

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 1 of 57

- [1- Truss Pros Help Wanted Ad](#)
- [2- Spotlight on Groton Area Staff: Lynette Grieve](#)
- [2- John Sieh Agency Help Wanted Ad](#)
- [3- Obit: Lauren Harrison](#)
- [4- Baseball Recaps](#)
- [5- Groton Area Senior Citizen News](#)
- [6- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)
- [7- Weather Pages](#)
- [10- Daily Devotional](#)
- [11- 2021 Community Events](#)
- [12- News from the Associated Press](#)



“NEVER GIVE UP ON WHAT YOU REALLY WANT TO DO. THE PERSON WITH THE BIG DREAMS IS MORE POWERFUL THAN THE ONE WITH ALL THE FACTS.”

-H. JACKSON BROWN, JR.



Day shift
and night
shift
assemblers!

Competitive starting wage
with monthly tier increases!
Full benefit package!



To apply:
www.uslbm.com/careers or
call Diane at 605-448-2929



Britton



OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

Spotlight on Groton Area Staff



Name: Lynette Grieve

Occupation: Title I and RtI Elementary Teacher/PE Teacher

Length of Employment: 38 Years between 5 Schools

At the Groton Area Elementary School, there are teachers who work as a part of educational intervention programs. Educational intervention programs are made for the express purpose of helping students who are struggling with subjects or ideas. Two of these programs are particularly prevalent; RtI and Title I. RtI stands for Response to Intervention and is for students having trouble with understanding subjects and topics in class. Meanwhile, Title I provides much of the same services for students who are struggling with classwork, but aims to teach students on a more personal level to fill in the gaps of their knowledge. Lynette Grieve oversees teaching English to students who fall into the Title I and

RtI programs.

Mrs. Grieve began her career by attending Northern State University, which was called Northern State College when she was attending it. She graduated with two Majors in Elementary Education and Physical Education in 1983. Since then, she has taught in Gan Valley, Harold, her hometown of Wessington Springs, and is currently teaching at Groton. Between these schools, she has had a total of thirty-eight years of experience teaching elementary school students.

As part of her work in the RtI and Title I programs, Mrs. Grieve has taught students from a variety of backgrounds. She has worked with these students to teach them what they need to know for future studies. As a teacher, Mrs. Grieve likes to see students blossom and grow into knowledgeable members of their communities.

In addition to teaching RtI and Title I, Mrs. Grieve coaches the High School Track Team and the 7th Grade Girl's Basketball team. When she is not coaching or teaching, she enjoys her time with her children and grandchildren by watching movies with them. She is also an avid reader of historical non-fiction books.

Editor's Note: This is a continuing series compiled by Benjamin Higgins. Higgins who is working for the Groton Independent through the Project Skills program.

**JOIN
OUR TEAM**

John Sieh Insurance Agency 702 S Main, Aberdeen SD is hiring a Personal Lines Sales & Customer Service Representative, full benefits, competitive wage, full time-40 hours per week, licensing necessary but not required to apply. Proficiency in Excel and Microsoft Office programs, phone skills with professional etiquette required. Primary job responsibility is to service & sell personal lines policy for the agency and assist other producers in the office with quoting and new applications, claims, payments and helping customers with questions or concerns. Self-motivated and team player are required for this position. Please email resume to kathy@jsains.com or drop off at 702 S Main, Aberdeen, SD 57401. (0629.0713)

The Life of Lauren Harrison



Lauren Leroy Harrison, 80, of Groton, SD, passed away July 3, 2021 at Avera St. Lukes, Aberdeen, SD.

He was born January 1, 1941 at Leola, SD to Harold and Laura (Bain) Harrison. He grew up on the family farm and attended rural school at the end of their driveway. He graduated from Forbes High School in 1959 and then attended Ellendale State Teacher's College, Ellendale, ND, graduating with his Bachelor's Degree in Teaching. He was united in marriage to Vergene "Jean" Moore on September 17, 1960. Lauren began his teaching career at Kensal, ND teaching there for one year before going to teach and coach at Florence, SD. In 1970, Lauren and Jean moved to Groton, SD, where he taught business and later computers for 33 years before retiring in 2003. He also helped coach track and football. During the summer months, Lauren worked for the ASCS office in Ellendale.

Lauren was a great outdoorsman; and he loved hunting, fishing and archery hunting. He enjoyed going to the River, where he spent many hours fishing. For many years he went elk hunting with his brother Wayne and brother-in-law, Lyndon in Colorado. He also enjoyed tending to his yard and gardening. He was

loyal to his Dairy Queen Coffee Crew. Lauren had a great sense of humor.

He will be forever loved and missed by his wife Jean, of 61 years in September; his brother, Wayne (Priscilla) Harrison; two sisters-in-law, Cecile (Gary) Ringgenberg and Lynette (Loren) Winters; brother-in-law, Lyndon (Claire) Moore; and nieces & nephews, Craig (Nancy) Harrison, Steve (Penny) Harrison, Nancy (Tom) Cutler, Joe (Lori) Harrison, Lee (Laura) Winters, Lindsay (Andrew) Ryan, Ben Moore and Jia Moore. Lauren was preceded in death by his parents, his in-laws, Bud & Violet Moore, an infant daughter, Laurie and a brother, Dale.

There will be a prayer service on Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Home, Groton, SD. His funeral will be Friday, July 9, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, Aberdeen, SD with one hour visitation prior to the service. Burial will be at the Oakes View Cemetery near Oakes, ND. Lauren's funeral service will be live streamed on the Dahlstrom Funeral Home website www.dahlstromfuneralhome.com on his obituary page.

Groton Jr. Teeners Claims Blow-Out Victory Over Watertown White Sox 13/14, 17-2

Groton Jr. Teeners had everything working on Wednesday, winning big over Watertown White Sox 13/14 17-2

Groton Jr. Teeners got things moving in the first inning, when an error scored one run for Groton Jr. Teeners.

Groton Jr. Teeners tallied six runs in the third inning. Groton Jr. Teeners scored its runs on an RBI single by Korbin Kucker.

Brevin Flihs pitched Groton Jr. Teeners to victory. Flihs went four innings, allowing two runs on three hits and striking out six.

Dominic Joens took the loss for Watertown White Sox 13/14. Joens lasted two innings, allowing five hits and seven runs.

Groton Jr. Teeners tallied nine hits. Kucker, Flihs, and Teylor Diegel each managed multiple hits for Groton Jr. Teeners. Kucker led Groton Jr. Teeners with three hits in four at bats. Groton Jr. Teeners tore up the base paths, as two players stole at least two bases. Flihs led the way with two.

Kohl Nygaard went 2-for-2 at the plate to lead Watertown White Sox 13/14 in hits.

Diegel's Walk-Off Gives Groton Jr. Teeners Victory Over Watertown White Sox 13/14

A walk-off fielder's choice led Groton Jr. Teeners past Watertown White Sox 13/14 7-6 on Wednesday. The game was tied at six with Groton Jr. Teeners batting in the bottom of the fifth when Dayne Martin induced Teylor Diegel to hit into a fielder's choice, but one run scored.

Watertown White Sox 13/14 scored five runs in the third inning, but Groton Jr. Teeners still managed to pull out the victory. The offensive firepower by Watertown White Sox 13/14 was led by Izzac Honeyman and Dominic Joens, all driving in runs in the inning.

In the bottom of the fourth inning, Groton Jr. Teeners tied things up at six when Ryan Goldade drew a walk, scoring one run.

Groton Jr. Teeners notched four runs in the fourth inning. Groton Jr. Teeners offense in the inning was led by Braxton Imrie, Jarrett Erdmann, and Goldade, who each had RBIs in the inning.

Korbin Kucker was the winning pitcher for Groton Jr. Teeners. Kucker lasted one inning, allowing zero hits and zero runs while striking out three and walking one. Nicholas Morris threw two innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Martin took the loss for Watertown White Sox 13/14. The bulldog allowed zero hits and one run over one-third of an inning.

Jack Elshere started the game for Watertown White Sox 13/14. The pitcher lasted three innings, allowing one hit and four runs while striking out one Gavin Englund started the game for Groton Jr. Teeners. The righty allowed two hits and five runs over two innings, striking out three

Diegel, Erdmann, and Drew Thurston each managed one hit to lead Groton Jr. Teeners. Groton Jr. Teeners tore up the base paths, as two players stole at least two bases. Karsten Flihs led the way with two.

Kohl Nygaard went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Watertown White Sox 13/14 in hits.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 5 of 57

Groton Area Senior Citizens

May 10

Groton Seniors met with 8 members present. President had the flag pledge. Bev Sombke thanked for the sympathy card in the death of her mother Grace Albrecht. We received help from Trievent to buy flowers for the Community Center. Ruby Donovan bought a Birch tree and planted it on the boulevard on the north side of the center. Cards were played, the winners. pinochle-Bev Sombke, canasta- Pat Larson, door prizes- Dick Donovan, Elda Stange, Ruby Donovan. Lunch was served by David Kliensossor and Sarge Likness.

May 17

Seniors met with 12 members. President had the flag pledge, Cards were played, the winners. pinochle- David Kliensossor, whist- Darlene Fischer, canasta- Ruby Donovan and Marilyn Throson, door prizes- Darlene Fischer, Ruby Donovan, Kelly Miracle. Lunch was served by Darlene Fischer

May 24

Seniors met for a potluck dinner, 10 members were present. President had the flag pledge. A short meeting was held. Ruby Donovan got the flowers and planted them at the Community Center. After the potluck Senior bingo was played. Tony Goldade won black out. Cards were played after bingo, door prizes went to Eunice McColister, Balinda Melson and Kelly Miracle. Elda Stange Sec.

June 14

Groton Seniors met for a meeting and cards. 11 members were present. President Ruby Donovan opened with the flag pledge. A short meeting was held. There was no old or new business. Meeting was adjourned. Cards were played, the winners of the games. pinochle-Bev Sombke, canasta- Pat Larson, whist- Elda Stange, door prizes- Ruby Donovan, Eunice Mc Colister, Elda Stange. Pizza lunch was served by Kelly Miracle.

June 21

Present were 9 members. Cards were played, the winners, pinochle- Sarge Likness, canasta- Eunice Mc Colister, 3 handed whist- Darlene Fischer, door prizes- Sarge Likness, Pat Larson, Darlene Fischer. Lunch was served by Eunice Mc Colister

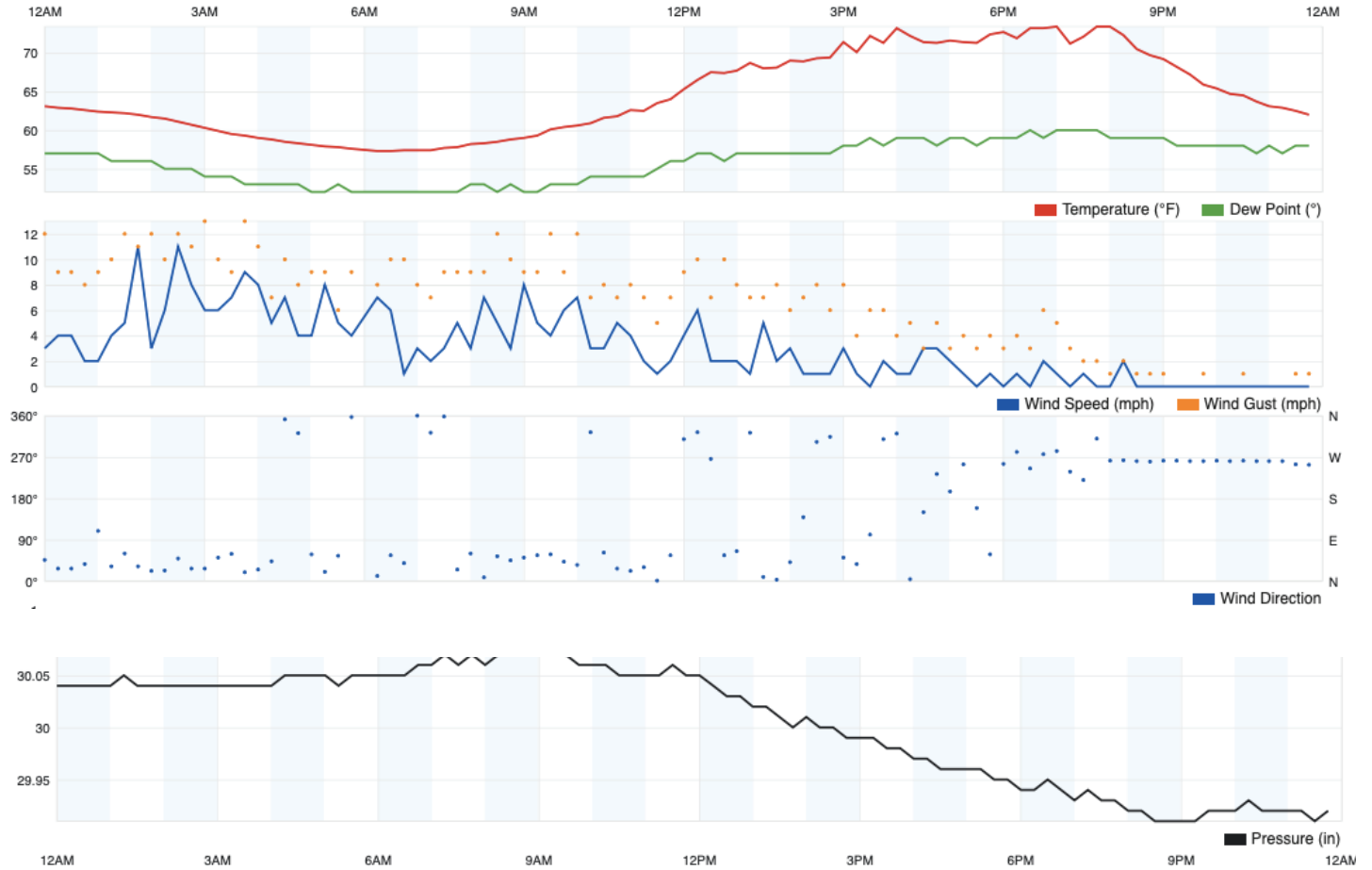
June 28

Groton Seniors met for a potluck dinner. 9 members were present. President had the flag pledge and table prayer, and Bingo was played after dinner. Dick Donovan won the blackout Cards were played after bingo. Door prizes went to Pat Larson, Tony Goldade, Eunice McColister. Elda Stange Sec.

Groton Daily Independent






Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 6 of 57

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Broton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 7 of 57

Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
 40%	 40%	 30%	 40%	 30%
Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms
High: 78 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 80 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 81 °F

Slight Risk
of severe thunderstorms
1 2 3 4 5

Hazards

Scattered strong to severe storms could have the potential to produce **lightning**, **large hail** of around 1 to 2+” diameter, and **strong winds** around 60 to 75+ mph.

Timing

Storms over the western Dakotas Thursday afternoon will slide into central South Dakota Thursday evening. Storms are expected to shift southeast, moving into mainly eastern South Dakota overnight.

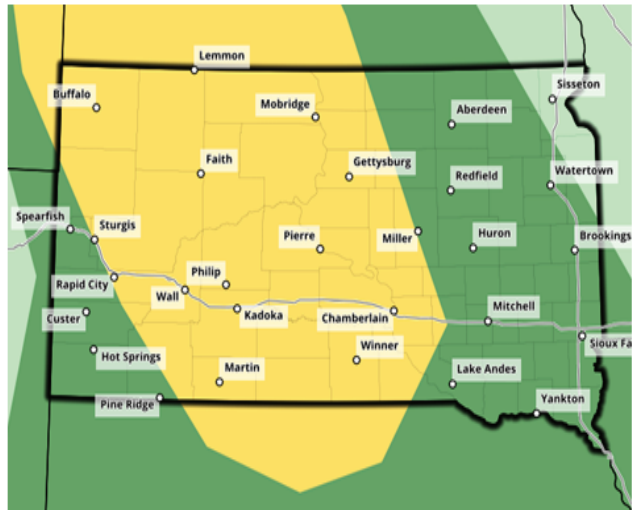
Some Locations at Risk

Mainly North Central to Central South Dakota:
Mobridge, Pierre, Gettysburg

Action

Pay close attention to the weather, and be prepared to seek shelter if necessary if storms near.

Severe Weather Outlook Thursday & Thursday Night



5	High
4	Moderate
3	Enhanced
2	Slight
1	Marginal
	Thunder



ISSUED: 5:33 AM - Thursday, July 8, 2021

Scattered thunderstorms are expected to affect the western Dakotas later this afternoon, and eventually move into central South Dakota by evening. Some of these storms have the potential to become severe, with large hail and strong winds. There is a small threat for the strongest of storms to produce hail in excess of 2 inches in diameter, along with damaging winds in excess of 75 mph.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 8 of 57

Today in Weather History

July 8, 1922: Two tornadoes occurred near the southern border of South Dakota, with one at St. Charles in Gregory County, and the other on the south shore of Lake Andes, in Charles Mix County. The distance apart was about 30 miles. The tornado in Gregory County missed the town of Lake Andes. However, it destroyed about 29 cottages and five large barns. Fifteen people were injured, but no one was killed.

July 8, 1951: An F2 touched down in open country and moved northeastward, passing three miles northwest of Corona in Roberts County. Thirteen buildings were destroyed on a farm with only the house left standing. Three cows and 20 pigs were killed.

July 8, 2009: A tornado passed through the city of Dickinson, ND, on the far south side, mainly just south of the Heart River. From their eyewitness accounts, and from video obtained from the Dickinson Police Department, it is likely that this was a rain-wrapped tornado, and very difficult if not impossible to see. The tornado occurred before sunset, yet it was described as being as dark as night during the event. Over 450 structures were damaged, of which nearly 100 were declared destroyed or beyond repair. Numerous vehicles were damaged or destroyed; some were on their roofs. From that, it was determined that peak wind speeds in the tornado were on the order of 150 mph.

July 8, 2011: Historical releases on the Oahe Dam of 160,000 CFS kept the Missouri River from Pierre to Chamberlain at record flood levels throughout July. Extensive sandbagging and levee building had been done earlier to hold back the river. Residents in the Pierre, Fort Pierre, and Oacoma areas continued to be the most affected by the river. Many homes, along with roads, crop, and pastureland remained flooded throughout the month. The Missouri River at Pierre continued from 5 to 6 foot above flood stage throughout July. The Missouri River at Chamberlain reached a record stage of 75.1 feet on July 8th. Flood stage at Chamberlain is 65 feet. The flooding on the river began in late May and continued into August.

July 8, 2013: A thunderstorm complex moving across central and north central South Dakota produced gusty winds up to 70 mph. These strong winds brought down several tree branches around the area with Dewey County the hardest hit location. In Timber Lake, downed tree branches fell on houses and vehicles causing damage.

1680: The first confirmed tornado death in the United States occurred in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The funnel was filled with, stones, bushes, and other things. The tornado also unroofed a barn and snapped many large trees.

2003: What may be the world's highest dew point temperature was recorded at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, in the Persian Gulf. A dew point of 95 degrees was recorded at 3 PM while the air temperature was 108 degrees. The apparent temperature at that time would have been 172 degrees.

2009: An intense cold front brings heavy snow, hail, high winds and unusually cold temperatures to southern Peru. The severe conditions were blamed for the deaths of more than 246 children due to cold-related illnesses.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 9 of 57

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 73.4 °F at 7:00 PM

Low Temp: 57.3 °F at 6:15 AM

Wind: 13 mph at 3:00 AM

Precip: .00

Today's Info

Record High: 106° in 1936

Record Low: 43° in 1905

Average High: 85°F

Average Low: 60°F

Average Precip in July.: 0.82

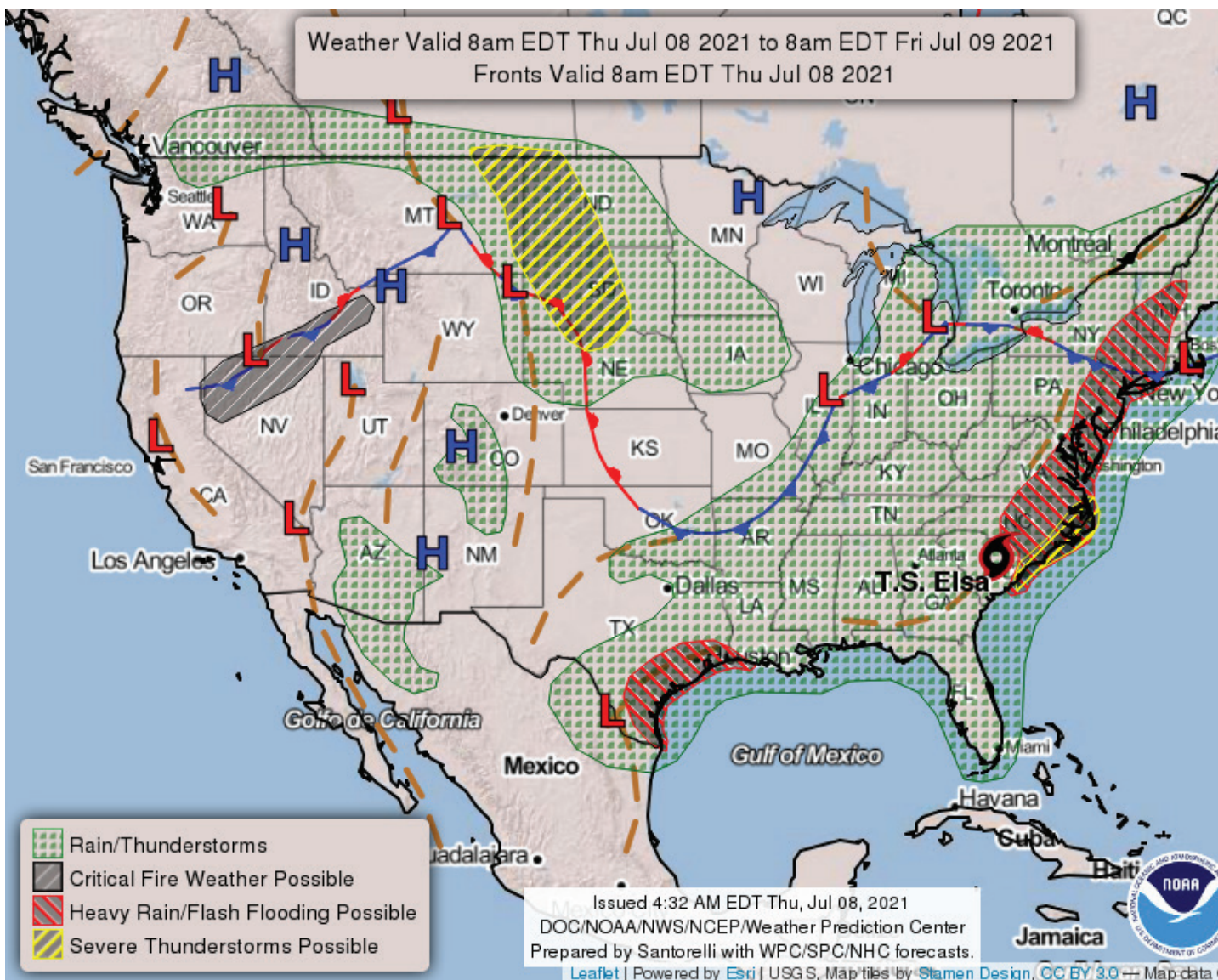
Precip to date in July.: 0.68

Average Precip to date: 11.83

Precip Year to Date: 5.43

Sunset Tonight: 9:23 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:55 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 10 of 57



"NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP....."

One night before climbing into bed, Brad knelt with his mother to pray. "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray Thee Lord, my soul to keep; if I should die before I wake..." There was a long pause and suddenly he stopped praying.

"Go on," said his mother, gently encouraging him.

"I can't," he cried and ran from the room.

A few moments later he returned and finished the prayer, "I pray Thee Lord my soul to take."

"What happened?" his Mother asked.

"Well," he confessed, "just before we knelt to pray, I went into James' room and took all of his toy soldiers and hid them. Then I hid his tanks, cannons and trucks so he couldn't see them. And after I started to pray, I had to stop and make everything right because I knew that God wouldn't hear me."

Many times we pray and get no answers. Often we think that God is not willing to hear us or unable to help us. But that is not true.

We cannot knowingly have sin in our hearts and lives and go to God and expect Him to answer our prayers. If we expect God to hear and answer our prayers, we must make things right first.

Said the Psalmist, "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." It is only when we willingly confess and forsake our sins that we can expect God to answer our prayers. It may be time to stop in the middle of a prayer, right some wrongs and then pray. God is always able to answer our prayers, but not willing because of sin!

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to accept the fact that we cannot expect You to answer our prayers if we keep sin in our lives. May we confess our sins first, and then pray! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. Psalm 66:18

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 11 of 57

2021 Community Events

- Cancelled** Legion Post #39 Spring Fundraiser (Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day, every other year)
03/27/2021 Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
04/10/2021 Dueling Pianos Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion Post #39 6-11:30pm
04/24/2021 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
04/25/2021 Princess Prom (Sunday after GHS Prom)
05/01/2021 Lions Club Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)
05/31/2021 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
6/7-9/2021 St. John's Lutheran Church VBS
06/17/2021 Groton Transit Fundraiser, 4-7 p.m.
06/18/2021 SDSU Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament at Olive Grove
06/19/2021 U8 Baseball Tournament
06/19/2021 **Postponed to Aug. 28th:** Lions Crazy Golf Fest at Olive Grove Golf Course, Noon
06/26/2021 U10 Baseball Tournament
06/27/2021 U12 Baseball Tournament
07/04/2021 Firecracker Golf Tournament at Olive Grove
07/11/2021 Lions Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 10am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)
07/22/2021 Pro-Am Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
07/30/2021-08/03/2021 State "B" American Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton
08/06/2021 Wine on Nine at Olive Grove Golf Course
08/13/2021 Groton Basketball Golf Tournament
08/28/2021 Lions Club Crazy Golf Fest 9am Olive Grove Golf Course
09/11/2021 Lions Club Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
09/12/2021 Sunflower Classic Golf Tournament at Olive Grove
09/18-19 Groton Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
10/08/2021 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
10/09/2021 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm (Saturday before Columbus Day)
10/29/2021 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
10/31/2021 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
11/13/2021 Legion Post #39 Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
11/25/2021 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm (Thanksgiving)
12/11/2021 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9am-Noon

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) _ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Wednesday:

Dakota Cash

07-14-19-22-35

(seven, fourteen, nineteen, twenty-two, thirty-five)

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Lotto America

01-04-19-24-43, Star Ball: 3, ASB: 4

(one, four, nineteen, twenty-four, forty-three; Star Ball: three; ASB: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$7.84 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$94 million

Powerball

08-21-30-49-57, Powerball: 8, Power Play: 2

(eight, twenty-one, thirty, forty-nine, fifty-seven; Powerball: eight; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$113 million

Female powwow emcees make voices heard in mostly male field

By DALTON WALKER, Indian Country Today undefined

Deanna Rae StandingCloud has jokes.

She also has the voice, and the skill. Now, she just needs more opportunities to show it.

StandingCloud, Red Lake Nation, from Minneapolis, is one of the few female powwow emcees in a typically male-dominated field. Now that in-person powwows and other social gatherings are coming back after a monthslong pandemic hiatus, StandingCloud is ready for her voice to be heard.

StandingCloud and others like Kwe Blomgren want powwow decision makers to know they are available to emcee, Indian Country Today reported.

"We have to start having women in these roles, so in our minds, we think, that definitely can be a woman, and it can be," StandingCloud said. "Women are pretty funny, and some of the funniest people I met are female, so why the heck not?"

StandingCloud created a Facebook female powwow emcee group and has nearly a dozen members. She wanted aspiring female powwow emcees to have a space to connect. Blomgren is one of its members.

"Hearing their journeys of celebrations or mini gigs is really inspiring there," Blomgren said about the group.

Blomgren, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, periodically posts on her Facebook page that she is a "powwow emcee for hire." In August 2019, she posted a short Facebook video explaining why she wanted to emcee along with an example of her emcee style. The video was her way to let others know how serious she is.

In her post, she wrote: "I'm officially submitting my cowboy hat into the ring. (Aye.) Here is my mock (grand entry) run. I'm not the best or a pro but my heart is fully into this video. I worked hard on it and I'm super proud. I tell my girls to try, try, and fight for what they really want. So here is me fighting for my dream."

The emcee, or master of ceremonies, tends to be a popular yet demanding gig, and most powwows have a two- or three-person rotation or more. The challenge for most emcees is keeping the crowd engaged and entertained while guiding dancers and singers through the hourslong celebration.

It's also fun and worthwhile, StandingCloud said. Plus the many plates of food all the time, and the ability to come up with words and jokes on the fly, she said.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 13 of 57

"I think the trick to being an emcee is reading the crowd and being in the moment," she said. "A lot of the jokes come from improvising. I try to be present, being in the moment and appreciating the celebration itself, and a lot of teasing jokes will come out of that."

She also likes to play off the energy of her co-hosts.

"Somebody ends on a perfect beat — I'll go, 'Hoo! There you have it, folks,'" she says in a deep voice, stretching out her words. "Powwow Saturday night live. We're here!"

StandingCloud enjoys being social and was often found at powwows or events in the Twin Cities area before the pandemic. Her first emcee opportunity wasn't planned. She was assisting an emcee a few years back at an area school powwow until it made more sense for her to be on the microphone. The following year, she was invited back to be the lead emcee.

Then came her big break. In mid-2019, organizers for Leech Lake Labor Day Powwow asked StandingCloud to co-emcee the celebration. StandingCloud said she was initially anxious about the invite. She was familiar with the powwow and knew it was one of the larger powwows in northern Minnesota.

"Inside, I was like, 'OK, I have to do this because, first of all, nobody ever gets asked this,'" StandingCloud recalled. "I didn't want to because I was nervous and I didn't think I was really good enough, but whatever. I said yes."

A few months after, she had another emcee gig at a Fond du Lac Band powwow near Lake Superior. Emceeing was getting easier, and StandingCloud was getting comfortable. Then the pandemic hit.

More recently, StandingCloud was the virtual emcee for the MN Connect Powwow and an in-person emcee at the Red Lake Nation College graduation and mini powwow.

"I'm just excited for COVID to be something that is behind us so we can all come back together and have a powwow," StandingCloud said. "I miss the sounds, smells, sounds of bells, everything. It's just a nostalgic feeling. It's a very vivid experience for a lot of our people, and it's one of the things that probably healed us as Native people."

A few years ago during a Minnesota summer, Blomgren was enjoying a powwow on her Leech Lake homelands when her goal was to be in the emcee stand.

She came close. She emceed community events and gatherings.

After her Facebook video, Blomgren had a few local powwow emcee gigs lined up, but they were unfortunately canceled because of the pandemic.

"I'm definitely ready," Blomgren said. "When the world is healthy, I'm ready"

Her confidence comes from positive feedback from her family and community, including from elders. Her dream is to one day emcee at the Gathering of Nations in New Mexico.

"I want lady emcees to be the norm, and I want us to start hearing us at celebrations and seeing us do big things."

Noem deploys more Guard troops to border on federal mission

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota National Guard will send 125 soldiers to the United States border with Mexico as part of a federal government mission, Gov. Kristi Noem announced Wednesday.

The deployment is expected to last up to a year and is separate from the National Guard force the Republican governor is sending as part of a state-backed effort initiated by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to clamp down on illegal border crossings.

Noem faced backlash last week after using a \$1 million donation from a billionaire GOP donor to send up to 50 troops to Texas, though she has defended the move as a way to defray the cost to taxpayers. The latest National Guard deployment will be paid for with federal funds.

"I am hopeful that this mission indicates the Biden Administration is waking up to the devastating situation at the border," Noem said in a statement.

Republicans have harped on President Joe Biden as illegal border crossings have increased this year. But both Abbott's state-backed border security push, as well as Noem's ploy to send troops funded by a

donation from a private foundation, have been criticized as political theater.

The National Guard troops and law enforcement officers sent by Republican governors to answer Abbott's request for help will likely be dwarfed by the federal force amassing at the border. About 3,000 Guard members from several states are involved in the federal mission.

The governor's office said the National Guard members will provide non-law enforcement support to U.S. customs agents, but did not provide further information about their duties, citing security.

More federal recovery funding sent South Dakota schools

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — More federal funding is on its way to South Dakota for safely open and operate its schools.

The U.S. Department of Education announced Wednesday it has approved emergency relief funds for South Dakota, five other states and the District of Columbia.

For South Dakota, it means another \$127 million has been released to the state on top of the \$254 million sent in March.

Federal education officials approved of South Dakota's plan for the funds. The South Dakota Department of Education has three main priorities for the funding, the Argus Leader reported.

The first priority is providing educational opportunities to engage students who fell behind last school year when the coronavirus was raging.

The second priority is to address students' social, emotional and mental health needs. South Dakota is partnering with the Department of Social Services to provide access to mental health services through technology to youth in remote areas of the state where access might not otherwise be possible.

The third priority of Secretary Tiffany Sanderson's plan is to continue to address teacher recruitment and retention. Sanderson said it will be paramount to understand the pandemic's true impact on the education workforce.

Of the 679 public schools that participated in a COVID-19 impact survey by the education officials in May, 676 of the schools started their school year in August or September. Of those schools, 92% reported most or all of their students were instructed in person.

EU fines 4 German car makers \$1B over emission collusion

By DAVID McHUGH and RAF CASERT Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union handed down \$1 billion in fines to four major German car manufacturers Thursday, saying they colluded to limit the development and rollout of car emission-control systems.

Daimler, BMW, VW, Audi and Porsche avoided competing on technology to restrict pollution from gasoline and diesel passenger cars, the EU's executive commission said. Daimler wasn't fined after it revealed the cartel to the European Commission.

It was the first time the European Commission imposed collusion fines on holding back the use of technical developments, not a more traditional practice like price fixing.

EU antitrust chief Margrethe Vestager said that even though the companies had the technology to cut harmful emissions beyond legal limits, they resisted competition and denied consumers the chance to buy less polluting cars.

"Manufacturers deliberately avoided to compete on cleaning better than what was required by EU emission standards. And they did so despite the relevant technology being available," Vestager said. That made their practice illegal, she said.

According to Vestager, the companies agreed on the size of onboard tanks containing a urea solution known as AdBlue that is injected into the exhaust stream to limit pollution from diesel engines, and also on the ranges that drivers could be expected to drive before the tank needed refilling. A bigger tank would enable more pollution reduction.

Vestager said cooperation between companies is permissible under EU rules when it leads to efficiency gains, such as the faster introduction of new technologies.

"But the dividing line is clear: Companies must not coordinate their behavior to limit the full potential of any type of technology," she said.

BMW said that discussions on the AdBlue tanks had "no influence whatsoever on the company's product decisions." The company said it was significant that the fine notice found there was no collusion involving earlier allegations of using software to restrict AdBlue dosing.

BMW said it set aside 1.4 billion euros (\$1.7 billion) based on the commission's initial accusations but reduced the set-aside in May due to more serious allegations in the case not being substantiated.

The case wasn't directly linked to the "dieseldgate" scandal of the past decade, when Volkswagen admitted that about 11 million diesel vehicles worldwide were fitted with the deceptive software, which reduced nitrogen oxide emissions when the cars were placed on a test machine but allowed higher emissions and improved engine performance during normal driving.

The scandal cost Wolfsburg, Germany-based Volkswagen 30 billion euros (\$35 billion) in fines and civil settlements and led to the recall of millions of vehicles. The Volkswagen vehicles in the scandal did not use the urea tanks but relied on another pollution reduction technology.

Pope temporarily had fever 3 days after intestinal surgery

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Pope Francis temporarily had a fever three days after intestinal surgery, but routine tests and scans proved negative, the Vatican said Thursday.

The Vatican's daily update said Francis was continuing to eat and move around unassisted, and had even sent his greetings to young cancer patients at Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic hospital.

But spokesman Matteo Bruni said Francis did have a "fever episode" temporarily Wednesday evening.

"This morning he underwent routine and microbiological examinations, and a chest and abdomen scan, which proved negative," the statement said.

Francis, 84, had half of his colon removed Sunday because of what the Vatican says was a "severe" narrowing of the large intestine. He is expected to stay at Gemelli, which has a special suite reserved for popes, through the week assuming there are no complications.

Doctors have said a fever could indicate evidence of an infection or other post-operative complications, though the Vatican statement stressed that the episode was temporary and that Francis' treatment was progressing as planned.

The original Italian version of the Vatican statement referred to a "fever episode," while the English translation said Francis "temporary ran a high temperature." The Vatican spokesman said the Italian is the accurate, official version and a subsequent version of the English translation removed the reference to Francis' temperature being "high."

The statement said Francis' recovery is continuing as planned and that "at this particular moment, he looks toward all those who suffer, expressing his closeness to the sick, especially those most in need of care."

Francis has enjoyed relatively robust health, though he lost the upper part of one lung in his youth because of an infection. He also suffers from sciatica, or nerve pain, that makes him walk with a pronounced limp.

IOC's Bach arrives in Tokyo; greeted by state of emergency

By MARI YAMAGUCHI and STEPHEN WADE Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — IOC President Thomas Bach arrived in Tokyo on Thursday just as a ban on spectators at the Tokyo Olympics is likely after Japan Prime Minister Yoshihde Suga announced a state of emergency because of rising coronavirus infections in the capital.

Suga said the state of emergency would go in effect on Monday and last through Aug. 22. This means the Olympics, opening on July 23 and running through Aug. 8, will be held entirely under emergency measures. The Paralympics open on Aug. 24.

"Taking into consideration the impact of the delta strain, and in order to prevent the resurgence of infections from spreading across the country, we need to step up virus prevention measures," Suga said in

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 16 of 57

announcing the emergency measures.

Bach largely avoided cameras at Tokyo's Haneda Airport and, on a rainy afternoon, went to the International Olympic Committee's games headquarters in Tokyo, a five-star hotel in the center of the city. He is reported to need to self-isolate for three days.

Bach's arrival comes just two weeks before the postponed Tokyo Games are to open. The IOC and local organizers are attempting to hold the games during a pandemic despite opposition from the Japanese public and medical community.

The main focus of the emergency is a request for bars, restaurants and karaoke parlors serving alcohol to close. A ban on serving alcohol is a key step to tone down Olympic-related festivities and keep people from drinking and partying. Tokyo residents are expected to face stay-home requests and watch the games on TV from home.

"How to stop people enjoying the Olympics from going out for drinks is a main issue," Health Minister Norihisa Tamura said.

The present state of emergency ends Sunday. Tokyo reported 896 new cases on Thursday, up from 673 a week earlier. It's the 19th straight day that cases have topped the mark set seven days prior. New cases on Wednesday hit 920, the highest total since 1,010 were reported on May 13.

Fans from abroad were months ago banned from attending the Olympics. But just two weeks ago, organizers and the IOC decided to allow venues to be filled to 50% of capacity but crowds not to exceed 10,000. The state-of-emergency will force them to change plans again with a decision probably coming later on Thursday.

The soaring cases are likely to mean that venues will be without any spectators, although sponsors and others may have access. The no-fan atmosphere could include the opening ceremony at the \$1.4 billion National Stadium.

The uptick in infections has also forced the Tokyo city government to pull the Olympic torch relay off capital streets, allowing it to run only on remote islands off the Tokyo coast. It's unclear how the torch will enter the stadium for the opening ceremony.

"The infections are in their expansion phase and everyone in this country must firmly understand the seriousness of it," Dr. Shigeru Omi, a top government medical adviser, said.

He urged authorities to quickly take tough measures ahead of the Olympics, with summer vacations approaching.

Omi has repeatedly called for a ban on spectators, and has said it's "abnormal" to hold the Olympics during a pandemic.

Separately, a government COVID-19 advisory panel met Wednesday and expressed concerns about the ongoing resurgence of the infections.

"Two-thirds of the infections in the capital region are from Tokyo, and our concern is the spread of the infections to neighboring areas," said Ryuji Wakita, director-general of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases.

The Olympics are pushing ahead against most medical advice, partially because the postponement stalled the IOC's income flow. It gets almost 75% of its income from selling broadcast rights, and estimates suggest it would lose \$3 billion to \$4 billion if the Olympics were canceled.

About 11,000 Olympians and 4,400 Paralympians are expected to enter Japan, with tens of thousands of officials, judges, administrators, sponsors, broadcasters, and media also entering. The IOC says more than 80% of resident of the Olympic Village will be vaccinated.

Nationwide, Japan has had about 810,000 cases and nearly 14,900 deaths. Only 15% of Japanese are fully vaccinated, still low compared with 47.4% in the United States and almost 50% in Britain.

Israel levels West Bank home of Palestinian-American suspect

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli forces on Thursday demolished the family home of a Palestinian-American man accused of being involved in a deadly attack on Israelis in the West Bank in May.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 17 of 57

Associated Press video footage showed Israeli army troops leveling the two-story home of Muntasser Shalaby in the village of Turmus Ayya with controlled explosions.

Israel says Shalaby carried out a May 2 drive-by shooting in the Israeli-occupied West Bank that killed Israeli student Yehuda Guetta and wounded two others. He was arrested days after the attack. His wife, Sanaa Shalaby, told the AP they were estranged for several years and that he spent most of his time in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he had married three other women in unofficial Islamic ceremonies. The entire family has U.S. citizenship.

The Israeli Supreme Court upheld the demolition order in a decision last month. Sanaa and her three children had been living in the home.

The case drew attention to Israel's policy of punitive demolitions of the homes of Palestinians who attacked Israelis. Israeli officials say the demolitions deter future attacks, while rights groups view them as a form of collective punishment.

The U.S. State Department has urged a halt to punitive home demolitions.

The U.S. Embassy said in a statement that it was following reports of the home demolition, and that all sides should "refrain from unilateral steps that exacerbate tensions and undercut efforts to advance a negotiated two-state solution, this certainly includes the punitive demolition of Palestinian homes."

"As we stated numerous times, the home of an entire family should not be demolished for the actions of one individual," the embassy said.

Tears, prayers mark end to search for Miami condo survivors

By TERRY SPENCER and ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

SURFSIDE, Fla. (AP) — A somber moment of silence marked the end of the two-week search for survivors of a Florida condominium collapse, as rescue workers stood at solemn attention and clergy members hugged a line of local officials while many of them sobbed.

The painstaking search for survivors shifted to a recovery effort at midnight Wednesday after authorities said they had come to the agonizing conclusion that there was "no chance of life" in the rubble of the Champlain Towers South condo building in Surfside.

"We have all asked God for a miracle, so the decision to transition from rescue to recovery is an extremely difficult one," Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said at a news conference.

The death toll stood at 54 late Wednesday. Officials said 86 people were unaccounted for, although detectives were still working to verify that each of those listed as missing was actually in the building when it collapsed.

Rescuers had spent two weeks digging through the rubble, searching in vain for any sign of life, Levine Cava said.

"They've used every possible strategy, and every possible technology available to them to find people in the rubble," she said. "They've removed over 7 million pounds of concrete and debris from the mound. They've used sonar, cameras, dogs, heavy machinery. They've searched for void spaces and they've searched for victims. They ran into a building they were told could collapse, and they braved fire, smoke, torrential rain, and strong winds in the hopes of finding people alive."

Hours before the formal transition from rescue to recovery mission, those emergency workers joined local officials, rabbis and chaplains in a moment of silence.

An accordion player unseen on a nearby tennis court played Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man," which was followed by a piccolo playing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Firefighters from Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, the federal government and elsewhere were also present.

On a tall nearby fence, families and well-wishers had posted photos of the victims, supportive messages and flowers. Firefighters hung a banner atop the fence that read "Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Mourns With You."

Officials vowed to continue the recovery efforts until they find the remains of every one of the missing.

Miami-Dade Assistant Fire Chief Raide Jadallah told families during a private briefing that crews would stop using rescue dogs and listening devices.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 18 of 57

"Our sole responsibility at this point is to bring closure," he said, as relatives cried in the background. Later, during a news conference, Jadallah said crews remained committed to doing whatever it takes to finish the job.

"The resources are still there. The men and women are still there. The support is still there," said Jadallah, who began crying silently after he spoke.

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Chief Alan Cominsky said he expects the recovery effort will take several more weeks.

Dennis Dirkmaat, an anthropology professor who chairs the Department of Applied and Forensic Sciences at Mercyhurst University, said he expects crews will use heavy equipment in a "top down approach" to methodically lift material off the debris pile, place it in containers and evaluate it for evidence of human remains. He said the process would likely be repeated as the crews move to subsequent floors.

"It's still a process, slow, tedious process of removing all of this debris. And so it's going to take a while," he said.

Hope of finding survivors was briefly rekindled after workers demolished the remainder of the building, allowing rescuers access to new areas of debris.

Some of those voids did exist, mostly in the basement and the parking garage, but no survivors emerged. Instead, teams recovered more than a dozen additional victims. Because the building fell in the early morning hours, many were found dead in their beds.

No one has been pulled out alive since the first hours after the 12-story building fell on June 24.

Twice during the search operation, rescuers had to suspend the mission because of the instability of the remaining part of the condominium building and the preparation for demolition.

After initially hoping for miraculous rescues, families had slowly braced themselves for the news that their relatives did not survive.

"For some, what they're telling us, it's almost a sense of relief when they already know (that someone has died) and they can just start to put an end to that chapter and start to move on," said Miami-Dade firefighter and paramedic Maggie Castro, who has updated families daily.

Authorities are launching a grand jury investigation into the collapse and at least six lawsuits have been filed by Champlain Towers families.

Haiti's future uncertain after brazen slaying of president

By EVENS SANON and DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — An already struggling and chaotic Haiti stumbled into an uncertain future Thursday, reeling from the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse followed by a reported gunbattle in which authorities said police killed four suspects in the murder, detained two others and freed three officers being held hostage.

Officials pledged to find all those responsible for the predawn raid on Moïse's house early Wednesday that left the president shot to death and his wife, Martine Moïse, critically wounded. She was flown to Miami for treatment.

"The pursuit of the mercenaries continues," Léon Charles, director of Haiti's National Police, said Wednesday night in announcing the arrests of suspects. "Their fate is fixed: They will fall in the fighting or will be arrested."

Officials did not provide any details on the suspects, including their ages, names or nationalities, nor did they address a motive or what led police to the suspects. They said only that the attack condemned by Haiti's main opposition parties and the international community was carried out by "a highly trained and heavily armed group" whose members spoke Spanish or English.

Prime Minister Claude Joseph assumed leadership of Haiti with help of police and the military and decreed a two-week state of siege following Moïse's killing, which stunned a nation grappling with some of the Western Hemisphere's highest poverty, violence and political instability.

Inflation and gang violence are spiraling upward as food and fuel becomes scarcer, while 60% of Haitian

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 19 of 57

workers earn less than \$2 a day. The increasingly dire situation comes as Haiti is still trying to recover from the devastating 2010 earthquake and Hurricane Matthew in 2016 following a history of dictatorship and political upheaval.

Those in Haiti and family and friends living abroad wondered what is next.

"There is this void now, and they are scared about what will happen to their loved ones," said Marlene Bastien, executive director of Family Action Network Movement, a group that helps people in Miami's Little Haiti community.

She said it was important for the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden to take a much more active role in supporting attempts at national dialogue in Haiti with the aim of holding free, fair and credible elections.

Bastien said she also wants to see participation of the extensive Haitian diaspora: "No more band-aids. The Haitian people have been crying and suffering for too long."

Haiti had grown increasingly unstable under Moïse, who had been ruling by decree for more than a year and faced violent protests as critics accused him of trying to amass more power while the opposition demanded he step down.

According to Haiti's constitution, Moïse should be replaced by the president of Haiti's Supreme Court, but the chief justice died in recent days from COVID-19, leaving open the question of who might rightfully succeed to the office.

Joseph, meanwhile, was supposed to be replaced by Ariel Henry, who had been named prime minister by Moïse a day before the assassination.

Henry told The Associated Press in a brief interview that he is the prime minister, calling it an exceptional and confusing situation. In another interview with Radio Zenith, he said there was no fight between him and Joseph: "I only disagree with the fact that people have taken hasty decisions ... when the moment demands a little more serenity and maturity."

Moïse had faced large protests in recent months that turned violent as opposition leaders and their supporters rejected his plans to hold a constitutional referendum with proposals that would strengthen the presidency.

Hours after the assassination, public transportation and street vendors remained largely scarce, an unusual sight for the normally bustling streets of Port-au-Prince. Gunfire rang out intermittently across the city, a grim reminder of the growing power of gangs that displaced more than 14,700 people last month alone as they torched and ransacked homes in a fight over territory.

Robert Fatton, a Haitian politics expert at the University of Virginia, said gangs were a force to contend with and it isn't certain Haiti's security forces can enforce a state of siege.

"It's a really explosive situation," he said, adding that foreign intervention with a U.N.-type military presence is a possibility. "Whether Claude Joseph manages to stay in power is a huge question. It will be very difficult to do so if he doesn't create a government of national unity."

Joseph told The Associated Press that he supports an international investigation into the assassination and believes elections scheduled for later this year should be held as he promised to work with Moïse's allies and opponents alike.

"Everything is under control," he said.

Lightning strikes twice: Tampa Bay repeats as Cup champion

By STEPHEN WHYNO AP Hockey Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Quieting the din inside Amalie Arena for just a moment, Gary Bettman looked over to the Tampa Bay Lightning and reached back into the dark days of the pandemic perhaps one last time.

The NHL commissioner beckoned not just captain Steven Stamkos but the entire team over to touch, kiss and hoist the Stanley Cup as champions once more. It was a far cry from the tradition of presenting hockey's holy grail to the captain to take back to his team, and the Lightning sent out another pandemic hockey season like they did the last — by winning their second championship in 10 months.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 20 of 57

It was a familiar sight for the back-to-back champions, even if it was different in every possible way.

After the Lightning beat the Montreal Canadiens 1-0 on Wednesday night to end the final in five games, Stamkos hoisted the Cup in front of 18,110 fans — 18,110 more than the last time he did back in September.

Pyrotechnics went off around him to celebrate not only Tampa Bay winning during a pandemic once again but the end of another grueling season played against the backdrops of protocols, restrictions and heartbreak. As Stamkos took another lap with the Cup, players held up their phones to capture video of the fans, the confetti and the joy of being able to really, truly celebrate.

"Full arena, incredible energy and another championship in Tampa," Bettman said. "It feels like things are normal."

Winning has become normal for the Lightning, who did so this time relying on their playoff MVP goaltender, Andrei Vasilevskiy, and the only two Tampa Bay players on the ice without their names on hockey's holy grail.

Vasilevskiy had a series-ending shutout for an NHL-record fifth consecutive time dating to the 2020 final. Finishing with a handful in a frantic final minute, he made 22 saves to remain undefeated in games after a loss over the past two playoffs, both of them won by Tampa Bay in the pandemic.

"It's so hard to win the Stanley Cup," Stamkos said. "And then you do it two years in a row, you deserve to go down in history."

Ross Colton and David Savard weren't around last year and made sure to put their stamp on Tampa Bay's latest title run. Savard set up Colton's goal midway through the second period past Canadiens stalwart Carey Price and the packed crowd roared.

"To do it in front of our fans and our families, it's so special, special," defenseman Victor Hedman said. "It's out of this world."

The scene couldn't have been any further from the mirthless, empty arena where the Lightning won the Cup last September in a quarantined bubble across the continent in Edmonton, Alberta. Tampa Bay joined Pittsburgh as the only back-to-back Cup winner in the salary cap era, but even more impressively did it in the shortest span between championships in the long history of the NHL.

Never losing twice in a row thanks to Vasilevskiy's brilliance and one of the deepest rosters constructed since the cap was implemented in 2005, the Lightning solidified their status as a modern-day dynasty.

How deep? Nikita Kucherov had 32 points to join Mario Lemieux as the only players to lead the post-season in scoring two years in a row, and Brayden Point scored 14 goals through three rounds. Kucherov, Point and Hedman all played through injuries, too.

It was just too much for the Canadiens, who relied again on Price to keep them in a game — and the series. He finished with 29 saves.

The sunbelt franchise in a nontraditional market that didn't even exist until 1992-93 went through the NHL's most storied franchise to win this one. The third championship in franchise history denied Montreal a 25th league championship banner.

The Lightning also added another title for "Champa Bay," coming on the heels of Tom Brady leading the NFL's Buccaneers to a Super Bowl victory in February. The Tampa Bay Rays went to the World Series last fall.

Tampa Bay's mayor had suggested the Lightning lose Game 4 on the road so they could win at home, and she got her wish as coach Jon Cooper's team became the first since Chicago in 2015 to hoist the Cup on home ice.

"We didn't get a chance to do that last year," Stamkos said. "This is redemption for them to be able to spend this time with us. We wanted to win in Game 4. It didn't work out. Maybe it's a blessing in disguise we got to do it front of our amazing fans."

The Canadiens ran out of gas in what was a surprise playoff run for a team that opened the postseason with the worst record of the 16 qualifiers.

"The resilience that we showed: just a good team to be a part of," Montreal's Brendan Gallagher said. "As painful as this is right now, sometimes you need to feel this to call yourself the champion."

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 21 of 57

The Lightning know that well. Their back-to-back title run was spurred by the adversity of the team overcoming the shock of getting swept by Columbus in the first round of the 2019 playoffs.

Tampa Bay was without veteran forward Alex Killorn, who broke his left fibula blocking a shot in Game 1 of the final, had surgery last week and still wanted to play. He joined his teammates for a celebration like last year but unlike it in every way.

"It's like we won two completely different Stanley Cups, and that's what makes it extremely special for us," coach Jon Cooper said. "You do one without fans and then you do one in your own building: We couldn't have written the script any better."

As global COVID-19 deaths top 4 million, a suicide in Peru

By FRANKLIN BRICENO, MARIA CHENG and JOSHUA GOODMAN Associated Press

AREQUIPA, Peru (AP) — On the last day of Javier Vilca's life, his wife stood outside a hospital window with a teddy bear, red balloons and a box of chocolates to celebrate his birthday, and held up a giant, hand-scrawled sign that read: "Don't give up. You're the best man in the world."

Minutes later, Vilca, a 43-year-old struggling radio journalist who had battled depression, jumped four stories to his death — the fifth suicide by a COVID-19 patient at Peru's overwhelmed Honorio Delgado hospital since the pandemic began.

Vilca became yet another symbol of the despair caused by the coronavirus and the stark and seemingly growing inequities exposed by COVID-19 on its way to a worldwide death toll of 4 million, a milestone recorded Wednesday by Johns Hopkins University.

At the hospital where Vilca died on June 24, a single doctor and three nurses were frantically rushing to treat 80 patients in an overcrowded, makeshift ward while Vilca gasped for breath because of an acute shortage of bottled oxygen.

"He promised me he would make it," said Nohemí Huanacchire, weeping over her husband's casket in their half-built home with no electricity on the outskirts of Arequipa, Peru's second-largest city. "But I never saw him again."

The number of lives lost around the world over the past year and a half is about equal to the population of Los Angeles or the nation of Georgia. It is three times the number of victims killed in traffic accidents around the globe per year. By some estimates, it is roughly the number of people killed in battle in all of the world's wars since 1982.

Even then, the toll is widely believed to be an undercount because of overlooked cases or deliberate concealment.

More than six months after vaccines became available, reported COVID-19 deaths worldwide have dropped to around 7,900 a day, after topping out at over 18,000 a day in January. The World Health Organization recorded just under 54,000 deaths last week, the lowest weekly total since last October.

While vaccination campaigns in the U.S. and parts of Europe are ushering in a period of post-lockdown euphoria, and children there are being inoculated so that they can go back to summer camp and school, infection rates are still stubbornly high in many parts of South America and Southeast Asia. And multitudes in Africa remain unprotected because of severe vaccine shortages.

Also, the highly contagious delta variant is spreading rapidly, setting off alarms, driving up case counts in places and turning the crisis increasingly into a race between the vaccine and the mutant version.

The variant has been detected in at least 96 countries. Australia, Israel, Malaysia, Hong Kong and other places have reimposed restrictions to try to suppress it.

The variants, uneven access to vaccines and the relaxation of precautions in some wealthier countries are "a toxic combination that is very dangerous," warned Ann Lindstrand, a top immunization official at WHO.

Instead of treating the crisis as a "me-and-myself-and-my-country" problem, she said, "we need to get serious that this is a worldwide problem that needs worldwide solutions."

While the U.S. missed President Joe Biden's goal of getting at least one shot into 70% of American adults by the Fourth of July, deaths nationwide are down sharply to around 200 per day, from a peak of

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 22 of 57

over 3,400 per day in January.

And the U.S. economy has been roaring back, with growth this year forecast to be the fastest in almost seven decades. Even cruise ships, an early vector for the virus's spread, are resuming voyages after a hiatus of more than a year.

In Britain, despite persistent fears about the delta variant, Prime Minister Boris Johnson plans to lift all remaining restrictions this month. Britain this week recorded a one-day total of more than 30,000 new infections for the first time since January.

Elsewhere in Europe, tens of thousands of soccer fans in several cities were able to watch in person their national teams compete in the European Championship a year after the tournament was postponed, though attendance in some stadiums was severely restricted.

In parts of the developing world, it is a story of desperation.

In Latin America, just 1 in 10 people have been fully vaccinated, contributing to a rise in cases in countries such as Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia and Uruguay. Meanwhile, the virus is penetrating remote areas of Africa that were previously spared, contributing to a sharp rise in cases.

Peru has been one of the hardest hit by the virus, with the highest mortality of any country in the world as a percentage of its population.

In Arequipa, Vilca's suicide was splashed across the front pages of the tabloids in the city of 1 million. His widow said his death was a protest against the deteriorating conditions faced by COVID-19 patients.

Nationwide, Peru has just 2,678 intensive care beds for a population of 32 million — a trifling number even by the low standards of Latin America. Nor was Vilca among the lucky 14% of Peruvians who have received a single dose of the vaccine.

Across the country, a new routine has emerged as people spend their days scrambling to fill heavy, green oxygen tanks bought on the black market that are a lifeline for sick loved ones. Some businesses have tripled the price for oxygen, forcing many people to plunder their savings or sell belongings.

From the hospital where Vilca took his life, "he'd call and say they were all abandoned. Nobody was paying attention," his widow said, showing on her cellphone a photo her husband sent of himself in one of the rare moments he was lucky enough to have an oxygen mask.

Along with South America, which accounts for around 40% of the daily deaths from COVID-19, India has emerged as the other main driver of mortality. Even then, experts believe the roughly 1,000 deaths recorded daily in India are almost certainly an undercount.

In the state of Madhya Pradesh, with over 73 million people, one journalist found that that the spike in registered deaths from all causes in May alone was five times pre-pandemic levels and 67 times the official death toll from the virus for the month, which was 2,451.

Rich countries including Britain, the U.S. and France have promised to donate about 1 billion COVID-19 shots to help close the inequality gap. But experts say 11 billion are needed to immunize the world. Of the 3 billion doses that have been administered globally, less than 2% have been in the developing world.

"Pledging to provide 1 billion doses is a drop in the ocean," said Agnes Callemard, Amnesty International's secretary-general. She slammed politicians for opting for "more of the same paltry half-measures and insufficient gestures."

The U.N.-backed effort to distribute vaccines to poor countries, known as COVAX, has also faltered badly. Its biggest supplier, the Serum Institute of India, stopped exporting vaccines in March to deal with the epidemic on the subcontinent.

Meanwhile, countries including Seychelles, Chile and Bahrain, relying on Chinese-made vaccines, have seen outbreaks even after reaching relatively high levels of coverage, raising questions about the shots' effectiveness.

Dora Curry, an Atlanta-based director of health equity at the charity CARE, said she is deeply worried that while children in Germany, France and the U.S. are getting immunized, relief is slow to arrive for people far more vulnerable in poor countries.

"If there were a way I could give that dose to somebody in Uganda, I would," said Curry, who acknowl-

edged she will probably have her 11-year-old daughter immunized when she is eligible. "But this just speaks to the problems with the distribution system we have."

More states agree to settlement plan for opioid-maker Purdue

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

More than a dozen states have dropped their longstanding objections to OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma's reorganization plan, edging the company closer to resolving its bankruptcy case and transforming itself into a new entity that helps combat the U.S. opioid epidemic through its own profits.

The agreement from multiple state attorneys general, including those who had most aggressively opposed Purdue's original settlement proposal, was disclosed late Wednesday night in a filing in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in White Plains, N.Y. It followed weeks of intense mediations that resulted in changes to Purdue's original exit plan.

The new settlement terms call for Purdue to make tens of millions of internal documents public, a step several attorneys general, including those for Massachusetts and New York, had demanded as a way to hold the company accountable.

Attorneys general for both states were among the 15 who agreed to the new plan, joining about half the states that had previously approved it. Nine states and the District of Columbia did not sign on.

Purdue sought bankruptcy protection in 2019 as a way to settle about 3,000 lawsuits it faced from state and local governments and other entities. They claimed the company's continued marketing of its powerful prescription painkiller contributed to a crisis that has been linked to nearly 500,000 deaths in the U.S. over the last two decades.

The court filing came from a mediator appointed by the bankruptcy court and shows that members of the wealthy Sackler family who own Purdue agreed to increase their cash contribution to the settlement by \$50 million. They also will allow \$175 million held in Sackler family charities to go toward abating the crisis.

In all, Sackler family members are contributing \$4.5 billion in cash and assets in the charitable funds toward the settlement.

The agreement also prohibits the Sackler family from obtaining naming rights related to their charitable donations until they have paid all the money owed under the settlement and have given up all business interests related to the manufacturing or sale of opioids.

Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, who had been the first attorney general to sue members of the Sackler family, praised the modified deal in a statement early Thursday. She pointed to the \$90 million her state would receive and the way the company could waive attorney-client privilege to release hundreds of thousands of confidential communications with lawyers about its tactics for selling opioids and other matters.

"While I know this resolution does not bring back loved ones or undo the evil of what the Sacklers did, forcing them to turn over their secrets by providing all the documents, forcing them to repay billions, forcing the Sacklers out of the opioid business, and shutting down Purdue will help stop anything like this from ever happening again," Healey said.

Attempts late Wednesday and early Thursday to reach representatives of the Sacklers, Purdue and other attorneys general were unsuccessful.

Purdue's plan also calls for members of the Sackler family to give up ownership of the Connecticut-based company as part of a sweeping deal it says could be worth \$10 billion over time. That includes the value of overdose-reversal drugs the company is planning to produce.

Money from the deal is to go to government entities, which have agreed to use it to address the opioid crisis, along with individual victims and their families.

The broad outlines of the plan are similar to what they were nearly two years ago when Purdue first sought bankruptcy protection.

Most groups representing various creditors, including victims and local governments, had grudgingly

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 24 of 57

supported the plan. But state attorneys general until now were deeply divided, with about half of them supporting the plan and half fighting against it.

The attorneys general who had opposed the plan said they didn't like the idea of having to rely on profits from the continued sale of prescription painkillers to combat the opioid epidemic. They also said the deal didn't do enough to hold Sackler family members accountable or to make public documents that could help explain the company's role in the crisis.

Last month, Massachusetts' Healey told The Associated Press, "The Sacklers are not offering to pay anything near what they should for the harm and devastation caused to families and communities around this country."

The support from additional states comes less than two weeks before the deadline to object formally to Purdue's reorganization plan and about a month before a hearing on whether it should be accepted.

With just nine states and the District of Columbia remaining opposed to the plan, it makes it more likely the federal bankruptcy judge will confirm the deal.

Activists also dislike it, and two Democratic members of Congress have asked the U.S. Department of Justice to oppose it. Reps. Carolyn Maloney of New York and Mark DeSaulnier of California said the deal would wrongly grant protection from civil lawsuits to members of the Sackler family. The Justice Department has not weighed in.

Last year, the company pleaded guilty to federal criminal charges that included conspiracy to defraud the United States and violating anti-kickback laws. Under the deal, the company agreed to pay \$225 million to the federal government. Penalties of more than \$8 billion were to be waived if the company enters into a bankruptcy settlement that works to fight the opioid crisis.

In a separate civil settlement announced at the same time, Sackler family members agreed to pay the federal government \$225 million, while admitting no wrongdoing.

The opioid crisis includes overdoses involving prescription drugs as well as illegal ones such as heroin and fentanyl. Purdue's bankruptcy case is the highest-profile piece of complicated nationwide litigation against drugmakers, distribution companies and pharmacies.

Trials against other companies in the industry are playing out in California, New York and West Virginia, and negotiations are continuing to settle many of the claims.

Japan to declare virus emergency lasting through Olympics

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan is set to place Tokyo under a state of emergency that would last through the Olympics, fearing an ongoing COVID-19 surge will multiply during the Games.

At a meeting with experts Thursday morning, government officials proposed a plan to issue a state of emergency in Tokyo from next Monday to Aug. 22. The Summer Olympics, already delayed a year by the pandemic, begin July 23 and close Aug. 8.

The Games already will take place without foreign spectators, but the planned six-week state of emergency likely ends chances of a local audience. A decision about fans is expected later Thursday when local organizers meet with the International Olympic Committee and other representatives.

Tokyo is currently under less-stringent measures that focus on shortened hours for bars and restaurants but have proven less effective at slowing the spread of the coronavirus.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga is to formally announce the emergency plans later Thursday, hours after IOC President Thomas Bach was to land in Tokyo. Bach must self-isolate for three days in the IOC's five-star hotel in the Japanese capital before heading to Hiroshima, where heavy rain is threatening flooding.

The upcoming emergency will be the fourth for Tokyo since the pandemic began and is a last-minute change of plan made late Wednesday after a meeting with experts who warned strongly against the government's soft approach.

A main focus of the emergency is a request for bars, restaurants and karaoke parlors serving alcohol to close. A ban on serving alcohol is a key step to tone down Olympic-related festivities and keep people

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 25 of 57

from drinking and partying. Tokyo residents are expected to face stay-home requests and watch the Games on TV from home.

"How to stop people enjoying the Olympics from going out for drinks is a main issue," Health Minister Norihisa Tamura said.

Tokyo reported 920 new cases on Wednesday, up from 714 last week and its highest since 1,010 on May 13. The figure is in line with experts' earlier estimate that daily cases in Tokyo could hit 1,000 before the Games and could spike into thousands in August.

Kazuhiro Tateta, a Toho University infectious diseases expert, noted an earlier state of emergency in the spring came too late to prevent hospitals in Osaka from overflowing with patients and said another delay should not be allowed.

Ryuji Wakita, director-general of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, noted that two-thirds of Japan's cases are from the Tokyo region and "our concern is the spread of the infections to neighboring areas."

Experts also noted cases among younger, unvaccinated people are rising as Japan's inoculation drive loses steam due to supply uncertainty.

Just 15% of Japanese are fully vaccinated, low compared to 47.4% in the United States and almost 50% in Britain. Nationwide, Japan has had about 810,000 infections and nearly 14,900 deaths.

"The infections are in their expansion phase and everyone in this country must firmly understand the seriousness of it," Dr. Shigeru Omi, a top government medical adviser, told reporters.

He urged authorities to quickly take tough measures ahead of the Olympics with summer vacations approaching. "The period from July to September is the most critical time for Japan's COVID-19 measures," Omi said.

EXPLAINER: Assassination threatens more chaos for Haiti

The Associated Press undefined

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — The assassination of President Jovenel Moïse seemed to have thrown an already turbulent nation into chaos on Wednesday, with a muddled line of succession. Here is a look at the situation:

WHO WAS THE ASSASSINATED PRESIDENT?

Jovenel Moïse was a 48-year-old businessman and political neophyte when he was sworn in as president of Haiti on Feb. 7, 2017. The former banana producer inherited a nation in turmoil — one that had gone a year without an elected leader in place. He leaves it in chaos as well.

Taking office, he pledged to strengthen institutions, fight corruption and bring more investment and jobs to the hemisphere's poorest nation. "We can change Haiti if we work together," Moïse said on the grounds of what used to be the national palace — one of many buildings obliterated by a January 2010 earthquake that killed thousands of Haitians.

But togetherness never arrived, and his administration was plagued by massive protests from the start. Even his initial election in 2015 was annulled, forcing a re-do that he also won. Critics accused him of growing increasingly authoritarian. He had been ruling by decree for more than a year after dissolving a majority of Parliament in January 2020 amid a delay in legislative elections.

In February, Moïse told the U.N. Security Council that powerful oligarchs had made seven attempts to overthrow him. He also announced that month that about 20 people had been arrested in an assassination plot. But an appeals court later rejected the claim and released the accused plotters, who included a judge and a police inspector general.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION?

Details so far are slim. Interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph said highly trained gunmen, some speaking Spanish or English, killed the president at his home. The first lady also was shot and wounded. He said police and the armed forces were controlling security. A resident who lives near the president's home

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 26 of 57

compared the sound of the shooting to an earthquake.

Bocchit Edmond, the Haitian ambassador to the U.S., described the attackers as “well trained professional commandos” and “foreign mercenaries” who were masquerading as U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents. He did not comment on possible suspects or motives and said Haiti has asked the U.S. government for assistance in the investigation.

Hours after the killing, authorities announced that police had killed four suspects and arrested two others. Officials, however, gave no details on their identities or possible motive.

WHAT IS THE SITUATION IN HAITI?

The country has struggled with political instability — along with dire poverty and crime — since the end of the brutal dictatorships of Francois and Jean-Claude Duvalier from 1957 to 1986.

Criminal gangs this year have driven thousands of people from their homes, protesters demanding Moïse’s ouster in 2019 shut down much of the economy and the country has yet to begin vaccinating its 11 million people against the new coronavirus, which is surging.

Bruno Maes, Haiti’s representative for the U.N.’s children agency, last month compared the gang situation to guerrilla warfare, “with thousands of children and women caught in the crossfire.” Pierre Espérance, executive director of the Haitian National Human Rights Defense Network, said gangs control about 60% of the country’s territory.

Police and the military, too, have been troubled, often targeted by gangs. Masked officers who said they belonged to a disgruntled faction stormed several police stations in March to free comrades who’d been accused of participating in a coup attempt. The army was re-inaugurated only in 2017. It had been disbanded in 1995 after the fall of a dictatorship.

Political strife has deepened since Feb. 7, when opposition leaders claim Moïse’s legal term had expired — five years after he would have taken office if the initial vote had been allowed. Moïse argued it ends in February 2022 since he wasn’t sworn in until 2017.

The government has been without a formal prime minister since April, when Joseph Jouthe resigned amid a spike in killings and kidnappings. His replacement has not yet been approved by the parliament.

With Moïse ruling by decree, the government has scheduled new elections for September and a possible runoff in November. The government also has pushed a referendum on a new constitution that critics allege might allow the president to extend his power. But that vote has also been delayed.

WHAT’S NEXT?

Authorities have closed the international airport and declared a state of siege.

Under the Haitian Constitution, the president of the Supreme Court would temporarily take over. But he recently died of COVID-19. The National Assembly would then select a new leader. But that’s not possible because there’s effectively no current legislature: The terms of the lower house members have all expired as well as two-thirds of those in the Senate.

That leaves the acting prime minister, Joseph, in charge along with his fellow government ministers, according to Haitian attorney Salim Succar, once chief of staff to former Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe.

But Joseph had only an interim role. Moïse was killed a day after he nominated Ariel Henry, a neurosurgeon, as Haiti’s new prime minister. He had not been confirmed, however. The uncertainty could create more volatility ahead of general elections later this year.

Haiti in upheaval: President Moïse assassinated at home

By EVENS SANON and DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A squad of gunmen assassinated Haitian President Jovenel Moïse and wounded his wife in an overnight raid on their home Wednesday, with police killing four suspects and arresting two others hours later amid growing chaos in a country already enduring gang violence and protests of his increasingly authoritarian rule.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 27 of 57

Three police officers held hostage by the suspected gunmen were freed late Wednesday after police surrounded a house where some of the suspects were hiding, said Léon Charles, chief of Haiti's National Police.

Interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph said the police and military were in control of security in Haiti, the poorest country in the Americas where a history of dictatorship and political upheaval have long stymied the consolidation of democratic rule.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Joseph called for an international investigation into the assassination, said that elections scheduled for later this year should be held and pledged to work with Moïse's allies and opponents alike.

"We need every single one to move the country forward," Joseph said. He alluded to enemies of the president, describing him as "a man of courage" who had opposed "some oligarchs in the country, and we believe those things are not without consequences."

Despite Joseph's assurances that order would prevail, there was confusion about who should take control and widespread anxiety among Haitians. Authorities declared a "state of siege" in the country and closed the international airport.

The normally bustling streets of the capital, Port-au-Prince, were empty Wednesday. Sporadic gunshots were heard in the distance, public transportation was scarce, and some people searched for businesses that were open for food and water.

Bocchit Edmond, the Haitian ambassador to the United States, said the attack on the 53-year-old Moïse "was carried out by foreign mercenaries and professional killers — well-orchestrated," and that they were masquerading as agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. The DEA has an office in the Haitian capital to assist the government in counternarcotics programs, according to the U.S. Embassy.

Joseph said the heavily armed gunmen spoke Spanish or English, but gave no further details.

Moïse's wife, Martine, was in stable but critical condition and was being moved to Miami for treatment, Edmond said in Washington.

Haiti has asked the U.S. government for assistance with the investigation, he said, adding that the assassins could have escaped over the land border to the Dominican Republic or by sea.

The Dominican Republic said it was closing the border and reinforcing security in the area, describing the frontier as "completely calm."

Haiti appeared to be heading for fresh volatility ahead of general elections later this year. Moïse had been ruling by decree for more than a year after failing to hold elections, and the opposition demanded he step down in recent months, saying he was leading it toward yet another grim period of authoritarianism.

It was a testament to Haiti's fragile political situation that Joseph, a protégé of Moïse who was only supposed to be prime minister temporarily, found himself in charge.

But Haiti appears to have few other options. The Supreme Court's chief justice, who might be expected to help provide stability in a crisis, died recently of COVID-19.

The main opposition parties said they were greatly dismayed about the killing.

"In this painful circumstance, the political forces of the opposition condemn with utmost rigor this heinous crime that is at odds with democratic principles," their statement said.

The parties added that they hope the National Police will take all necessary measures to protect lives and property, and they called on Haitians to be "extremely vigilant."

Joseph is likely to lead Haiti for now, though that could change in a nation where constitutional provisions have been erratically observed, said Alex Dupuy, a Haiti-born sociologist at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut.

The best scenario would be for the acting prime minister and opposition parties to come together and hold elections, Dupuy said.

"But, in Haiti, nothing can be taken for granted. It depends how the current balance of forces in Haiti plays out," he said, describing the situation as dangerous and volatile. Haiti's police force is already grappling with a recent spike in violence in Port-au-Prince that has displaced more than 14,700 people, he said.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 28 of 57

Former President Michel Martelly, whom Moïse succeeded, called the assassination "a hard blow for our country and for Haitian democracy, which is struggling to find its way."

U.S. President Joe Biden said he was "shocked and saddened to hear of the horrific assassination," and condemned "this heinous act."

"The United States offers condolences to the people of Haiti, and we stand ready to assist as we continue to work for a safe and secure Haiti," Biden said in a statement.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also condemned the assassination and stressed that "the perpetrators of this crime must be brought to justice," U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. The Security Council scheduled an emergency closed meeting on Haiti for Thursday.

Governments in Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe and elsewhere also expressed their concern at Haiti's plight.

A resident who lives near the president's home said she heard the attack.

"I thought there was an earthquake, there was so much shooting," said the woman, who spoke on condition of anonymity because she fears for her life. "The president had problems with many people, but this is not how we expected him to die."

The U.S. Embassy in Haiti said it was restricting U.S. staff to its compounds and closed the embassy Wednesday.

It's too early to know exactly what will happen next, said Jonathan Katz, who previously covered Haiti for the AP and wrote a book about the country's devastating earthquake.

"We don't know who did this, what their end game is, what else they have planned," he said, noting that Moïse had a long list of enemies. "There were a lot of people who wanted him gone. And there were a lot of people whom he wanted gone."

"It seems to be a pretty well-financed operation," he said, adding it could take days to piece together what happened. "That's the question: Who's behind it and what do they want?"

Moïse was killed a day after he nominated Ariel Henry, a neurosurgeon, as the new prime minister. Joseph took over the job of interim prime minister in April following the resignation of the previous premier, Joseph Jouthe — the latest in a revolving door of prime ministers.

In the AP interview, Joseph said he had spoken three times with Henry and that there was agreement he was in charge for now.

"He was actually designated but never took office," Joseph said of Henry. "I was the one who was a prime minister, who was in office. This is what the law and the constitution says."

However, in a separate AP interview, Henry appeared to contradict Joseph. "It's an exceptional situation. There is a bit of confusion," he said. "I am the prime minister in office."

Haiti's economic, political and social woes have deepened recently, with gang violence spiking in Port-au-Prince, inflation spiraling, and food and fuel becoming scarcer in a country where 60% of the population makes less than \$2 a day. These troubles come as Haiti is still trying to recover from the devastating 2010 earthquake and Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

Opposition leaders accused Moïse of seeking to increase his power, including by approving a decree that limited the powers of a court that audits government contracts and another that created an intelligence agency that answers only to the president.

He had faced large protests in recent months that turned violent as opposition leaders and their supporters rejected his plans to hold a constitutional referendum with proposals that would strengthen the presidency.

In recent months, opposition leaders demanded he step down, arguing that his term legally ended in February 2021. Moïse and supporters maintained that his term began when he took office in early 2017, following a chaotic election that forced the appointment of a provisional president to serve during a year-long gap.

In May, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas announced an 18-month extension of temporary legal status for Haitians living in the U.S., citing "serious security concerns (in Haiti), social unrest, an increase in human rights abuses, crippling poverty, and lack of basic resources, which are exacerbated

by the COVID-19 pandemic.”

The reprieve benefited an estimated 100,000 people who came after the devastating 2010 earthquake and are eligible for Temporary Protected Status, which gives haven to people fleeing countries struggling with civil strife or natural disasters.

Global COVID-19 deaths hit 4 million amid rush to vaccinate

By JOSHUA GOODMAN Associated Press

The global death toll from COVID-19 eclipsed 4 million Wednesday as the crisis increasingly becomes a race between the vaccine and the highly contagious delta variant.

The tally of lives lost over the past year and a half, as compiled from official sources by Johns Hopkins University, is about equal to the number of people killed in battle in all of the world's wars since 1982, according to estimates from the Peace Research Institute Oslo.

The toll is three times the number of people killed in traffic accidents around the globe every year. It is about equal to the population of Los Angeles or the nation of Georgia. It is equivalent to more than half of Hong Kong or close to 50% of New York City.

Even then, it is widely believed to be an undercount because of overlooked cases or deliberate concealment.

With the advent of the vaccine, deaths per day have plummeted to around 7,900, after topping out at over 18,000 a day in January.

But in recent weeks, the mutant delta version of the virus first identified in India has set off alarms around the world, spreading rapidly even in vaccination success stories like the U.S., Britain and Israel.

Britain, in fact, recorded a one-day total this week of more than 30,000 new infections for the first time since January, even as the government prepares to lift all remaining lockdown restrictions in England later this month.

Other countries have reimposed preventive measures, and authorities are rushing to step up the campaign to dispense shots.

At the same time, the disaster has exposed the gap between the haves and the have-nots, with vaccination drives barely getting started in Africa and other desperately poor corners of the world because of extreme shortages of shots.

The U.S. and other wealthy countries have agreed to share at least 1 billion doses with struggling countries.

The U.S. has the world's highest reported death toll, at over 600,000, or nearly 1 in 7 deaths, followed by Brazil at more than 520,000, though the real numbers are believed to be much higher in Brazil, where President Jair Bolsonaro's far-right government has long downplayed the virus.

The variants, uneven access to vaccines and the relaxation of precautions in wealthier countries are “a toxic combination that is very dangerous,” warned Ann Lindstrand, a top immunization official at the World Health Organization.

Instead of treating the crisis as a “me-and-myself-and-my-country” problem, she said, “we need to get serious that this is a worldwide problem that needs worldwide solutions.”

Black students, faculty: UNC needs self-examination on race

By ANNIE MA Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — When the University of North Carolina first declined to vote on granting tenure to journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones, kicking off a protracted battle marked by allegations of racism and conservative backlash over her work examining the legacy of slavery, Black students and faculty at UNC saw yet another example of the institution's failure to welcome and support scholars and students of color.

For years, Black students and faculty at UNC have expressed frustration with the way they are treated, from disproportionate scrutiny by campus police to the dearth of Black professors and staff. Without meaningful self-examination and change, they said, UNC risks its ability to recruit and retain students and faculty of color and continues to alienate its Black community.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 30 of 57

"Right now, the relationship between the University of North Carolina and its Black students, faculty and staff is broken," said Jaci Field, advocacy committee co-chair of the Carolina Black Caucus, a faculty group. "But have no fear. You belong. This is your home, too."

UNC's Black student and faculty groups presented a list of demands to the institution at a news conference Wednesday. Many centered on eliminating structural barriers Black students face, such as formalizing access to resources that many only learn about through word of mouth. The groups also urged the university to hire Black counselors and support staff in offices that work with students.

"It is hypocritical for this university to claim that Black lives matter, while disregarding the pain they have caused their own Black students and faculty," said Julia Clark, vice president of the Black Student Movement.

Hannah-Jones said Tuesday that she will turn down a faculty position at UNC and instead join Howard University as a tenured professor. Last year, she submitted her tenure application to UNC after being recruited by the dean of the journalism school. But the submission was halted earlier this year by a trustee who vets the lifetime appointments because he had questions about her nonacademic background, university leaders have said. Major donor Walter Hussman Jr., for whom the journalism school is named, had also sent emails to university leaders raising questions about her Pulitzer-winning work on The 1619 Project.

That work examines the legacy of slavery in the U.S. and has drawn backlash from conservative critics. Hannah-Jones was initially offered a contract position, despite her predecessors receiving tenure with their appointments. After weeks of mounting pressure, including protests led by the Black Student Movement, the school's trustees voted last week to offer her tenure.

In a statement Wednesday, Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz said that he has reviewed the list of changes sought by the Black Student Movement and is asking the university's leadership team to develop a plan to address those and other concerns.

"I am grateful for the continued advocacy of the Black Student Movement, the Carolina Black Caucus and the Black Graduate and Professional Student Association. Their voices have been vital throughout the history of Carolina," he said.

But Black faculty and students say promises without action will not be enough. The Carolina Black Caucus has previously said that a growing number of its members are thinking about leaving the university after recent events.

The delay in the vote on offering tenure to Hannah-Jones, along with the perception that the university allowed political interests to override the faculty vote that largely supported granting her tenure, has resonated far beyond Chapel Hill.

William "Brit" Kirwan, chancellor emeritus of the University System of Maryland and a consultant for the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, said the perception that Hannah-Jones' tenure vote was delayed by outside political forces touched the "third-rail of serious academic institutions."

The events will likely impede UNC's ability to recruit and retain top researchers, who may conclude that academic freedom at the school — especially to research topics like systemic racism — could be jeopardized by outside influence, said Irene Mulvey, president of the American Association of University Professors.

"I think it's going to be a very long and difficult process to recover, if they can even recover from this. This is a black eye on the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill," she said. "And it's not only on campus; it's nationwide. Certainly all of academia has watched this unfold with horror."

Institutes of higher education have long struggled to retain faculty of color, who often face systemic barriers in academia. Mulvey said faculty of color often face greater demands on their time, such as constantly being asked to serve on diversity and inclusion committees, and risk being viewed as "uncooperative" relative to white peers if they decline.

Asked on Tuesday whether she felt her decision to reject the tenure offer would hurt UNC's ability to recruit and retain Black students and faculty, Hannah-Jones said the fault would lie with the board of trustees, if that were the case.

"I didn't create this situation," she said. "So if they're that concerned, they'll do something different."

She added: "The issues on that campus, we know, go back further than my decision. I'm not to blame

for that.”

EXPLAINER: Assassination threatens more chaos for Haiti

The Associated Press undefined

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — The assassination of President Jovenel Moïse seemed to have thrown an already turbulent nation into chaos on Wednesday, with a muddled line of succession. Here is a look at the situation:

WHO WAS THE ASSASSINATED PRESIDENT?

Jovenel Moïse was a 48-year-old businessman and political neophyte when he was sworn in as president of Haiti on Feb. 7, 2017. The former banana producer inherited a nation in turmoil — one that had gone a year without an elected leader in place. He leaves it in chaos as well.

Taking office, he pledged to strengthen institutions, fight corruption and bring more investment and jobs to the hemisphere’s poorest nation. “We can change Haiti if we work together,” Moïse said on the grounds of what used to be the national palace — one of many buildings obliterated by a January 2010 earthquake that killed thousands of Haitians.

But togetherness never arrived, and his administration was plagued by massive protests from the start. Even his initial election in 2015 was annulled, forcing a re-do that he also won. Critics accused him of growing increasingly authoritarian. He had been ruling by decree for more than a year after dissolving a majority of Parliament in January 2020 amid a delay in legislative elections.

In February, Moïse told the U.N. Security Council that powerful oligarchs had made seven attempts to overthrow him. He also announced that month that about 20 people had been arrested in an assassination plot. But an appeals court later rejected the claim and released the accused plotters, who included a judge and a police inspector general.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION?

Details so far are slim. Interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph said highly trained gunmen, some speaking Spanish or English, killed the president at his home. The first lady also was shot and wounded. He said police and the armed forces were controlling security. A resident who lives near the president’s home compared the sound of the shooting to an earthquake.

Bocchit Edmond, the Haitian ambassador to the U.S., described the attackers as “well trained professional commandos” and “foreign mercenaries” who were masquerading as U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents. He did not comment on possible suspects or motives and said Haiti has asked the U.S. government for assistance in the investigation.

Hours after the killing, authorities announced that police had killed four suspects and arrested two others. Officials, however, gave no details on their identities or possible motive.

WHAT IS THE SITUATION IN HAITI?

The country has struggled with political instability — along with dire poverty and crime — since the end of the brutal dictatorships of Francois and Jean-Claude Duvalier from 1957 to 1986.

Criminal gangs this year have driven thousands of people from their homes, protesters demanding Moïse’s ouster in 2019 shut down much of the economy and the country has yet to begin vaccinating its 11 million people against the new coronavirus, which is surging.

Bruno Maes, Haiti’s representative for the U.N.’s children agency, last month compared the gang situation to guerrilla warfare, “with thousands of children and women caught in the crossfire.” Pierre Espérance, executive director of the Haitian National Human Rights Defense Network, said gangs control about 60% of the country’s territory.

Police and the military, too, have been troubled, often targeted by gangs. Masked officers who said they belonged to a disgruntled faction stormed several police stations in March to free comrades who’d been accused of participating in a coup attempt. The army was re-inaugurated only in 2017. It had been

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 32 of 57

disbanded in 1995 after the fall of a dictatorship.

Political strife has deepened since Feb. 7, when opposition leaders claim Moïse's legal term had expired — five years after he would have taken office if the initial vote had been allowed. Moïse argued it ends in February 2022 since he wasn't sworn in until 2017.

The government has been without a formal prime minister since April, when Joseph Jouthe resigned amid a spike in killings and kidnappings. His replacement has not yet been approved by the parliament.

With Moïse ruling by decree, the government has scheduled new elections for September and a possible runoff in November. The government also has pushed a referendum on a new constitution that critics allege might allow the president to extend his power. But that vote has also been delayed.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Authorities have closed the international airport and declared a state of siege.

Under the Haitian Constitution, the president of the Supreme Court would temporarily take over. But he recently died of COVID-19. The National Assembly would then select a new leader. But that's not possible because there's effectively no current legislature: The terms of the lower house members have all expired as well as two-thirds of those in the Senate.

That leaves the acting prime minister, Joseph, in charge along with his fellow government ministers, according to Haitian attorney Salim Succar, once chief of staff to former Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe.

But Joseph had only an interim role. Moïse was killed a day after he nominated Ariel Henry, a neurosurgeon, as Haiti's new prime minister. He had not been confirmed, however. The uncertainty could create more volatility ahead of general elections later this year.

Euro 2020 final: England can finally end 55 years of misery

By ROB HARRIS AP Global Soccer Writer

LONDON (AP) — All the years of hurt, England fans sing about it. All that sense of entitlement, rival fans are irritated by it.

After decades of embarrassment and moaning at tournaments, the English have a chance to finally back up the bravado — just listen to the team anthem, "Football's Coming Home" — with a trophy.

The nation that lays claim to being the inventor of soccer, but is more fittingly one of the sport's great underachievers, is back in a final — against Italy in the European Championships.

The teams will meet Sunday night at Wembley Stadium in London where England will be going for its first major title since winning the 1966 World Cup on their home field. The Italians are unbeaten in 33 games.

It's been 55 agonizing years for England through 26 World Cups and European Championship tournaments, seven of which they didn't even qualify for.

Even less illustrious national teams like Denmark and Greece have won trophies since then. But England became all about falling short on a world stage it felt it should dominate.

Beating Denmark on Wednesday broke through the semifinal obstacle at least in the Euros, prevailing 2-1 in extra time and avoiding the penalty shootouts that have proved to be the team's nemesis through all those near-misses.

"What a brilliant moment for us," England coach Gareth Southgate said on the field with fans still singing into the night at Wembley. Let's savor this."

No way were the England players missing out on the chance to lap up the acclaim of a crowd waiting for this healing moment, not only to reach a final again but to gather in such big numbers again as the pandemic-restricted capacity swelled to 66,000.

"It's too late," Southgate quipped discussing any attempt to curtail the exuberance. "We all let ourselves down on the pitch."

The celebrations were a reflection of the bond the coach has forged between the national team and an English public that seemed disillusioned with the hubris and dreary performances before Southgate's overhaul began in 2016.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 33 of 57

Leading England to a final is proving cathartic for the coach who as a player missed the decisive penalty in the Euro '96 semifinal penalty shootout against Germany. It was that tournament that saw the introduction of the England "Three Lions" song talking of "30 years of hurt."

It's never easy for England. Even when the path to the Euro 2020 semifinals seemed smooth — even the 2-0 win over archrival Germany — Southgate was prepared for difficulties against Denmark, especially after losing the 2018 World Cup semifinal to Croatia and being beaten in the 2019 Nations League last four by the Netherlands.

"I knew it might be a tortuous path," Southgate said. "In the end it's a wonderful evening for our fans, for our public and for our country."

Southgate sees his role as more delivering for a nation, assuming leadership status beyond sport when he talked about unity during the divisive Brexit debate and now encourages the players to use their platforms to promote social causes and campaign against racism.

Southgate is more than just an orator, though. Only 1966 World Cup winner Alf Ramsey has been a more successful coach of England. The expensive imports at the start of the century — Sven-Göran Eriksson and Fabio Capello — could get no further than quarterfinals. Instead, a manager whose only club job ended in 2009 with relegation from the Premier League with Middlesbrough has led England to a final.

For all his popular support — "Southgate you're the one," fans sing — he resists pandering to fans' demands of selecting players. National hero Marcus Rashford, the Manchester United striker who has won acclaim for challenging the government, didn't even come off the bench for the biggest game of his career.

He ignored calls to drop Raheem Sterling at the start of Euro 2020 and has been rewarded with three goals from the winger who also forced the own-goal that tied the game 1-all against Denmark.

Southgate stayed calm as England held on, only making only substitution when five were available to him in the 90 minutes before extra time.

"The opposition were constantly changing tactics," Southgate said. "Sometimes it is bolder to do nothing ... the risk is you don't do anything, it goes against you but we were causing problems."

Problems in a way that England has not done for decades.

"It's one of the proudest moments in my life," said captain Harry Kane, who netted the winner from a rebound after his penalty was saved. "But we haven't won it yet, we've got one more to go."

Crews give up hope of finding survivors at collapse site

By TERRY SPENCER and ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

SURFSIDE, Fla. (AP) — Emergency workers gave up Wednesday on any hope of finding survivors in the collapsed Florida condo building, telling sobbing families that there was "no chance of life" in the rubble as crews shifted their efforts to recovering more remains.

The announcement followed increasingly somber reports from emergency officials, who said they sought to prepare families for the worst.

"At this point, we have truly exhausted every option available to us in the search-and-rescue mission," Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said at a news conference.

"We have all asked God for a miracle, so the decision to transition from rescue to recovery is an extremely difficult one," she said.

Eight more bodies were recovered Wednesday, bringing the death toll to 54, the mayor said. Thirty-three of the dead have been identified, and 86 people are still unaccounted for.

Miami-Dade Assistant Fire Chief Raide Jadallah told families at a private briefing that crews would stop using rescue dogs and listening devices but would continue to search for their loved ones.

"Our sole responsibility at this point is to bring closure," he said as relatives cried in the background.

Unlike some collapses that create W-shaped spaces where people can survive, a "pancake collapse" like the one in Surfside tends not to leave livable spaces, Jadallah said.

"Where a pancake collapses, unfortunately it is a floor or a wall on top of a floor on top of a floor on top of a floor," he said. "Typically, an individual has a specific amount of time in regards to lack of food,

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 34 of 57

water and air. This collapse just doesn't provide any of that sort."

Miami-Dade Fire Chief Alan Cominsky said he expected the recovery operation to take several more weeks.

The formal transition was to take place at midnight. Hours before the official change of mission, rescue workers, their helmets held to their hearts and their boots covered in dust, joined local officials, rabbis and chaplains in a moment of silence. The rabbis and chaplains walked down a line of officials, many of them sobbing, and hugged them one by one.

A Miami-Dade fire helicopter flew over the site. As the ceremony neared its end, an accordion player unseen on a nearby tennis court played Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man," which was followed by a piccolo playing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Firefighters from Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, the federal government and elsewhere were also present.

On a tall nearby fence, families and well-wishers had posted photos of the victims, supportive messages and flowers. Firefighters hung a banner atop the fence that read "Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Mourns With You."

Hope of finding survivors was briefly rekindled after workers demolished the remainder of the building on Sunday, allowing rescuers access to new areas of debris they hoped would contain "voids," or open pockets with enough room for a person.

Some of those voids did exist, mostly in the basement and the parking garage, but no survivors emerged. Instead, teams recovered more than a dozen additional victims. Because the building fell in the early morning hours, many residents were found dead in their beds.

No one has been pulled out alive since the first hours after the 12-story Champlain Towers South building fell on June 24.

Twice during the search, rescuers had to suspend the mission because of the instability of the remaining structure and the preparation for demolition.

After initially hoping for miraculous rescues, families slowly braced themselves for the news that their relatives did not survive.

"For some, what they're telling us, it's almost a sense of relief when they already know (that someone has died), and they can just start to put an end to that chapter and start to move on," said Miami-Dade firefighter and paramedic Maggie Castro, who has updated families daily.

Authorities launched a grand jury investigation into the collapse, and at least six lawsuits have been filed by Champlain Towers families.

The president of the neighboring Champlain Towers North condo association said engineers hired by the city arrived Tuesday to conduct three days of tests at the building, which has a similar design and was built around the same time as Champlain Towers South.

"They are checking from one end of the building to the other, and everything is fine," Naum Lusky told The Associated Press.

Since the south building collapsed, he has insisted his tower is safe because his association kept up the maintenance and did not allow problems to fester.

South Africa's ex-leader turns himself in for prison term

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME Associated Press

NKANDLA, South Africa (AP) — Former South African president Jacob Zuma turned himself over to police early Thursday to begin serving a 15-month prison term.

Just minutes before the midnight deadline for police to arrest him, Zuma left his Nkandla home in a convoy of vehicles. Zuma handed himself over to authorities to obey the country's highest court, the Constitutional Court, that he should serve a prison term for contempt.

"President Zuma has decided to comply with the incarceration order. He is on his way to hand himself into a Correctional Services Facility in KZN (KwaZulu-Natal province)," said a tweet posted by the Zuma Foundation.

Soon after South Africa's police confirmed that Zuma was in their custody.

Zuma's imprisonment comes after a week of rising tensions over his sentence.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 35 of 57

Zuma, 79, was ordered to prison for contempt because he defied a court order for him to testify before a judicial commission investigating widespread allegations of corruption during his time as the country's president, from 2009 to 2018.

The Constitutional Court ordered that if Zuma did not voluntarily hand himself over to the police then the police should arrest the country's former president by the end of the day Wednesday.

In a last-minute plea to avoid going to prison, Zuma's lawyers had written to the acting chief justice requesting that his arrest be suspended until Friday, when a regional court is to rule on his application to postpone the arrest.

Zuma's lawyers asked the acting chief justice to issue directives stopping the police from arresting him, claiming there would be a "prejudice to his life."

Zuma had also launched two court proceedings to avoid arrest after his sentence last week.

He applied to the Constitutional Court to rescind his sentence and that application will be heard on July 12.

On Tuesday, his lawyers were in the Pietermaritzburg High Court seeking to stop the minister of police from arresting him until the Constitutional Court rules on his application. The regional court will rule on that application on Friday.

Political tensions have risen in KwaZulu-Natal province as a result of Zuma's conviction, sentence and pending arrest. Hundreds of his supporters gathered at his home over the weekend and vowed to prevent his arrest, but they left on Sunday.

The judicial inquiry into corruption during his term as president has heard damning testimony from former Cabinet ministers and top executives of state-owned corporations that Zuma allowed his associates, members of the Gupta family, to influence his Cabinet appointments and lucrative contracts. Zuma refused to comply with a court order to appear before the commission, which brought the Constitutional Court to convict him of contempt and sentence him to prison.

In a separate matter, Zuma is standing trial on charges of corruption related to a 1999 arms deal, where he allegedly received bribes from French arms manufacturer Thales. His financial adviser has already been convicted and imprisoned in that case.

Zuma has had other legal woes. In 2005, he was charged with rape but was acquitted in 2006 after the court found the sexual intercourse was consensual.

Zuma bounced back from that to become president in 2009. But by 2018 mounting evidence of rampant corruption in his administration brought his party, the ruling African National Congress, to force him from office.

Although tarnished by scandal now, Zuma had built up a reputation as a staunch opponent of apartheid, South Africa's previous regime of harsh white minority rule. He was jailed for 10 years at the Robben Island prison where political prisoners including Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu were held.

When he was released in 1973, Zuma left the country to continue his work in the African National Congress, traveling through countries like Swaziland, Zambia and Mozambique.

By the time South Africa legalized the ANC in 1990, Zuma was a high-ranking official in the party and was part of negotiating the political settlement that led to the country's first democratic elections in 1994.

Zuma's reputation in the new South Africa was further enhanced when he was deployed to his home province of KwaZulu-Natal where he helped to resolve political violence that was threatening to derail the country's progress toward a democratic and non-racial society.

Zuma's political reputation will be marred by the corruption scandals surrounding him, said Lesiba Teffo, lecturer in politics at the University of South Africa.

"It is very disappointing to see a man who has done so much for the country, a liberation hero, now reduced to zero," said Teffo. "This is a man who fought hard for the liberation of this country, but like many African leaders in our continent, he fell at the altar of money."

Study: Northwest heat wave impossible without climate change

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

The deadly heat wave that roasted the Pacific Northwest and western Canada was virtually impossible

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 36 of 57

without human-caused climate change that added a few extra degrees to the record-smashing temperatures, a new quick scientific analysis found.

An international team of 27 scientists calculated that climate change increased chances of the extreme heat occurring by at least 150 times, but likely much more.

The study, not yet peer reviewed, said that before the industrial era, the region's late June triple-digit heat was the type that would not have happened in human civilization. And even in today's warming world, it said, the heat was a once-in-a-millennium event.

But that once-in-a-millennium event would likely occur every five to 10 years once the world warms another 1.4 degrees (0.8 degrees Celsius), said Wednesday's study from World Weather Attribution. That much warming could be 40 or 50 years away if carbon pollution continues at its current pace, one study author said.

This type of extreme heat "would go from essentially virtually impossible to relatively commonplace," said study co-author Gabriel Vecchi, a Princeton University climate scientist. "That is a huge change."

The study also found that in the Pacific Northwest and Canada climate change was responsible for about 3.6 degrees (2 degrees Celsius) of the heat shock. Those few degrees make a big difference in human health, said study co-author Kristie Ebi, a professor at the Center for Health and the Global Environment at the University of Washington.

"This study is telling us climate change is killing people," said Ebi, who endured the blistering heat in Seattle. She said it will be many months before a death toll can be calculated from June's blast of heat but it's likely to be hundreds or thousands. "Heat is the No. 1 weather-related killer of Americans."

In Oregon alone, the state medical examiner on Wednesday reported 116 deaths related to the heat wave.

The team of scientists used a well-established and credible method to search for climate change's role in extreme weather, according to the National Academy of Sciences. They logged observations of what happened and fed them into 21 computer models and ran numerous simulations. They then simulated a world without greenhouse gases from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas. The difference between the two scenarios is the climate change portion.

"Without climate change this event would not have happened," said study senior author Friederike Otto, a climate scientist at the University of Oxford.

What made the Northwest heat wave so remarkable is how much hotter it was than old records and what climate models had predicted. Scientists say this hints that some kind of larger climate shift could be in play — and in places that they didn't expect.

"Everybody is really worried about the implications of this event," said study co-author Geert Jan van Oldenborgh, a Dutch climate scientist. "This is something that nobody saw coming, that nobody thought possible. And we feel that we do not understand heat waves as well as we thought we did. The big question for many people is: Could this also happen in a lot of places?"

The World Weather Attribution team does these quick analyses, which later get published in peer-reviewed journals. In the past, they have found similar large climate change effects in many heat waves, including ones in Europe and Siberia. But sometimes the team finds climate change wasn't a factor, as they did in a Brazilian drought and a heat wave in India.

Six outside scientists said the quick study made sense and probably underestimated the extent of climate change's role in the heat wave.

That's because climate models used in the simulations usually underestimate how climate change alters the jet stream that parks "heat domes" over regions and causes some heat waves, said Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann.

The models also underestimate how dry soil worsens heat because there is less water to evaporate, which feeds a vicious cycle of drought, said Daniel Swain, a climate scientist at UCLA and the Nature Conservancy.

The study hit home for University of Victoria climate scientist Andrew Weaver, who wasn't part of the research team.

"Victoria, which is known for its mild climate, felt more like Death Valley last week," Weaver said. "I've

been in a lot of hot places in the world, and this was the worst I've ever been in.

"But you ain't seen nothing yet," he added. "It's going to get a lot worse."

Adams' win in NYC latest in surge for moderate Democrats

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and KAREN MATTHEWS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The triumph of a moderate Democrat in the mayoral primary in deep blue New York City appears to accelerate a recent trend of some of the party's most fervent voters breaking away from its most progressive candidates.

Eric Adams, a former New York Police Department captain, this week became his party's nominee to lead the nation's largest city after making a centerpiece of his campaign his rejection of left-leaning activists' calls to defund the police.

His win comes on the heels of victories by self-styled pragmatic candidates in relatively low-turnout elections — which tend to draw the most loyal base voters — in races for a U.S. House seat in New Mexico, a congressional primary in Louisiana and a gubernatorial primary in Virginia.

And those successes come a year after President Joe Biden defeated more liberal opponents to capture his party's nomination on his way to winning the White House.

It all raises questions as to the best candidates and approaches for Democrats trying to hold on to slim majorities in Congress next year and make inroads in Republican-dominated state legislatures.

"Because there was such an intensity of a reaction on the left to (former President Donald) Trump, many in the political ecosystem mistook that for ideological intensity on the left," said Jennifer Palmieri, who served as White House communications director for President Barack Obama. "The same ideological shift on the right — Republicans moving with Trump — did not happen on the left and voters are instead being more pragmatic and less ideological."

The long-simmering family feud between the progressive and moderate wings of the Democratic Party exploded into full view in the 2016's presidential primaries when Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, a self-described democratic socialist, waged a surprisingly robust challenge against establishment favorite Hillary Clinton. Sanders' movement drew bigger crowds and seemingly more energy, if not ultimately more votes, than Clinton and helped define an intraparty divide.

In its aftermath, liberals scored some big victories, none more seismic than Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's 2018 primary defeat in New York of Rep. Joe Crowley, a member of the House leadership. But five months later, it was largely center-left Democrats whose wins helped flip the House of Representatives to their party in the general election.

The 2020 presidential primaries were largely perceived as a battle between liberals like Sanders and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and a group of moderates from which Biden emerged after early missteps. The battle lines drawn during that campaign continue to shadow the Democratic Party in 2021.

Trump tried vainly to paint Biden as a socialist and tie him to the effort to defund the police that took hold in some quarters of the left after a number of Black people, including George Floyd, were killed by white police officers, setting off protests that rocked some cities. Biden, long a friend of law enforcement, rejected the "defund the police" call even as he pushed for reforms, but the issue became something of a litmus test for Democratic candidates.

Biden and his staff have taken pride in ignoring a lot of the dialogue on Twitter, often fueled by the most inflexible partisans from both parties, a sentiment Adams echoed on Wednesday, the day after his victory was announced.

"We have reached a point where we're allowing the dialogue to get in the way of moving us in the right direction," Adams said on CNN, "and I'm hoping that what happened here in New York City, people are going to see a cross section of everyday, working class New Yorkers came together."

Typically, off-year special elections and primaries feature small turnouts and, often, that is advantageous for a candidate who fires up the most dedicated — and often extreme — wings of the party. But that has not been the case in 2021.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 38 of 57

Terry McAuliffe, a moderate Democrat and Clinton ally, won the Virginia gubernatorial primary last month. More moderate Democrats — and even some Republicans in Louisiana's open primary — backed centrist candidate Troy Carter as he defeated fellow State Sen. Karen Carter Peterson, a more liberal pick. And Democratic state Rep. Melanie Stansbury easily won a special House election in New Mexico for Interior Secretary Deb Haaland's old seat.

But while moderate Democrats have racked up recent victories, some triumphant candidates are not so ideologically clear cut .

Adams' win is the most high-profile notch on the pragmatists' ledger. On a number of issues he positioned himself to the right of his rival Democrats, but while he offered a full-throated rejection of defunding the police, his own backstory is more nuanced.

When combined with New York City voters' tendency to elect mayors with an emphasis on local issues and not ideological purity, it makes drawing national conclusions complicated.

Though known as one of the most liberal cities in the nation, New Yorkers voted for non-Democrats in five straight mayoral elections from 1993-2009, choosing Rudy Giuliani twice and Michael Bloomberg three times. They cast their ballots with eyes toward crime, education and efforts to rebuild after the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

A rise in shootings as the city emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic helped animate the stretch run of Adams' campaign as he edged out fellow moderate Kathryn Garcia and liberal Maya Wiley. But his lifetime of speaking out against police misconduct and his blunt, working-class style make it difficult to pigeonhole him.

Adams, 60, made a strong connection with voters in the city's boroughs outside Manhattan, and he spoke frequently on the campaign trail of being beaten by police officers as a teenager and joining the force to reform it from within. He was a founder of a group called 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care that fought against racial profiling and advocated for the hiring of more officers of color.

When Adams spoke to his supporters on primary night, "he said unequivocally 'Black lives matter,'" noted Christina Greer, a Fordham University political science professor.

"So obviously that's going to touch a certain segment of the New York population. He then quickly pivots to, 'but it can't just be cops and Black people, we have to address Black on Black crime,'" Greer said. "Well, that's a message that conservative whites, conservative Blacks, of which there are many, and other groups also agree with as well."

Some Democrats dismiss the notion that the primary results, particularly in New York, signal a move away from progressivism and toward the center in the party's politics. Wiley, a lawyer and activist, pointed to primary wins by progressives for such offices as city comptroller and Manhattan district attorney, and to a strong showing by women in City Council primaries.

"That's what is moving forward in this city," Wiley said, "and anyone who claims otherwise is simply spinning a narrative, rather than focus on pulling us all together to say what solves our most pressing problems."

National Spelling Bee win could be footnote to hoops career

By BEN NUCKOLS Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — The biographical blurbs about competitors in the Scripps National Spelling Bee include a litany of other interests, from sports to musical instruments to science competitions to Indian classical dance.

Scripps' motivation for sharing those hobbies and passions is clear: It sends the message that the spellers are normal kids, not robotic middle-schoolers with a monomaniacal devotion to memorizing the dictionary.

But even among the more well-rounded spellers who will compete Thursday in the ESPN-televised national finals, Zaila Avant-garde stands out.

The 14-year-old from Harvey, Louisiana, has earned more recognition for her athletic prowess than her achievements in spelling. She is a basketball prodigy who has appeared in a commercial with Stephen Curry and owns three Guinness world records for dribbling multiple balls simultaneously.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 39 of 57

She has more than 12,000 Instagram followers — where videos of her dazzling skills have won praise from musician Michael Franti, among others — and she hopes to attend Harvard, play in the WNBA and possibly coach one day in the NBA, if she doesn't go to work for NASA.

Competitive spelling came relatively late in life, starting at age 12.

"Basketball, I'm not just playing it. I'm really trying to go somewhere with it. Basketball is what I do," Zaila said. "Spelling is really a side thing I do. It's like a little hors d'oeuvre. But basketball's like the main dish."

Don't be mistaken: Zaila brings the same competitive fire to spelling that she shows on court. She won last year's Kaplan-Hexco Online Spelling Bee — one of several bees that emerged during the pandemic after Scripps canceled last year — and used the \$10,000 first prize to pay for study materials and \$130-an-hour sessions with a private tutor, 2015 Scripps runner-up Cole Shafer-Ray.

The time commitment required to master roots, language patterns and definitions is what keeps many top spellers from seriously pursuing sports or other activities. But Zaila, who is home-schooled, claims to have it figured out.

"For spelling, I usually try to do about 13,000 words (per day), and that usually takes about seven hours or so," she said. "We don't let it go way too overboard, of course. I've got school and basketball to do."

Seven hours a day isn't going overboard?

"I have my suspicions. I don't know. I have some suspicions that maybe it's a bit less than what some spellers do," she said.

Whether all that preparation leads to a trophy and \$50,000 in cash and prizes will be determined Thursday night when Zaila faces 10 other spellers for the only in-person portion of this year's pandemic-altered bee. Normally staged at a convention center outside Washington, the bee was moved to an ESPN campus in Florida, with attendance strictly limited and masking and distancing protocols in place.

"This is an entirely different experience. The structure of the bee is different, the location is different, so I'm really excited to see what this bee has in store," said 14-year-old Ashrita Gandhari of Ashburn, Virginia, competing for the fourth time.

Zaila — whose father changed her last name to Avant-garde in honor of jazz musician John Coltrane — would chart a new career path for spellers if her hoop dreams come true. She could also make spelling history of a different sort, by becoming the first Black American champion. The only previous Black winner of the bee was also the only international winner: Jody-Anne Maxwell of Jamaica in 1998.

Zaila said she hopes to inspire other African-Americans who might not understand the appeal of spelling or can't afford to pursue it.

"Maybe they don't have the money to pay \$600 for a spelling program, they don't have access to that," Zaila said. "With tutors and stuff, they charge, like, murder rates."

The bee has been rightly celebrated as a showcase for students of color — a speller of South Asian descent has been the champion or co-champion of every bee since 2008 — but Zaila is not the first speller to point out issues with economic diversity.

Indian-Americans are the wealthiest U.S. ethnic group, according to Census data, and Indian professionals who immigrate to the U.S. have access to a network of bees and other academic competitions targeting their community.

J. Michael Durnil, the bee's new executive director, said he hopes to make more resources available to spellers who can't access elite-level training.

"It's really important to me that a student anywhere in the country or a parent or a sponsor watches the bee on (Thursday) and says, 'I see myself there, I want to be there and there is a clear pathway to try to get there,'" Durnil said.

Trump files suit against Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

By JILL COLVIN and MATT O'BRIEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Donald Trump has filed suit against three of the country's biggest tech companies, claiming he and other conservatives have been wrongfully censored. But legal experts

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 40 of 57

say the suits are likely doomed to fail, given existing precedent and legal protections.

Trump announced the action against Facebook, Twitter and Google's YouTube, along with the companies' Mark Zuckerberg, Jack Dorsey and Sundar Pichai, at a press conference Wednesday in New Jersey, where he demanded that his accounts be reinstated.

Trump has been suspended from the platforms since January, when his followers violently stormed the Capitol building, trying to block Congress from certifying Joe Biden's presidential win. The companies cited concerns that Trump would incite further violence and have kept him locked out. All three declined comment Wednesday.

"We're asking the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida to order an immediate halt to social media companies' illegal, shameful censorship of the American people," Trump said of the filings. "We're going to hold big tech very accountable."

Twitter, Facebook and Google are all private companies, and users must agree to their terms of service to use their products. Under Section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act, social media platforms are allowed to moderate their services by removing posts that, for instance, are obscene or violate the services' own standards, so long as they are acting in "good faith." The law also generally exempts internet companies from liability for the material that users post.

But Trump and some other politicians have long argued that Twitter, Facebook and other social media platforms have abused that protection and should lose their immunity — or at least have it curtailed.

While conservatives often claim the sites are biased against them, several recent studies have found that isn't the case. Indeed, posts by conservative commentators like Ben Shapiro, Franklin Graham, Dan Bongino and Dinesh D'Souza are routinely among the most widely shared on Facebook.

The suit against Facebook and CEO Zuckerberg says Facebook acted unconstitutionally when it removed Trump from the platform. Suits against Twitter and YouTube make similar claims. All three ask the court to award unspecified damages, declare Section 230 unconstitutional and restore Trump's accounts, along with those of several other plaintiffs who joined the suits and have also had posts or accounts removed.

Trump's lawsuits, however, are likely doomed to fail, said Eric Goldman, a law professor at Santa Clara University in California who has studied more than 60 similar, failed lawsuits that sought to take on internet companies for terminating or suspending users' accounts.

"They've argued everything under the sun, including First Amendment, and they get nowhere," Goldman said. "Maybe he's got a trick up his sleeve that will give him a leg up on the dozens of lawsuits before him. I doubt it."

"Trump's suit is DOA," echoed Paul Barrett, the deputy director of the Center for Business and Human Rights at New York University's Stern School of Business.

Barrett said Trump was fundamentally misunderstanding the Constitution. "The First Amendment applies to government censorship or speech regulation. It does not stop private sector corporations from regulating content on their platforms," he said by email. "In fact, Facebook and Twitter themselves have a First Amendment free speech right to determine what speech their platforms project and amplify -- and that right includes excluding speakers who incite violence, as Trump did in connection with the January 6 Capitol insurrection."

Goldman said he suspected Trump's legal team knows it is not going to win in court, and suggested Trump was pursuing the suits to garner attention.

Indeed, Trump's political action committee was already raising money off the announcement by early Wednesday afternoon.

As president, Trump last year signed an executive order challenging Section 230 that was seen as largely symbolic.

"It was always about sending a message to their base that they're fighting on their behalf against the evil Silicon Valley tech giants," Goldman said.

Trump's move comes a week after a federal judge blocked a new Florida law signed by a Trump ally, Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, that sought to punish large social media companies like Facebook and

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 41 of 57

Twitter for removing content or banning politicians. The law would have allowed the state to fine the companies \$250,000 a day for removing the accounts of statewide political candidates and \$25,000 a day for removing the accounts of those running for local office. But U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle on June 30 granted a preliminary injunction stopping the new law from being enforced.

The judge said that tech industry groups challenging the law were likely to prevail on their claim that it violated the First Amendment if the case went to trial.

Matt Schruers, the president of the Computer & Communications Industry Association, a tech industry trade group that includes Facebook, Twitter and Google, said internet companies have a right to enforce their terms of service.

"Frivolous class action litigation will not change the fact that users — even U.S. Presidents — have to abide by the rules they agreed to," he said in a statement.

Since departing the White House, Trump has continued to repeat lies about the 2020 election, baselessly claiming that he won, even though state and local election officials, his own attorney general and numerous judges, including some he appointed, have said there is no evidence of the mass voter fraud he alleges.

___ O'Brien reported from Providence, Rhode Island. Associated Press writer Mae Anderson contributed to this report from Nashville.

As New York salutes health workers, Missouri fights a surge

By HEATHER HOLLINSWORTH and DEEPTI HAJELA Associated Press

New York held a ticker-tape parade Wednesday for the health care workers and others who helped the city pull through the darkest days of COVID-19, while authorities in Missouri struggled to beat back a surge blamed on the fast-spreading delta variant and deep resistance to getting vaccinated.

The split-screen images could be a glimpse of what public health experts say may lie ahead for the U.S. even as life gets back to something close to normal: outbreaks in corners of the country with low vaccination rates.

"We've got a lot to appreciate, because we're well underway in our recovery," declared New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, who rode on a parade float with hospital employees down the Canyon of Heroes, the skyscraper-lined stretch of Broadway where astronauts, returning soldiers and championship teams are feted.

In Missouri, meanwhile, the Springfield area has been hit so hard that one hospital had to borrow ventilators over the Fourth of July weekend and begged on social media for help from respiratory therapists, several of whom volunteered from other states. Members of a new federal "surge response team" also began arriving to help suppress the outbreak.

Missouri not only leads the nation in new cases relative to the population, it is also averaging 1,000 cases per day — about the same number as the entire Northeast, including the big cities in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.

California, with 40 million people, is posting only slightly higher case numbers than Missouri, which has a population of 6 million.

Northeastern states have seen cases, deaths and hospitalizations plummet to almost nothing amid widespread acceptance of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Vermont has gone 26 days with new case numbers in single digits. In Maryland, the governor's office said every death recorded in June was in an unvaccinated person. New York City, which was the lethal epicenter of the U.S. outbreak in the spring of 2020, when the number of dead peaked at over 800 a day, regularly goes entire days with no reported deaths.

The problem in Missouri, as health experts see it: Just 45% of the state's residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine, compared with 55% of the U.S. population. Some rural counties near Springfield have vaccination rates in the teens and 20s.

At the same time, the delta variant is fast becoming the predominant version of the virus in Missouri.

Epidemiologists say the country should expect more COVID-19 outbreaks in areas with low vaccination rates over the next several months.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 42 of 57

"I'm afraid that that is very predictable," said Dr. Chris Beyrer, an infectious disease epidemiologist at the Johns Hopkins University. "If politician seize on this and say, 'Who could have predicted this?,' the answer is every licensed epidemiologist in the country."

Republican Gov. Mike Parson said Wednesday that his administration has done "everything possible" to fend off outbreaks.

"Right now, the vaccine's out there," he said. "I mean, people walk past it every day, whether they're in a pharmacy, whether they're in a Walmart, whether they're in a health center."

Mercy Hospital Springfield reported Tuesday that it had more than 120 patients hospitalized with COVID-19 — the highest total since the pandemic began. Seventeen people died in the latest two-week reporting period in the county that surrounds Springfield, the most since January. None were vaccinated, authorities said.

Erik Frederick, Mercy's chief administrative officer, said staff members are frustrated knowing that "this is preventable this time" because of the vaccine.

"We try to convince people, but it is almost like you are talking a different language," he lamented. "There is no way they are going to get a vaccine. Their personal freedom is more important."

The Mercy system announced Wednesday it is requiring vaccinations among staff at the hospital in Springfield, as well as at its hundreds of other hospitals and clinics in Missouri and neighboring states. It said about 75% of its more than 40,000 employees are vaccinated.

Missouri also never had a statewide mask mandate. The sentiment against government intervention is so strong that Brian Steele, mayor of the Springfield suburb of Nixa, is facing a recall vote after imposing a mask rule, even though it has long since expired.

At Springfield's other hospital, Cox South, several patients are in their 20s and 30s, said Ashley Kimberling Casad, vice president of clinical services. She said she had been hopeful when she eyed the COVID-19 numbers in May as she prepared to return from maternity leave.

"I really thought when I came back from maternity leave that, not that COVID would be gone, but that it would just be so manageable. Then all of a sudden it started spiking," she said, adding that nearly all the virus samples that the hospital is sending for testing are proving to be the delta variant.

Citing the rise in cases, the Springfield school district reinstated its mask requirement for its summer program starting Wednesday.

The contrasting scenes in the U.S. came as the worldwide death toll from COVID-19 closed in on 4 million, by Johns Hopkins University's count. COVID-19 deaths nationwide are down to around 200 per day from a peak of over 3,400 per day in January.

In New York, those honored at the parade included nurses and doctors, emergency crews, bus drivers and train operators, teachers and utility workers. The crowds along the route were thin, in part because many businesses are still operating remotely.

"What a difference a year makes," said parade grand marshal Sandra Lindsay, a nurse who was the first person in the country to get a COVID-19 vaccine shot.

"Fifteen months ago, we were in a much different place, but thanks to the heroic efforts of so many — health care workers, first responders, front-line workers, the people who fed us, the people who put their lives on the line, we can't thank them enough."

Gates Foundation sets 2-year, post-divorce power share trial

By HALELUYA HADERO AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bill Gates and Melinda French Gates will continue to work together as co-chairs of their foundation even after their planned divorce. However, if after two years Gates and French Gates decide they cannot continue in their roles, French Gates will resign her positions as co-chair and trustee, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced Wednesday.

If French Gates resigns, Gates would essentially buy her out of the foundation, one of the world's largest private charitable organizations, and she would receive resources from him to do her own philanthropic

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 43 of 57

work. The resources received would be separate from the foundation's endowment, according to the announcement.

Mark Suzman, the foundation's CEO, said in an interview with The Associated Press that the announcement was made so the former couple could be "transparent about an agreement they've made with each other."

"That is part of the private agreement between the two of them as part of their wider divorce agreement," Suzman said. "They've both assured me, individually and together, and in the way they've been showing up in the work for the last two months, that their full intent and commitment is to be long-term co-chairs trustees of the foundation. And that's exactly what we're planning around."

To reflect that commitment to continue the Gates Foundation - which the Gateses refer to as their "fourth child" - together, Gates and French Gates announced an additional \$15 billion to the foundation's endowment, which had stood at nearly \$50 billion. It's the largest private foundation in the world, granting out \$5 billion annually for programs in global health, education and other areas.

"It makes sense if somebody is going to leave to do their own thing, it would be Melinda," said David Callahan, the founder of the Inside Philanthropy website and author of "The Givers: Wealth, Power, and Philanthropy in a New Gilded Age."

French Gates has raised her profile on women's and girls issues in recent years. In 2019, she committed \$1 billion toward advancing gender equality in the U.S., citing the low rates of women in leadership positions. She was also one of the speakers at last week's U.N. Women's Generational Equality Forum, where the Gates Foundation made a \$2.1 billion, five-year pledge to advance gender equality.

"You could easily imagine her going off and starting a new philanthropic enterprise that's focused on gender equity and women's empowerment, that's very different than the Gates Foundation," Callahan said. "But it's hard to imagine Bill Gates starting his own thing outside the Gates Foundation, because much of what he's interested in is what the Gates Foundation does."

Suzman also announced Wednesday that the foundation would expand its board of trustees, though the number of trustees has not been determined. Currently, only Gates and French Gates are on the board of trustees, after Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett resigned as trustee in June. His departure, Suzman says, signaled to the charitable group that it was time to expand its leadership.

"We thought even if they (Bill and Melinda) do work effectively and continue to work effectively together, that's not going to be optimal governance," Suzman said. "And so, this is the right time to expand the number of trustees and bring in some independent and thoughtful outside voices who can help guide and strengthen the foundation over the long-term."

Suzman and the foundation's chief operating officer and chief legal officer, Connie Collingsworth, will lead the search for new trustees. Bill and Melinda Gates will then approve the selections, with new trustees expected to be announced in January 2022. Gates and French Gates said separately that the changes will sustain the foundation's mission and bring more diverse perspective to its leadership.

The news will likely be welcomed by many philanthropy experts, who have called for diversity in the foundation's leadership, arguing that too much power is concentrated in a few hands. But Suzman says outside calls for change have not influenced their decision to expand the board of trustees.

"This is a decision taken by Bill and Melinda in consultation with Warren after he decided to step down from the board," Suzman said.

Questions about the sustainability of the foundation swirled after Gates and French Gates announced in May that they were divorcing after 27 years of marriage. The declaration stunned many, including Suzman, who heard about the divorce about 24 hours before it was made public.

"It's clearly a surprise when the two people whose name is on the building, and who are my bosses, announce they're getting divorced," he said. "I think it was a surprise to the foundation staff. But I think we've all been adjusting."

The foundation has also faced scrutiny following recent allegations that Bill Gates pursued women who worked for him at Microsoft Corp., the company he co-founded, and at the foundation. Microsoft decided last year that it wasn't appropriate for Gates to sit on its board as they investigated the billionaire's prior

romantic relationship with a female Microsoft employee that was deemed inappropriate. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has said that it is not investigating the allegations in the media made by "an anonymous former employee."

AP: Body cam prompts new look at what killed Black motorist

By JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

The FBI is taking the unusual step of ordering a new look at the autopsy of Black motorist Ronald Greene to consider evidence not provided after his 2019 death, including graphic body camera video of Louisiana state troopers stunning, punching and dragging him after a high-speed chase.

The re-examined autopsy is part of a federal civil rights investigation that has taken on new urgency in the nearly two months since The Associated Press obtained and published the video of Greene's arrest. Federal prosecutors also met with his family last month and made clear they plan to present the case to a grand jury by the summer's end.

"They wanted to emphasize to the family that they're serious this time," said the family's attorney, Lee Merritt. "Their new enthusiasm is based on the public pressure that's come from the release of the videos."

The autopsy could be crucial in determining if anyone is charged in the case. The initial examination of Greene's body two years ago failed to determine whether his most severe injuries were caused by the troopers' violent use of force or a minor crash that followed the police chase.

Several people familiar with the case told the AP that the FBI recently asked Dr. Frank J. Peretti, who conducted the initial autopsy, to take another look that takes into account a raft of evidence the Louisiana State Police refused to provide the first time, including the troopers' body camera footage and even the most basic police reports. His review in the coming days, which will focus on the supporting evidence and not require another exam of Greene's long-buried body, could result in a revised autopsy report.

"No cause of death is carved in stone," Peretti told the AP. "Sometimes additional investigative materials become available years later that you didn't have. The correct thing to do is to review it."

The materials that weren't shared for the initial autopsy are just part of the secrecy that has shrouded Greene's May 2019 death, which state police initially blamed on a crash following a high-speed chase outside Monroe. The ranking officer at the scene of Greene's arrest denied the existence of his own body camera footage for two years, and state police did not open an administrative investigation into the troopers' use of force until 474 days after Greene's death.

The autopsy, conducted at the Arkansas State Crime Lab, listed Greene's cause of death as "cocaine induced agitated delirium complicated by motor vehicle collision, physical struggle, inflicted head injury and restraint." But it notably left unanswered whether the crash or excessive police force caused his most severe injuries, including a fractured breastbone and lacerated aorta.

"There were lacerations of the head inconsistent with motor vehicle collision injury," the 10-page autopsy report says. "These injuries are most consistent with multiple impact sites from a blunt object."

An independent autopsy commissioned by Greene's family days after his death found it was "not possible to determine the cause," citing a "significant lack of information regarding the circumstances."

Capt. Nick Manale, a state police spokesman, said in a statement that the agency has offered "full cooperation" to the federal investigation and "provided all necessary documents." He did not answer a question about why some materials were withheld from the initial autopsy.

The FBI declined to comment. The Justice Department said in a statement: "If the investigation reveals prosecutable violations of any federal criminal statutes, the Department will take appropriate action."

The new activity follows mounting criticism that the federal investigation into Greene's death has moved far too slowly.

John Belton, the Union Parish district attorney, referred the case to federal authorities in September 2019, telling colleagues he was aghast at the body camera footage. But more than five months passed before the FBI's satellite office in Monroe even collected the case file, according to law enforcement officials familiar with the matter.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 45 of 57

"We do appreciate that the case is moving forward, but the pace is still a problem for the family," Merritt said. "They're just not acting swiftly enough."

In June 2020, federal authorities subpoenaed an array of training materials from state police ranging from use of force to "the provision of medical care to arrested persons," according to documents obtained by AP.

The federal subpoena also requested training records for Chris Hollingsworth and Dakota DeMoss, the two troopers who first encountered Greene and rushed his SUV following the high-speed chase. Hollingsworth, who later admitted striking Greene in the head with a flashlight, died last year in a single-vehicle crash hours after he learned he would be fired for his role in the Greene case.

The FBI in recent weeks has focused on the question of whether troopers willfully mistreated Greene, seeking to determine, among other things, whether he was pepper-sprayed after being handcuffed. A use-of-force report authored by Hollingsworth includes a reference to the pepper-spray, but it's unclear from the body camera video exactly when the chemical was deployed.

State and federal authorities also are examining whether troopers can be charged for showing deliberate indifference to Greene's medical needs or for failing to intervene in his violent arrest — such as when Master Trooper Kory York dragged the man on his stomach by his ankle shackles.

Troopers also have been criticized for ordering the heavysset, 49-year-old Greene to remain facedown on the ground with his hands and feet restrained for more than nine minutes — a tactic use-of-force experts described as dangerous and likely to have restricted his breathing.

"Don't you turn over! Lay on your belly! Lay on your belly!" York yells before briefly dragging Greene by the chain connecting his ankles.

Building collapse shows town's rich, middle-class division

By TERRY SPENCER and FREIDA FRISARO Associated Press

SURFSIDE, Fla. (AP) — The condo tower collapse in Surfside could exacerbate the division that already exists between the tiny Florida town's new luxury buildings built for the global elite and those constructed decades ago for the middle class. It is already creating headaches for some small businesses.

The town has seen the construction of numerous new condos in recent years, where large oceanfront units exceeding 3,000 square feet (280 square meters) with modern amenities can fetch \$10 million and up. Meanwhile, small units of 800 square feet (75 square meters) in neighboring condo buildings constructed decades ago can be had for \$400,000.

Ana Bozovic, a South Florida real estate broker, said the June 24 collapse of the 40-year-old, middle-class Champlain Towers South will exacerbate this division. At least 46 people were killed and more than 90 remain missing.

Bozovic said many buyers will now avoid older buildings, not just because they fear they might also fall but because of repair costs the Champlain South owners faced before the collapse: \$80,000 to \$300,000 per unit. These factors will decrease older condos' value, while prices in luxury buildings will continue to skyrocket.

"The holders of capital who are moving here were never considering older buildings. They are buying newer structures and preconstruction, so I don't see this putting a damper on their appetites," said Bozovic, founder of Analytics Miami. "What this will do is further depress sales of older structures and further bifurcate the market."

Before the Champlain Towers South tragedy, Surfside, with about 6,000 residents on a half-square mile (1.3 square kilometers) of an island off Miami, was one of South Florida's most anonymous municipalities — though in January Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner rented a luxury condo in a new building two blocks from the collapse.

The town is known for its clean beaches and a 12-story limit on its buildings, and stands in contrast with neighboring Miami Beach and its world-famous nightlife, Bal Harbour with its high-end shopping and both with buildings that are double and triple the height of Surfside's tallest.

Mayor Charles Burkett said the town has experienced a "roller coaster" of emotions since the collapse.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 46 of 57

Demolition of the remaining portion of the structure and Tropical Storm Elsa, which brought strong winds and heavy rains to the area, have intensified what the community is going through.

"We have faced innumerable challenges, but the little good news is the resources we have are all aligned, all focused and pulling in the same direction," he said.

Ryan Mermer moved to Surfside earlier this year from Palm Beach County, drawn by the quiet, the town's proximity to Miami's thriving business climate and its large Orthodox Jewish community. On Saturdays, much of the town closes for the Sabbath except for the chain stores. Surfside was home to Isaac Bashevis Singer, a Yiddish poet and short-story writer who won the 1978 Nobel Prize in Literature.

But Mermer also got a deal on a small apartment built a half-century ago, just steps away from the luxury condo that former President Donald Trump's daughter and son-in-law moved into. While Mermer's building was constructed for the middle class, today's construction is aimed at the New York, European and South American elite, who are drawn by the state's lifestyle, weather and lack of an income tax.

"I pay \$1,375 (a month) ... across the street from the beach; Ivanka and Jared pay \$38,000," said Mermer, a real estate agent who also works for Holocaust Heroes Worldwide, a support group for survivors of the Nazi death camps.

In Surfside's low-key shopping district one recent afternoon, barber Aramis Armor and Freddy Elias, the co-owner of a tailor and dry cleaning shop, had no customers. The pandemic hit their businesses hard, both said, and the collapse and the resulting street closures made it difficult for anyone to reach them.

Armor says that in normal times, the business district is full of families — they can have an ice cream, eat pizza or drink a coffee in the many locally owned businesses that dot the downtown.

"They are all very nice, the clients are very good," Armor said. He blamed city officials for his lack of business, saying they should never have let the collapsed building decay like it did.

Elias, who has owned Surfside businesses for 25 years, is hoping a federal low-interest loan promised by President Joe Biden's administration to stores affected by the collapse will tide him over until his customers return. Meanwhile, a partner was headed to a customer's home for a fitting rather than make the client fight traffic to get to the store.

"Since COVID and now this tragedy, it has been very, very bad for us," Elias said. "We need help." The streets reopened this week.

Countercultural filmmaker Robert Downey Sr. dies at 85

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

Robert Downey Sr., the accomplished countercultural filmmaker, actor and father of superstar Robert Downey Jr., has died. He was 85.

Downey Jr. wrote on Instagram that his father died late Tuesday in his sleep at home in New York. He had Parkinson's disease for more than five years.

"He was a true maverick filmmaker, and remained remarkably optimistic throughout," Downey Jr. wrote. "According to my stepmom's calculations, they were happily married for just over 2000 years."

Downey was a Hollywood journeyman who made a name for himself with radical, anti-establishment films, like the low-budget Madison Avenue advertising industry satire "Putney Swope" and the Western Jesus parable "Greaser's Palace" starring Allan Arbus. His son, Robert Downey Jr., daughter Allyson Downey and first wife Elsie Downey also appeared in "Greaser's Palace."

He also acted in films, playing Thomas Bateman in "To Live and Die in L.A.," the studio manager in "Boogie Nights" and the show director in "Magnolia."

Born in New York City in 1936 as Robert Elias Jr., he later changed his surname to Downey — his stepfather's name — in order to enlist in the army early. After the army, he got into filmmaking by chance while living in New York with his sister.

The last film he directed was the 2005 documentary "Rittenhouse Square," about a small Philadelphia park.

The elder Downey is also survived by his wife, bestselling author Rosemary Rogers.

A pandemic clothing purge is on as normal life resumes in US

By LEANNE ITALIE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Alina Clark is about as tired of her pandemic wardrobe as her comfort clothes are stretched and torn.

"I have four sets of jeans, seven shirts and five sweaters that I wear every week," said Clark, co-founder of a software development company in Los Angeles. "They're everything I've worn in the last two years. Me and my wardrobe are suffering from COVID fatigue."

A wardrobe purge is on for some as vaccinations have taken hold, restrictions have lifted, and offices reopen or finalize plans to do so. The primary beneficiaries: resale sites online and brick-and-mortar donation spots, continuing a trend that's been building for the last several years.

At the resale site Poshmark, orders are up for handbags and work-worthy dresses when compared to last year. The same goes for blazers, suit jackets and heels.

Projections show the trend growing stronger. The secondhand clothing business is expected to more than double, from \$36 billion to \$77 billion in 2025, according to a recent report commissioned by the secondhand marketplace ThredUP and the research firm GlobalData.

The growth is driven by an influx of new sellers putting high-quality clothing into the market, said James Reinhart, co-founder and CEO of ThredUP. He estimates that 9 billion clothing items that are hardly worn are sitting in shoppers' closets.

Even before COVID, buying and selling secondhand clothing was popular, but the pandemic made the appetite for thrift even more appealing.

The post-pandemic shopper is more environmentally conscious and is showing a greater appetite for clothes that have good resale value, rather than disposable fast fashion, Reinhart said. People who haven't been able to wear most of the items in their closets for a year are more aware of waste and want to put their clothes back in circulation.

"There's a new mindset around clothing consumption," Reinhart said. "It's not this buy, wear, throw out. There is this consciousness that happened during the pandemic where people were much more sensitive to this notion of waste."

Maia DiDomenico's mother introduced her to ThredUp during the pandemic. A recent college graduate who began a new job working with kids on the autism spectrum, the 23-year-old in Cranford, New Jersey, purged some Athleta sportswear on the site and received \$557.60 in Athleta gift cards in exchange.

"It cleans your closet out quickly, and you have the chance to donate unwanted clothes," she said.

For months, the 29-year-old Clark has had the urge to declutter her overflowing wardrobe, and she began piling up clothes for donation several weeks ago. But she'll be purchasing new clothes.

She's looking for some "glitz and glamour" as her Zoom life soon ends and physical get-togethers have begun.

Consumers are purging more than their worn-out pandemic wear.

At the luxury resale site TheRealReal, with more than 22 million members, the total value of pre-owned goods sold this year through May was about \$239 million, up by 53 percent from the same period in 2019, according to a company report.

Some are taking the opportunity to reinvent their personal style, said Jessica Richards, a trend forecaster and fashion director for the Accessories Council, a nonprofit trade group.

"We saw a lot of consumers abandon their mindless shopping habits and instead focus on investment dressing. Less of being 'sick' of their pandemic wardrobes but more wondering why they might own as much or what is the breadth of their closet," she said. "It's now about streamlining and zeroing in on what their desired personal style image should be."

Not everybody is looking to abandon their COVID style, however.

In Lynchburg, Virginia, 33-year-old Cameron Howe is ready to burn just about everything she has worn during the pandemic — except her impressive legging collection — as she transitions from a school career.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 48 of 57

"I bought 15 to 20 plus pairs of leggings," she said. "In a few weeks, I'll start a new career as a project manager for a local nonprofit. I plan on wearing leggings to work. Thankfully, both my past and new employer are legging-friendly. I don't really want to wear real pants again. I developed an absolute love of leggings during the pandemic."

Among those benefiting from the pandemic reawakening in clothes are dry cleaners.

Tom Ryan, vice president of franchising for CD One Price Cleaners, with 34 locations in the Chicago area, said they've been seeing an upward turn in dry-cleaning customers after a plunge of 80 percent during the pandemic.

"In March, we started making progress again given the vaccine distribution," he said. "As more people go back to work, we're finally starting to see more people bringing their in-office clothes back for professional cleaning. Still, we expect post-pandemic attire and fashion trends to be different going forward with more people in the office less often."

Ryan expects business casual to be more the new normal — swapping out button-up shirts for more polo-style wear.

While piles of pandemic clothes are going to churches, donation boxes, and online thrift and resale sites, some people are keeping them in the family.

Samantina Zeon, like many, has gained weight during the pandemic. She has plenty of great clothes she can no longer fit into, so she plans to send the stylish ones to a cousin in Haiti in a 77-gallon blue barrel.

"It's something many people that have families in different countries do. I have done it before to send food," said the 31-year-old Zeon, in Queens, New York. "She plans on reselling them in her neighborhood for extra cash."

Is Thursday the new Monday? Flexible working is in flux

By ALEXANDRA OLSON AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Last year, companies around the U.S. scrambled to figure out how to shut down their offices and set up their employees for remote work as the COVID-19 virus suddenly bore down on the world.

Now, in a mirror image, they are scrambling to figure out how to bring many of those employees back.

Most companies are proceeding cautiously, trying to navigate declining COVID-19 infections against a potential backlash by workers who are not ready to return.

Tensions have spilled into the public at a few companies where some staff have organized petitions or even walkouts to protest being recalled to the office. Many workers in high demand fields, such as tech or customer service, have options amid a rise in job postings promising "remote work" — an alluring prospect for people who moved during the pandemic to be closer to family or in search of more affordable cities.

"A lot of people have relocated and don't want to come back," said Chris Riccobono, the CEO of Untuckit LLC, a casual men's clothing company. "There's a lot of crazy stuff that is a big day-to-day pain point."

Riccobono said he can't wait to get his 100 corporate staffers back to the office in Manhattan's Soho neighborhood because he believes that productivity and morale are higher that way. Starting in September, the company will require those employees to report to the office Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays on the hope that the flexibility of a "hybrid" schedule will keep everyone happy.

Many others are similarly introducing a gradual return. Companies like Amazon and automakers Ford and General Motors have promised to adopt a hybrid approach permanently for their office staff, responding to internal and public surveys showing an overwhelming preference for work-from-home options.

But implementing a hybrid workplace can be a headache, from identifying which roles are most conducive to remote work to deciding which days of the week employees need to be in the office. There are client meetings to consider. And some business leaders argue newer employees need more face-time as they begin their careers or start new at a company.

"Thursday is the new Monday," according to Salesforce, a San Francisco-based technology firm, which found that Thursday was the most popular day for employees to report to the office when the company

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 49 of 57

reopened its Sydney offices back in August.

Riccobono, on the other hand, insists employees show up on Mondays to get organized and set the tone for the week. Like many employers, however, he acknowledges he is still figuring things out as he navigates uncharted territory.

"We will revisit in January," he said. "We will see how it works."

Across the country, office buildings in the top 10 U.S. cities had an average occupancy rate of about 32% in late June, according to estimates from Kastle Systems a security company that monitors access-card wipes at some 2,600 buildings. In Manhattan, just 12% of office employees had returned as of late May, according to the latest survey by the Partnership for New York City, a non-profit organization of major business leaders and employers.

Romina Rugova, an executive at fashion brand Mansur Gavriel, enjoyed the tranquility as she sat on a riverside bench in lower Manhattan after a rare day back at the office for a meet-and-greet with the company's newly hired head of e-commerce.

A mother of two, Rugova had mixed feelings about returning to the office. Seeing colleagues in person after so long was invigorating, and she did not always enjoy blurring her family and professional life.

"The challenge is you have to be three people at the same time. You have to be a professional, you have to be a cook, you have to be a cleaner, you have to be a mom," Rugova said. "Being in the office after a while was so nice and refreshing. It's completely different experience, you don't realize it."

But she doesn't want to completely give up the three hours of extra time she saves without the commute. Many of her colleagues feel the same way, so Mansur Gavriel will likely implement a flexible policy when most of its 40 employees return to the office after Labor Day.

"We are still figuring it out," Rugova said.

While most employers will accelerate their return-to-office plans over the summer, nearly 40% of office employees will still be working remotely in September, according to the Partnership for New York City's survey.

The trend has raised concerns about an unequal economic recovery, given that working remotely is an option available to a privileged few. Only about 15% of workers teleworked because of the pandemic in June, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's monthly jobs report. Most work jobs at restaurants, schools, hospitals, factories and other places that require them to show up in person.

Some of large investment banks, which are top employers and office space tenants in New York City, are leading the push to bring employees back, taking a hardline approach in comparison with tech giants that have rolled out generous remote work policies.

Morgan Stanley CEO James Gorman said at a conference earlier this month that he would "be very disappointed if people haven't found their way into the office" by Labor Day.

"If you can go a restaurant in New York City, you can come into the office," Gorman said, though he acknowledged that there should be flexibility for parents still struggling with childcare logistics that fell apart during the pandemic.

Gorman also made clear that he was not open to the "work from anywhere" mentality that some companies have adopted, saying employees who want to earn New York City salaries should work in the city. The CEOs of JPMorgan Chase and Goldman Sachs have made similar comments, sparking furious debate about whether they would push employees out the door.

It remains to be seen how deeply remote work policies will influence recruitment and retention. But professionals looking for flexibility are finding they have options.

Brecia Young, a data analytics scientist and mother of a 1-year-old child, had choices when she was looking to switch jobs from a small Chicago firm. She accepted an offer from Seattle-based real estate company Zillow in part because the company allowed her to work from home and stay in Chicago, where she and her husband have relatives to help with child care.

"Moving to the West Coast was on the table but it would have been a real hardship," said Young, adding that her husband also would have had to look for a new job. "I love the time savings just in terms of the

commute. It's like 90 minutes of saved time that I can repurpose."

Have a seat: Patio furniture shortage tells US economic tale

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

COCKEYSVILLE, Maryland (AP) — People used to go to Valley View Farms to buy five tomato plants and end up with \$5,000 in patio furniture.

This year is different. After a record burst of sales in March, the showroom floor is almost empty of outdoor chairs, tables and chaises for people to buy.

The garden supply store in suburban Baltimore has been waiting six months for a shipping container from Vietnam full of \$100,000 worth of wicker and aluminum furniture. Half of the container has already been sold by showing customers photographs. The container should have arrived in February, but it reached U.S. waters on June 3 and has just docked in Long Beach, California.

"Everyone is just so far behind," said John Hessler, 62, the patio section manager. "I've never seen anything like it."

The Biden economy faces the unusual challenge of possibly being too strong for its own good.

There is the paradox of the fastest growth in generations at more than 6% yet also persistent delays for anyone trying to buy furniture, autos and a wide mix of other goods. It's almost the mirror opposite of the recovery from the Great Recession of 2007-2009, which was marred by slow growth but also the near-instant delivery of almost every imaginable product.

What ultimately matters is that demand stay strong enough for companies to catch up and shorten the long waits.

"This is a very good problem for the economy to have," said Gus Faucher, chief economist for PNC Financial Services. "You're much better off having too much demand than too little, because too little demand is the recipe for an extended recession."

Republicans have held out the shortages and price increases as a sign of economic weakness, while Biden can counter that wages are climbing at a speed that helps the middle and working classes. But the real challenge goes far beyond the blunt talking points of politicians to an economy being steered by a mix of market forces, tensions with China, setbacks from natural disasters and the unique nature of restarting an economy after a pandemic.

As America hurtles out of the July 4th weekend into the heart of summer, the outdoor furniture industry provides a snapshot of the dilemmas confronting the economy. A series of shortages has left warehouses depleted and prices rising at more than 11% annually as Americans resume BBQs and parties after more than a year of isolation. The industry cannot find workers, truckers and raw materials — a consequence of not just government spending but crowded ports, an explosion at an Ohio chemical plant and the devastating snowstorm that hit Texas in February.

Patio furniture makers interviewed by The Associated Press say they expect the supply squeeze to end in 2022 or 2023 — meaning it could remain a political flashpoint even if the broader risk of inflation fades as expected by many Federal Reserve officials and Wall Street analysts. The shortages reflect both the stranded shipping containers, a dearth of truckers and the compounded effect of a fatal explosion in April at the Yenkin-Majestic Paints and OPC polymer plant in Columbus, Ohio that depleted the domestic supply of furniture pieces.

The Biden administration, well aware of the challenge, has made fixing supply chains a priority. It's also trying to direct more money to making the U.S. power grid and other infrastructure more resilient against extreme weather events as part of a bipartisan deal reached with Senate Republicans.

"You saw what happened in Texas this winter: The entire system in the state collapsed," Biden said in a recent Wisconsin speech. "That's why we have to act."

Administration officials expect the supply chain issues to self-correct, though they're cautious about asserting a specific timeframe because of the unprecedented nature of the recovery from the pandemic.

They noted that a shortage of toilet paper when the pandemic started was fixed within weeks because

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 51 of 57

factories could ramp up production. But in this case, Biden's White House views the problem in global terms, with many of the challenges being in Asian ports, rather than a problem that is solely domestic in nature.

Republican lawmakers have placed the blame exclusively on Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus rescue package, saying the shortages are causing inflation that behaves like a tax by eating into workers' salaries and savings. Outdoor furniture companies do say that finding workers has become more of a challenge in part because of the greater unemployment benefits, but they don't buy fully into the Republican line that government dollars have caused a lasting price bump.

"The Biden inflation agenda of too much money chasing too few goods is causing major harm to hard-working families," House Republican Whip Steve Scalise of Louisiana said at a June hearing.

The reality is not so simple for William Bew White III, who founded Summer Classics, an Alabama-based furnisher whose outdoor products look like they belong next to a Gilded Age mansion or terraced hotel along the Italian Riviera. He summarizes his problems as the three F's: foam, fabric and freight.

"The freeze in Texas closed down two of the plants that make the chemicals that make foam," he said. "These plants were not able to reopen until mid to late March. And supply dried up. I'm not sure how someone that's in the upholstery business makes it on 40% to 60% of the needed products."

His company can produce as many as 3,500 outdoor cushions a day, but for most of the year he was not getting the supplies he needed largely because of snow shutting down the Texas power grid. He's having revenue growth of between 40% and 60% on an annual basis and it's hard to judge how much to increase production to meet that demand and whether that demand can last.

He is more concerned with what his Chinese furniture suppliers are charging than prices at home. His prices in China have jumped as much as 26.5% since January, sometimes retroactively on orders that were already in shipping containers.

"This is not sustainable," White said.

In many cases, companies are simply trying to absorb the higher costs. Erik Mueller, CEO of the Cincinnati-based outdoor furniture and home recreation chain Watson's, said he wants to protect his store's reputation as providing value. He doesn't see the situation as paralleling the 1970s mix of stagnation and inflation that helped to drive Jimmy Carter out of the presidency after one term.

"This isn't the 70s," he said. "We still have goods that are reasonably priced."

While he believes that generous unemployment benefits have stunted hiring because people can earn more by not working, Mueller also sees the inflation as a spillover from the pandemic. Some people could not work because of the disease or their shifts were cut. The rush for supplies as economies reopened occurred too fast for factories and shipping firms not yet able to return to their previous capacity. All of that was coupled with a United States that after a brutal year simply welcomed the relief of lounging by the pool with friends.

The problem is one of market forces that are beyond anyone individual's authority, even the U.S. president's.

"You have just this exorbitant amount of demand due to a unique situation that was out of everyone's control," Mueller said.

Pope had severe narrowing of the colon, recovery continues

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Pope Francis' recovery from intestinal surgery continues to be "regular and satisfactory," the Vatican said Wednesday, as it revealed that final examinations showed he had suffered a "severe" narrowing of his colon.

The Vatican's daily update indicated there was no evidence of cancer detected during an examination of the tissue removed Sunday from Francis' colon. Doctors said that was a good sign and evidence that the suspected condition of a narrowing of the colon due to inflammation and scarring had been confirmed.

The Vatican spokesman, Matteo Bruni, said the 84-year-old pope was continuing to eat regularly following Sunday's surgery to remove half his colon, and that intravenous therapy had been suspended.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 52 of 57

"The fact that he is eating means his intestinal tract is working as it should," said Dr. Walter E. Longo, professor of surgery and colon and rectal surgery at the Yale University School of Medicine and Yale-New Haven Health, who was not involved in Francis' care. "The fact that infusion therapy has been discontinued means the amount of fluid he needs for sustaining his everyday functions is now being met by his oral intake."

Bruni said final examination of the affected tissue "confirmed a severe diverticular stenosis with signs of sclerosing diverticulitis," or a hardening of the sacs that can sometimes form in the lining of the intestine.

Dr. Manish Chand, an associate professor of surgery at University College London who specializes in colorectal surgery, said the hardening of the tissue would have occurred as a result of repeat inflammation and infection, resulting in scarring that makes the colon less elastic.

He said there was always a concern in such cases that there may be a small cancer that hadn't been seen in previous imaging. In such cases, pathologists would put a specimen of the removed tissue under a microscope to see if there were any cancer cells.

"It is reassuring to hear that there is no underlying tumor and that the diagnosis of diverticular disease is confirmed," said Chand, who also was not involved in Francis' care.

Francis underwent three hours of planned surgery Sunday. He is expected to stay in Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic, which has a special suite reserved for popes, through the week, assuming there are no complications, the Vatican has said.

Among those offering get-well wishes was U.S. President Joe Biden, a Roman Catholic who has cited Francis in the past. White House press secretary Jen Psaki said during a daily briefing Tuesday that the president "wishes him well and a speedy recovery."

"Pope Francis is touched by the many messages and the affection received in these days, and expresses his gratitude for the closeness and prayer," Bruni's statement said.

Francis has enjoyed relatively robust health, though he lost the upper part of one lung in his youth because of an infection. He also suffers from sciatica, or nerve pain, that makes him walk with a pronounced limp.

The Vatican has continued normal operations in his absence, though July is traditionally a month when the pope cancels public and private audiences. There was no weekly general audience on Wednesday, for example, but the monthlong suspension of the pope's weekly catechism lessons had been previously announced.

Philanthropies eagerly back journalist Hannah-Jones

By HALELUYA HADERO and GLENN GAMBOA AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones used major philanthropic donors to build her future as a tenured professor at Howard University, just as other major donors sought to stymie the Pulitzer Prize-winning Black investigative reporter at the University of North Carolina.

Backed by \$20 million in donations, Hannah-Jones announced Tuesday the establishment of the Center for Journalism and Democracy at Howard to increase diversity in journalism. She also said that political interference from Arkansas newspaper publisher Walter Hussman, who pledged \$25 million to UNC's journalism school and whose name adorns its building, resulted in questions about her receiving tenure, which she was belatedly offered last week following an outcry from students and faculty members.

"How could I believe I'd be able to exert academic freedom with the school's largest donor so willing to disparage me publicly and attempt to pull the strings behind the scenes?" Hannah-Jones wrote in a statement. "Why would I want to teach at a university whose top leadership chose to remain silent, to refuse transparency, to fail to publicly advocate that I be treated like every other Knight Chair before me?"

Hussman said Tuesday that he still has concerns about The 1619 Project but that he respects Hannah-Jones.

The donations announced Tuesday — \$5 million each from the MacArthur, Knight and Ford foundations and an anonymous donor — will also bring award-winning author Ta-Nehisi Coates to Howard, a historically Black school in the nation's capital and his alma mater, as the Sterling Brown Chair in the Department of

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 53 of 57

English.

It's a large gift for journalism, and one that points to a growing philanthropic effort to diversify news organizations and strengthen journalistic standards.

"It is important in a democracy like America, that journalism reflects America," said Darren Walker, president of the Ford Foundation. "The community of people who are producing news and information needs to look like America, if journalism is to be credible. ... And it's not just Black journalists. It's the diverse array of journalists. It's journalists who have a disability, and journalists who live in small towns and rural America."

In the past five years, the Ford Foundation has given more than \$77 million to various media diversification initiatives in the U.S., including to minority journalism groups and research projects centered on newsroom diversity, Walker said.

"What happened at UNC is deeply regrettable," he said.

At Howard, Hannah-Jones has "accepted something that is more meaningful and more valuable to her. That allows her to have both her dignity and values affirmed," Walker said.

The new center will attempt to tackle the lack of racial diversity in many newsrooms and senior management. A 2018 report from the Pew Research Center found that 77% of newsroom employees were white, compared to 65% for U.S. workers overall. And according to a 2019 survey of 428 news organizations from the News Leaders Association, only 18.8% of newsroom managers were from racial minorities.

"It is clear that within journalism, as in other fields, there are too few people of color in positions of leadership," said John Palfrey, the president of the MacArthur Foundation. "And one of the things philanthropy can do is, support institutions, like Howard University, that are correcting that imbalance."

So when Hannah-Jones approached the foundations with a vision of what the funding could do at Howard, they were happy to pitch in.

Before pledging its \$5 million donation to support Howard's center, the MacArthur Foundation already intended to support the next phase of Hannah-Jones' 1619 Project — a New York Times Magazine endeavor focusing on America's history of slavery. In addition to winning a Pulitzer Prize for her work on the project, Hannah-Jones was a recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, also known as the "genius grant."

The best way to fund Hannah-Jones' ongoing work was to "join with the Ford Foundation and Knight Foundation, and to make a larger grant than we anticipated to the new Howard center," Palfrey said. "This was certainly an unplanned grant. But it struck us as an unusually wonderful opportunity to support Black journalism."

The \$5 million grant from the Knight Foundation, the third funder, will include a \$500,000 investment to launch a symposium that aims to strengthen the teaching of journalism across various historically Black colleges and universities, according to a statement from the foundation, which has an endowed chair of journalism at Florida A&M University, which is also a historically Black college.

The newly announced gifts add to the estimated \$1 billion in philanthropic funding that has been given to journalism-related initiatives in the U.S. during the past five years, according to preliminary data from the philanthropy research organization Candid. One large gift of \$20 million is rare for the industry, but it's not unheard of.

The Knight First Amendment Institute, which defends the freedoms of speech and the press, was established in 2016 at Columbia University with a \$30 million gift from the Knight Foundation.

With Hannah-Jones' departure, there are two vacant Knight Chairs at UNC-Chapel Hill. The Knight Foundation does not plan to cut ties with the school, despite the controversy surrounding her extended tenure fight, which was marked by allegations of racism and a conservative backlash to her work.

"The Knight Chair at UNC-Chapel Hill is endowed in perpetuity," the director of the foundation's journalism program, Karen Rundlet, said in an emailed statement. "Our goal is to fund endowed chairs to enable universities to hire people, who in their judgment, are distinguished in the field of journalism and bring newsroom experience to the classroom. UNC Chapel Hill has been a leader in journalism education. We will continue to support UNC's efforts to independently hire Knight Chairs."

Craig Newmark, the founder of Craigslist and Craig Newmark Philanthropies, which donated \$20 million

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 54 of 57

to the City University of New York Graduate School of Journalism in 2018, called on major donors of all sorts to support the program at Howard and similar programs across the country to strengthen journalism.

He said it is a national security issue that so much disinformation is being spread in the country and that clear journalism from diverse sources is a way to defend the country.

"What's being done at Howard is a big deal," Newmark said. "We need to work together more. This is protecting the country, protecting the democracy. It should be all hands on deck."

Costly and critical: The battle for a key Yemeni city

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

MARIB CITY, Yemen (AP) — The two fighters stand shoulder-to-shoulder on a mountain overlook, with a clear view below of the enemy's position. They are part of the last lines of defense between the government's last stronghold in Yemen's north, and the Houthi rebels trying to take it.

Hassan Saleh and his younger brother Saeed, both in their early 20s, have been fighting alongside other government fighters and tribesman outside the oil-rich city of Marib, against the months-long offensive by the Iranian-backed rebels. They say they need more weapons to push the attackers back.

"We need sniper rifles," said Hassan, who was taking a position in a sandbagged trench in the mountainous Kassara region. All that most battalions have are old Kalashnikovs and machine guns mounted on the rear of pickup trucks.

This is the most active frontline in Yemen's nearly 7-year-old civil war, where a steady stream of fighters on both sides are killed or wounded every day, even as international pressure to end the war intensifies. Amid another round of peace talks, this time led by Oman, the desert city of Marib remains the crucible of one of the world's most bogged-down conflicts.

The Houthis have for years attempted to take Marib to complete their control over the northern half of Yemen. But since February, they have waged an intensified offensive from multiple fronts, while hitting the residential city center with missiles and explosive-laden drones, killing and wounding dozens of civilians.

So far, the rebels have made only incremental progress, inching slowly across the desert plain, because of Saudi airstrikes that wreak heavy casualties in their ranks. Government and medical officials in Marib estimate that thousands of fighters have been killed or wounded, mostly rebels, since February. In the Houthi-held capital, Sanaa, mass funerals and death announcements of soldiers, some of them children, indicate how costly the battle has been, though Houthis do not release official death tolls.

The grueling battle over the remote city seems intertwined with the sluggish efforts for peace. The Houthis appear to hope capturing Marib will give them the upper hand in talks. Meanwhile government officials complain that American and international wariness at fueling the interminable war prevents them from getting weapons they need to win in Marib.

The U.S. is pressuring the Saudi-led coalition that backs the government not to provide more weapons for fear they could fall into militants' hands amid worries over government "graft and incompetence," a Yemeni official told the Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief reporters.

"We are at a crossroads," said Marib's provincial governor Sheikh Sultan al-Aradah, arguing the weapons are needed to tip the scales at Marib. "The world has some reservations about arming Yemen in the current time."

An AP crew travelled in recent weeks to the city through Saudi Arabia on a government-organized trip.

Marib, some 115 kilometers (70 miles) east of Sanaa on the edge of Yemen's large deserts, is a strategic gateway from the central highlands to southern and eastern provinces. It's also home to oil and gas fields where international firms including Exxon Mobil Corp. and Total SA have interests. Its natural gas bottling plant produces cooking gas for the nation of 29 million people. Its power plant once provided 40% of Yemen's electricity.

Its relative stability in past years made it a haven for those fleeing the war's other fronts. The area, which had a pre-war population of 400,000, now also hosts some 2.2 million displaced people, many of

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 55 of 57

them crowded into camps, according to official statistics.

The city's streets are bustling during the day with taxis and 4x4 vehicles belonging to security forces. At night, men frequent restaurants and cafes or gather in homes, chewing leaves of qat for a stimulant effect. There's little heed paid to the fighting just outside their city.

But the posters of fallen commanders and troops lining the roadways serve as a reminder. The city's cemetery has been expanded to absorb the surge in fatalities.

"We bury between 10 to 15 people every day, mostly martyrs in the war," said Mohammed Saeed Nasser, a guard at the cemetery.

The main hospital in Marib has been overwhelmed by dozens of wounded fighters a day for months, said its director, Dr. Mohamed Abdo al-Qubati. At an intensive care unit, there were 10 patients, all but one injured fighters.

In one of the beds, Ali Saad, 22, lay partially paralyzed. He was shot by a Houthi sniper on the frontline on June 18.

Saad has been fighting in government forces since 2017. During that time, he and his family fled their home in southwestern Dhamar province as the war escalated. Later, he was captured and held for a year in a Houthi prison until he was released in an October prisoner exchange.

"I suffered a lot in captivity, I was tortured physically and mentally," he said. "This gave us a glimpse into what Houthis were really like. We came out with a stronger and indescribable will to fight them." His father and one of his three brothers were also wounded on the Marib front earlier this year.

Yemen's civil war began in 2014 when the Houthis seized Sanaa and much of the north, forcing the government of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi to flee.

The Saudi-led coalition, backed at the time by the U.S., entered the war to try restoring Hadi to power. Amid the relentless air campaign and ground fighting, the war has killed more than 130,000 people and spawned the world's worst humanitarian crisis. It has also created smaller, parallel conflicts, between militants and different factions inside the country.

After years of criticism over civilian casualties from airstrikes, U.S. President Joe Biden's administration in February withdrew its backing for the coalition's campaign in Yemen.

Yemeni government and military officials say that decision, along with Biden's removal of the Houthis from a U.S. terrorism list, emboldened the rebels in Marib.

"The Houthis appear to calculate that if they win in Marib, they will have won the war for the north of Yemen while humiliating the internationally recognized president," said Peter Salisbury, Yemen expert at the International Crisis Group. "That is a considerable prize for their side, as it would also allow them to dictate terms for an end to the war."

U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price said Thursday that the administration was "beyond fed up" with the Houthis and "horrified by the repeated attacks on Marib." He denounced the rebels for continuing the offensive despite a "serious (peace) proposal before them."

An Omani delegation held talks in Sanaa with Houthi leaders including the group's religious and military leader, Abdel-Malek al-Houthi. A Saudi diplomat, meanwhile, said there have been ongoing efforts, including direct Saudi-Houthi talks since 2019, to find a common ground. He spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

A spokesman for the Houthis did not respond to calls and messages seeking comment.

The rebels want the reopening of Sanaa International Airport, a vital link for Yemen to the outside world that hasn't seen regular commercial flights since 2015, and the lifting of restrictions on the vital Houthi-held Red Sea port of Hodeida.

Salisbury said negotiations have been stuck on what comes first. The Houthis, he said, want a stand-alone deal on the airport and Hodeida before negotiating a cease-fire. Saudi Arabia and the Yemeni government want a package deal on all those issues.

"Until the gap can be bridged, I would expect the Marib offensive to continue," he said..

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 56 of 57

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Thursday, July 8, the 189th day of 2021. There are 176 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 8, 1947, a New Mexico newspaper, the Roswell Daily Record, quoted officials at Roswell Army Air Field as saying they had recovered a "flying saucer" that crashed onto a ranch; officials then said it was actually a weather balloon. (To this day, there are those who believe what fell to Earth was an alien spaceship carrying extra-terrestrial beings.)

On this date:

In 1776, Col. John Nixon gave the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, outside the State House (now Independence Hall) in Philadelphia.

In 1853, an expedition led by Commodore Matthew Perry arrived in Yedo Bay, Japan, on a mission to seek diplomatic and trade relations with the Japanese.

In 1889, The Wall Street Journal was first published.

In 1911, cowgirl "Two-Gun Nan" Aspinwall became the first woman to make a solo trip by horse across the United States, arriving in New York 10 months after departing San Francisco.

In 1950, President Harry S. Truman named Gen. Douglas MacArthur commander-in-chief of United Nations forces in Korea. (Truman ended up sacking MacArthur for insubordination nine months later.)

In 1972, the Nixon administration announced a deal to sell \$750 million in grain to the Soviet Union. (However, the Soviets were also engaged in secretly buying subsidized American grain, resulting in what critics dubbed "The Great Grain Robbery.")

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford announced he would seek a second term of office.

In 1989, Carlos Saul Menem was inaugurated as president of Argentina in the country's first transfer of power from one democratically elected civilian leader to another in six decades.

In 1994, Kim Il Sung, North Korea's communist leader since 1948, died at age 82.

In 2000, Venus Williams beat Lindsay Davenport 6-3, 7-6 (3) for her first Grand Slam title, becoming the first Black female champion at Wimbledon since Althea Gibson in 1957-58.

In 2010, violent protests erupted in Oakland, California, after a Los Angeles jury convicted a white former transit officer, Johannes Mehserle (yoh-HAH'-nes MEZ'-ur-lee), of involuntary manslaughter (instead of murder) in the videotaped fatal shooting of a Black man, Oscar Grant.

In 2019, billionaire financier Jeffrey Epstein was charged with sexually abusing dozens of underage girls; the newly unsealed federal indictment came more than a decade after he secretly cut a deal with federal prosecutors to dispose of nearly identical allegations. (Epstein was found unresponsive in his jail cell a month later; the medical examiner ruled his death a suicide.)

Ten years ago: Former first lady Betty Ford died in Rancho Mirage, California, at age 93. Atlantis thundered into orbit on a cargo run that would close out the three-decade U.S. space shuttle program. Ohio State vacated its wins from the 2010 football season, including its share of the Big Ten championship and a victory over Arkansas in the Sugar Bowl, as it responded to the NCAA's investigation of a memorabilia-for-cash scandal.

Five years ago: On the first day of a two-day summit in Warsaw, NATO leaders geared up for a long-term standoff with Russia, ordering multinational troops to Poland and the three Baltic states as Moscow moved forward with its own plans to station two new divisions along its western borders. Ten states (Nebraska, Arkansas, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota and Wyoming) sued the federal government over rules requiring public schools to allow transgender students to use restrooms conforming to their gender identity, joining a dozen other states in the latest fight over LGBT rights. (Nebraska, which led the effort, later asked to drop the lawsuit after the Trump administration ended the protection.)

One year ago: Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms signed an executive order requiring masks to be worn in Georgia's largest city, setting up a confrontation with Republican Gov. Brian Kemp. President Donald

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 57 of 57

Trump threatened to hold back federal money if school districts did not bring their students back in the fall. The head of the Tulsa City-County Health Department in Oklahoma said a Trump campaign rally in June had "likely contributed" to a dramatic surge in new coronavirus cases there. Brooks Brothers filed for bankruptcy protection; the 200-year-old company became the latest major clothing retailer to be toppled by the coronavirus pandemic.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Steve Lawrence is 86. Actor Jeffrey Tambor is 77. Rock musician Jaimoe Johanson is 76. Ballerina Cynthia Gregory is 74. Actor Kim Darby is 74. Actor Jonelle Allen is 73. Children's performer Raffi is 73. Celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck is 72. Actor Anjelica Huston is 70. Writer Anna Quindlen is 69. Actor Kevin Bacon is 63. Actor Robert Knepper is 62. Rock musician Andy Fletcher (Depeche Mode) is 60. Country singer Toby Keith is 60. Rock singer Joan Osborne is 59. Writer-producer Rob Burnett is 59. Actor Rocky Carroll is 58. Actor Corey Parker is 56. Actor Lee Tergesen is 56. Actor Michael B. Silver is 54. Actor Billy Crudup is 53. Actor Michael Weatherly is 53. Singer Beck is 51. Comedian Sebastian Maniscalco is 48. Actor Kathleen Robertson is 48. Christian rock musician Stephen Mason (Jars of Clay) is 46. Actor Milo Ventimiglia (MEE'-loh vehn-tih-MEEL'-yuh) is 44. Singer Ben Jelen (YEL'-in) is 42. Actor Lance Gross is 40. Actor Sophia Bush is 39. Rock musician Jamie Cook (Arctic Monkeys) is 36. Actor Jake McDorman is 35. Actor Maya Hawke is 23. Actor Jaden Smith is 23.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 58 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 59 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 60 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 61 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 62 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 63 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 64 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 65 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 66 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 67 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 68 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 69 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 70 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 71 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 72 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 73 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 74 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 75 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 76 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 77 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 78 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 79 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 80 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 81 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 82 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 83 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 84 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 85 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 86 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 87 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 88 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 89 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 90 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 91 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 92 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 93 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 94 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 95 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 96 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 97 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 98 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 99 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 100 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 101 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 102 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 103 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 104 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 105 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 106 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 107 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 108 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 109 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 110 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 111 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 112 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 113 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 114 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 115 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 116 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 117 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 118 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 119 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 120 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 121 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 122 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 123 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 124 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 125 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 126 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 127 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 128 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 129 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 130 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 131 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 132 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 133 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 134 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 135 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 136 of 57

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 08, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 001 ~ 137 of 57