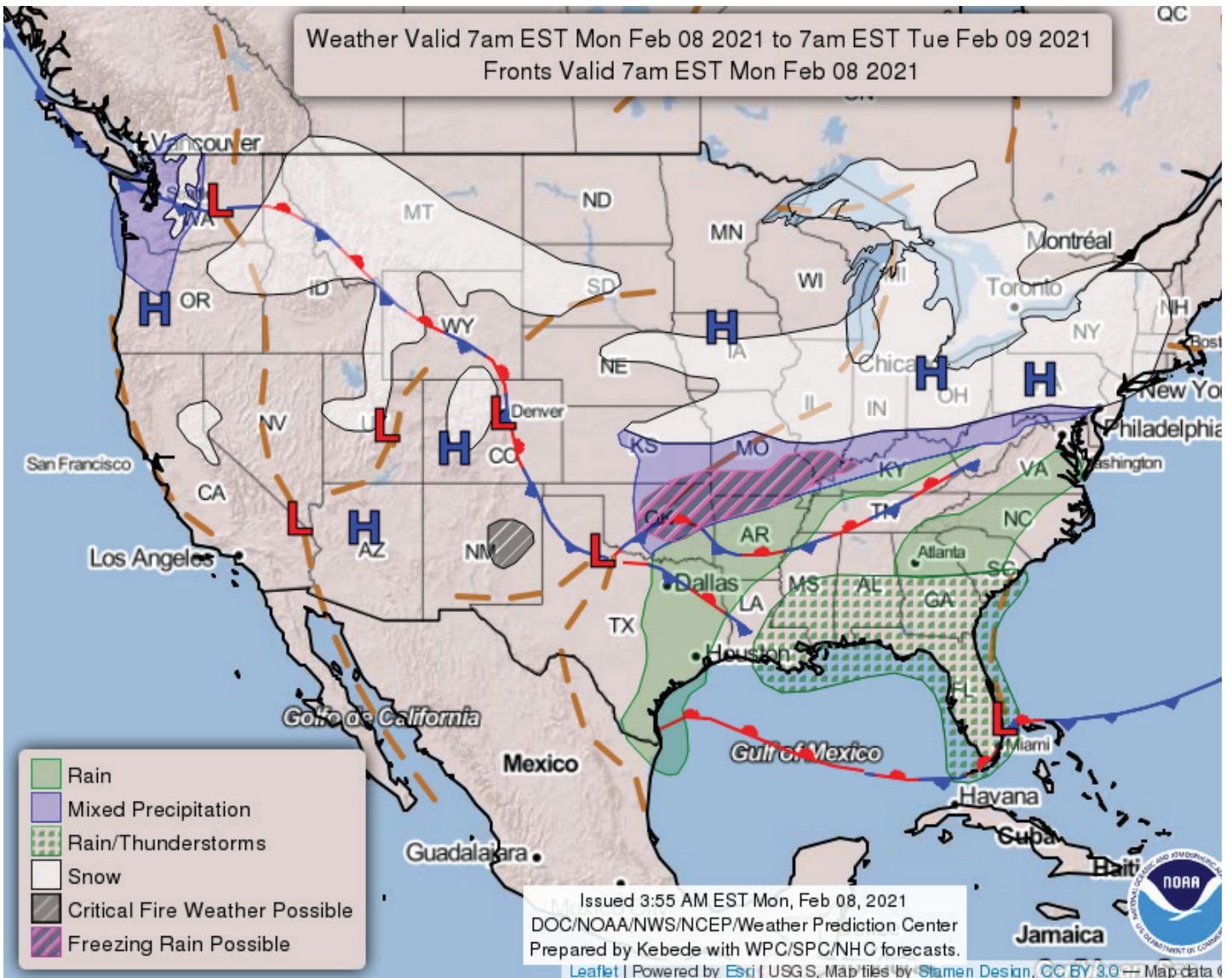
Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 27 of 63

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp:** -3 °F at 2:40 PM  
**Low Temp:** -13 °F at 6:29 AM  
**Wind:** 10 mph at 11:05 AM  
**Precip:**

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 62° in 2000  
**Record Low:** -46° in 1895  
**Average High:** 26°F  
**Average Low:** 5°F  
**Average Precip in Feb.:** 0.11  
**Precip to date in Feb.:** 0.14  
**Average Precip to date:** 0.58  
**Precip Year to Date:** 0.14  
**Sunset Tonight:** 5:51 p.m.  
**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 7:44 a.m.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 28 of 63



## **GOD'S ANSWERS TO LIFE'S ULTIMATE QUESTION**

No matter how many years I went to school or how many tests I took, nothing was more disappointing or discouraging than to be reminded that my answers did not agree with the teacher's questions. Whenever there was a disagreement, I had to defer to the teacher's wisdom, knowledge, and learning.

And when David asked God for the answer to "Life's Ultimate Question," God responded by giving him a simple, straightforward, easy-to-understand answer: "The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart." God's words to David address our walk, our work, and our talk – which covers every aspect of our lives.

To walk blamelessly requires us to live and walk the way God would have us to walk: in His path - which is following God's rules and regulations. His Word is not open to negotiation. We can accept it or reject it but not change it to suit our needs.

To do what is righteous requires that we are to behave – to live our lives – in ways that are consistent with the character of God. Our God is a loving God, a holy God, and a saving and serving God. Righteousness goes far beyond piety because one can be pious and not do God's work in His world. Piety is a self-serving way of living.

To speak the truth from our hearts means that our walk and our talk are consistent and continual and conform to God's Word and come from the very center of our being.

Prayer: Give us the strength, Father, to persevere under pressure and walk, do, and speak Your Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts. Psalm 15:2

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 29 of 63

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## News from the Associated Press

### Digital displays honor North Dakota military members, others

By TRAVIS SVIHOVEC The Bismarck Tribune

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A North Dakota nonprofit is using indoor digital billboards to honor the state's military veterans, active military personnel and first responders, an idea that might spread to other states.

Billboards placed by the Wall of Honor organization display the photos of veterans and active military personnel along with information about their branch of service, hometown and duty locations. The units are going up in veteran and fraternal organizations -- American Legion halls, AMVETS, Elks lodges and the like -- and other places where people gather, such as hospital waiting rooms and convenience stores. So far, 30 units are in place in North Dakota.

The project has grown from the idea of an anonymous North Dakota founder, who is an Army veteran and served in Vietnam. The man received a "not-so-warm welcome home," according to information from the organization, and wants to make sure that doesn't happen to others.

Every billboard -- a television used only for Wall of Honor purposes -- will be unique, according to Dave Weiler, a Bismarck real estate agent and former state legislator who uses his marketing skills to promote the project.

"The technology is such that the vets and first responders honored in Fargo will be different than in Bismarck or Williston," he said. "Every location has its own playlist."

People who want to place photos and biographical data on a billboard can upload the information through the Wall of Honor website, <https://www.thewallofhonor.org/>.

The group creates a slide for each person being honored and forwards it to the location where it will be displayed. The slide stays in place indefinitely and will become part of a one-hour playlist that displays each slide for about seven seconds. As more people are honored at a location, more playlists will be added, The Bismarck Tribune reported.

"One thing we're in need of is more people to honor," Weiler said. "We want to keep it fresh, so if you're at the Elks twice a week you don't see the same thing every time."

The effort is maintained through sponsorships and donations. There is no cost to upload a photo and information. The Wall of Honor provides the host establishment with the TV, accessories and installation. The concept has been "very well received" by businesses, said volunteer Dennis Beck, a 24-year veteran of the Army National Guard and a former recruiter, adding that the reaction from patrons of those businesses has been "overwhelming."

"They just think it's so cool," said Beck, who is an active member of several North Dakota veterans organizations. "It's a very positive thing and I'm proud to be part of it."

First responders will be recognized as groups to protect individuals from possible threats, Weiler said.

The Wall of Honor group aims to have 100 billboards in North Dakota -- with at least one in each of the 53 counties -- by the end of the year, and increase that to 300 by the end of 2023.

Groups in Wisconsin and South Dakota have contacted the North Dakota organization for information on starting their own chapters, Weiler said.

### Minnesota Twins therapist works off-season in South Dakota

By MARY GALES ASKREN The Madison Daily Leader

MADISON, S.D. (AP) — Massage does more than relieve stress these days, which professional athletes are among the first to appreciate. With myofascial work, trigger-point therapy and cupping, massage is used to manage pain and to aid in the recovery of injuries.

"If a player is coming in for rehab, they will see me," said Kelli Bergheim, massage therapist for the Minnesota Twins -- and a Madison-based massage therapist in the off-season. The player will also work with

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 31 of 63

a physical therapist and athletic trainer.

"You're trying to work as a group, making sure you're seeing that client as a whole," she indicated.

This approach is new since Bergheim first studied massage at the Northwestern Health Sciences University in Bloomington, Minnesota nearly 20 years ago. At that time, massage was used primarily to help people relax. Now, those who study massage have a different experience.

"Our school was more medical-based to get us into chiropractic offices and hospitals," said Katelyn Hoppe, who is currently studying exercise science at Dakota State University.

The two women, operating independently, share space on S. Egan Avenue and offer massage therapy services. Bergheim calls her business "Today's Touch Massage and Stretch." Hoppe calls hers "The Muscle Mechanic."

They met through a mutual friend. Hoppe is from Montana and is studying exercise science with the goal of becoming an athletic trainer. Bergheim went to high school in Brookings with one of Hoppe's neighbors, who contacted her and asked if she would mentor Hoppe, The Madison Daily Leader reported.

"I'm a big believer in karma. Those things happen for a reason," Bergheim said.

While the women are at different stages in their careers, they share an understanding of what it means to be a massage therapist.

"So much of what we do is pain management, pain relief and injury management," Bergheim said.

She explained that often when people come in, they come in with a specific problem. They may have been referred by a chiropractor or by a physician, but they may also come in on their own.

"We can't make any diagnosis," Bergheim explained, noting that must be done elsewhere. However, a massage therapist can do soft tissue work to address a problem.

"The pain isn't always where the problem is," she noted.

She illustrated using the example of back pain caused by spending extended periods of time at a keyboard. A massage therapist may spend time working with muscles across the front of the chest which are more directly affected by the work and are indirectly contributing to the back pain.

"You often have to educate people about things," Bergheim indicated. "We're looking for the long-term solution, not just short-term."

Not all work involves working with muscles. Myofascial work involves working with the fascia, or connective tissue, which encases the muscles and holds the body parts together.

"It's probably one of the most under-utilized systems in our body," Bergheim said.

Trigger point therapy helps to manage pain by applying pressure to identified spots. Cupping, which can be done in several ways, helps to improve circulation.

Bergheim said that when she started working with the Twins on a part-time basis a decade ago, she was a novelty, not only because she provided a service that was not widely used but also because she was a female. That has changed.

"Women in sports has become a huge thing today," she said.

The Twins have even installed a female locker room.

As massage therapy has evolved, so has the team's appreciation of what she offers.

"They're seeing the need, seeing that soft tissue work is so important," Bergheim said.

She initially started on a part-time basis at the recommendation of Joe Mauer, who was a client of hers. Five years ago, she was hired full-time and now travels with the team, beginning with spring training in Fort Myers, Florida.

"We spend eight months of the year together, so it becomes like a family," she reported.

The intense schedule involves late-night flights when the team is traveling, and few days off. On a normal day, the medical team and trainers meet at the stadium around 12:30 p.m. to discuss the players, who show up around 1:30 or 2 p.m.

"I'm pretty much on call," Bergheim said. "Right now, massage is player-driven."

She said she works quite a bit with pitchers. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, her day ended when the game started. With COVID, that changed. With empty stands, the concourse became her therapy room and she used game time to continue working with players.

"That was a good time to work with pitchers who weren't pitching that game," Bergheim indicated.

She said her job provides her with experiences that most people never have and has given her the opportunity to see and meet a lot of players. She doesn't hesitate to tell stories about these experiences, either.

"I have fun telling people who love baseball about it," she said. She lives in Madison in the off-season since meeting and marrying agronomist Jody Bergheim.

Hoppe is also in a relationship which led her to Madison. She is engaged to Grant Svikulis, who was recruited to play baseball at DSU. She met the Australian when they were both studying at Williston State College in North Dakota.

To date, much of her experience after completing the clinical part of her program has been providing massage therapy services for the Trojans baseball team. She is looking forward to taking on clients in Madison.

"It's always scary in the beginning. Once you get it up and running, you discover it's easier than you thought," Bergheim said.

## **S Africa seeks new vaccine plan after halting AstraZeneca**

**By ANDREW MELDRUM Associated Press**

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa is considering giving a COVID-19 vaccine that is still in the testing phase to health workers, after suspending the rollout of another shot that preliminary data indicated is not effective at preventing mild to moderate illness from the variant dominant in the country.

The country is scrambling to come up with a new vaccination strategy after it halted use of the AstraZeneca vaccine — which is cheaper and easier to handle than others and which many had hoped would be crucial to combatting the pandemic in developing countries. Among the possibilities being considered: mixing the AstraZeneca vaccine with another one and giving Johnson & Johnson's single-dose vaccine, which has not yet been authorized for use anywhere, to 100,000 health care workers while monitoring its efficacy against the variant.

South Africa's inoculation strategy is being watched globally because the variant first detected and now dominant here is spreading in more than 30 countries. Officials say this form of the virus is more contagious, and evidence is emerging that it may be more virulent; recent studies have also shown it can infect people who have survived the original form of the virus.

After a second surge, cases and deaths in South Africa have begun to fall recently, but it is still battling one of Africa's most severe outbreaks, with more than 46,000 deaths. It is worried that another spike will come in May or June, when the Southern Hemisphere country heads into its winter.

So far, early results from trials of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine showed it offers less protection against the variant than the original disease but is still highly effective at preventing severe and fatal cases, according to Dr. Glenda Gray, director of the South Africa Medical Research Council, who led the South African part of the global trial. A Novavax vaccine candidate has shown similar results.

"We can't wait. We already have good local data," Gray said, stressing that clinical trials show that it is safe. She added that South Africa is making urgent plans to "roll it out and evaluate it in the field."

"Our scientists must get together and quickly figure out what approach we're going to use," Health Minister Zweli Mkhize said Sunday night, announcing the suspension of the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine, which is currently the only one available in South Africa. Deliveries of others, including the one made by Pfizer and BioNTech, are expected soon.

The suspension threw South Africa's vaccination plans into disarray just one week after the country received its first 1 million doses of the vaccine. It came after the early results of a small clinical trial showed that the shot did not prevent mild to moderate cases of COVID-19 in young adults, according to an announcement by the University of Witwatersrand, which conducted the test.

The AstraZeneca study involved 2,000 healthy volunteers with an average age of 31 and showed just 22% were protected against mild to moderate cases of the disease.

Experts say the vaccine may still prevent against severe disease — and that would go a long way in



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 33 of 63

slowing the pandemic and avoiding hospitals from becoming overwhelmed with patients.

"Vaccines that are effective against the more severe forms of disease may not affect milder forms, so there is optimism that severe disease will still be prevented by vaccines," said Peter Openshaw, a professor of experimental medicine at Imperial College London.

But the results were disappointing enough that South African officials decided to postpone the rollout of the vaccine, which was supposed to be given to front-line healthcare workers starting in mid-February.

The preliminary study has not been peer-reviewed — the gold standard in scientific studies — but was still "a reality check," said Professor Shabir Madhi, who conducted the trial. "We were euphoric. We must recalibrate our expectations."

Now, the country is looking to switch gears. It may end up continuing with giving at least one dose of AstraZeneca in the hope it will protect against severe disease and death from the variant. It is also considering combining the shot with one from another vaccine. Most of the vaccines being tested require two doses; Johnson & Johnson is an exception.

An experimental study began last week in Britain — the first of its kind worldwide — testing whether doctors could safely mix and match doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine with the shot made by Pfizer and BioNTech.

An added complication is that the AstraZeneca doses in South Africa have an April expiration date, making it difficult to administer two doses within such a short period.

Last week, Sarah Gilbert of Oxford University, who helped develop the AstraZeneca vaccine, said researchers were currently working to tweak their vaccine by inserting a genetic sequence from the new variant.

South African experts have been conducting clinical trials on the effects of the variant, known as B.1.351. That variant quickly became more than 90% dominant here.

The variant has reduced the level of protection offered by virtually all the vaccines, but most vaccines show satisfactory efficacy in protecting against severe cases and death caused by the version, said Madhi. Trials of the Novavax vaccine, for instance, showed diminished but still good protection against the variant, he said.

"It is not all doom and gloom ... we do have vaccines that work," said Madhi.

Still, he added, "This virus is likely to be with us for the course of our lifetimes. It is unlikely that it will be eradicated soon."

## Pope moves ahead with plans to meet Shiite leader in Iraq

By **NICOLE WINFIELD** and **SAMYA KULLAB** Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Pope Francis will meet with Iraq's top Shiite Muslim cleric, Ali al-Sistani, during a trip next month that will also include a pilgrimage to ancient Christian communities that were emptied and devastated in battles with the Islamic State group.

The Vatican on Monday released the itinerary of Francis' March 5-8 visit to Iraq, his first foreign trip since being grounded for 16 months due to the coronavirus pandemic. The 84-year-old pontiff, who has been vaccinated against COVID-19, apparently intends to go ahead with the trip despite the pandemic and lingering security concerns.

Francis' main reason for making the first-ever papal trip to Iraq is to encourage the country's Christians, who faced decades of discrimination by Iraq's Muslims before being persecuted by the Islamic State group starting in 2014. Francis had intended to visit Iraq that year, as did St. John Paul II in 2000, but both had to call off their trips due to security concerns.

On his first day in Baghdad, Francis will meet with Catholic priests and nuns in the Our Lady of Salvation Church, the site of a 2010 massacre that killed 58 people and was claimed by the al-Qaida in Iraq group, which later splintered into IS.

The next day, Francis travels to Najaf, home of al-Sistani, one of the world's leading Shiite leaders. He will also host an interfaith meeting that day in the ancient city of Ur, the birthplace of Abraham, the prophet who is common to Muslim, Christians and Jews.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 34 of 63

Francis has spent years trying to improve Christian relations with Muslims, and his meeting with al-Sistani will mark one of his most important encounters with a Shiite leader. Francis has already forged close ties with the prominent Sunni leader, Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, the grand imam of Al-Azhar, the seat of Sunni learning in Cairo.

Francis' last full day in Iraq will take him to the northern Kurdish region, from where he will visit Mosul and Qaraqosh in the Nineveh Plains, the largest Christian town in Iraq where the population fled when IS arrived in 2014.

The slow return of displaced Christians to northern Iraq since the territory was liberated from the Islamic State in 2017 remains a contentious issue. Few Christian families have returned but the Vatican has been encouraging those who fled to come back and ensure a continued Christian presence in the area that dates from the time of Christ.

Many Christian families remain displaced in the Kurdish region, saying their homes in Mosul are still destroyed and inhabitable. Others fear the presence of militias stationed in and around the Nineveh Plains. Qaraqosh, a majority Christian village, has come to symbolize the plight of Iraq's Christians since liberation battles were fought and won.

IS maintains a presence across northern Iraq and is able to execute operations through active sleeper cells that target Iraqi security forces. Attacks in Nineveh have abated in the last year, but the group is active in nearby provinces of Kirkuk and Diyala.

Francis will also host a prayer "for the victims of the war" at a church square in Mosul. Many of Mosul's churches were destroyed by IS fighters and airstrikes during the war. Rebuilding them has lagged for years.

## Israeli PM pleads not guilty as corruption trial resumes

By ILAN BEN ZION Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pleaded not guilty on Monday as his trial on corruption charges resumed in a Jerusalem courtroom just weeks before national elections in which he hopes to extend his 12-year rule.

Netanyahu was indicted last year for fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in three separate cases. In recent months, Israelis have held weekly protests calling on him to resign over the charges and criticizing his government's response to the coronavirus crisis. Protesters gathered outside the courthouse could be heard inside the room where the hearing was being held.

He stands accused of accepting lavish gifts from wealthy friends and offering to grant favors to powerful media moguls in exchange for favorable coverage of him and his family. The latest hearing was postponed last month due to lockdown restrictions on public gatherings.

Israel's longest serving leader is also the first sitting prime minister to go on trial for corruption. Israeli law requires Cabinet ministers to resign when charged with criminal offenses, but does not specifically address the case of a prime minister under indictment.

Netanyahu has denied any wrongdoing and has dismissed the charges against him as a "witch-hunt" orchestrated by biased law enforcement and media. He has refused to step down and has used his office as a bully pulpit against critics and the criminal justice system.

At Monday's hearing, Netanyahu's lawyers submitted a written response pleading not guilty. They then argued against the cases on procedural grounds, saying the attorney general had not properly approved the investigations in writing.

After around 20 minutes, Netanyahu left the courtroom without explanation and his motorcade departed.

The hearing continued in his absence, with his lawyers arguing for more than an hour that constitutional procedures had not been followed. The judges appeared skeptical and repeatedly called on the defense lawyers to wrap it up. The prosecution then rejected those arguments, saying the attorney general had approved the investigations in dozens of meetings.

Outside the courthouse, around 150 protesters chanted against Netanyahu. Many carried banners reading "Crime Minister."

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 35 of 63

"We want a new government, a clean government, no corruption" said Sharon Sagy, a protester, "We don't want Bibi Netanyahu, we want him to go, he needs to go," she said, using his nickname.

At the start of his trial last May, Netanyahu was flanked by a cohort of Likud party allies as he railed against the media, police, judges and prosecutors. He said the trial aimed to "depose a strong, right-wing prime minister, and thus remove the nationalist camp from the leadership of the country for many years."

Netanyahu has served as Israel's prime minister since 2009, and in the past two years has managed to hang onto power through three tumultuous, deadlocked elections. His flimsy ruling coalition collapsed in December, and he now faces a major battle for reelection in March 23 parliamentary elections.

Netanyahu hopes to campaign on having pulled the country out of the pandemic through one of the world's most successful vaccination campaigns. He boasts of having personally secured millions of doses from major drug makers, allowing Israel to vaccinate more than a third of its population of 9.3 million. He hopes to vaccinate the entire adult population by late March.

But his government has faced heavy criticism for other aspects of its response to the crisis. The country is only now starting to emerge from its third nationwide lockdown, and the closures have sent unemployment skyrocketing.

An emergency government formed last May to combat the coronavirus outbreak has been mired in bickering. The country's leaders have struggled to enact consistent policies and repeatedly accused each other of playing politics with the pandemic. Israel has meanwhile reported nearly 700,000 cases since the outbreak began, including 5,121 deaths.

One major controversy concerns Israel's ultra-Orthodox Jewish community, many of whom have openly flouted restrictions on public gatherings. Netanyahu will need the ultra-Orthodox parties to form a ruling coalition, and his critics accuse him of turning a blind eye to their violations.

Polls show Netanyahu's Likud winning the most seats but struggling to form a 61-seat majority coalition in the Knesset, Israel's parliament. The margin of victory could be extremely tight, potentially allowing a small, fringe party to decide who heads the next government.

## Pope seeks 'Copernican revolution' for post-COVID economy

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Pope Francis urged governments on Monday to use the coronavirus crisis as a revolutionary opportunity to create a world that is more economically and environmentally just — and where basic health care is guaranteed for all.

Francis made the appeal in his annual foreign policy address to ambassadors accredited to the Holy See, an appointment that was postponed for two weeks after he suffered a bout of sciatica nerve pain that made standing and walking difficult.

Francis urged the governments represented in the Apostolic Palace to contribute to global initiatives to provide vaccines to the poor and to use the pandemic to reset what he said was a sick economic model that exploits the poor and the Earth.

"There is need for a kind of new Copernican revolution that can put the economy at the service of men and women, not vice versa," he said, referring to the 16th-century paradigm shift that stated the sun was at the center of the universe, not the Earth.

He said such a revolutionary new economy is "one that brings life not death, one that is inclusive and not exclusive, humane and not dehumanizing, one that cares for the environment and does not despoil it."

Francis has frequently called for the world to use the pandemic as a chance to re-imagine a global economy that values people and the planet over profits, and one where fraternity and solidarity guide human relationships rather than conflict and division.

The 84-year-old Francis hit those themes in his lengthy address, which was delivered in a larger reception hall than usual to provide greater social distancing for the 88 ambassadors who attended. At the end, Francis invited each one up but said he wouldn't shake their hands and urged them to keep their distance. Francis has been vaccinated against the virus.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 36 of 63

In his speech, he called for basic health care to be provided to all. He noted that those on the margins of society and who work in the informal economy have been among the hardest hit by the pandemic, with the fewest social nets to survive it.

"Driven by desperation, many have sought other forms of income and risk being exploited through illegal or forced labor, prostitution and various criminal activities, including human trafficking," Francis warned.

He said children have suffered from an "educational catastrophe" with closed schools, women have been victims of domestic abuse, the faithful have been deprived of communal worship and that all of humanity has been restricted from close human contact.

"Along with vaccines, fraternity and hope are, as it were, the medicine we need in today's world," he said.

In addition to the pandemic, Francis listed other areas of particular concern, starting with the coup in Myanmar, which Francis visited in 2017. He called for political leaders to be "promptly released as a sign of encouragement for a sincere dialogue aimed at the good of the country."

He called for the war in Syria to finally end, noting that 2021 marks its 10th anniversary, and urging the international community to "address the causes of the conflict with honesty and courage and to seek solutions." He praised the U.N. treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons and the extension of the START treaty between the U.S. and Russia.

He also called for disarmament efforts to extend to conventional and chemical weapons.

## Water fired at crowd as anti-coup protests swell in Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Police fired a water cannon Monday at hundreds of protesters in Myanmar's capital who are demanding the military hand power back to elected officials, as demonstrations against last week's coup intensified and spread to more parts of the country.

The demonstrations in Naypyitaw, ongoing for several days, are especially significant since the city, whose population includes many civil servants and their families, has no tradition of protest and has a heavy military presence.

A protest also swelled at a major downtown intersection in the country's largest city, Yangon, with people chanting slogans, raising a three-finger salute that is a symbol of resistance and carrying placards saying, "Reject the military coup" and "Justice for Myanmar."

There were also reports of new demonstrations in towns in the north, southeast and east of the country, as well as in the city of Mandalay, where there was a procession of marchers and motorbikes.

"We do not want the military junta," said Daw Moe, a protester in Yangon. "We never ever wanted this junta. Nobody wants it. All the people are ready to fight them."

State media for the first time on Monday made reference to the protests, claiming they were endangering the country's stability.

"Democracy can be destroyed if there is no discipline," according to a statement from the Ministry of Information, read on state television station MRTV. "We will have to take legal actions to prevent acts that are violating state stability, public safety and the rule of law."

The coup was seen internationally as a shocking setback for Myanmar, which had been making progress toward democracy in recent years after five decades of military rule. The takeover came the day newly elected lawmakers were supposed to take their seats in Parliament after November elections. The generals have said that vote was marred by fraud — though the country's election commission has dismissed that claim.

The growing protests recall previous movements in the Southeast Asian country's long and bloody struggle for democracy. On Sunday, tens of thousands of protesters rallied at the city's Sule Pagoda, which was a focal point of demonstrations against military rule during a massive 1988 uprising and again during a 2007 revolt led by Buddhist monks. The military used deadly force to end both of those uprisings. Aside from a few officers, soldiers have not been in the streets at protests this past week.

Photos of the standoff in Naypyitaw on Monday showed a vast crowd of protesters hemmed in on several sides by large numbers of police and police vehicles. Officers there trained a water cannon on the crowd,

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 37 of 63

which was gathered near a giant statue of Aung San, who led the country's 1940s fight for independence from Britain and is the father of Aung San Suu Kyi, the elected leader who was deposed by last week's takeover. Suu Kyi — who became an international symbol of the country's fight for freedom while detained in her home for 15 years and earned the Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts — is now back under house arrest.

The risks of such confrontations were highlighted Sunday in the town of Myawaddy, on Myanmar's eastern border with Thailand, when police shot into the air in an effort to disperse a crowd. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, an independent watchdog group, said one woman had been shot, without providing details about her condition.

There have been no signs that either the protesters or the military will back down in their fight over who is the country's legitimate government: the politicians from Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party, which won the recent elections in a landslide, or the junta. Suu Kyi's party has asked for international recognition as the legitimate representatives of the people.

A call for a general strike was issued late Sunday by several activist groups in Yangon, but it was not clear if it had been widely circulated or adopted by the informally organized civil disobedience movement at the forefront of the protests.

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners says 165 people, mostly politicians, had been detained since the Feb. 1 coup, with just 13 released.

One foreigner has been confirmed held by the authorities, Sean Turnell, an economist at Australia's Macquarie University who was an adviser to Suu Kyi's government. He was detained Saturday under unclear circumstances.

A statement issued Monday by the office of Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne said he was being provided with consular support and described him as "a highly regarded advisor, member of the academic community."

"We certainly believe he should be immediately released," it said.

The military has accused Suu Kyi's government of failing to act on its complaints that last November's election was marred by fraud, though the election commission said it had found no evidence to support the claims.

## **Analysis: Credit or blame Brady for all things Super Bowl**

**By BARRY WILNER AP Pro Football Writer**

Credit Tom Brady. Or blame him.

When it comes to the Super Bowl's most successful performer, it all depends upon your perspective.

Credit the quarterback, now 43, for his dominance of America's most popular sporting event like no one before him.

Blame him for making the collection of NFL championships rings seem too routine.

Credit Brady as the overwhelming reason for New England's pro football dynasty.

Blame him for perhaps destroying any chance the Patriots reach such lofty heights again anytime soon simply by leaving.

Credit him for his arm, his savvy, his leadership and, of utmost importance in guiding the Buccaneers to this season's league title, his persuasiveness. Or maybe it's simply his aura that made old buddy Rob Gronkowski, stud running back Leonard Fournette and troubled wideout Antonio Brown want to play in Tampa.

And blame Tom Brady for ruining so many Super Bowl parties for those who simply can't find a way to root for a guy who has more championships than the likes of Michael Jordan, Wayne Gretzky and Derek Jeter.

"He is the greatest football player to ever play. I can tell my kids I played with that man," said running back Leonard Fournette, who was released by lowly Jacksonville this season and headed across Florida and won a championship.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 38 of 63

Credit Brady.

Brady was not the best quarterback in the NFL this season — except when he needed to be. He even threw three picks in the NFC title game at Lambeau Field.

At 43, his skills have diminished. No, not the way Peyton Manning's did at the end of his Hall of Fame career. Not even close to that. Still, this is not the vintage Brady who was so responsible for those nine Super Bowl trips and six victories in New England.

So blame Brady for getting old. Except, well, even at four decades and three years, he remains a dominating force simply because of his will to win and his ability to transmit that to everyone within his realm.

"The team had a lot of confidence," he noted.

Credit Brady.

"We came together at the right time," he said.

Credit Brady.

"I think we knew this was going to happen tonight, didn't we? We ended up playing our best game of the year," he said.

In doing so, particularly with a defense that bewildered Patrick Mahomes — only the likely successor to Brady at the top of the NFL quarterbacking summit — the Bucs smashed a whole lot of hopeful expectations nationwide.

America could have used a Super Bowl classic, something similar to the 2018 game when the Eagles and their Philly Special beat Brady and the Patriots. Still in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic that somehow the NFL played through with little disruption, a Brady-Mahomes touchdown free-for-all would have been entertaining. Soothing. A bit cathartic, too.

Sorry, but 31-9 doesn't work. Guess you can blame Brady for that, as well.

We can play the credit/blame game for as long as Brady has played, which is more than two decades in the pros. Or for as long as he might stick around; he claims he could still be behind center at age 45. What must be recognized is that whether you root for or against the winningest NFL player ever, he needs to be admired.

Admired for his fortitude. His reliability. His mastery of his craft. And perhaps most of all, his longevity.

When Jordan hung up his sneakers for good, he wasn't anywhere close to the championship machine Brady is. Same for Gretzky, the man who knew where the puck was headed before the puck did. Even Tiger Woods, who won the Masters at the same age Brady now is, has become a shell of the fearsome performer fans like to remember.

Not Brady.

And he'll be back for more in the 2021 season.

"Yeah," Brady said, "we're coming back."

No blame for that, just credit.

## Rescuers in India digging for 37 trapped in glacier flood

By **BISWAJEET BANERJEE** and **RISHABH R. JAIN** Associated Press

RUDRAPRAYAG, India (AP) — Rescuers in northern India were working Monday to rescue more than three dozen power plant workers trapped in a tunnel after part of a Himalayan glacier broke off and sent a wall of water and debris rushing down the mountain in a disaster that has left 18 people dead and 165 missing.

More than 2,000 members of the military, paramilitary groups and police have been taking part in search-and-rescue operations in the northern state of Uttarakhand after Sunday's flood, which destroyed one dam, damaged another and washed away homes downstream.

Officials said the focus was on saving 37 workers who are stuck inside a tunnel at one of the affected hydropower plants. Excavators had been brought in the help with the efforts to reach the workers, who have been out of contact since the flood.

"The tunnel is filled with debris, which has come from the river. We are using machines to clear the way,"

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 39 of 63

said H. Gurung, a senior official of the paramilitary Indo Tibetan Border Police.

Authorities fear many more are dead and were searching for bodies downstream using boats. They also walked along river banks and used binoculars to scan for bodies that might have been washed downstream.

The flood was caused when a portion of Nanda Devi glacier snapped off Sunday morning, releasing water trapped behind it. Experts said the disaster could be linked to global warming and a team of scientists was flown to the site Monday to investigate exactly happened.

The floodwater rushed down the mountain and into other bodies of water, forcing the evacuation of many villages along the banks of the Alaknanda and Dhauliganga rivers. Video showed the muddy, concrete-gray floodwaters tumbling through a valley and surging into a dam, breaking it into pieces with little resistance before roaring on downstream. It turned the countryside into what looked like an ash-colored moonscape.

A hydroelectric plant on the Alaknanda was destroyed, and a plant under construction on the Dhauliganga was damaged, said Vivek Pandey, an Indo Tibetan Border Police spokesman. Flowing out of the Himalayan mountains, the two rivers meet before merging with the Ganges River.

The trapped workers were at the Dhauliganga plant, where on Sunday 12 workers were rescued from a separate tunnel.

A senior government official told The Associated Press that they don't know the total number of people who were working in the Dhauliganga project. "The number of missing people can go up or come down," S A Murugesan said.

Pandey said Monday that 165 workers at the two plants, not including those trapped in the tunnel, were missing and at least 18 bodies were recovered.

Those rescued Sunday were taken to a hospital, where they were recovering.

One of the rescued workers, Rakesh Bhatt, told The Associated Press said they were working in the tunnel when water rushed in.

"We thought it might be rain and that the water will recede. But when we saw mud and debris enter with great speed, we realized something big had happened," he said.

Bhatt said one of the workers was able to contact officials via his mobile phone.

"We waited for almost six hours — praying to God and joking with each other to keep our spirits high. I was the first to be rescued and it was a great relief," he said.

The Himalayan area where Sunday's flood struck has a chain of hydropower projects on several rivers and their tributaries. Authorities said they were able to save other power units downstream because of timely action taken to release water by opening gates.

The floodwaters also damaged homes, but details on the number and whether any residents were injured, missing or dead remained unclear. Officials said they were trying to track whether anyone was missing from villages along the two rivers.

Government officials airdropped food packets and medicine to at least two flood-hit villages.

Many people in nearby villages work at the Dhauliganga plant, Murugesan said, but as it was a Sunday fewer people were at work than on a weekday,

"The only solace for us is that the casualty from the nearby villages is much less," he said.

Some have already started pointing at climate change as a contributing factor given the known melting and breakup of the world's glaciers, though other factors such as erosion, earthquakes, a buildup of water pressure and volcanic eruptions have also been known to cause glaciers to collapse.

Anjal Prakash, research director and adjunct professor at the Indian School of Business who has contributed to U.N.-sponsored research on global warming, said that while data on the cause of the disaster was not yet available, "this looks very much like a climate change event as the glaciers are melting due to global warming."

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 40 of 63

EXPLAINER: Israeli settlements may face new scrutiny

By JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's ongoing building of settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem would likely be more vulnerable to prosecution than its military actions against Palestinians — if the International Criminal Court's top prosecutor decides to open a war crimes investigation.

Such a probe is still a long way off, but the ICC moved a step closer on Friday when it cleared the way for prosecutor Fatou Bensouda to open a war crimes probe against Israel and Palestinian militants.

Any investigation would look at Israeli military actions during a devastating 2014 war in the Gaza Strip and mass border protests that began in 2018. But Israel's settlement construction in the West Bank and east Jerusalem appears to be open to even tougher scrutiny.

International law bars a country from moving its civilians to occupied territory, making settlement-linked charges perhaps easier to prove than disproportionate use of force on the battlefield.

WHAT DID THE ICC DECIDE?

Bensouda declared in December 2019 that she believed there was a "reasonable basis" to open a war crimes probe into Israeli military actions and settlement activity. But first, she asked the court to determine whether she had territorial jurisdiction.

In a 2-1 ruling last week, judges granted her that jurisdiction in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip. The Palestinians claim all three areas, captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war, for a future state.

The ruling did not open an actual war crimes probe. That will be Bensouda's decision. In a brief statement, she said she would closely study the ruling before deciding how to proceed. That process could take months to play out.

In the meantime, Israel has launched personal attacks against Bensouda and accused the court of holding it to unfair standards. It also says the Palestinians don't have a state and accuses the court of wading into political issues.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Although the Palestinians do not have independence, the state of Palestine was accepted as a nonmember observer state by the U.N. General Assembly in 2012. The Palestinians have used that upgraded status to join dozens of international organizations, including the ICC.

The Palestinians subsequently asked the court to investigate Israeli military practices in Gaza and settlement activities in the West Bank and east Jerusalem. They asked that the investigation go back to June 13, 2014, a date that coincided with Israel's war with Gaza's rulers from the Islamic militant group Hamas.

The international tribunal is meant to serve as a court of last resort when countries' own judicial systems are unable or unwilling to investigate and prosecute war crimes.

Israel is not a member of the court and does not recognize its authority, saying it has an independent, world-class judicial system. But the Palestinians say Israel is incapable of investigating itself and claim Israel's justice system is biased against them.

SHOULD ISRAEL BE WORRIED?

At this stage, Israel has little to fear. Friday's decision was an embarrassing setback, but prosecution of Israeli officials remains hypothetical. Yet the ruling opens the door to a potentially troubling scenario in which former and current Israeli officials might risk arrest if they travel abroad. The Haaretz daily reported Sunday that Israel is preparing to brief hundreds of current and former security officials, fearing they could be subject to arrest.

In the Gaza war, over 2,200 Palestinians, including nearly 1,500 civilians, were killed by Israeli fire, according to United Nations estimates. At least 73 people, including six civilians, were killed on the Israeli side, according to Israeli figures.

Still, proving war crimes could be difficult. Israel says it acted in self-defense against nonstop rocket fire against its cities. It also accuses Hamas, which launched rockets from residential areas, of using civilians as human shields.

Israel also says its own judicial system is more than capable of investigating itself. After the war, the



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 41 of 63

military opened dozens of investigations into the conduct of its troops. Although there were only a handful of convictions on minor charges, that could be enough for Bensouda, who dropped a similar case against British troops in Iraq last year because U.K. authorities had investigated.

## WHAT ABOUT THE SETTLEMENTS?

Israel's ongoing settlement building on occupied lands, starting half a century ago, could be much harder to defend.

Some 700,000 Israelis now live in settlements built in the West Bank and east Jerusalem. Settlements are widely viewed as illegal based on the Geneva Convention principle that an occupying power is barred from transferring its population to territories captured in war. Population transfers are listed as a war crime in the ICC's founding treaty, the Rome Statute.

"The settlement issue is really the biggest issue. This is the elephant in the room," said Yuval Shany, an expert on international law at the Israel Democracy Institute.

Israel annexed east Jerusalem after the 1967 war and considers the area an inseparable part of its capital. It says the West Bank is "disputed," not occupied, and its fate should be decided through negotiations.

Yet the Israeli positions have little support internationally, particularly since the departure of the settlement-friendly Trump administration last month.

Shany said the court ruling means that Israeli settlement policy could come under hard-to-defend scrutiny. "This exposes basically the entire Israeli political elite that has been part of a settlement policy to criminal proceedings before the court," he said. "This is a significant setback."

## COULD PALESTINIANS FACE RISKS?

In her 2019 decision, Bensouda also found a reasonable basis to conclude that Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups in Gaza committed war crimes by launching rockets indiscriminately toward Israeli population centers.

Hamas welcomed the court's ruling but declined to comment on the possibility that it could also be the subject of a future probe.

The London-based rights group Amnesty International said that the rival Palestinian Authority, which administers autonomous enclaves in the West Bank, could also come under scrutiny over allegations that it tortures political rivals and has encouraged attacks against Israelis.

## **EXPLAINER: How glaciers can burst and send floods downstream**

**By VICTORIA MILKO AP Science Writer**

The floods that slammed into two hydroelectric plants and damaged villages in northern India were set off by a break on a Himalayan glacier upstream. Here's a look at how glaciers and glacial lakes form and why they may sometimes break:

### HOW GLACIERS AND GLACIAL LAKES FORM

Glaciers are found on every continent except Australia and some are hundreds of thousands of years old. A large cluster of glaciers are in the Himalayas, which are part of India's long northern border. Sunday's disaster occurred in the western part of the Himalayas.

Glaciers are made of layers of compressed snow that move or "flow" due to gravity and the softness of ice relative to rock. A glacier's "tongue" can extend hundreds of kilometers (miles) from its high-altitude origins, and the end, or "snout," can advance or retreat based on snow accumulating or melting.

"Ice may flow down mountain valleys, fan out across plains, or in some locations, spread out onto the sea," according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center.

Proglacial lakes, formed after glaciers retreat, are often bound by sediment and boulder formations. Additional water or pressure, or structural weakness, can cause both natural and manmade dams to burst, sending a mass of floodwater surging down the rivers and streams fed by the glacier.

### WHY DID THIS GLACIER BURST?

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 42 of 63

It's not yet known what caused part of the Nanda Devi glacier to snap off Sunday morning, sending floodwater surging downstream toward power plants and villages in India's northern state of Uttarakhand.

Seismic activity and a buildup of water pressure can cause glaciers to burst, but one particular concern is climate change. High temperatures coupled with less snowfall can accelerate melting, which causes water to rise to potentially dangerous levels.

"Most mountain glaciers around the world were much larger in the past and have been melting and shrinking dramatically due to climate change and global warming," said Sarah Das, an associate scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute.

## CAN SUCH DISASTERS BE PREDICTED?

Past deadly or highly destructive glacial floods have occurred in Peru and Nepal.

But the remote locations of glaciers and a lack of monitoring mean we don't have a clear understanding of how often they occur and if they are increasing, Das said.

"Given the overall pattern of warming, glacier retreat, and increase in infrastructure projects, though, it seems natural to hypothesize that these events will occur more frequently and will become overall more destructive if measures are not taken to mitigate these risks," said Das.

A number of imminent potentially deadly glacier burst and flood situations have been identified worldwide, including in the Himalayas and South American Andes.

But while monitoring is possible, the remoteness of most glaciers presents challenges.

"There are many glaciers and glacial dammed lakes across the Himalayas, but most are unmonitored," Das said. "Many of these lakes are upstream of steep river valleys and have the potential to cause extreme flooding when they break. Where these floods reach inhabited regions and sensitive infrastructure, things will be catastrophic."

A 2010 information page published by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development called for more glacier monitoring in the Hindu Kush Himalayas to better understand "the real degree of glacial lake instability."

The region where the glacial burst occurred is prone to landslide and flash flooding, and environmentalists have cautioned against building in the region.

## Around the globe, virus cancels spring travel for millions

By DAVID MCHUGH, CASEY SMITH and JOE McDONALD AP Business Writers

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — They are the annual journeys of late winter and early spring: Factory workers in China heading home for the Lunar New Year; American college students going on road trips and hitting the beach over spring break; Germans and Britons fleeing drab skies for some Mediterranean sun over Easter.

All of it canceled, in doubt or under pressure because of the coronavirus.

Amid fears of new variants of the virus, new restrictions on movement have hit just as people start to look ahead to what is usually a busy time of year for travel.

It means more pain for airlines, hotels, restaurants and tourist destinations that were already struggling more than a year into the pandemic, and a slower recovery for countries where tourism is a big chunk of the economy.

Colleges around the U.S. have been canceling spring break to discourage students from traveling. After Indiana University in Bloomington replaced its usual break with three "wellness days," student Jacki Sylvester abandoned plans to celebrate her 21st birthday in Las Vegas.

Instead she will mark the milestone closer to home, with a day at the casino in French Lick, Indiana, just 50 miles (80 kilometers) away.

"I was really looking forward to getting out of here for a whole week. I wanted to be able to get some drinks and have fun — see the casinos and everything — and honestly see another city and just travel a little," she said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 43 of 63

"At least it's letting us have a little fun for a day in a condensed version of our original Vegas plans. Like, I'm still going to be able to celebrate. ... I'm just forced to do it closer to home."

At bus and train stations in China, there is no sign of the annual Lunar New Year rush. The government has called on the public to avoid travel following new coronavirus outbreaks. Only five of 15 security gates at Beijing's cavernous central railway station were open; the crowds of travelers who usually camp on the sprawling plaza outside were absent.

The holiday, which starts Feb. 12, is usually the world's single biggest movement of humanity as hundreds of millions of Chinese leave cities to visit their hometowns or tourist spots or travel abroad. For millions of migrant workers, it usually is the only chance to visit their hometowns during the year. This year, authorities are promising extra pay if they stay put.

The government says people will make 1.7 billion trips during the holiday, but that is down 40% from 2019. Departures from Beijing and Chengdu in the southwest are forecast to drop 75%, according to travel associations.

Each news cycle seems to bring new restrictions. U.S. President Joe Biden reinstated restrictions on travelers from more than two dozen European countries, South Africa and Brazil, while people leaving the U.S. are now required to show a negative test before returning.

Canada barred flights to the Caribbean. Israel closed its main international airport. Travel into the European Union is severely restricted, with entry bans and quarantine requirements for returning citizens.

For air travel, "the short-term outlook has definitely darkened," said Brian Pearce, chief economist for the International Air Transport Association. Governments have poured \$200 billion into propping up the industry.

The United Nations World Tourism Organization says international arrivals fell 74% last year, wiping out \$1.3 trillion in revenue and putting up to 120 million jobs at risk. A UNWTO expert panel had a mixed outlook for 2021, with 45% expecting a better year, 25% no change and 30% a worse one.

"The overall prospects of a rebound in 2021 seem to have worsened," the organization said.

In Europe the outlook is clouded by lagging vaccine rollouts and the spread of the new variants.

That means "there is a growing risk of another summer tourist season being lost" said Jack Allen-Reynolds at Capital Economics. "That would put a huge dent in the Greek economy and substantially delay the recoveries in Spain and Portugal."

Travel company TUI is offering package vacations in the sun in Greece and Spain, but with broad cancellation provisions to attract cautious customers. Places that can be reached by car, such as Germany's North Sea islands and the Alps, are benefiting to some extent because they offer a chance to isolate. The German Vacation Home Association says the popular locations are 60% booked for July and August already.

Thailand, where about a tenth of the population depends on tourism for its livelihood, requires a two-week quarantine for foreigners at designated hotels costing about \$1,000 and up. So far, only a few dozen people a day are opting to visit. Tourist arrivals fell to under 7 million in Thailand in 2020 and are forecast to reach only 10 million this year from 40 million in 2019.

Indonesia's resort island of Bali has deported dozens of foreigners and began restricting foreign arrivals on Jan. 1 as its coronavirus caseload has exceeded 1 million.

Gerasimos Bakogiannis, owner of the Portes Palace hotel in Potidaia in Greece's northern Halkidiki region, said he is not even opening for Western Easter on April 4 but will wait a month for Greek Orthodox Easter on May 2 — and, he hopes, the start of a better summer.

"If this year is like last year, tourism will be destroyed," he said.

## Stormy Daniels and Michael Cohen, once foes, talk Trump

By JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When he was Donald Trump's attorney, Michael Cohen was hellbent on silencing Stormy Daniels, even arranging a hush-money payment to the porn actress that landed him in federal prison.

Now, as one of many of the former president's insiders-turned-critics, Cohen is literally broadcasting

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 44 of 63

Daniels' story — including intimate new details of her alleged sexual encounter with Trump — in a discussion ranging from shame and scandal to a haunted house in New Orleans.

Seeking to bury the hatchet, Cohen interviews Daniels in the latest episode of his podcast, "Mea Culpa," in which the two commiserate over life-altering experiences with Trump and his recent departure from office.

"My battle is just now starting," Daniels tells Cohen in their first ever conversation, referring to litigation she said had been in a holding pattern before Trump left office. "People are really upset, and they're just going to get more pissed off at me."

Cohen, in keeping with the title of his program, apologizes for "the needless pain" he put Daniels through when he arranged a \$130,000 payment during the 2016 presidential campaign to keep her quiet about an alleged dalliance with Trump a decade earlier. Trump has denied the affair.

"Both of our stories will be forever linked with Donald Trump, but also with one another," Cohen tells her. "Thanks for giving me a second chance."

The scandal turned Stormy Daniels into a household name, and critics accused her of capitalizing on her newfound fame, including crisscrossing the country on a "Make America Horny Again" strip tour.

Federal prosecutors charged Cohen with skirting campaign contribution rules by arranging the hush-money payment to Daniels and a similar payment to Playboy model Karen McDougal. He pleaded guilty to those counts — as well as lying to Congress and tax evasion — and was sentenced to three years in federal prison.

Cohen has been producing his podcast from his Manhattan apartment, where he is serving the remainder of his sentence after he was released for a second time in July as part of an attempt to slow the spread of COVID-19 in federal prisons. The podcast is distributed by LiveXLive's PodcastOne and produced by Audio Up.

Cohen and Daniels are united not only in infamy but deep regret over Trump. Despite the publicity boom — a windfall that included a bestselling book — Daniels said she longs for life before her allegations launched her into the zeitgeist.

"I got to go places I would never get to go," she tells Cohen. "But overall, if I could just wave a magic wand and make everything go back to the way it was before, I would absolutely do that."

Daniels said the waning weeks of Trump's presidency felt like the "eye of the storm." The death threats — and headlines — had subsided as she remained in a sort of legal limbo.

But now she's braced for a "second wave" of controversy, including a defamation lawsuit she brought against Trump that she has taken all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Daniels sued Trump for defamation after the then-president commented on Twitter that a man she said had threatened her was "nonexistent." She appealed a lower court's decision to dismiss the case and an order to pay Trump nearly \$300,000 in attorneys' fees.

The lawsuit is among a minefield of legal issues Trump faces after leaving the White House, including state investigations in New York of his business dealings.

"I've already lost everything," she said, referring to her prior way of life, "so I'm taking it all the way."

Daniels also remains a witness in a federal criminal case against her own former attorney, Michael Avenatti, who is charged with cheating her out of \$300,000 in proceeds from her 2018 book, "Full Disclosure." Avenatti has pleaded not guilty.

The hourlong interview also includes graphic descriptions of Daniels' 2006 sexual encounter with Trump — details she said supports the veracity of her claims. She calls the encounter "the worst 90 seconds of my life, for sure, because it just made me hate myself."

While she did not feel "physically threatened," she said she had not expected to have sex with Trump and, at one point, thought about how to escape the room, thinking "I could definitely outrun him."

She repressed details of the rendezvous for years, she said, adding the dynamics only came into focus after she saw the movie "Bombshell" about the sexual harassment women underwent in meetings with former Fox News executive Roger Ailes.

"I didn't say anything for years because I didn't remember," she said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 45 of 63

For Daniels, life after Trump has also included a new passion for ghost hunting and a related show, "Spooky Babes," inspired by the "extremely haunted" house that bedeviled her in New Orleans' Garden District.

"I've been face to face with evil in the most intimate way," Daniels said. "Demons don't scare me anymore."

## Trump impeachment trial to open with sense of urgency, speed

By LISA MASCARO and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump's historic second impeachment trial is opening this week with a sense of urgency — by Democrats who want to hold the former president accountable for the violent U.S. Capitol siege and Republicans who want it over as fast as possible.

Scheduled to begin Tuesday, just over a month since the deadly riot, the proceedings are expected to diverge from the lengthy, complicated trial that resulted in Trump's acquittal a year ago on charges that he privately pressured Ukraine to dig up dirt on a Democratic rival, Joe Biden, now the president. This time, Trump's Jan. 6 rally cry to "fight like hell" and the storming of the Capitol played out for the world to see. While Trump very well could be acquitted again, the trial could be over in half the time.

Details of the proceedings are still being negotiated by the Senate leaders, with the duration of opening arguments, senators' questions and deliberations all up for debate.

So far, it appears there will be few witnesses called, as the prosecutors and defense attorneys speak directly to senators who have been sworn to deliver "impartial justice" as jurors. Most are also witnesses to the siege, having fled for safety that day as the rioters broke into the Capitol and temporarily halted the electoral count certifying Biden's victory.

Defense attorneys for Trump declined a request for him to testify. Holed up at his Mar-a-Lago club, the former president has been silenced on social media by Twitter without public comments since leaving the White House,

Instead, House managers prosecuting the case are expected to rely on the trove of videos from the siege, along with Trump's incendiary rhetoric refusing to concede the election, to make their case. His new defense team has said it plans to counter with its own cache of videos of Democratic politicians making fiery speeches.

"We have the unusual circumstance where on the very first day of the trial, when those managers walk on the floor of the Senate, there will already be over 100 witnesses present," said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., who led Trump's first impeachment. "Whether you need additional witnesses will be a strategic call."

Trump is the first president to be twice impeached, and the only one to face trial after leaving the White House. The Democratic-led House approved a sole charge, "incitement of insurrection," acting swiftly one week after the riot, the most violent attack on Congress in more than 200 years. Five people died including a woman shot by police inside the building and a police officer who died of injuries the next day.

Democrats argue it's not only about winning conviction, but holding the former president accountable for his actions, even though he's out of office. For Republicans, the trial will test their political loyalty to Trump and his enduring grip on the GOP.

Initially repulsed by the graphic images of the siege, Republican senators including Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell denounced the violence and pointed a finger of blame at Trump. But in recent weeks GOP senators have rallied around Trump arguing his comments do not make him responsible for the violence. They question the legitimacy of even conducting a trial of someone no longer in office.

On Sunday, Republican Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi described Trump's impeachment trial as a "meaningless messaging partisan exercise." Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky called the proceedings a farce with "zero chance of conviction" and described Trump's language and rally words as "figurative" speech.

Senators were sworn in as jurors late last month, shortly after Biden was inaugurated, but the trial proceedings were delayed as Democrats focused on confirming the new president's initial Cabinet picks and Republicans sought to put as much distance as possible from the bloody riot.

At the time, Paul forced a vote to set aside the trial as unconstitutional because Trump is no longer in

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 46 of 63

office, drawing 44 other Republicans to his argument.

A prominent conservative lawyer, Charles Cooper, rejects that view, writing in a Wall Street Journal opinion piece Sunday that the Constitution permits the Senate to try an ex-official, a significant counterpoint to that of Republican senators who have looked toward acquittal by advancing constitutional claims.

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, one of Trump's ardent defenders, said he believes Trump's actions were wrong and "he's going to have a place in history for all of this," but insisted it's not the Senate's job to judge.

"It's not a question of how the trial ends, it's a question of when it ends," Graham said. "Republicans are going to view this as an unconstitutional exercise, and the only question is, will they call witnesses, how long does the trial take? But the outcome is really not in doubt."

But 45 votes in favor of Paul's measure suggested the near impossibility of reaching a conviction in a Senate where Democrats hold 50 seats but a two-thirds vote — or 67 senators — would be needed to convict Trump. Only five Republican senators joined with Democrats to reject Paul's motion: Mitt Romney of Utah, Ben Sasse of Nebraska, Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania.

Schiff was on NBC's "Meet the Press, Wicker spoke on ABC's "This Week," Paul was on "Fox News Sunday" and Graham was on CBS' "Face the Nation."

## Lobster biz braces for Chinese New Year impacted by pandemic

By PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — America's lobster exporters recovered from the Trump-era trade war with China to have a good 2020. But the industry is approaching one of the most critical times of the year with trepidation because of the coronavirus.

Chinese New Year is typically one of the busiest parts of the calendar for America's lobster shippers, who send millions of dollars worth of the crustaceans to China every year. This year the holiday is Feb. 12, and industry members said the Year of the Ox won't necessarily be the Year of the Lobster.

That's because shipping is complicated this winter by the threat of the virus. Mike Marceau, vice president of The Lobster Company in Arundel, Maine, said he isn't expecting many exports.

Business would normally be booming right now, and it has ground to a halt, Marceau said. It's disappointing because the last spring and summer were fairly strong, he said.

"It started in spring, and it held right up until a couple weeks ago," Marceau said. "We sold a lot of product. We've just lost getting a Chinese New Year because of COVID."

Lobster exports to China have been strained in the U.S. for a couple of years because of instability brought to the business by former President Donald Trump's trade hostilities with the country, which is a huge buyer of seafood. America sent more than \$140 million in lobsters to China in 2017 and 2018, but exports fell to about \$51 million in 2019 because of heavy tariffs imposed during the trade war.

Trump then brokered a new deal with China in 2020 that included renewed lobster exports. The country bought about \$95 million in lobsters from America in 2020 through November, federal data shows.

But now, China is currently enforcing strict rules about food importation because of the coronavirus, said John Sackton, an industry analyst and founder of SeafoodNews.com. Shipping itself is also more difficult because of the toll of the coronavirus on shipping businesses, he said.

"There are all these logistics things that are throwing sand in the gears of the seafood trade," Sackton said. "The financial risk for the importer has gone up."

China's interest in American lobsters has grown exponentially in the last decade as the country's middle class has grown. Lobster is especially popular around Chinese New Year in China because a cooked lobster is red, a color that represents prosperity.

Chinese New Year is typically a time of heavy travel in China, but that could also be different this year. China is expected to buy fewer lobsters for this year's holiday in part because of government travel restrictions designed to prevent spread of the coronavirus, said Stephanie Nadeau, owner of The Lobster

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 47 of 63

Company. Less travel means fewer celebrations and fewer festive, expensive meals.

China buys the same species of lobster from the U.S. and Canada, which has a large lobster industry in its Maritime provinces. That means competing with Canada for a potentially reduced market this year. Some lobsters that are caught by U.S. lobster fishermen, who are based mostly in New England, are also eventually shipped to Canada for processing and exportation.

American shippers are prepared for a year in which it's going to be difficult to send lobsters to China, said Mike Tourkistas, chief executive officer of Truefoods, a Topsfield, Massachusetts, exporter.

"I think in the U.S. we are going to do less than a year ago, and I think that is mostly due to lack of air cargo," Tourkistas said. "A lot of flights are not available to us anymore."

## Tom Brady wins Super Bowl No. 7, Buccaneers beat Chiefs 31-9

By **ROB MAADDI AP Pro Football Writer**

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Tom Brady made the Buccaneers, their fans and their city believe from the moment he arrived in Tampa Bay.

With help from old friend Rob Gronkowski and a ferocious defense, Brady and the Buccaneers are Super Bowl champions.

Brady threw two touchdown passes to Gronkowski and one to good pal Antonio Brown, and the Buccaneers routed Patrick Mahomes and Kansas City 31-9 on their home field in Super Bowl 55 on Sunday.

"You get this far and you wanna get the job done and we did it," Brady said. "We just believed. I'm so proud of the guys."

Despite moving south to a new team and conference during a pandemic, Brady didn't slow down at age 43.

The GOAT earned his fifth Super Bowl MVP award and extended his Super Bowl titles' record in his 10th appearance, nine with New England. Brady broke his own mark for oldest player to win a Super Bowl and joined Hall of Famer Peyton Manning as the only quarterbacks to win one with multiple franchises.

"I think they're all special," Brady said. "I'm not making any comparisons. Experiencing it with this group of guys is amazing."

Stunningly, it was easier than any of his previous Super Bowl victories, which came by an average margin of five points. Mahomes lost by double digits for the first time in his four-year career.

The Buccaneers (15-5) took their second NFL title and first in 18 years as the first team to play the big game at home, capping an unusual and challenging season played through the novel coronavirus. They won three road games as a wild card to reach the Super Bowl, and joined the NHL's Lightning as a 2020 season champion. The Rays also went to the World Series but lost to the Dodgers.

Mahomes and the Chiefs (16-3) failed to become the first repeat champions since Brady's Patriots in 2003-04.

"I didn't see it coming at all," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "I thought we were going to come in and play these guys just like we've been playing teams, and it didn't happen that way. I give them credit on that."

The NFL completed its 269-game season on time without any cancellations, a remarkable accomplishment that required nearly 1 million COVID-19 tests for players and team personnel.

Due to the virus, only 25,000 mask-wearing fans attended, including approximately 7,500 vaccinated health care workers given free tickets by the NFL. About 30,000 cardboard cutouts made the stadium look full.

A streaker wearing a hot-pink onesie eluded security and slid into the end zone with 5:03 left in the game. Kansas City's high-powered offense never got that far against Tampa's fierce defense.

"Obviously I didn't play the way I wanted to play," Mahomes said. "What else can you say? All you can do is leave everything you have on the field. I feel like the guys did that. ... They beat us pretty good, the worst I've been beaten in a long time."

Bruce Arians became the oldest coach at age 68 to win the Super Bowl. His mom, 95-year-old Kay Arians, witnessed it in person. Brady, Gronk and defensive coordinator Todd Bowles helped Arians get that Vince Lombardi Trophy.

"This really belongs to the coaching staff and our players. I didn't do a damn thing," Arians said after

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 48 of 63

he was handed the trophy.

Bowles devised a masterful plan to frustrate Mahomes and shut down the Chiefs, the complete opposite of Kansas City's 27-24 win in Tampa in Week 12, when the Chiefs jumped to a 17-0 lead in the first quarter. Tyreek Hill had 269 yards receiving and three TDs in that one. He was held to 73 yards on seven catches Sunday.

"Coach Bowles is a mastermind," Bucs cornerback Sean Murphy-Bunting said.

After the Chiefs took a 3-0 early lead, it was all Brady and the Bucs.

Brady accomplished a career-first with an 8-yard TD pass to Gronkowski for a 7-3 lead with 37 seconds left in the first quarter. Brady's nine Super Bowl teams in New England produced just three points total in the first quarter. Gronkowski, who came out of retirement to play with his buddy, caught his 13th and 14th postseason TDs from Brady. They had been tied at 12 with Jerry Rice and Joe Montana.

"To come here and be Super Bowl champs, it's surreal, man," said Gronkowski, who came out of retirement to play with Brady. "We have so many superstars on this team but nobody's head was too big. Whoever got the ball got the ball. That's what was so great about being on this team. There was no one who was selfish on this team. No one selfish in the organization. It just happened to be me this time getting the touchdown passes."

Despite playing at home, the Buccaneers weren't allowed to fire the cannons from their famed pirate ship after touchdowns and big plays. They did it soon after the clock expired as red, white and black confetti fell onto the field.

Fans still enjoyed the thud of Gronk's thunderous spike after his first score.

Tampa missed an opportunity to extend the lead when Brady's 2-yard pass to offensive lineman Joe Haeg was knocked out of his hands in the end zone. Ronald Jones was stopped short on consecutive carries as Arians stuck to his "No risk it, no biscuit" philosophy and went on fourth down.

But the Chiefs didn't gain any momentum off the stop. Instead, they made one costly mistake after another.

First, All-Pro tight end Travis Kelce dropped a pass that would've been a big gain on third down. Then punter Tommy Townsend shanked a 29-yarder after a penalty forced him to kick again. The Bucs started at Kansas City's 38 instead of their 27.

A holding call on cornerback Charvarius Ward negated an interception by All-Pro safety Tyrann Mathieu. Kansas City's defense held but an offside penalty during Ryan Succop's successful field goal gave the Buccaneers a first down. Sarah Thomas, the first woman official in a Super Bowl, threw that flag.

Brady fired a strike to Gronkowski for a 17-yard TD and a 14-3 lead. Gronk hesitated before spiking the ball, waiting to make sure another flag on the play was against the sloppy Chiefs.

Mahomes drove the offense for a 34-yard field goal by Harrison Butker that cut it to 14-6, but Kansas City's defense fell apart in the final minute of the first half — allowing 42 yards on two pass interference penalties. One against Mathieu in the end zone set up Brady's TD pass to Brown for a 21-6 halftime lead.

It was Brady who convinced his new team to give Brown a chance after the troubled former All-Pro came off suspension. His TD toss to Brown was his 50th of the season, including 10 in the postseason.

Mathieu took an unsportsmanlike penalty after the TD pass for getting into it with Brady as he ran to the sideline.

Leonard Fournette, like Brown an in-season addition, ran 27 yards untouched to extend Tampa's lead to 28-9. Arians pumped his fist after that score and pointed toward offensive coordinator Byron Leftwich, who made the call.

Succop's 52-yard field goal increased the lead to 31-9.

Last year, Mahomes rallied the Chiefs from a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter against San Francisco and earned MVP honors in leading Kansas City to its first NFL championship in a half-century. But Tampa's pass rush gave him no chance in this one.

Shaq Barrett had one of three sacks on Mahomes, who spent most of the game trying to escape Jason Pierre-Paul, William Gholston and a relentless group.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 49 of 63

"There was nothing that was gonna stop us from winning this game," Barrett said. "I knew we were going to keep the pressure up. Coach Bowles had a great game plan. We had the guys up there to make it work and we made it work, baby."

After 20 seasons in New England, Brady signed a \$50 million, two-year contract with Tampa in March. The Buccaneers hadn't reached the playoffs since 2007 and hadn't won a postseason game since the 2002 title season.

There were plenty of red-clad Chiefs fans doing the tomahawk chop for part of the first half until the Bucs made it a rout. Then it was the hometown fans chanting "Let's Go Bucs."

Before kickoff, 22-year-old poet laureate Amanda Gorman recited a poem honoring three people chosen as honorary captains for the game and all teachers, military veterans and frontline healthcare workers.

Brady avenged his loss against Chiefs defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo, who held the same position for the Giants when New York stifled the Patriots in the 2008 Super Bowl, preventing New England from a perfect season.

The warmer climate suited Brady perfectly. He passed Michael Jordan in championships and it doesn't seem he's ready to slow down. He already said he might play past age 45.

"I'm coming back," Brady said with a smile.

There was never any doubt he's going for No. 8 next season.

## Immigrants, activists worry Biden won't end Trump barriers

By WILL WEISSERT and NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — For nearly 17 months, the Trump administration tried to deport the mother and daughter from El Salvador. The Biden administration may finish the job.

They are being held at a family detention center in remote Dilley, Texas, but have repeatedly been on the verge of deportation. The Friday before Christmas, both were driven to the San Antonio airport and put on a plane, only to be pulled off when lawyers working for immigrant advocacy groups filed new appeals.

"I have faith first in God and in the new president who has taken office, that he'll give us a chance," said the mother, who goes by the nickname "Barbi." Her daughter was 8 when they crossed the U.S. border in August 2019 and will turn 10 in a few weeks. "It's not been easy."

It's unlikely to get easier anytime soon.

President Joe Biden rushed to send the most ambitious overhaul of the nation's immigration system in a generation to Congress and signed nine executive actions to wipe out some of his predecessor's toughest measures to fortify the U.S.-Mexico border. But a federal court in Texas suspended Biden's 100-day moratorium on deportations, and the immigration bill is likely to be scaled back as lawmakers grapple with major coronavirus pandemic relief legislation as well a second impeachment trial for former President Donald Trump.

Even if Biden gets most of what he wants on immigration, fully implementing the kind of sweeping changes he's promised will take weeks, months — perhaps even years.

That means, at least for now, there is likely to be more overlap between the Biden and Trump immigration policies than many of the activists who backed the Democrat's successful presidential campaign had hoped.

"It's important that we pass policies that are not only transformative, inclusive and permanent but also that they are policies that do not increase the growth of deportation," said Genesis Renteria, programs director for membership services and engagement at Living United for Change in Arizona, which helped mobilized Democratic voters in the critical battleground state. "Our organizations will continue to hold the administration accountable."

Federal law allows immigrants facing credible threats of persecution or violence in their home country to seek U.S. asylum. Biden has ordered a review of Trump policies that sent people from Central America, Cuba and other countries to Mexico while their cases were processed — often forcing them into makeshift

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 50 of 63

tent camps mere steps from American soil. He also has formed a task force to reunite immigrant children separated from their parents and halted federal funding to expand walls along the U.S.-Mexico border.

On Saturday, the Biden administration said it was withdrawing from agreements with El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras that restricted the ability of people to seek U.S. asylum.

But those orders likely won't help Barbi and her daughter. They sought asylum but were denied because of a Trump administration rule barring such protections for people who crossed another country to reach the U.S. border — in their case Guatemala and Mexico.

That measure was struck down by a federal appeals court, shielding them from deportation so far.

Still, Barbi and her daughter, like others who have been held for months at Dilley, could be removed from the county at any time, perhaps even in the coming days. Elsewhere in the facility run by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a dozen Hondurans were told to pack this past week, but not actually deported — yet.

"It's very traumatic," said Barbi, who left behind two other children in El Salvador and asked that her real name not be revealed so as not to draw the attention of criminal gangs there. "My daughter cries and says, 'Why won't they let us out?'"

As a candidate last summer, Biden suggested he'd do just that, declaring, "Children should be released from ICE detention with their parents immediately."

Advocates who originally commended Biden for championing immigration reform now worry that not enough will be done. Omar Jadwat, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Immigrants' Rights Project, called it "troubling" that Biden's efforts "did not include immediate action to rescind and unwind more of the unlawful and inhumane policies that this administration inherited — and now owns."

"We are tired, as Latinos and immigrants, that there is always another priority," said Héctor Sánchez Barba, executive director and CEO of Mi Familia Vota, which led voting drives in Hispanic communities ahead of the November election. "Immigration should remain the top priority, especially given how our community was devastated, attacked, separated."

Antonio Arellano, interim executive director of Jolt Action, which seeks to build the power and influence of young Latinos in Texas, said political pressure is already mounting as conservative forces mobilize to retake the House and Senate for Republicans in 2022.

"There will be electoral consequences if we fail to deliver," Arellano said.

Biden administration officials have pleaded for more time, saying that Trump's policies are too wide-reaching to be rescinded overnight. But simply returning to pre-Trump practices — if Biden is able to actually achieve that — won't be enough for many activists.

President Barack Obama was called the "deporter-in-chief" for removing a record number of immigrants during his eight years in office. His administration also built the detention center where Barbi is being held, as well as a similar facility in equally rural Karnes City, Texas, 95 miles to the east.

Biden has banned private prisons, but his order doesn't apply to lockups like those in Dilley and Karnes City. Far from advocating their closure previously, Biden as vice president flew to Guatemala during a 2014 surge of unaccompanied minors heading to the U.S. border and personally warned that his country would increase detention of families — which the Obama administration subsequently did.

Trump tried to seize on the issue during the presidential campaign, chiding Biden for being a part of an administration that originally put "kids in cages."

Biden responded that the Obama White House "took too long" to get immigration policy right, pointing to reform policies implemented later. As president, Biden already has taken steps to preserve some of those, including Obama-era legal protections for immigrants brought to the U.S. as children, while the legislation the president is promoting would provide a pathway to citizenship for the estimated 11 million people living in the country illegally.

Both the Karnes City and Dilley facilities were used to reunite families the Trump administration separated. But after the coronavirus outbreak, the Karnes center became a holding area for families from Haiti and far-flung countries that the Trump administration was seeking to expel under public health emergency rules — more policies the Biden administration has yet to touch.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 51 of 63

Those date to last March, when Vice President Mike Pence, then head of the White House coronavirus task force, ordered the implementation of emergency health measures that sought to effectively bar immigrants entry into — or to impose their speedy removal from — the U.S. to prevent the virus' spread. Those restrictions have remained despite immigrants' pending asylum claims and little evidence that sealing borders slows the pandemic.

Some immigrants were sent to Karnes City because of the health order. But many others, especially from Central America, were expelled to Mexico. Federal authorities have now used pandemic health restrictions on the border to remove more than 183,000 immigrants since October. The number would have been even higher had not a federal court forbid removing unaccompanied immigrant children from the U.S, in November.

Expulsions under health limits at the border have continued unabated under Biden. A White House spokesperson said the goal was to return the full U.S. asylum process back to a pre-Trump normal "as much as possible," but noted that "we are living in the confines of the pandemic," which specifically limits "intake and processing" of asylum seekers at the border.

Kennji Kizuka, a senior researcher and policy analyst for refugee protection at Human Rights First, said "with people who are in danger, the U.S. has a legal obligation to not return them to a place where they would face persecution, or torture or other harm."

"That's not something you can defer because it's inconvenient in your policy plan," Kizuka said. "It's both U.S. law and our treaty obligations, so you can't pass for that while you're thinking about how to reform the system."

Biden's pledges to make quick improvements had raised hopes that are now fading along the border. The day before his Jan. 20 inauguration, immigrants staged a protest in the Mexican city of Nogales that ended with some heading to a border crossing into Arizona and asking to be processed for U.S. asylum.

A Customs and Border Protection officer said no but added, "Try again tomorrow."

"We went back the next day," said Joanna Williams, director of education and advocacy for the Kino Border Initiative, which provides humanitarian assistance to immigrants and participated in the demonstration. "Of course they didn't process them that day, either."

## Election turmoil splits West Virginia city's evangelicals

By **LUIS ANDRES HENAO** and **JESSIE WARDARSKI** Associated Press

BLUEFIELD, W.Va. (AP) — If you're Christian in Bluefield — and most everyone is, in this small city tucked into the Blue Ridge Mountains — you have your choice.

You can follow Pastor Doyle Bradford of Father's House International Church, who has forcefully backed Donald Trump — doubting Trump's defeat in November and joining some congregants at the Jan. 6 "Save America" rally that degenerated into the Capitol riot.

Or you can go less than 3 miles away next to the rail yard, to Faith Center Church, where Pastor Frederick Brown regards Bradford as a brother — but says he's seriously mistaken. Or you can venture up East River Mountain to Crossroads Church, where Pastor Travis Lowe eschews Bradford's fiery political rhetoric, seeking paths to Christian unity.

The three churches have much in common. All of them condemn the desecration of the Capitol and pray for a way to find common ground.

But they diverge on a central issue: What is the role of evangelical Christianity in America's divisive politics?

Bradford and his flock defend his actions as expressions of freedom of speech and religion, and say they should be allowed to speak against what they feel is an assault on democracy and Christian values. But his fellow pastors fear that fiery rhetoric and baseless claims made online and from the pulpit could stoke more tensions, rancor and divisiveness.

Though AP VoteCast found that about 8 in 10 evangelical voters supported Donald Trump, their viewpoints are not monolithic, as is evident in this Appalachian town of just more than 10,000.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 52 of 63

Long before he followed his pastoral calling, Doyle Bradford tunneled for coal — a traditional vocation in Bluefield, where folks proudly recall how rock extracted from the surrounding hills powered ships in the two world wars and helped build America's skylines.

Joe Biden carried parts of Bluefield but Mercer County gave more than three quarters of its votes to Trump, and Bradford and his pronouncements are very much in line with that.

"I stand with the platform that most closely aligns with my faith and values," he wrote on Facebook. "Those do not include the murder of babies in the womb, and not knowing which bathroom one should use and banning pronouns."

He said he did not participate in or even see the violence on Jan. 6. On Facebook, he said he believed it was a "planned response from non Trump supporters" and claimed there was "plenty of evidence of fraud" in the presidential election — though there is no evidence of that.

In an interview, Bradford fiercely defended his actions and denied being part of a larger movement toward Christian nationalism.

"I consider myself a Christian who loves America, but what we've got going on in the Earth today is, if a Christian does love America, they're automatically called nationalist," Bradford said.

"I do not believe that America is any greater in the eyes of God than any other country. But as a minister of the Gospel, I do not want to be shut out of the public arena. ... It is my personal belief that America is going in a direction that will cause great harm to America."

At Faith Center Church, Frederick Brown said Bradford said he respects his fellow pastor as a "tremendous teacher" who loves God, but some of what Bradford is saying runs "contrary to what we teach and what we preach in Christendom."

"I've watched him declare that the wrath of God was coming upon people that did not vote for Trump," Brown said, "and the wrath of God was coming on the people that rigged the election."

During a recent Sunday service — the first in-person one since November, due to the pandemic — Brown asked his mostly Black congregation to put politics aside and trust God. The message hit home.

"I'm ready for this political jockeying to be over with," congregant Jonathan Jessup said. "You know, I'm sick of it, because the only thing it's doing is causing more division."

At Crossroads Church, Travis Lowe has struggled with his own inclination to preserve Christian unity at all costs. He supported Black Lives Matter protests, but resolved to rein in his political speech to avoid divisiveness.

In a post on Medium, he recounted how he remained silent "as scriptures were used to demonize political enemies. I was silent as the language of violence flowed from the mouths of 'people of peace.'"

He recalled Bradford posted on Facebook after the first presidential debate that leaders in the church had supported Trump for years for not being a politician but were now backpedaling because he was not acting like one: "If you said he was the leader God chose, own it."

After Jan. 6, Lowe finally spoke out: "I can no longer risk having blood on my hands for the sake of unity."

"I struggle to see the way that people can wave a banner of Christianity and still employ the language of violence," he said.

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Bradford takes pride in the diversity of his congregation, which includes white, Black and Latino members. His flock defend their pastor and say his church has transformed their lives through acceptance and love.

That does not mean that they are happy with the violence at the Capitol, or that they are certain their faith offers clear instruction on how they should act politically.

"My biggest prayer is just that, God, that we would see the truth ... and that this country would come together in unity," said 21-year-old Kara Sandy, a congregant and junior at Bluefield State College.

Congregant Brenda Gross teared up when she was asked about the shirtless, fur-hatted "QAnon Shaman" who led a prayer at the Senate chamber thanking God "for allowing the United States of America to be reborn."

"I don't know what prayer he prayed, but our Jesus was meek and mild. ... He wasn't representing the

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 53 of 63

Jesus that I know and love," Gross said.

Her husband attended the Washington rally with Bradford. Gross said she both stands by her pastor and prays for Biden, though she worries about coal jobs and the president's support for abortion rights.

Gina Brooks, who leads the children's ministry at Bradford's church, agreed that the Capitol melee was a sorry spectacle: "It's sad, it's really disheartening to see people take on the name Christian and they're not."

But she said she shared his concerns for the nation's direction and backed his decision to demonstrate. Lately Bradford's Facebook posts have been less strident, focusing on unity and humility.

"The end result is what the Lord's will is, and if the Lord's will is this, then so be it," Brooks said. "But it doesn't mean that we stop interceding in the spirit."

## Super Bowl ads went for light humor. Not all succeeded

By MAE ANDERSON AP Business Writer

The mood on the field was tense during the Super Bowl as the Tampa Bay Buccaneers trounced the Kansas City Chiefs. Off the field, brands sought to relieve the tension of the game — and the year — with lighthearted commercials stuffed with celebrities and nostalgic characters.

They aimed to connect to the estimated 100 million viewers who tune in to the Super Bowl broadcast each year.

Cadillac updated the classic 1990 film "Edward Scissorhands," M&M's enlisted Dan Levy to show how a bag of M&M's given as an apology can help people come together. And Will Ferrell teamed with GM — and Awkwafina and Kenan Thompson — on a madcap cross-country dash to promote electric vehicles.

Perhaps the most striking effect: Virtually none of the ads featured people in masks, a public-health priority but also a grim reminder of the ongoing pandemic.

With so many light spots, advertisers that took a different approach were more likely to be remembered. Jeep aired a two-minute ad in the second half of the game starring Bruce Springsteen urging people to find common ground. Oat milk maker Oatly opted for going weird.

"The relentless stream of cheery ads made it tough for any of them to really stand out," said Northwestern University marketing professor Tim Calkins.

### AIMING TO ENTERTAIN

In an effort to be light, advertisers stuffed -- and sometimes overstuffed — their ads with celebrities.

Cadillac enlisted "Call Me By Your Name" actor Timothée Chalamet to portray Edward Scissorhand's son enjoying the Cadillac Lyriq's hands-free "Super Cruise" technology. Winona Ryder revisited her role in the classic 1990 move as his mother.

Other ads combined celebrities with humor. Rocket Mortgage tapped comedian Tracy Morgan to show a family why being "pretty sure" doesn't cut it in situations like eating questionable mushrooms, skydiving — and taking out a mortgage. State Farm showed Paul Rudd and Drake as commercial set stand-ins. And Hellmann's enlisted comedian Amy Schumer as a "Fairy Godmayo" that helped a man deal with his leftovers.

### TOUCHING ON POLITICS

Most ads steered clear of politics, but there were some notable exceptions.

Fiverr teased that its ad would feature Four Seasons Total Landscaping, the scene of an infamous Rudy Giuliani press conference during last year's tumultuous election, raising the question whether the ad would be political or not.

It did not. Instead, the tongue-in-cheek ad was more about how small businesses can thrive with Fiverr. It featured Four Seasons Total Landscaping owner Marie Siravo talking about how to build a successful business with the help of Fiverr.

But the strongest political statement of the night came from Jeep's two-minute ad featuring Bruce Springsteen. Even though the Boss urged people to find common ground, the very idea of "unity" during this contentious election year has become polarizing.

"It's no secret the middle has been a hard place to get to lately, between red and blue, servant and

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 54 of 63

citizen, freedom and fear," Springsteen intones, adding "we need the middle."

FCA chief marketing officer Olivier Francois said it was worth taking the risk on a serious ad in order to create a "healing" commercial that will be remembered long after the game. "There's a divide and Bruce wants to do one thing, speak to the common ground," he said in an interview with the Associated Press. "It doesn't take a stand, left or right, blue or red, the only stand it takes is the middle."

"It speaks to where we are now as a country and our need for "common ground," said Vann Graves, executive director of the Brandcenter at Virginia Commonwealth University. "Clearly this is not a new approach, but in today's climate, it is an effective and necessary one."

But Brooks Brasfield, 28, watching the game in Nashville with his wife, said the tone of the Jeep ad leaned too political for him.

"I like Springsteen and heartwarming ads like this generally, but this one feels too forced given the current political climate," he said.

## GOING FOR WEIRD

Oat milk company Oatly ran a surprise ad that showed its CEO singing with a keyboard in a field of Oats that its product is like milk but not milk.

It wasn't a hit with David Simmons, 24, from Louisville, Ky., watching the game with his two roommates and his girlfriend.

"It was just shockingly strange, I couldn't really focus on the next commercial," he said. "It was jarringly weird. I drink all types of milk, but I won't be drinking Oatly."

But Kim Whitler, a marketing professor at the University of Virginia, said the ad "is likely to stand out because it is so starkly different," She added, "It will drive awareness because of the size of the Super Bowl audience and is clear about what it is -- and it is quirky. That might work for the target."

## MORE DIVERSITY

Many ads this year featured a diverse cast, from Amazon's Alexa ad with two Black leads to job site Indeed's ad featuring a wide array of real-life job seekers. Mercari featured a mixed race couple in its ad and WeatherTech showed a diverse workforce of its real employees.

Elsewhere, Hellmann's ad featuring Amy Schumer as the "fairy GodMayo" featured a Black lead and DoorDash's ad starred "Hamilton" star Daveed Diggs singing and dancing through a Muppet-populated neighborhood. While it's hard to quantify how much more diverse the ads were this year, it's certainly a far cry from 2013, when there was an outcry after a Cheerio's ad featured a mixed race couple.

"It's the right thing to do and it's good business," said VCU's Graves. "Consumers are now demanding that they see themselves reflected in brands they spend money on."

## The Latest: Robinhood's ad emerges from the time capsule

The Associated Press

TAMPA (AP) — The latest news on Super Bowl commercials. (All times EST.)

10 p.m.

Smartphone-based stock market investment service Robinhood bought its Super Bowl spot in December after a successful year, unaware that it was about to make global headlines.

"We're all investors," says the ad that features a cross-section of people from different occupations. One person is using the app as she gets a coffee refill in a diner.

Robinhood users were among the small investors who shocked Wall Street last month. A social media frenzy among small investors briefly pushed up shares of troubled video-game retailer GameStop by 1,600% at the expense of hedge funds that were betting it would lose value. The stock frenzy also brought customer backlash to Robinhood and scrutiny from Congress and regulators after the company restricted some types of trades in response to the overwhelming volume.

"We got to the end of the year, looked back and reflected on what we'd seen," said Robinhood Chief Marketing Officer Christina Smedley. The company pulled the ad together in four weeks, she said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 55 of 63

9:45 p.m.

Jeep starred iconic singer Bruce Springsteen in his first ever ad promoting the idea of unity. The ad shows scenes of middle America, including a small chapel in Lebanon, Kansas, near the geographic center of the country. Springsteen visits the chapel and lights a candle.

"It's no secret the middle has been a hard place to get to lately, between red and blue, servant and citizen, freedom and fear," Springsteen intones, adding "we need the middle."

Springsteen scored the ad and contributed to adapting the script, which is from Michigan ad agency Doner.

The ad echoed, without explicitly mentioning, President Joe Biden's calls to summon American resilience and unity to confront the nation's deep divisions. Springsteen also performed remotely at the prime-time celebration following Biden's inauguration last month.

In an interview with the AP, Fiat Chrysler chief marketing officer Olivier Francois said the company had more light hearted ads in place to run during its two minutes of air time during the game, but in January they heard that -- after years of asking whether Springsteen would be interested in doing a FCA commercial -- Springsteen was on board with the "Road Ahead" concept. So they shot it in one 12-hour day last Sunday and edited it throughout the week.

FCA is known for creating iconic Super Bowl ads such as "Imported in Detroit" in 2011 that featured Eminem talking about the toughness of his home city and last year's hit ad that remade "Groundhog's Day" With Bill Murray. But not all FCA ads have been successes. In 2018, an ad for Ram Trucks that quoted a Martin Luther King Jr. speech on the 50th anniversary of his death was widely criticized for seemingly commercializing the civil rights icon.

During a year when most advertisers shunned the serious for a light hearted tone, Olivier said it was worth taking the risk on a serious ad in order to create a "healing" commercial that will be remembered long after the game.

"There's a divide and Bruce wants to do one thing, speak to the common ground," he said. "It doesn't take a stand, left or right, blue or red, the only stand it takes is the middle."

9:30 p.m.

Fiverr teased that its ad would feature Four Seasons Total Landscaping, the scene of an infamous Rudy Giuliani press conference during last year's tumultuous election, raising the question whether the ad would be political or not.

It was not. Instead, the tongue-in-cheek ad features Four Seasons Total Landscaping owner Marie Siravo talking about how to build a successful business with the help of Fiverr.

Siravo drives a futuristic car through an idealized version of the inside of Four Seasons total landscaping including a sci-fi scale atrium.

The message is that Fiverr's freelancers can "help get you where you want to be."

8:00 p.m.

Most brands that have money to spend on Super Bowl ads are already household names, but the big game is also a chance for upstarts to make a big splash.

That's what the CEO of Swedish oat-milk manufacturer Oatly attempted in an ad starring himself. "Wow, wow, no cow," sang CEO Toni Petersson, as he played a keyboard in a field of grain.

The bizarre song and non-professional singing got a mix of plaudits and brickbats on social media, which seemed to be the point. Moments after it aired, the company started promoting a T-shirt with the words: "I totally hated that Oatly commercial."

"If you just watched our CEO sing in an oat field on the big game, we can't give you back those 30 seconds but we can give you a free t-shirt that lets the world know where you stand on our attempt to promote Toni's singing skills to a wider audience," the company said in a tweet.

Another lesser-known brand, Dr. Squatch, also promoted itself with a bizarre ad, but hired comedian

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 56 of 63

James Schrader to pitch the California soap-maker focused on men's hygiene and natural ingredients. \_\_\_\_  
7:15 p.m.

General Motors used humor in a Super Bowl ad to promote its ambitious push to get more Americans to buy electric vehicles.

GM has set a goal of making the vast majority of the vehicles it produces electric by 2035, and the entire company carbon neutral five years after that.

When actor Will Ferrell finds out Norway has more electric vehicles per capita than the U.S., he goes on a madcap journey spanning countries with singer and actress Awkwafina and comedian Kenan Thompson to show that GM's new battery for electric cars will soon be available for everyone.

GM's Cadillac brand also has an ad set to air later in the game that is inspired by the 1990 classic film "Edward Scissorhands" hawking a hands-free feature for its electric SUV, the Lyriq.

7:00 p.m.

Super Bowl advertiser DoorDash went hard on nostalgia, enlisting Sesame Street's Muppets to convey the message that DoorDash can deliver goods from local stores, not just restaurants. "Hamilton" actor Daveed Diggs gives the ad some pizzazz, with a peppy version of the children's song "People in Your Neighborhood," that morphs into a rap.

DoorDash is one of more than 20 first-time Super Bowl advertisers this year, and takes the plunge after benefiting from a shift toward home delivery while people hunkered down at home during the pandemic. DoorDash's first-quarter ad enlisted the help of characters including Cookie Monster, Big Bird and Grover to try to convey the message that DoorDash can be used to pick up local store items like paper towels.

The ad is directed by "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" director Michel Gondry.

"Over the past year we've expanded our business into new categories," said DoorDash's vice president of marketing, Kofi Amoo-Gottfried. "It made sense to use the Super Bowl as a moment to start communicating this message given the scale of the audience we have the ability to speak to."

It's not the first time Diggs has worked with Muppets -- he appeared in Sesame Street sketches in 2017.

## Review: Yawn, is it Monday yet? The Weeknd bores at halftime

By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — His name is The Weeknd but his Super Bowl performance felt like a dreary Monday morning.

The pop star headlined the Super Bowl halftime show, running through his many hits like an Olympic relay track team aiming for the gold. But he wasn't victorious Sunday night — no silver or bronze medals will be handed out here.

The Weeknd kicked off his 14-minute set in his signature red blazer and sunglasses, directing his robotic ensemble and singing "Call Out My Name." His nasally, semi-Michael Jackson-esque vocals shined — especially during "The Hills" and "Earned It" — but the performance felt like it was designed for a typical awards show in the vein of the Billboard Awards or MTV VMAs — not the Super Bowl stage.

Maybe he had restrictions — either creatively, or COVID-ly? Who knows, but overall his performance felt limited and inadequate. Special guests should have been a non-negotiable.

The Weeknd finally came to life — 10 minutes to the performance — when he and dozens of his dancers hit the field to perform the explosive hit "Blinding Lights," giving off flash mob vibes.

He was finally center stage, where he needed to be all night. But it was too late to save the show — most of the singing was done on the sidelines, as if it was an afterthought. Maybe because it was.

Who did impress the world at the Super Bowl? Jazmine Sullivan and Eric Church.

The odd couple proved why they are multiple Grammy-nominated stars in their own right, blending their vocals beautifully to create a memorable, enjoyable rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" on Sunday.

Church kicked off the performance, strumming his guitar and giving all the feels with his raspy vocals. Sullivan later joined in, her voice also raspy but heavy and rich, belting the lyrics like a veteran singer.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 57 of 63

They both gained new fans Sunday night.

They finished the song singing together — Church letting Sullivan stand front and center with her beaming vocals and him right behind her, melding in epically like a perfect teammate.

Before that performance, Grammy-winning guitar slayer H.E.R. proved her rock star status with her rendition of “America the Beautiful.” Her vocals were soft and strong, as she strummed her guitar like a true star.

Sullivan, Church and H.E.R. performed in Tampa at the Raymond James Stadium before Tampa Bay Buccaneers took on the Kansas City Chiefs.

## 2nd major snowstorm in a week blankets Northeast

NEW YORK (AP) — A major snowstorm pushed through the Northeastern United States on Sunday, less than a week after a storm dumped more than 2 feet on parts of the region.

By early evening, snow totals had reached 8 to 11 inches from the New York metro region up to eastern Massachusetts. The National Weather Service reported 11 inches had fallen in Walpole, Massachusetts. Some areas on Long Island had seen 8 inches, and Westwood, in northern New Jersey, measured 9 inches. About 4 1/2 inches had fallen in Central Park.

The National Weather Service predicted up to 8 inches of snow in New York City and 2 to 4 inches in Washington, D.C. Up to a foot was projected to fall on some areas along the Connecticut coastline.

Large, fluffy flakes began falling in Rhode Island late Sunday morning, prompting local governments to enact street parking bans and warn of poor travel conditions for the rest of the day. A heavy band of snow heading northeast had dumped 5 inches in the towns of Sharon and Uxbridge, southeast of Boston, by 2 p.m.

In Connecticut, a jack-knifed tractor-trailer caused two exits to be closed on Interstate 84 in Middlebury, with only one lane of traffic getting by.

Weather service forecaster Bob Oravec said a mix of snow and rain would move northward up the East Coast. “It is a fast-moving storm,” Oravec said.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said Sunday’s snowfall, which started at around 9 a.m. in the city, would not close COVID-19 vaccination sites.

The massive snowstorm that hit the region on Feb. 1 forced the postponement of hundreds of vaccination appointments in New York and elsewhere.

## Amanda Gorman, in a first, brings poetry to Super Bowl

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Amanda Gorman, the 22-year-old poet who stirred America at the inauguration of President Joe Biden last month, again commanded the spotlight on one of the country’s biggest stages, the Super Bowl.

Gorman read an original poem Sunday during the pregame festivities in Tampa, Florida. The poem, titled “Chorus of the Captains,” was a tribute to three people for their contributions during the pandemic: educator Trimaïne Davis, nurse manager Suzie Dorner and Marine veteran James Martin.

Gorman didn’t perform on the field but appeared in a taped video message that combined Gorman’s reading with images of Davis, Dorner and Martin. Recited Gorman:

“Let us walk with these warriors,  
Charge on with these champions,  
And carry forth the call of our captains.  
We celebrate them by acting,  
With courage and compassion,  
By doing what is right and just.  
For while we honor them today,

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 58 of 63

It is they who every day honor us.”

That Gorman brought poetry to the Super Bowl was an almost unthinkable collision of grace and glitz. But if the Super Bowl, an annual rite of excess, was an unlikely platform for a poet, it showed just how much Gorman has seized the nation’s spotlight since the inauguration.

Gorman, previously the country’s first National Youth Poet Laureate, was the youngest person to ever recite a poem at the U.S. presidential inauguration. Her reading of “The Hill We Climb” at the Capitol immediately became a sensation. An illustrated book of her poem quickly zoomed to the top of bestseller lists. Shortly after the inauguration, she signed with IMG Models, an agency that represents supermodels, tennis star Naomi Osaka and playwright Jeremy O. Harris. This week, she covers Time Magazine, in an interview conducted by Michelle Obama.

Gorman’s Super Bowl appearance had been planned before the inauguration. She seemed to grasp the unlikeliness of her pre-game reading, the first in Super Bowl history. And with potentially 100 million viewers on the CBS telecast, it made for one very well-attended poetry recital.

“Poetry at the Super Bowl is a feat for art and our country, because it means we’re thinking imaginatively about human connection even when we feel siloed,” Gorman said Sunday on Twitter. “I’ll honor three heroes who exemplify the best of this effort. Here’s to them, to poetry and to a Super Bowl like no other.”

## US moves to rejoin UN rights council, reversing Trump anew

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration is set to announce this week that it will reengage with the much-maligned U.N. Human Rights Council that former President Donald Trump withdrew from almost three years ago, U.S. officials said Sunday. The decision reverses another Trump-era move away from multilateral organizations and agreements.

U.S. officials say Secretary of State Antony Blinken and a senior U.S. diplomat in Geneva will announce on Monday that Washington will return to the Geneva-based body as an observer with an eye toward seeking election as a full member. The decision is likely to draw criticism from conservative lawmakers and many in the pro-Israel community.

Trump pulled out of the world body’s main human rights agency in 2018 due to its disproportionate focus on Israel, which has received by far the largest number of critical council resolutions against any country, as well as the number of authoritarian countries among its members and because it failed to meet an extensive list of reforms demanded by then-U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley.

In addition to the council’s persistent focus on Israel, the Trump administration took issue with the body’s membership, which currently includes China, Cuba, Eritrea, Russia and Venezuela, all of which have been accused of human rights abuses.

One senior U.S. official said the Biden administration believed the council must still reform but that the best way to promote change is to “engage with it in a principled fashion.” The official said it can be “an important forum for those fighting tyranny and injustice around the world” and the U.S. presence intends to “ensure it can live up to that potential.”

That official and three others familiar with the decision were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly ahead of the announcement, and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Although the U.S. will have only nonvoting observer status on the council through the end of 2021, the officials said the administration intends to seek one of three full member seats — currently held by Austria, Denmark and Italy — from the “Western Europe and other states group” that come up for election later this year.

The U.N. General Assembly makes the final choice in a vote that generally takes place in October every year to fill vacancies in three-year terms at the 47-member-state council.

U.S. engagement with the council and its predecessor, the U.N. Human Rights Commission, has been something of a political football between Republican and Democratic administrations for decades. While recognizing its shortcomings, Democratic presidents have tended to want a seat at the table while Re-

publicans have recoiled at its criticism of Israel.

Trump's withdrawal from the UNHRC, however, was one of a number of U.S. retrenchments from the international community during his four years in office. He also walked away from the Paris Climate Accord, the Iran nuclear deal, the World Health Organization, U.N. education and cultural organization, UNESCO, and several arms-control treaties. Trump also threatened to withdraw from the International Postal Union and frequently hinted at pulling out of the World Trade Organization.

Since taking office last month, President Joe Biden has rejoined both the Paris accord and the WHO and has signaled interest in returning to the Iran deal as well as UNESCO.

## Senate Republicans back Trump as impeachment trial nears

By HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump's defenders in the Senate on Sunday rallied around the former president before his impeachment trial, dismissing it as a waste of time and arguing that the former president's fiery speech before the U.S. Capitol insurrection does not make him responsible for the violence of Jan. 6.

"If being held accountable means being impeached by the House and being convicted by the Senate, the answer to that is no," said Republican Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi, making clear his belief that Trump should and will be acquitted. Asked if Congress could consider other punishment, such as censure, Wicker said the Democratic-led House had that option earlier but rejected it in favor of impeaching him.

"That ship has sailed," he said.

The Senate is set to launch the impeachment trial Tuesday to consider the charge that Trump's fighting words to protesters at a Capitol rally as well as weeks of falsehoods about a stolen and rigged presidential election provoked a mob to storm the Capitol. Five people died as a result of the melee, including a police officer.

Many senators including Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell immediately denounced the violence and pointed a finger of blame at Trump. Following the riot, Wicker said Americans "will not stand for this kind of attack on the rule of law" and without naming names, said "we must prosecute" those who undermine democracy.

But with Trump now gone from the presidency, Republicans have shown little political appetite to take further action, such as an impeachment conviction that could lead to barring him from running for future office. Those partisan divisions appear to be hardening ahead of Trump's trial, a sign of his continuing grip on the GOP.

On Sunday, Wicker described Trump's impeachment trial as a "meaningless messaging partisan exercise." When asked if Trump's conduct should be more deserving of impeachment than President Bill Clinton's, whom Wicker voted to impeach, he said: "I'm not conceding that the President Trump incited an insurrection." Clinton's impeachment, in 1998, was sparked by his false denial in a deposition of a sexual relationship with a White House intern.

Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky dismissed Trump's trial as a farce with "zero chance of conviction," describing Trump's words to protesters to "fight like hell" as Congress was voting to ratify Joe Biden's presidential victory as "figurative" speech.

"If we're going to criminalize speech, and somehow impeach everybody who says, 'Go fight to hear your voices heard,' I mean really we ought to impeach Chuck Schumer then," Paul said, referring to the now Democratic Senate majority leader and his criticisms of Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh. "He went to the Supreme Court, stood in front of the Supreme Court and said specifically, 'Hey Gorsuch, Hey Kavanaugh, you've unleashed a whirlwind. And you're going to pay the price.'"

Paul noted that Chief Justice John Roberts had declined to preside over this week's impeachment proceeding because Trump was no longer president. Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont will preside over the trial as Senate president pro tempore.

"It is a farce, it is unconstitutional. But more than anything it's unwise, and going to divide the country," Paul said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 60 of 63

Last month, Paul forced a vote to set aside the trial as unconstitutional because Trump is no longer in office, which legal experts say is disputable. But the vote suggested the near impossibility in reaching a conviction in a Senate where Democrats hold 50 seats but a two-thirds vote — or 67 senators — would be needed to convict Trump. Forty-four Republican senators sided with Paul and voted to oppose holding an impeachment trial at all. Five Republican senators joined with Democrats to reject Paul's motion: Mitt Romney of Utah, Ben Sasse of Nebraska, Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania.

Some Republicans have said the vote doesn't "bind" them into voting a particular way on conviction, with Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana saying Sunday he would listen carefully to the evidence. But even Trump's sharper GOP critics on Sunday acknowledged the widely expected outcome.

"You did have 45 Republican senators vote to suggest that they didn't think it was appropriate to conduct a trial, so you can infer how likely it is that those folks will vote to convict," said Toomey, who has made clear he believes Trump committed "impeachable offenses."

"I still think the best outcome would have been for the president to resign" before he left office, he said. "Obviously he chose not to do that."

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, one of Trump's ardent defenders, said he believes Trump's actions were wrong and "he's going to have a place in history for all of this," but insisted it's not the Senate's job to judge.

"It's not a question of how the trial ends, it's a question of when it ends," Graham said. "Republicans are going to view this as an unconstitutional exercise, and the only question is, will they call witnesses, how long does the trial take? But the outcome is really not in doubt."

Wicker spoke on ABC's "This Week," Paul was on "Fox News Sunday," Toomey appeared on CNN's "State of the Union," and Graham was on CBS' "Face the Nation."

## George Shultz wasn't 'afraid to struggle against the odds'

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Time was running out when Secretary of State George P. Shultz returned home in April 1988 after flying 16,000 miles in a failed mission to persuade Arabs and Israelis to negotiate their differences. Shultz said he would keep trying.

"Who's afraid to struggle against odds?" he asked.

And so he did, in futility, until the Reagan administration ended in January 1989 without putting the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel on a course to a settlement.

But he shaped the future by legitimizing the Palestinian Arabs as a people with a defensible stake in determining their future.

Shultz, who died Saturday at age 100, was one of America's most respected 20th-century statesmen. He served in President Richard M. Nixon's Cabinet as secretary of labor and as secretary of treasury and then pursued accommodation with an evolving Soviet Union as President Ronald Reagan's top diplomat for 6½ years.

A lifelong Republican, Shultz negotiated the first-ever treaty with the Soviet Union to reduce the size of their ground-based nuclear arsenals. The 1987 accord was a historic attempt to begin to reverse the nuclear arms race, a goal he never abandoned in private life.

"Now that we know so much about these weapons and their power," Shultz said in an interview in 2008, "they're almost weapons that we wouldn't use, so I think we would be better off without them."

A year earlier, in 1986, a U.S.-Soviet summit in Iceland had collapsed in spite of his hopes that the superpowers could ban much of their nuclear arsenals.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev sought to limit Reagan's cherished Strategic Defense program, known as Star Wars, to research. The president would not yield, and Reagan and Shultz returned to the United States disappointed but determined to pursue an accord.

Former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, reflecting in his memoirs on the "highly analytic, calm

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 61 of 63

and unselfish Shultz," paid him an exceptional compliment in his diary: "If I could choose one American to whom I would entrust the nation's fate in a crisis, it would be George Shultz."

Throughout his career, Shultz was admired for loyalty, pragmatism and levelheadedness. He was called "the Sphinx" for his ability to be affable and seemingly open while giving nothing away.

Shultz enjoyed an instant, easy rapport with Reagan. But a rare public disagreement came in 1985 when the president ordered thousands of government employees with access to highly classified information to take a "lie detector" test as a way to plug leaks of information.

At the time Shultz told reporters, "The minute in this government that I am not trusted is the day that I leave." The administration soon backed off the demand.

A more serious disagreement was the secret arms sales to Iran in 1985 in hopes of securing the release of American hostages held in Lebanon by Hezbollah terrorists.

Although Shultz objected, Reagan went ahead with the deal and millions of dollars from Iran went to right-wing Contra guerrillas in Nicaragua. The ensuing Iran-Contra scandal swamped the administration.

"The arms transfer could not be justified," Shultz later wrote. "I could not support this program in public, and I would not acquiesce with its continuation."

Shultz' reputation for decency and patriotism stood firm while the Nixon and Reagan administrations were scarred by Watergate and the Iran-contra scandals. And, by all accounts, he was a considerate boss.

"Thanks for the Memory," was written on the gigantic cake the Air Force stewards served him on his final flight as secretary of state.

Over 6½ years, he covered 880,941 miles and arranged breaks in his diplomatic duties to pay tribute to the culture of the people and places he visited.

"I think the thing I felt the best about had to do with the area of human rights," he said. On his trips to Moscow he spent time meeting with Jews and other dissidents who were denied exit permits to Israel and elsewhere. He arranged a Passover seder at the U.S. Embassy and made sure "refuseniks" were invited.

When he pledged to keep trying to promote peace talks in the Middle East, his desk was piled high with summit planning, turmoil in Panama and completing an agreement for the withdrawal of the Red Army from Afghanistan. He plotted carefully.

Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, had memorized the line demanded by the United States and renounced terrorism, while hard-line Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir had agreed to the principle of exchanging land for peace. But Shultz, like a long line of U.S. mediators, secretaries of state and U.S. presidents, could not get serious peacemaking on track.

"I failed," he said on the U.S. plane taking him home.

As it would turn out, though, the Palestinians edged their way toward statehood and Israeli withdrawal from lands surrendered by the Arabs in the 1967 Mideast war. And Shultz, as much as anyone, set the stage.

Andrew Young had lost his job in 1979 as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations for unauthorized meetings with Palestinian diplomats. But only a few years later, Reagan and Shultz, considered Israel's best friends, had opened the door to Palestinian legitimacy and possibly a Palestinian state on land held by Israel.

Shultz liberalized the rules for the briefings that secretaries of state gave to reporters traveling with him. He could be identified by name, not shrouded in partial secrecy as "a senior U.S. official." He assured reporters, "I have nothing to hide."

## South Africa suspends AstraZeneca vaccine drive

By ANDREW MELDRUM and SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa has suspended plans to inoculate its front-line health care workers with the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine after a small clinical trial suggested that it isn't effective in preventing mild to moderate illness from the variant dominant in the country.

South Africa received its first 1 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine last week and was expected to begin giving jabs to health care workers in mid-February. The disappointing early results indicate that an inoculation drive using the AstraZeneca vaccine may not be useful.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 62 of 63

Preliminary data from a small study suggested that the AstraZeneca vaccine offers only “minimal protection against mild-moderate disease” caused by the variant in South Africa. The variant appears more infectious and is driving a deadly resurgence of the disease in the country, currently accounting for more than 90% of the COVID-19 cases, health minister Zweli Mkhize said Sunday night.

“The AstraZeneca vaccine appeared effective against the original strain, but not against the variant,” Mkhize said. “We have decided to put a temporary hold on the rollout of the vaccine ... more work needs to be done.”

The study, which hasn’t yet been peer-reviewed, involved 2,000 people, most of whom were young and healthy. The volunteers’ average age was 31.

“Protection against moderate-severe disease, hospitalization or death could not be assessed in this study as the target population were at such low risk,” said a statement issued by Oxford University and the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg.

Scientists will be studying whether or not the AstraZeneca vaccine is effective in preventing severe disease and death against the variant, Mkhize said.

Other vaccines have shown reduced efficacy against the variant, but have provided good protection from serious disease and death.

Public health officials are concerned about the South Africa variant because it contains a mutation of the virus’ characteristic spike protein, which is targeted by existing vaccines. South African officials say the variant is more contagious and evidence is emerging that it may be more virulent.

South Africa will urgently roll out other vaccines to inoculate as many as possible in the coming months, Mkhize said. Other South African scientists on Sunday said the clinical trials for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine show good results against the variant.

The early results for the AstraZeneca vaccine against the variant could have far-reaching implications as many other countries in Africa and beyond have been planning to use the AstraZeneca shot. The international COVAX initiative has bought the AstraZeneca vaccine in bulk from the Serum Institute of India.

Developers of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine expect to have a modified jab to cope with the South Africa coronavirus variant by autumn, the vaccine’s lead researcher said Sunday.

Sarah Gilbert, lead researcher for the Oxford team, told the BBC on Sunday that “we have a version with the South African spike sequence in the works.”

“It looks very likely that we can have a new version ready to use in the autumn,” she added.

Authorities in England last week went house-to-house to administer COVID-19 testing in eight areas where the South Africa variant is believed to be spreading, after a handful of cases were found in people who had no contact with the country or anyone who traveled there.

More than 100 cases of the South African variant have been found in the U.K. The testing blitz is a bid to snuff out the variant before it spreads widely and undermines the U.K.’s vaccination rollout.

Britain has seen Europe’s deadliest coronavirus outbreak, with over 112,000 confirmed deaths, but it has embarked on a speedier vaccination plan than the neighboring European Union. So far, the U.K. has given a first coronavirus vaccine jab to about 11.5 million people.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Feb. 8, the 39th day of 2021. There are 326 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlights in History:

On Feb. 8, 1952, Queen Elizabeth II proclaimed her accession to the British throne following the death of her father, King George VI.

On this date:

In 1587, Mary, Queen of Scots was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle in England after she was implicated in a plot to murder her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 219 ~ 63 of 63

In 1693, a charter was granted for the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg in the Virginia Colony.  
In 1831, Rebecca Lee Crumpler, the first Black woman to earn a medical degree in the United States, was born in Delaware.

In 1910, the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated.

In 1922, President Warren G. Harding had a radio installed in the White House.

In 1924, the first execution by gas in the United States took place at the Nevada State Prison in Carson City as Gee Jon, a Chinese immigrant convicted of murder, was put to death.

In 1960, work began on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, located on Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street in Los Angeles.

In 1971, NASDAQ, the world's first electronic stock exchange, held its first trading day.

In 1973, Senate leaders named seven members of a select committee to investigate the Watergate scandal, including its chairman, Sen. Sam J. Ervin, D-N.C.

In 1989, 144 people were killed when an American-chartered Boeing 707 filled with Italian tourists slammed into a fog-covered mountain in the Azores.

In 2007, model, actor and tabloid sensation Anna Nicole Smith died in Hollywood, Florida, at age 39 of an accidental drug overdose.

In 2010, Michael Jackson's personal physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter in the death of the pop superstar in Los Angeles Superior Court. (Murray was convicted in 2011 and served two years in prison.)

Ten years ago: Wael Ghonim (WY'-uhl goh-NEEM'), a 30-year-old Google executive who'd helped ignite Egypt's uprising, appeared before protesters in Cairo's Tahrir Square for the first time after being released from detention; he told them, "We won't give up."

Five years ago: President Barack Obama asked Congress for more than \$1.8 billion in emergency funding to fight the Zika virus and the mosquitoes that were spreading it in the United States and abroad, but said "there shouldn't be a panic on this." Villanova was No. 1 in The Associated Press men's college basketball poll for the first time.

One year ago: The U.S. Embassy in Beijing said a 60-year-old U.S. citizen who'd been diagnosed with the coronavirus had died on Feb. 5 in Wuhan; it was apparently the first American fatality from the virus. A soldier who was angry about a land dispute began a 16-hour shooting rampage in northeastern Thailand, killing at least 29 people and wounding dozens more before being shot and killed by police and soldiers at a shopping mall.

Today's Birthdays: Composer-conductor John Williams is 89. Broadcast journalist Ted Koppel is 81. Actor Nick Nolte is 80. Comedian Robert Klein is 79. Actor-rock musician Creed Bratton is 78. Singer Ron Tyson is 73. Actor Brooke Adams is 72. Actor Mary Steenburgen is 68. Author John Grisham is 66. Retired NBA All-Star and College Basketball Hall of Famer Marques Johnson is 65. Actor Henry Czerny is 62. The former president of the Philippines, Benigno Aquino III, is 61. Rock singer Vince Neil (Motley Crue) is 60. Former Environmental Protection Agency administrator Lisa P. Jackson is 59. Movie producer Toby Emmerich is 58. Actor Missy Yager is 53. Actor Mary McCormack is 52. Basketball Hall of Famer Alonzo Mourning is 51. Actor Susan Misner is 50. Dance musician Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo (Daft Punk) is 47. Actor Seth Green is 47. Actor Joshua Morrow is 47. Rock musician Phoenix (Linkin Park) is 44. Actor William Jackson Harper is 41. Actor Jim Parrack is 40. Folk singer-musician Joey Ryan (Milk Carton Kids) is 39. Actor-comedian Cecily Strong is 37. Rock musician Jeremy Davis is 36. Hip-hop artist Anderson.Paak is 35. Actor Ryan Pinkston is 33. NBA star Klay Thompson is 31. Professional surfer Bethany Hamilton is 31. Actor Karle Warren is 29.