

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 1 of 73

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- Weekly Vikings Roundup](#)
- [3- Ken's Food Fair Help Wanted](#)
- [4- Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller](#)
- [10- Awkward Phase Day](#)
- [11- Twin Day](#)
- [12- Costume Day](#)
- [13- Prairie Doc: Respiratory Season and Lessons Learned](#)

Learned

- [14- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)
- [15- Weather Pages](#)
- [18- Daily Devotional](#)
- [19- 2021 Community Events](#)
- [20- News from the Associated Press](#)

Upcoming Events

Monday, Sept. 20

- 4 p.m.: Cross country meet at Clear Lake
- 5:15 p.m.: Junior high football game at Sisseton (location changed due to transportation issues at Sisseton - will be at the Sisseton Golf Course)

Tuesday, Sept. 21

- Volleyball at Warner (7th grade/C match at 5:15 p.m., 8th grade/JV at 6:30 p.m. with varsity to follow)
- 7 p.m.: City Council Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 23

- 10 a.m.: Boys golf at Sisseton Golf Course
- 4 p.m.: Boys soccer at James Valley Christian
- Volleyball at Clark (7th grade at field house, 4 p.m.; 8th grade at field house, 5 p.m.; in the main gym: C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity).

Friday, Sept. 24

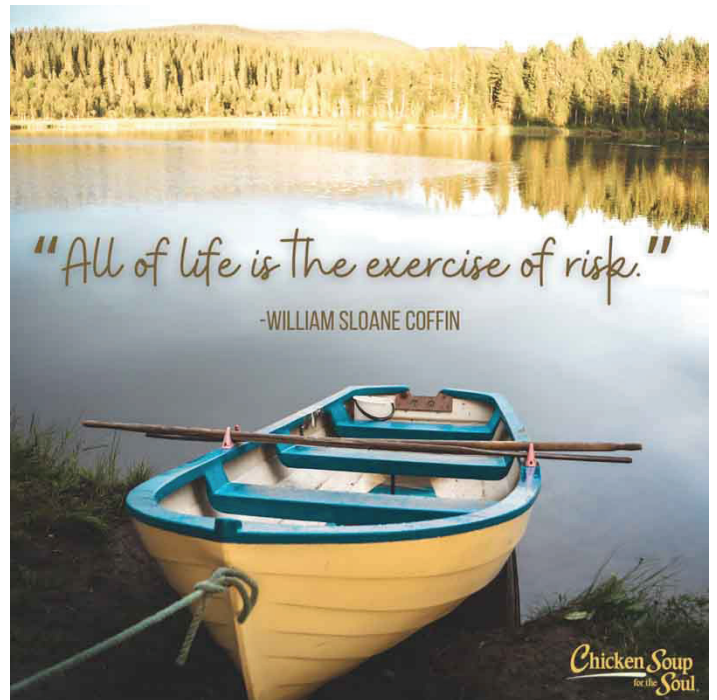
- 7 p.m.: Football hosting Aberdeen Roncalli

Saturday, Sept. 25

- Soccer at Tea Area: Boys at 1 p.m. Girls at 3 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 27

- Boys golf at Madison Golf Course



- 4 p.m.: Cross Country meet at Olive Grove Golf Course, Groton.

- 4 p.m.: Junior high football at Aberdeen Roncalli
- 5 p.m.: Junior Varsity football at Aberdeen Roncalli
- Volleyball hosting Faulkton Area (C match at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., Varsity to follow)

- 7 p.m.: School Board Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 28

- Volleyball vs. Florence/Henry at Henry High School. (7th at 3 p.m., 8th at 4 p.m., C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. with varsity to follow).

Wednesday, Sept. 29

- NE Region Land & Range Contest in Webster

Thursday, Sept. 30

- Fall Planning Day and Career Expo at Northern State University for juniors

- 4 p.m.: Cross Country at Sisseton Golf Course
- 4:30 p.m.: Junior High Football at Redfield
- Volleyball hosting Hamlin (C match at 5 p.m. followed by JV and Varsity)



OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 2 of 73

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

The Vikings play their hearts out against one of the best young QBs in the NFL and still fall short of a victory thanks to a missed kick by Greg Joseph. If you didn't already think the Vikings franchise was cursed, this game might have changed your mind.

First Half:

The Vikings came out firing to start their Week 2 matchup in Arizona, scoring on the 2nd play of the game thanks to a 64-yard touchdown from Kirk Cousins to KJ Osborn. The offensive line looked like a completely different unit from the one we saw last week, giving up 0 sacks and creating gigantic holes for Dalvin Cook to run through. For a Vikings team that constantly shot themselves in the foot last week with penalties, it was nice to see the team go the entire first half without having a single penalty called on them. Thanks to that, the Vikings were able to put together three very impressive drives to put themselves up 20-7 over the Cardinals midway through the 2nd quarter (Vikings' kicker, Greg Joseph, missed the extra point that would have given the Vikings 21 points).

The Vikings defense, on the other hand, did not look as impressive. They struggled to contain Kyler Murray on key third downs, and it quickly became evident that the first half was turning into a back-and-forth shootout. As the first half was winding down, the Vikings were holding onto a 20-14 lead with the Cardinals getting the ball back at their own 23. In just one play, Kyler Murray was able to take advantage of broken coverage in the Vikings' secondary and find a wide open Rondale Moore for a 77-yard touchdown to give the Cardinals a 21-20 lead. The Vikings quickly answered with a 52-yard field goal, only to be outdone by Cardinals' kicker, Matt Prater, booming a 62-yard field goal as the first half's time expired. Cardinals 24-Vikings 23.

Second Half:

The second half was a much different story for the Vikings' defense. Just one minute in, Vikings' linebacker, Nick Vigil, picked off Kyler Murray and took it to the house to give the Vikings the lead again at 30-24. The Cardinals quickly answered with a 9-yard touchdown catch from AJ Green to retake the lead, 31-30. However, the game started to slow down immensely after that. The next eight drives saw a total of five punts, another Kyler Murray interception, and a field goal from each team's kicker to make the score 34-33 in the Cardinals' favor.

The Vikings began their final drive of the game at their own 23-yard-line with 2:09 left in the 4th quarter. The offense quickly got things going with a short pass to Adam Thielen, followed by a Dalvin Cook run that got them a first down. After a few more plays, the Vikings found themselves with a tough 3rd and 10 at Arizona's 48-yard-line. With the pressure of the entire game on Kirk Cousins's shoulders, Cousins was able to step up into a clean pocket and deliver a strike to Adam Thielen on the sideline for a first down. After back-to-back completions on slants to KJ Osborn, the Vikings found themselves set up at Arizona's 27-yard-line for the chance at a game-winning field goal. Greg Joseph, who had yet to miss a field goal for the Vikings so far this season, stepped up with 0:04 remaining and a 37-yard field goal attempt.

The snap was good, the hold was clean, and the game-winning kick went... wide right. Cardinals win 34-33 and the Vikings fall to 0-2 on the season.

Statistical Leaders:

Kirk Cousins 22 for 32, 244 yards, 3 TDs

Dalvin Cook 22 carries for 131 yards rushing, 0 TDs

KJ Osborn 5 catches for 91 yards, 1 TD

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 3 of 73

The highlight of the day:

The Vikings pass rush continues to show its dominance as Danielle Hunter finished the game with 3 sacks against the slippery and quick Kyler Murray.

The irony of the day:

With the Vikings not wanting to risk another Dalvin Cook fumble at the end of the game like last week, the Vikings elected to run the clock out at the end of the game and take their chances with Greg Joseph. Sadly, that decision did not work out for the Vikings either. So, it will be interesting to see what plan C is for the Vikings at the end of the game next week.

Next game:

The Vikings finally get to come back home to U.S. Bank Stadium after starting the season on the road. Here, the Vikings will face a 1-1 Seattle Seahawks team that seems to make every single one of their games chaotic. It will be interesting if the Vikings will bounce back from two heartbreaking losses to get their first win of the season, or it will all snowball into a forgettable season.

Help Wanted: Ken's in Groton
Cashiers, stockers and deli
Apply at store



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 4 of 73

#468 in a series Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

We've managed to blow past another million-case mark. Yesterday, we passed 41 million cases in the US since this pandemic began, bringing us to 42,026,148. Here's the usual history:

April 28, 2020 – 1 million – 98 days
June 11 – 2 million – 44 days
July 8 – 3 million – 27 days
July 23 – 4 million – 15 days
August 9 – 5 million – 17 days
August 31 – 6 million – 22 days
September 24 – 7 million – 24 days
October 15 – 8 million – 21 days
October 29 – 9 million – 14 days
November 8 – 10 million – 10 days
November 15 – 11 million – 7 days
November 21 – 12 million – 6 days
November 27 – 13 million – 6 days
December 3 – 14 million – 6 days
December 7 – 15 million – 4 days
December 12 – 16 million – 5 days
December 17 – 17 million – 5 days
December 21 – 18 million – 4 days
December 26 – 19 million – 5 days
December 31 – 20 million – 5 days
January 5 – 21 million – 5 days

January 9 – 22 million – 4 days
January 13 – 23 million – 4 days
January 18 – 24 million – 5 days
January 23 – 25 million – 5 days
January 30 – 26 million – 7 days
February 7 – 27 million – 8 days
February 19 – 28 million – 12 days
March 7 – 29 million – 16 days
March 24 – 30 million – 17 days
April 8 – 31 million – 15 days
April 24 – 32 million – 16 days
May 18 – 33 million – 23 days
July 16 – 34 million – 59 days
July 31 – 35 million – 15 days
August 11 – 36 million – 11 days
August 17 – 37 million – 6 days
August 23 – 38 million – 6 days
August 30 – 39 million – 7 days
September 5 – 40 million – 6 days
September 12 – 41 million – 7 days
September 18 – 42 million – 6 days

And if you're sick of seeing that, welcome to the club; it is, after all, a sickening sight. It does appear we are leveling off nationally, sitting as of midday today with a seven-day new-case average of 148,252. That's a decline in the seven-to-eight percent range. The longer trend line is flattish, so let's hope it holds.

Florida reported fewer than 100,000 new cases in a week last week for the first time since the middle of July. New cases have been decreasing for almost a month, but test positivity is still well north of 10 percent, which is not a great sign. I will note that the state also passed the 50,000 death mark this week, a quarter of them since the B.1.617.2 or Delta variant, first identified in India, became dominant. Still, progress is progress.

Hospitalizations are down in that same six-to-seven percent range, sitting at the moment at 95,356. As we've discussed, the national picture can obscure regional trends; things aren't getting better everywhere. As much, but not all, of the South is leveling off, we're seeing growing case numbers in the Upper Midwest and Mountain West. A quarter of hospitals in the US report more than 95 percent of their ICU beds were occupied last week; that's an increase from August. Mississippi is still looking for hospital beds, but neighboring states are still under stress and don't have much in the way of capacity to help out. The largest health care system in North Dakota says they are critically short of nurses.

Last time we talked, we discussed the possibility, but now it's happened. Every hospital in Idaho has gone to crisis standards of care, that is, rationing. Department of Health and Welfare Director Dave Jeppesen said in a statement, "We don't have enough resources to adequately treat the patients in our hospitals, whether you are there for COVID-19 or a heart attack or because of a car accident." We've already dis-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 5 of 73

cussed the hospital in Alaska which has done the same thing, and Montana has one hospital on crisis standards and the largest health system in the state warning they're not far from it. In Alaska, health care providers were faced with four patients needing continuous kidney dialysis and only two machines. This forces a decision. This is the worst-case scenario.

The situation is more acute now than it has been earlier in the pandemic, even though overall case numbers are still below winter peaks. The reasons for this are several: more dispersed outbreaks, the number of health care workers who have quit due to 20 months of stress, lack of equipment, lack of beds especially in rural areas. The surge in these areas is related to increased transmission due to the Delta, as well as end-of-summer gatherings, the recent holiday weekend, school starting up, low vaccination rates, and lack of seriousness about mitigation in these areas. On Friday I read a round-up of just what rationing means in various places. Recognize that each state defines the parameters of rationing, but this will give you a flavor of what these folks are facing. It all sounds like a nightmare to me. Examples:

- Scoring the function of major organ systems to determine whose chances of survival are best.
- Looking at a patient's "life stage" and maybe their role in society.
- Staff hand-squeezing bags for hours on a patient while waiting for a ventilator to become available—generally because the person using it has died.
- Leaving patients on oxygen in unmonitored areas where an alarm might not be heard.
- Stopping all surgeries, including those where they know it may result in "permanent disability or pathology," like cancer surgery.
- Checking vital signs less frequently.
- Inability to transfer a patient who needs higher levels of care than the hospital is equipped to do.
- Potentially removing a ventilator or discharging a patient who is less likely to survive.
- Deciding who gets a drug that is in short supply or splitting doses to divvy out to everyone who needs it.
- Making patients wait in their cars to be seen at emergency departments.
- Refusal of patients needing certain kinds of care.
- Lotteries to decide who receives care.
- Palliative care only offered to those you lack the capacity to treat.

The seven-day deaths average is at 2012 today and still increasing fast. There have been 673,637 deaths so far in the US. We've reached a new milestone: More than 1 in 500 Americans have died from Covid-19. Remember when we were trying to figure out the mortality rate for this infection? Was it 0.5 percent, 0.1 percent, what? Well, we still haven't nailed that down for sure, largely because we're not all that sure how many actual infections we've had; but we can say now that the mortality rate just for being American in this pandemic is 0.2 percent. So we can start from there. Jeffrey D. Klausner, clinical professor of medicine, population, and public health at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine, told the Washington Post that "we're kind of where we predicted we would be with completely uncontrolled spread of infection." That means, with all of our money and all of our resources, and all of our science, it is more dangerous to be American during the time of Covid than to have influenza in a normal year.

In Alabama last year, for the first time ever, the number of deaths exceeded the number of births. Recognize that a big reason more hospital beds are becoming available in Alabama (and some other places) is that more people are dying, a lot more as death rates continue to increase. The state's Health Officer, Dr. Scott Harris, said in a news briefing on Friday, "I would just say very respectfully and with compassion . . . there are two ways people leave the hospital, and one of them is not very good." That puts it pretty clearly. Alabama's losing a lot of people. The birthrate has been declining nationally for some years now, and the decline was more pronounced than expected last year. Couple that with increased deaths from Covid-19 and the associated non-Covid deaths, and you have an upside-down year not just in Alabama,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 6 of 73

but in 24 other states too, compared to 2019 when that happened in only five states.

So who's dying? According to an analysis of deaths numbers in the Washington Post, people over 85 are two percent of the population, but they represent 25 percent of the deaths. If you're over 85, your chance of dying so far in the pandemic is one in 35; if you're between 65 and 84, your chance is one in 150, and if you're between 40 and 64, your chance of dying is one in 780—still 0.1 percent. Again, these are not the death rates among people with Covid-19; these are the death rates for Americans. The chances of dying are hugely increased if you are Native, Hispanic, or Black, and the younger you are, the greater the racial differences are. This lays bare the generations of inequity in our social fabric, especially with respect to medical care. It also depends where you live: States range from one in 330 to one in 2100.

The big news this week is that the FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee met on schedule on Friday to discuss Pfizer/BioNTech's application for emergency use authorization (EUA) of third doses or boosters for their vaccine at six months after the second dose. It appears this really was a case of dueling datasets and disagreeing experts. I think it's safe to say everyone agreed that the additional dose would yield increased immune responses—and who couldn't have predicted that?—but not everyone agreed how durable or how necessary that heightened response is. Another thing on which most seem to agree is that older people and those with risk factors need boosting more than others.

There were presentations from the FDA, the CDC, Pfizer, and the Israeli researchers whose work we've discussed. The discussion was apparently lively and at times tense; the meeting was quite long. There was a great deal of discussion of the quality of the data and its interpretation with respect to long term efficacy, as well as with respect to safety, especially in younger people.

I've read an excellent summary of the Committee's concerns with the data they saw. First, they did not believe the data show that efficacy against severe disease has waned sufficiently in the general population to justify additional doses of vaccine; it appears to still be doing a good job. Pfizer argued that this is likely to change, but the Committee didn't see sufficient evidence of imminent change to satisfy them. There was concern about risk versus benefit, particularly in the young. The data leaned heavily on findings in older individuals, and it's difficult to extrapolate between age groups when it comes to immune responses. One issue that arose is the very small risk of rare cardiac complications which occurs particularly in younger males. Even though the condition is mild and resolves, any risk has to be justified by benefit; and when you cannot conclusively demonstrate the benefit, then an additional dose looks like all risk. Think about the risk of taking an over-the-counter cough syrup: miniscule, but not zero. If you're coughing, then it's worth that tiny risk to soothe the cough and help you sleep; but if you're not sick or coughing, no one thinks it makes sense to take any risk at all by just randomly drinking cough syrup, right? That would be silly: Any risk is too much if there is no benefit to be gained. And so, if your immunity is just dandy, why on earth would you incur any risk at all of myocarditis? There was concern that much of the data presented was not yet peer-reviewed. The peer-review process, while it can look sort of fussy and particular to the non-scientist, is a way of making sure nothing important's been missed in the research process. It is the rare scientific paper that doesn't undergo some revision as the result of peer review, and this process strengthens the science. There hasn't been time for that process to play out on many of the studies presented Friday, and so there could be mistaken conclusions lurking in this work. Members indicated they want more data, longer-term studies, and peer review before they recommend additional doses to any but the most at-risk. And the Committee also expressed concern about additional doses to the general population while others go without any vaccine at all, both in the US and in other countries. Every dose that goes into a fully-vaccinated person is one that isn't going into someone who's completely unprotected.

The result of this long discussion was that the Committee voted overwhelmingly (16-2) against authorizing

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 7 of 73

a third dose for everyone 16 and over, then voted unanimously to recommend authorization for those 65 and over and those at high risk for severe disease. This was followed by an informal poll of the group on whether persons whose occupations place them at high risk—health care workers, emergency responders, and (perhaps) teachers—should also be authorized to receive a third dose; that vote was also unanimous in favor. These recommendations will be forwarded to the FDA which is not bound by the Advisory Committee's recommendations, but usually follows them. That decision is expected early next week. If the FDA authorizes, then the whole matter passes to the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) who will write the guidelines for administration of the third dose. The group did recommend a third dose in the over-65 and at-risk population at six months as requested by Pfizer rather than at eight months as suggested by the administration; we'll have to wait to see what ACIP has to say about that. This group is scheduled to meet on the matter on Wednesday and Thursday, so we'll have clear direction after that.

While these highly qualified and very smart people don't need my stamp of approval, I'll say this all makes sense to me. And honestly, the fully vaccinated who might need a booster are not what's driving the terrible mess we're in. That's the unvaccinated. I haven't the slightest idea how to get them vaccinated, but they're our problem. They're where we need to put a whole lot of attention, although I'll say, at some point, I just want the folks who've done the right thing to be protected. The unfortunate reality is that their protection takes cooperation from those who don't care whether their friends and neighbors—even whether they and their own families—die. I don't know what you do with that.

The original conversation was about additional doses for all three authorized vaccines, but since Moderna submitted its data to the FDA just a couple of weeks ago and Janssen/Johnson & Johnson have not yet submitted theirs, the discussion on Friday was limited to just the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. It has been particularly difficult to make predictions about the need for boosters after the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine because with relatively few people having received that vaccine, data are still sort of thin on the ground. We'll see what the future brings for these.

Here's a new one: ingesting Betadine to kill SARS-CoV-2. Or gargling with it for the same purpose. There's a lot of stuff about how the virus starts out in your mouth and throat so that, if you gargle regularly, you'll kill the virus in your throat before it can get into your lungs. Some folks also recommend using other disinfectants, mouthwashes, or salt water to kill the virus. I saw quite a compilation of advice in memes and other posts on Twitter and other social media. Sigh.

There's a lot here. First, there is no mouthwash or other substance approved for putting into your mouth that has been shown to offer the slightest benefit against SARS-CoV-2—no mouthwash, no gargle, no salt water concoction or other home remedy. These are harmless, but none of them is going to kill the virus in your throat, and even if they did, there is no evidence the virus would die in time to prevent disease anyhow. As for disinfectants or antiseptics of various kinds which have not been approved for putting into your mouth, these should never—surprise here!—be put into your mouth. And you shouldn't be drinking any of them—salt water, mouthwash, gargle, antiseptic, disinfectant. None of them. Ever.

From the top. There is nothing you can gargle with which has any demonstrated benefit for preventing or treating Covid-19 in any manner. Salt water doesn't help. Mouthwash doesn't help. The gargle formulation of Betadine doesn't help. And disinfectants not intended for internal use do not help—and are often dangerous. The makers of Betadine say, "Betadine® Antiseptic Sore Throat Gargle is only for the temporary relief of occasional sore throat. Betadine Antiseptic products have not been demonstrated to be effective for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19 or any other viruses." With respect to Betadine's other products which are intended as skin antiseptics, the company says, "Betadine® Antiseptic First Aid products have not been approved to treat coronavirus. Betadine® Antiseptic First Aid products should only be used

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 8 of 73

to help prevent infection in minor cuts, scrapes and burns. Betadine Antiseptic products have not been demonstrated to be effective for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19 or any other viruses." Do you spot a theme here? Believe me, if their products had been shown to have any efficacy against this virus, they'd be all over getting the word out. If they say the stuff doesn't work, it doesn't work. The WHO does not list any antiseptic for gargling as effective in prevention. And no one recommends ingesting Betadine. It is not intended for ingestion, and it can be dangerous. Time to put this one to bed.

There is an interesting new study published in The PLOS (Public Library of Science) ONE. A team from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences has discovered autoantibodies that are turning up several weeks after initial infection in some 93 percent of acutely-hospitalized Covid-19 patients tested and disrupting angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2). You may remember ACE2 is the receptor on your cells that the SARS-CoV-2 virus attaches to as it invades your cells. In addition to serving as a site for attachment for the virus, ACE2 activates the immune system; messing with it appears to interfere with ACE2's role in regulating immune responses to the virus, which may lead to a proinflammatory state that triggers long-Covid, the condition characterized by symptoms that linger for weeks, months, or more after recovery from acute Covid-19. The study was small, but promising. If it turns out they're on to something, there are treatments available to prevent the autoantibody activity; that would be very helpful.

Also on the subject of long-Covid, the NIH announced on Wednesday that they are funding a large-scale set of studies of the condition. Termed the RECOVER Initiative, the project is expected to involve more than 100 researchers at more than 30 institutions. The stated purpose is to accelerate the discovery of causes and treatment. This is the largest coordinated effort to explore the condition thus far in this pandemic.

Now here's something we talked about over a year ago, back in June and July of last year. It has to do with the potential that some childhood immunizations, the MMR (measles-mumps-rubella) vaccine in particular, might provide some nonspecific protection against SARS-CoV-2. You can have a look at the science involved in my Update #121 posted June 23, 2020, at <https://www.facebook.com/marie.schwabmiller/posts/3708801895802856> and especially in my Update #137 posted July 9, 2020, at <https://www.facebook.com/marie.schwabmiller/posts/3756519961031049>.

I've been watching for word on this possibility ever since, and finally, I have something, courtesy of a friend who happened on it. A paper from a team at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston published a paper a couple of weeks ago in The National Center for Biotechnology Information's PubMed reports on laboratory analysis of T-cell responses to SARS-CoV-2, the MMR vaccine, and the Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis) vaccine. T-cells, you may recall, are instrumental in the cell-mediated arm of the adaptive immune response. (For a refresher on all of that, check out my Update #150 posted July 22, 2020, at <https://www.facebook.com/marie.schwabmiller/posts/3796230603726651>.) These researchers also took a look at Cleveland Clinic data showing an association between prior MMR or Tdap vaccination and lowered frequency of ICU hospitalization or death.

The paper says their laboratory findings "provide definitive cellular and molecular evidence" that there are T-cell clones (progeny from a T cell activated by a specific antigen) that can respond to SARS-CoV-2, to MMR antigens, and to Tdap antigens too. The particular clones seen appear to be cytotoxic (effective in terms of immune response) memory T cells of a type "known to contribute to anti-viral immunity." The cooperative effort with the Cleveland Clinic took a detailed look at the epidemiologic evidence, that is, the patterns of disease observed in more than 75,000 patients seen at one of the Clinic facilities. These were patients who had tested positive for Covid-19 in a one-year period (March 2020 to March 2021). Findings reported were that, "Our propensity-weighted analysis of a large COVID-19 patient cohort adjusted for multiple patient characteristics revealed that severe disease outcomes were reduced in MMR- or Tdap-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 9 of 73

vaccinated individuals.” Patients who had been vaccinated for MMR showed a 38 percent decrease in hospitalization and a 32 percent decrease in ICU admission or death. The reductions seen in Tdap recipients were 23 percent and 20 percent, respectively. That’s a large effect. It is important to remember here that the existence of an association like this one is not evidence of causation, that is, we can’t be sure the prior vaccinations are what’s causing the reduced severity of disease; but the possibility is tantalizing and deserves further study.

Their conclusions included this: “Although previous smaller studies suggested a similar link, our in-depth epidemiological analyses, together with our basic research results, suggest that these commonly-given vaccines may protect against severe disease.” Now, no one here is suggesting MMR and/or Tdap is an adequate substitute for a Covid-19 vaccination, but given these two older vaccines are plentiful and inexpensive, we could see a use for them to provide some protection in parts of the world where Covid-19 vaccines are not yet available, and folks are wondering whether they might have a role to play in beefing up our general level of protection against emerging variants.

Last week it was gorillas in Atlanta; this week it’s big cats in Washington, DC. Six African lions, a Sumatran tiger, and two Amur tigers at the Smithsonian’s National Zoo have tested positive for Covid-19 and are undergoing treatment with anti-inflammatories. The zoo has not been able to determine just how the animals were infected since staff have strict precautions in place and visitors do not have access to them; apparently no worker has been identified who is positive for the virus. Symptoms in the cats were lethargy, decreased appetite, coughing, and sneezing. There are plans to vaccinate susceptible animals as soon as sufficient vaccine becomes available.

And that’s a wrap for today. Stay well, and we’ll talk in a few days.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 10 of 73



Awkward Phase Day

Pictured left to right are Addison Hoefft, sixth grade; Teagan Hanten and Taryn Traphagen, seventh grade; Braden Althoff, sophomore; JD Schwan, eighth grade; Emma Kutter, freshman; and Shaylee Peterson, junior. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 11 of 73



Twin Day

Pictured left to right are Gavin Khali and Garrett Schultz, second place, eighth grade; Taryn Traphagen, McKenna Tietz and Brenna Imrie, first place, seventh grade; Brooklyn Hansen and Kennedy Hansen, second place, freshman; and Cole Bisbee and Kaleb Antonsen, juniors.

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Pictured left to right are Karsyn Jangula and Carly Guthmiller, sophomores; Gretchen Dinger and Emma Kutter, first place, freshman; Jaedyn Penning and Jerrica Locke, first place, eighth grade; and Sydney Locke and Chezney Weber, sixth grade; not pictured are Kansas Kroll and Tina Zoellner, seniors; and Blake and Brody Lord, second place, seventh grade. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 12 of 73



Costume Day

Pictured in back, left to right, are Claire Schuelke and Addison Hoffman, seventh grade; Aimee Heilman and BRadyn Wipf, sixth grade; Nathalia Warrington, eighth grade; Brennda Carda, junior; Payton Mitchell and Caden McInerney, freshman; Dillon Abeln, sophomore; in front are Riley Leicht, Emilie Thurston and Madeline Fliehs, seniors (not pictured is senior Trista Keith). (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Respiratory Season and Lessons Learned



Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD

It is September, fall is in the air, and what we might call “respiratory season” is nearly upon us. Respiratory season refers to the colder months in which we spend much of our time indoors, maybe October through March. Normally, this season correlates with when we see high rates of typically seasonal respiratory infections such as influenza and respiratory syncytial virus or RSV.

Living through the COVID-19 pandemic has given us knowledge we can use to greatly decrease the spread of all respiratory infections. During the 2020-2021 respiratory season, rates of influenza were at historic lows in South Dakota and across the country due to the measures we took to decrease the spread of COVID-19. So, what are the lessons learned?

First and foremost, we should learn that when we are sick with respiratory symptoms, we should avoid spreading our illness to others. It remains essential that anyone experiencing symptoms of cough, fever, or cold symptoms be evaluated and consider testing for COVID-19, influenza, and possibly other infections to ensure avoidance of spread.

Second, if you are sick, even if you have tested negative for COVID-19, try to avoid spreading germs to others. We should especially avoid contact with those most vulnerable to respiratory illnesses – this includes the very young and the very old and those who have suppressed immune systems or chronic lung disease. If you must be around others, keep distance when possible, cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, and at best, wear a mask to keep those respiratory droplets out of the air. I now cringe to think of years past, when I would power through my common colds and see patients without a mask. I know I can do better in the future.

Finally, vaccines remain one of our best tools for infection prevention. Of course, vaccination against COVID-19 is crucial and has proven to be highly safe and effective. But let’s not forget other respiratory vaccines. It is time to think about getting your annual influenza vaccine. And if you are 65 years old or more, or if you have any medical problems increasing your risk for bacterial pneumonia, you should ask your healthcare provider about a pneumococcal vaccine.

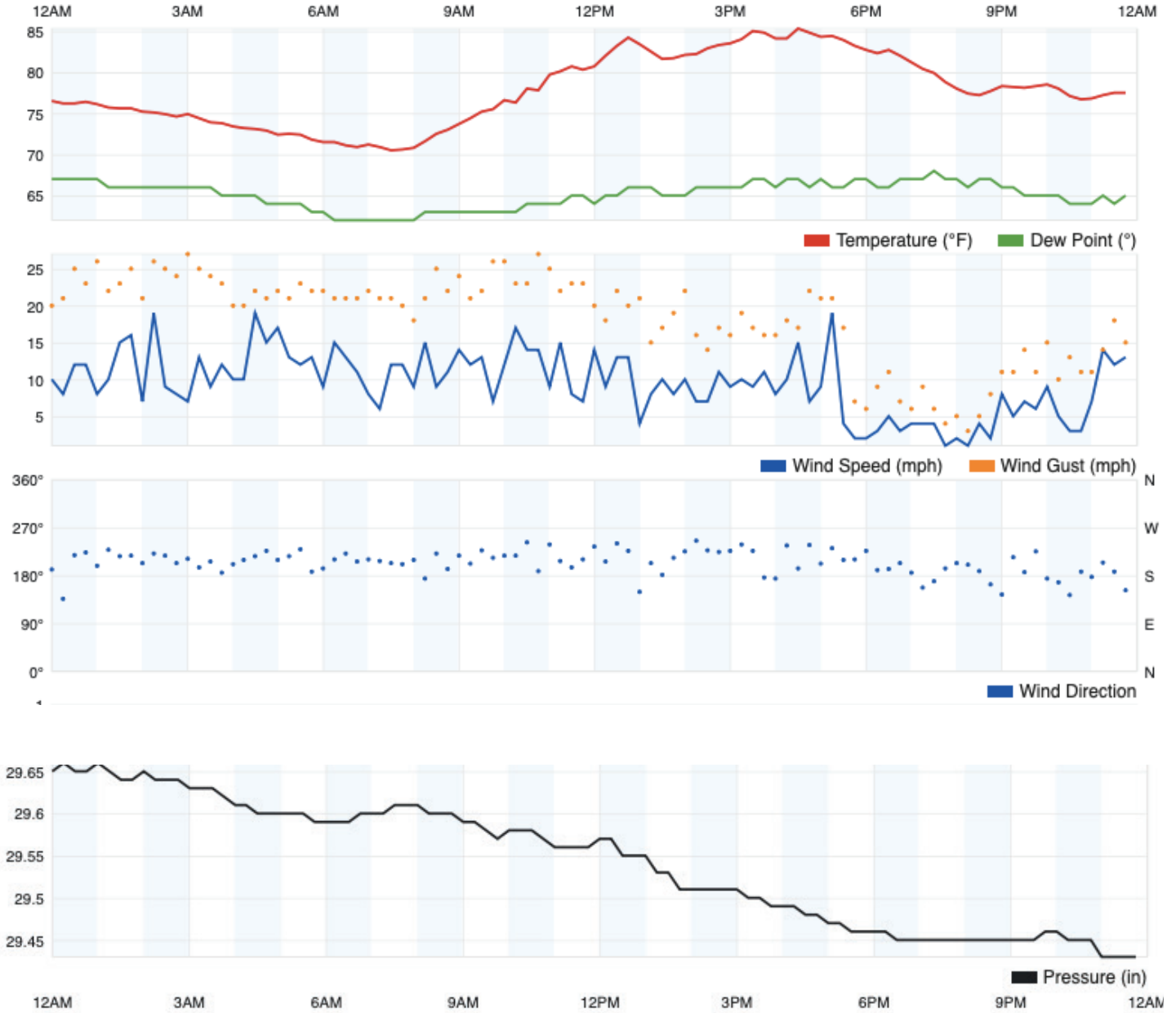
We have the tools to keep ourselves and others healthy during the respiratory season. I, for one, hope that lessons learned during a respiratory viral pandemic might help us all do better in the future.

Kelly Evans-Hullinger, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices internal medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show celebrating its twentieth season of truthful, tested, and timely medical information, broadcast on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

Groton Daily Independent

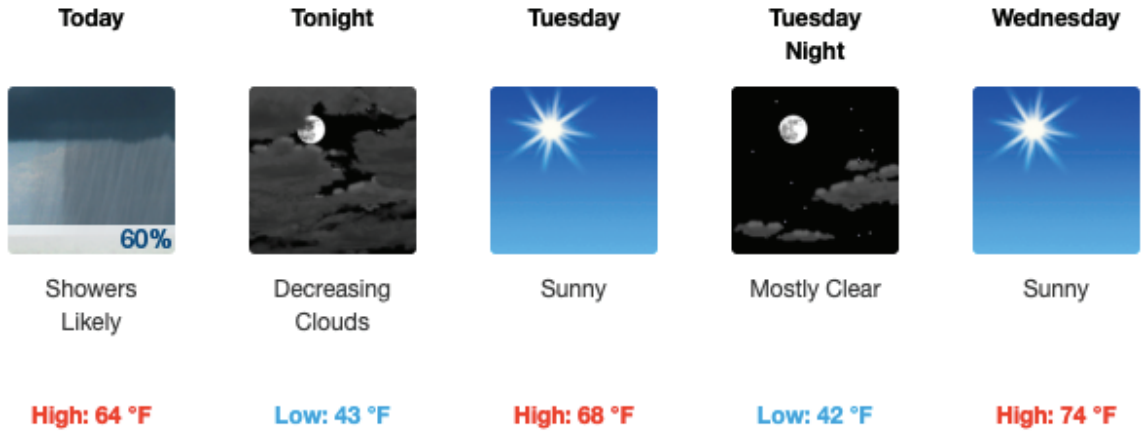
Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 14 of 73

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

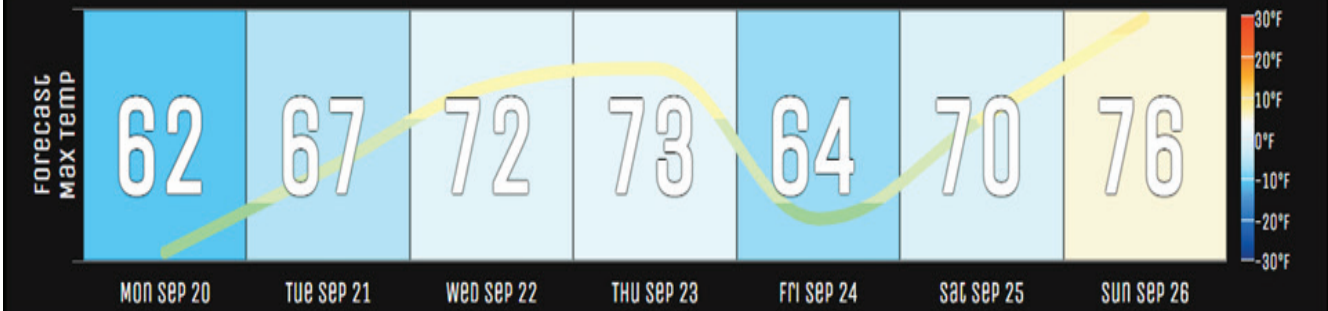


Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 15 of 73

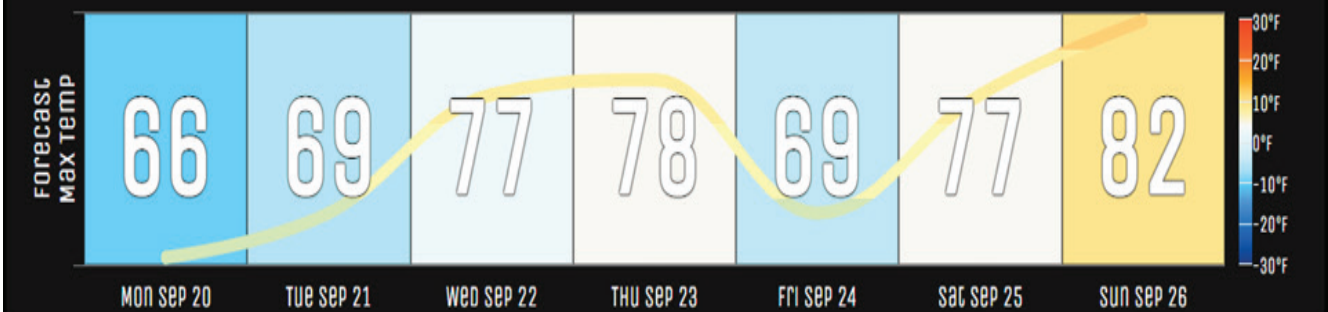


Forecast Daily Max Temp vs Departure for Sep 20-Sep 26, 2021



Aberdeen Airport

Forecast Daily Max Temp vs Departure for Sep 20-Sep 26, 2021



Pierre Airport

Showers of rain come to an end today, while a cooler airmass builds into the region. High temperatures will fluctuate this week from several degrees below normal at times to a few degrees above normal at times.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 16 of 73

Today in Weather History

September 20, 1970: During the late afternoon, golfball hail fell in and around Redfield with a tornado reported just north of Doland. No damage was reported with the hail or the tornado.

September 20, 1972: About 430 pm, in southeast South Dakota, a tornado caused an estimated \$95,000 damage to property and 50,000 damage to crops in Utica and nearby rural areas. Buildings were damaged; trees and power lines were downed.

1845 - A tornado traveled 275 miles across Lake Ontario, New York and Lake Champlain. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1909: A large and deadly Category 3 hurricane made landfall near Grand Isle, Louisiana during the late evening hours. The states of Louisiana and Mississippi showed catastrophic damage resulting in 371 deaths and \$265 million in damage (2010 USD).

1926 - A hurricane which hit Miami, FL, on the 18th, pounded Pensacola with wind gusts to 152 mph. Winds raged in excess of 100 mph for four hours, and above 75 mph for 20 hours. (The Weather Channel)

1961: On September 10th, the Television Infrared Observation Satellite observed an area of thunderstorms west-southwest of the Cape Verde Islands, suggesting a possible tropical cyclone. This storm is the first large tropical cyclone to be discovered on satellite imagery and would eventually become Hurricane Esther. On September 20th, Hurricane Esther, a Category 4 storm off of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina began to slow down as it moved north-northeast well off the Jersey shore. The storm continued to weaken as it made a five-day loop south of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, then moved to Cape Cod and into Maine on the 26th.

1967 - Hurricane Beulah moved into South Texas, and torrential rains from the hurricane turned the rich agricultural areas of South Texas into a large lake. Hurricane Beulah also spawned a record 115 tornadoes. (David Ludlum)

1983 - The temperature at West Yellowstone MT plunged to six degrees below zero, while the temperature at San Francisco CA soared to 94 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in Oklahoma and west Texas. In Oklahoma, a thunderstorm at Seiling produced three inches of rain in one hour, golf ball size hail, and wind gusts to 60 mph which collapsed a tent at the state fair injuring nine persons. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Showers and thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in central Wyoming, and snow in some of the higher elevations. Casper WY reported 1.75 inches of rain in 24 hours, and a thunderstorm north of the Wild Horse Reservoir produced 1.90 inches of rain in just forty minutes.

1989 - Hugo jilted Iris. Hurricane Hugo churned toward the South Atlantic Coast, gradually regaining strength along the way. Tropical Storm Iris got too close to Hugo, and began to weaken. A cold front brought strong and gusty winds to the Great Basin and the Southern Plateau Region, with wind gusts to 44 mph reported at Kingman AZ. (The National Weather Summary)

2002: A glacial avalanche buries the village of Karmadon in Russia, killing more than 100 people.

2005 - Hurricane Rita tracked through the Florida Straits and just south of the Florida Keys. Winds were sustained at tropical storm force at Key West, where peak winds gusted to 76 mph.

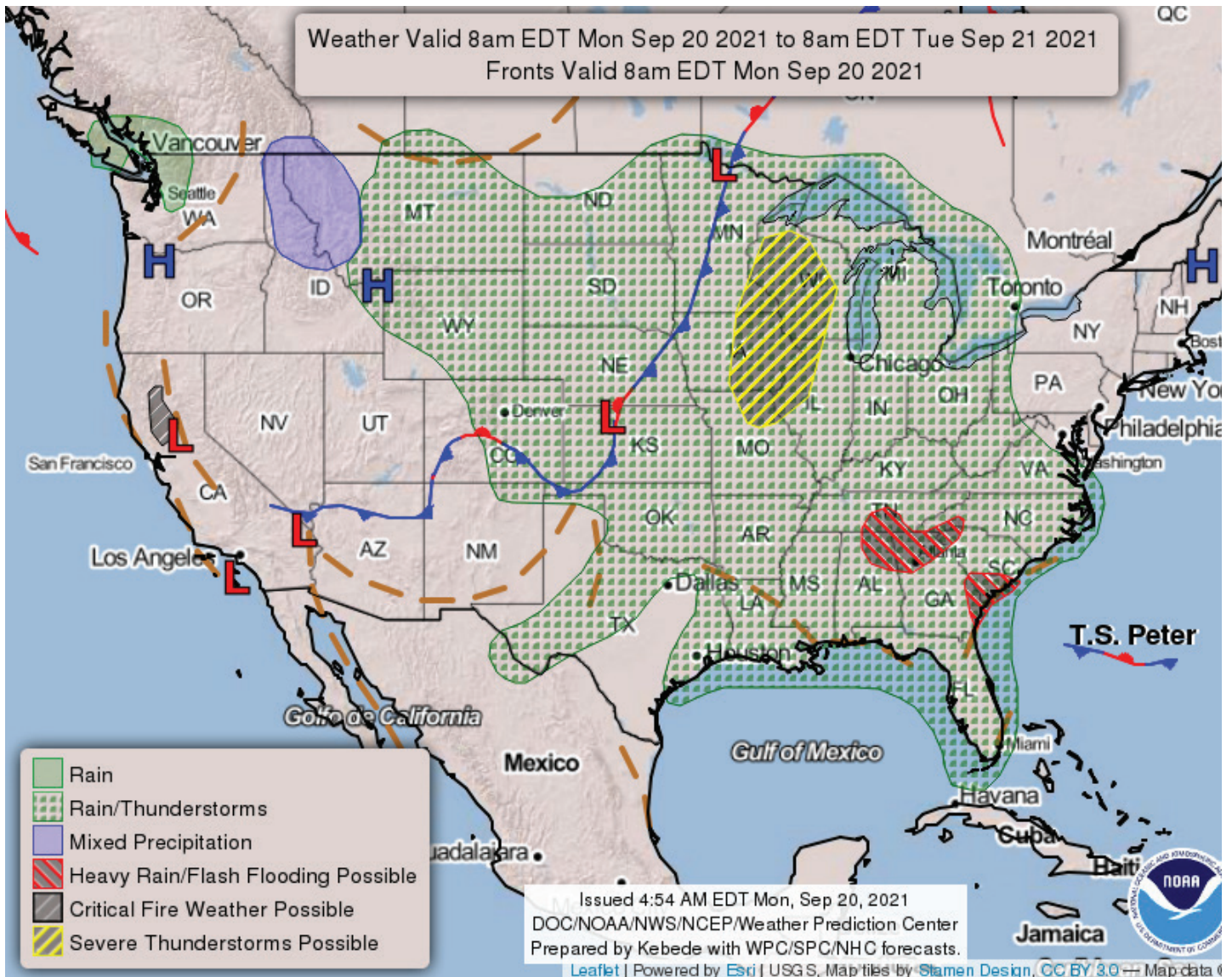
Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 17 of 73

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 86 °F at 4:31 PM
Low Temp: 70 °F at 7:30 AM
Wind: 27 mph at 2:56 AM
Precip: 0.00

Record High: 94° in 1937
Record Low: 20° in 1901
Average High: 73°F
Average Low: 45°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 1.33
Precip to date in Sept.: 2.32
Average Precip to date: 17.67
Precip Year to Date: 15.16
Sunset Tonight: 7:35:06 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:17:24 AM



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 18 of 73



GOD WILL JUDGE!

Robert G. Ingersoll is recognized as one of the most influential agnostics who ever lived. One night in New York he was dramatically and forcefully giving a lecture that explained his doubts about judgment and hell. When the gifted lecturer finished his address, a man who was very drunk stumbled his way to the front of the auditorium and said in slobbering terms, "I sure hope you are right, Brother Bob. I sure hope you are right because I'm counting on that!" He wanted to be free to live as he pleased.

Few today want to think of God as a Judge. It is much more pleasant to think of Him as a loving, caring, compassionate and gracious Father - which He certainly is - than one who will "judge the world by His standards of right-ness." Many would apologize for considering their God in such terms - one who would act in the role of "Judge."

There are many who want to fashion Him after their own likes and dislikes and endow Him with the nature and character they would like Him to possess. They want to make Him consistent with their own wishful thinking so that they will be comfortable in their sins. Their god has the attributes of our God in that He is compassionate and loving but they refuse to accept the fact that His character also contains wrath and justice. This would mean that there would be no judgment and no punishment for wrongs people do to others and His Creation. However, our God is a Righteous God and demands right living.

But our God, Who is a righteous God and demands that we "live right," is also a loving and accepting God and will forgive us when we fail Him if we ask Him for His mercy.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to live in the light of Your love as well as Your judgment. May we live as You would have us to live so we will one day hear, "Well done!" In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness. Psalm 96:13

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 19 of 73

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
Cancelled Lions Club Crazy Golf Fest 9am Olive Grove Golf Course
08/29/2021 Groton Firemen Summer Splash Day at GHS Parking Lot (4-5 p.m.)
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
10/29/2021 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)
12/04/2021 Olive Grove Tour of Homes
12/11/2021 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9am-Noon

News from the Associated Press

South Dakota tech company poised for growth in cybersecurity

By DANA HESS Madison Daily Leader

MADISON, S.D. (AP) — In a new 5,000-square-foot building, Infotech Solutions of Madison is ready to grow as more businesses realize the need for cybersecurity services.

"We've got plenty of room," said Infotech owner Darin Namken. "We're planning on some growth."

Namken describes Infotech as a complete managed service provider for customers with computer systems. "We lock it all down," Namken said. "We're like a full-time employee" making sure that back-ups are in place and email systems are working.

Infotech offers a variety of service packages for customers whose needs may range from fighting off ransomware to opening a reluctant Word file, the Madison Daily Leader reported.

"They're not going to get dinged for every little call," Namken said.

Namken also operates Bulldog Media, which specializes in online customer acquisition for clients in the financial services industry. Infotech was started to handle the technology needs of Bulldog Media.

The technology services company has grown, thanks in part to a steady stream of tech-savvy students from Dakota State University.

Without DSU students to tap as employees, Namken said, "We probably never would have started it here."

Namken likens the cybersecurity of many businesses to a grocery store that may lock the back door but leaves the key under a mat.

"A lot of places we go into," Namken said, "the door isn't even locked."

As more businesses deal with ransomware, Namken expects cybersecurity to lead the way in Infotech's growth.

Business owners may believe that ransomware attacks can't happen in South Dakota, Namken said, but they are happening already.

"They're targeting South Dakota because that's what we're thinking — that they won't come here," Namken said.

As ransomware attacks become more frequent, Namken believes that business owners will need to change their attitudes.

"Businesses always look at IT as an expense," Namken said. "They really have to look at it as an investment."

Darren Clarke wins PGA Tour Champions playoff in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Darren Clarke won the Stanford International on Sunday for his third PGA Tour Champions victory of the season, beating K.J. Choi with a birdie on the second hole of a playoff.

Clarke, the 53-year-old major champion from Northern Ireland, closed with a 5-under 65 at Minnehaha Country Club, birdieing the par-4 18th to match Choi and Steve Flesch at 12-under 198.

"It's nice to get back in the winner's circle again," Clarke said. "In the playoff you never know what's going to happen, anybody can make birdie and luckily it was my day today."

Clarke won the TimberTech Championship in November for his first senior title and took the Mitsubishi Electric Championship in January on his next tour start.

"I've really enjoyed my time here in Sioux Falls," Clarke said. "The fans have been brilliant. I've had maybe a little beverage with one or two of them in the past, so it's been nice to have that atmosphere and that support. It's always wonderful."

Choi, the second-round leader, finished with a 69. He had only one birdie, on the par-4 13th.

"Playoff, in the second hole, hit the tree at the left," Choi said. "Is disappointing, but good finish. ... Everything is very great this week."

Flesch, eliminated with a bogey on the first extra trip down 18, also bogeyed the hole in regulation for

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 21 of 73

a 66.

"I played well, I've been playing well," Flesch said. "I just wish I could have played that 72nd hole over. I picked an aggressive line and made kind of a tentative swing with the 3-wood and it got me. You know, that 18th hole, it's playing tough. Straight downwind, it's hard to get the ball on the right level."

Miguel Angel Jimenez, the 2020 winner, was two strokes back along with Rod Pamplung (69). U.S. Ryder Cup captain Steve Stricker (67) was 9 under. Stricker will lead the United States against Europe next week at Whistling Straits in Wisconsin.

Retief Goosen (69) was 8 under with Alex Cejka (71), John Senden (65) and Steven Alker (67).

COVID-19 affects musicals in Rapid City, Sioux Falls

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Musical scheduled in South Dakota's two largest cities have either been postponed or scrapped due to the coronavirus.

A musical that was set to run this weekend at the Orpheum Theater in Sioux Falls was postponed to Sept. 29 and 30 after two members tested positive for COVID-19. The production of "Lost in Vegas," held by local theater company Lights Up, held its opening run last weekend in front of about 200 people each day.

After one cast member had tested positive for COVID-19 this past week, the show went on Thursday after officials blocked the first two rows and warned the 150 people in the audience about the results, director Brent Grosvenor told the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.

"We did the right thing, we talked to the cast, the cast made an informed decision still to perform," Grosvenor said. "We had understudies replacing sick actors and that's how the real world works."

After another cast member tested positive for the virus on Friday, theater officials called off the rest of the weekend shows.

In Rapid City, the Black Hills Community Theatre in Rapid City announced Friday it had canceled all planned performances of the musical "Matilda" following the increased spread of COVID-19 infections in the region.

Theater officials told the Rapid City Journal the musical involves a cast, orchestra and crew of nearly 50 people and many younger participants are not yet eligible for vaccinations.

2 state prisoners accused of escape found in Rapid City

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two South Dakota state prison inmates who drove away from a community service project are back in custody, authorities said Sunday.

Thomas Wilson, 32, and Peyton Laird, 22, were assigned to the task in Sioux Falls when they stole a car and drove away Friday morning, according to state Department of Corrections officials.

The two men were arrested Sunday in the Rapid City area and are currently being held in the Pennington County Jail, officials said. The vehicle was recovered in Pennington County.

Wilson is serving sentences for possession of a controlled substance and forgery from Pennington County. Laird is serving sentences related to second-degree burglary and possession of a controlled substance from Minnehaha County.

The men could face charges of second-degree escape, punishable by up to five years in prison.

Sioux Falls man convicted in meth case sentenced to 20 years

SIoux FALLS, SD. (AP) — Authorities say a Sioux Falls man has been sentenced to 20 years in prison after he was convicted for dealing large quantities of methamphetamine.

Christopher Walker, 50, was indicted by a federal grand jury in January on a charge of conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance. He pleaded guilty in June.

The complaint said Walker conspired with others to distribute 500 grams or more of meth to drug customers in South Dakota.

Walker was also ordered earlier this week to serve five years of supervised release.

Shooting at Russian university leaves 8 dead, 28 hurt

By JIM HEINTZ Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A gunman opened fire Monday at a university in Russia, leaving eight people dead and 28 hurt, officials said.

The suspect was detained after being wounded in an exchange of fire with police, the Interior Ministry said. There was no immediate information available on his identity or possible motive.

During the attack, students and staff at Perm State University locked themselves in rooms, and video posted on Russian news sites showed some students jumping out of second-story windows.

In some footage, a black-clad, helmeted figure could be seen striding on a campus sidewalk cradling a long-barreled weapon. Russia's Investigative Committee said the gunman fired a smoothbore hunting weapon. That could indicate he used a shotgun.

A traffic police unit was the first to reach the scene, and the suspect opened fire on them, according to the Interior Ministry. He was wounded when police returned fire and then was disarmed, the ministry said.

Although firearms laws are strict in Russia, many people obtain permits for hunting weapons. News reports cited officials as saying the suspect had a permit for a pump-action shotgun, although it was not clear if it was for the weapon used.

In May, a gunman opened fire at a school in the city of Kazan, killing seven students and two teachers, with a registered weapon.

The university, which has 12,000 students enrolled, said about 3,000 people were on the campus at the time of the shooting. The school is in the city of Perm, which is about 1,100 kilometers (700 miles) east of Moscow with a population of about 1 million.

The Investigative Committee said 28 people were injured, some of them hospitalized, but did not give details. The Health Ministry said 19 of them were shot; it was not clear how the others were injured.

'Hotel Rwanda' hero found guilty of terror-related charges

By IGNATIUS SSUUNA Associated Press

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — A court in Rwanda says the man who inspired "Hotel Rwanda," Paul Rusesabagina, is guilty of terror-related offenses.

Rusesabagina boycotted Monday's announcement after declaring he didn't expect justice in a trial he called a "sham."

He has so far been found guilty of the formation of an illegal armed group and membership in a terrorist group. The verdict is still being read out on charges of murder, abduction, and armed robbery as an act of terrorism.

The ruling comes more than a year after Rusesabagina disappeared during a visit to Dubai and appeared days later in Rwanda in handcuffs, accused of supporting the armed wing of his opposition political platform, Rwandan Movement for Democratic Change. The group had claimed some responsibility for attacks in 2018 and 2019 in the south of the country in which nine Rwandans died.

Rusesabagina has maintained his innocence, and his family alleges he was kidnapped and taken to Rwanda against his will.

The AP Interview: UN chief warns China, US to avoid Cold War

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Warning of a potential new Cold War, the head of the United Nations implored China and the United States to repair their "completely dysfunctional" relationship before problems between the two large and deeply influential countries spill over even further into the rest of the planet.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres spoke to The Associated Press this weekend ahead of this week's annual United Nations gathering of world leaders — a convening blemished by COVID, climate concerns

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 23 of 73

and contentiousness across the planet.

Guterres said the world's two major economic powers should be cooperating on climate and negotiating more robustly on trade and technology even given persisting political fissures about human rights, economics, online security and sovereignty in the South China Sea.

"Unfortunately, today we only have confrontation," Guterres said Saturday in the AP interview.

"We need to re-establish a functional relationship between the two powers," he said, calling that "essential to address the problems of vaccination, the problems of climate change and many other global challenges that cannot be solved without constructive relations within the international community and mainly among the superpowers."

Two years ago, Guterres warned global leaders of the risk of the world splitting in two, with the United States and China creating rival internets, currency, trade, financial rules "and their own zero-sum geopolitical and military strategies."

He reiterated that warning in the AP interview, adding that two rival geopolitical and military strategies would pose "dangers" and divide the world. Thus, he said, the foundering relationship must be repaired — and soon.

"We need to avoid at all cost a Cold War that would be different from the past one, and probably more dangerous and more difficult to manage," Guterres said.

The so-called Cold War between the Soviet Union and its East bloc allies and the United States and its Western allies began immediately after World War II and ended with the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. It was a clash of two nuclear-armed superpowers with rival ideologies — communism and authoritarianism on one side, capitalism and democracy on the other.

The U.N. chief said a new Cold War could be more perilous because the Soviet-U.S. antipathy created clear rules, and both sides were conscious of the risk of nuclear destruction. That produced back channels and forums "to guarantee that things would not get out of control," he said.

"Now, today, everything is more fluid, and even the experience that existed in the past to manage crisis is no longer there," Guterres said.

He said the U.S.-Britain deal to provide Australia with nuclear-powered submarines so it could operate undetected in Asia "is just one small piece of a more complex puzzle ... this completely dysfunctional relationship between China and the United States."

The secretly negotiated deal angered China and France, which had signed a contract with Australia worth at least \$66 billion for a dozen French conventional diesel-electric submarines.

In the wide-ranging AP interview, the secretary-general also addressed three major issues that world leaders will be confronting this week: the worsening climate crisis, the still-raging pandemic and Afghanistan's uncertain future under its new Taliban rulers. They took power Aug. 15 without a fight from the government's U.S.-trained army as American forces were in the final stage of withdrawing from the country after 20 years.

What role will the United Nations have in the new Afghanistan? Guterres called it "a fantasy" to believe that U.N. involvement "will be able all of a sudden to produce an inclusive government, to guarantee that all human rights are respected, to guarantee that no terrorists will ever exist in Afghanistan, that drug trafficking will stop."

After all, he said, the United States and many other countries had thousands of soldiers in Afghanistan and spent trillions of dollars and weren't able to solve the country's problems — and, some say, made them worse.

Though the United Nations has "limited capacity and limited leverage," he said, it is playing a key role in leading efforts to provide humanitarian aid to Afghans. The U.N. is also drawing the Taliban's attention to the importance of an inclusive government that respects human rights, especially for women and girls, he said.

"There is clearly a fight for power within different groups in the Taliban leadership. The situation is not yet clarified," he said, calling it one more reason why the international community should engage with the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 24 of 73

Taliban.

While former U.S. president Donald Trump was wedded to an "America First" policy, President Joe Biden — who will make his first appearance as chief executive at the General Assembly's high-level meeting Tuesday — has reaffirmed U.S. commitment to multilateral institutions.

Guterres said Biden's commitment to global action on climate, including rejoining the 2015 Paris climate agreement that Trump withdrew from, is "probably the most important of them all."

He said there is "a completely different environment in the relationship" between the United Nations and the United States under Biden. But, Guterres said, "I did everything — and I'm proud of it — in order to make sure that we would keep a functional relationship with the United States in the past administration."

Guterres also lamented the failure of countries to work together to tackle global warming and ensure that people in every country are vaccinated.

Of the past year of COVID-19 struggles, he said: "We were not able to make any real progress in relation to effective coordination of global efforts."

And of climate: "One year ago, we were seeing a more clear movement in the right direction, and that movement has slowed down in the recent past. So we need to re-accelerate again if we are not going into disaster."

Guterres called it "totally unacceptable" that 80% of the population in his native Portugal has been vaccinated while in many African countries, less than 2% of the population is vaccinated.

"It's completely stupid from the point of view of defeating the virus, but if the virus goes on spreading like wildfire in the global south, there will be more mutations," he said. "And we know that mutations are making it more transmissible, more dangerous."

He again urged the world's 20 major economic powers in the G20, who failed to take united action against COVID-19 in early 2020, to create the conditions for a global vaccination plan. Such a plan, he said, must bring together vaccine-producing countries with international financial institutions and pharmaceutical companies to double production and ensure equitable distribution.

"I think this is possible," Guterres said. "It depends on political will."

The secretary-general said rich, developed countries are spending about 20% of their GDP on recovery problems, middle income countries about 6% and the least developed countries 2% of a small GDP. That, he says, has produced frustration and mistrust in parts of the developing world that have received neither vaccines nor recovery assistance.

The divide between developed countries in the north and developing countries in the south "is very dangerous for global security," Guterres said, "and it's very dangerous for the capacity to bring the world together to fight climate change."

Edith M. Lederer, chief U.N. correspondent for The Associated Press, has been reporting internationally for nearly 50 years. Follow her on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/EdithLedererAP>

Pro-Kremlin party on course to retain majority in parliament

By DARIA LITVINOVA Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's ruling party was on course Monday to retain the super majority needed to ensure President Vladimir Putin's continued grip on power after parliamentary elections that most opposition politicians were barred from and that were marred by multiple reports of violations.

The vote has been watched closely as key to the runup to the 2024 presidential election. It's not yet clear whether Putin will run again, choose a successor or outline a different path — but he is expected to keep his hand on the tiller whatever he decides, and an obedient State Duma, or parliament, is crucial to those plans.

Results from about 95% of the country's polling stations gave the ruling United Russia party 49.64% of the vote for the 225 seats apportioned by parties, according to the Central Election Commission. Another 225 lawmakers are chosen directly by voters, and the results Monday morning showed United Russia

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 25 of 73

candidates leading in 199 of those races.

Top United Russia official Andrei Turchak suggested that the party will get 315 out of the 450 seats — a result that would give them more than two-thirds of the legislature's seats.

In fact, the results indicated there would be almost no opposition voices in the Duma at all, with three other parties that usually tow the Kremlin line set to take many of the remaining seats, along with the New People party, which was formed last year and is regarded by many as a Kremlin-sponsored project.

Cries that the results had been manipulated mounted Monday, when the results of online voting in Moscow were still not available to the public. The results in the other six regions that were allowed to vote online have been released. In Moscow, approvals of the ruling party have always been particularly low and protest voting has been widespread, and Kremlin critics were calling for protests of the vote later in the day.

Any fraud allegations aside, the Kremlin sweep was widely expected since few opposition candidates were even allowed to run this year after Russian authorities unleashed a sweeping crackdown on Kremlin critics.

Organizations linked to imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny have been declared extremist, and anyone associated with them was barred from seeking public office by a new law. Navalny is serving 2½-year prison sentence for violating parole over a previous conviction he says is politically motivated.

Other prominent opposition politicians faced prosecution or were forced to leave the country under pressure from the authorities.

Navalny's team still hoped to make dents in United Russia's dominance with their Smart Voting strategy, which promoted candidates who had the best chance at defeating those backed by the Kremlin. However, a massive effort by authorities to suppress the strategy has been underway in recent weeks.

The government blocked the Smart Voting website and pressured Apple and Google to remove an app featuring it from their Russian online stores — a move the tech giants took as voting began Friday. Google also denied access to two documents on its online service Google Docs that listed candidates endorsed by Smart Voting, and YouTube blocked similar videos. In addition, the founder of the Russian messaging app Telegram, Pavel Durov, on Saturday disabled a Smart Voting chatbot set up by allies of Navalny.

Durov said he wanted to respect the laws prohibiting campaigning on voting days, but critics quickly pointed out that he didn't disable similar chatbots imitating Smart Voting and didn't remove the Moscow mayor's call to vote for United Russia candidates.

Apple and Google did not respond to a request for comment. However, a person with direct knowledge of the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said that Google was forced to remove the app because it faced legal demands by regulators and threats of criminal prosecution in Russia.

The voting was also marred by numerous reports of violations, including ballot-stuffing. Some Kremlin critics said that there were as many violations as in 2011, when reports of mass fraud in the parliamentary election triggered months of anti-government and anti-Putin protests.

The election this year was extended to three days, and in seven of Russia's 80-plus regions voters were able to cast their ballots online. Officials said the measures were taken to reduce crowding at the polls during the coronavirus pandemic, but election monitors said that they created more room for manipulating the results.

There were particular concerns about voting in Moscow, where nearly 2 million votes were cast online.

"Where are the results of online voting (in Moscow)?" Navalny's close ally Lyubov Sobol wrote on Facebook. "They're not releasing them in order to rig more votes for United Russia candidates?"

Valery Rashkin, a senior member of the Communist Party who ran for reelection in this year's race, urged supporters to gather at the Pushkinskaya square in the center of Moscow on Monday evening to "discuss" election results and protest the reported violations. "Come out with us to fight for our rights!" wrote Rashkin, who was backed by the Smart Voting strategy and was initially leading the race but lost to a United Russia opponent.

Russian news site Ura.ru on Monday morning released a video showing that the square has already been fenced off and surrounded by police vans.

Pfizer says COVID-19 vaccine works in kids ages 5 to 11

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

Pfizer said Monday its COVID-19 vaccine works for children ages 5 to 11 and that it will seek U.S. authorization for this age group soon -- a key step toward beginning vaccinations for youngsters.

The vaccine made by Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech already is available for anyone 12 and older. But with kids now back in school and the extra-contagious delta variant causing a huge jump in pediatric infections, many parents are anxiously awaiting vaccinations for their younger children.

For elementary school-aged kids, Pfizer tested a much lower dose -- a third of the amount that's in each shot given now. Yet after their second dose, children ages 5 to 11 developed coronavirus-fighting antibody levels just as strong as teenagers and young adults, Dr. Bill Gruber, a Pfizer senior vice president, told The Associated Press.

The kid dosage also proved safe, with similar or fewer temporary side effects -- such as sore arms, fever or achiness -- that teens experience, he said.

"I think we really hit the sweet spot," said Gruber, who's also a pediatrician.

Gruber said the companies aim to apply to the Food and Drug Administration by the end of the month for emergency use in this age group, followed shortly afterward with applications to European and British regulators.

Earlier this month, FDA chief Dr. Peter Marks told the AP that once Pfizer turns over its study results, his agency would evaluate the data "hopefully in a matter of weeks" to decide if the shots are safe and effective enough for younger kids.

Many Western countries so far have vaccinated no younger than age 12, awaiting evidence of what's the right dose and that it works safely in smaller tots. But Cuba last week began immunizing children as young as 2 with its homegrown vaccines and Chinese regulators have cleared two of its brands down to age 3.

While kids are at lower risk of severe illness or death than older people, more than 5 million children in the U.S. have tested positive for COVID-19 since the pandemic began and at least 460 have died, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Cases in children have risen dramatically as the delta variant swept through the country.

"I feel a great sense of urgency" in making the vaccine available to children under 12, Gruber said. "There's pent-up demand for parents to be able to have their children returned to a normal life."

In New Jersey, 10-year-old Maya Huber asked why she couldn't get vaccinated like her parents and both teen brothers have. Her mother, Dr. Nisha Gandhi, a critical care physician at Englewood Hospital, enrolled Maya in the Pfizer study at Rutgers University. But the family hasn't eased up on their masking and other virus precautions until they learn if Maya received the real vaccine or a dummy shot.

Once she knows she's protected, Maya's first goal: "a huge sleepover with all my friends."

Maya said it was exciting to be part of the study even though she was "super scared" about getting jabbed. But "after you get it, at least you feel like happy that you did it and relieved that it didn't hurt," she told the AP.

Pfizer said it studied the lower dose in 2,268 kindergartners and elementary school-aged kids. The FDA required what is called an immune "bridging" study: evidence that the younger children developed antibody levels already proven to be protective in teens and adults. That's what Pfizer reported Monday in a press release, not a scientific publication. The study still is ongoing, and there haven't yet been enough COVID-19 cases to compare rates between the vaccinated and those given a placebo — something that might offer additional evidence.

The study isn't large enough to detect any extremely rare side effects, such as the heart inflammation that sometimes occurs after the second dose, mostly in young men. The FDA's Marks said the pediatric studies should be large enough to rule out any higher risk to young children. Pfizer's Gruber said once the vaccine is authorized for younger children, they'll be carefully monitored for rare risks just like everyone else.

A second U.S. vaccine maker, Moderna, also is studying its shots in elementary school-aged children. Pfizer and Moderna are studying even younger tots as well, down to 6-month-olds. Results are expected

later in the year.

AP journalist Emma Tobin contributed to this report.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

US launches mass expulsion of Haitian migrants from Texas

By JUAN A. LOZANO, ERIC GAY, ELLIOT SPAGAT and EVENS SANON Associated Press

DEL RIO, Texas (AP) — The U.S. is flying Haitians camped in a Texas border town back to their homeland and blocking others from crossing the border from Mexico in a massive show of force that signals the beginning of what could be one of America's swiftest, large-scale expulsions of migrants or refugees in decades.

More than 320 migrants arrived in Port-au-Prince on three flights Sunday, and Haiti said six flights were expected Tuesday. In all, U.S. authorities moved to expel many of the more 12,000 migrants camped around a bridge in Del Rio, Texas, after crossing from Ciudad Acuña, Mexico.

The U.S. plans to begin seven expulsion flights daily on Wednesday, four to Port-au-Prince and three to Cap-Haitien, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. Flights will continue to depart from San Antonio but authorities may add El Paso, the official said.

The only obvious parallel for such an expulsion without an opportunity to seek asylum was in 1992 when the Coast Guard intercepted Haitian refugees at sea, said Yael Schacher, senior U.S. advocate at Refugees International whose doctoral studies focused on the history of U.S. asylum law.

Similarly large numbers of Mexicans have been sent home during peak years of immigration but over land and not so suddenly.

Central Americans have also crossed the border in comparable numbers without being subject to mass expulsion, although Mexico has agreed to accept them from the U.S. under pandemic-related authority in effect since March 2020. Mexico does not accept expelled Haitians or people of other nationalities outside of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

When the border was closed Sunday, the migrants initially found other ways to cross nearby until they were confronted by federal and state law enforcement. An Associated Press reporter saw Haitian immigrants still crossing the river into the U.S. about 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometers) east of the previous spot, but they were eventually stopped by Border Patrol agents on horseback and Texas law enforcement officials.

As they crossed, some Haitians carried boxes on their heads filled with food. Some removed their pants before getting into the river and carried them. Others were unconcerned about getting wet.

Agents yelled at the migrants who were crossing in the waist-deep river to get out of the water. The several hundred who had successfully crossed and were sitting along the river bank on the U.S. side were ordered to the Del Rio camp. "Go now," agents yelled. Mexican authorities in an airboat told others trying to cross to go back into Mexico.

Migrant Charlie Jean had crossed back into Ciudad Acuña from the camps to get food for his wife and three daughters, ages 2, 5 and 12. He was waiting on the Mexican side for a restaurant to bring him an order of rice.

"We need food for every day. I can go without, but my kids can't," said Jean, who had been living in Chile for five years before beginning the trek north to the U.S. It was unknown if he made it back across and to the camp.

Mexico said Sunday it would also begin deporting Haitians to their homeland. A government official said the flights would be from towns near the U.S. border and the border with Guatemala, where the largest group remains.

Haitians have been migrating to the U.S. in large numbers from South America for several years, many having left their Caribbean nation after a devastating 2010 earthquake. After jobs dried up from the 2016

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 28 of 73

Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, many made the dangerous trek by foot, bus and car to the U.S. border, including through the infamous Darien Gap, a Panamanian jungle.

Some of the migrants at the Del Rio camp said the recent devastating earthquake in Haiti and the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse make them afraid to return to a country that seems more unstable than when they left.

"In Haiti, there is no security," said Fabricio Jean, a 38-year-old Haitian who arrived in Texas with his wife and two daughters. "The country is in a political crisis."

Since Friday, 3,300 migrants have already been removed from the Del Rio camp to planes or detention centers, Border Patrol Chief Raul L. Ortiz said Sunday. He expected to have 3,000 of the approximately 12,600 remaining migrants moved within a day, and aimed for the rest to be gone within the week.

"We are working around the clock to expeditiously move migrants out of the heat, elements and from underneath this bridge to our processing facilities in order to quickly process and remove individuals from the United States consistent with our laws and our policies," Ortiz said at news conference at the Del Rio bridge. The Texas city of about 35,000 people sits roughly 145 miles (230 kilometers) west of San Antonio.

Six flights were scheduled in Haiti on Tuesday — three in Port-au-Prince and three in the northern city of Cap-Haitien, said Jean Négot Bonheur Delva, Haiti's migration director.

The rapid expulsions were made possible by a pandemic-related authority adopted by former President Donald Trump in March 2020 that allows for migrants to be immediately removed from the country without an opportunity to seek asylum. President Joe Biden exempted unaccompanied children from the order but let the rest stand.

Any Haitians not expelled are subject to immigration laws, which include rights to seek asylum and other forms of humanitarian protection. Families are quickly released in the U.S. because the government cannot generally hold children.

Some people arriving on the first flight covered their heads as they walked into a large bus parked next to the plane. Dozens lined up to receive a plate of rice, beans, chicken and plantains as they wondered where they would sleep and how they would make money to support their families.

All were given \$100 and tested for COVID-19, though authorities were not planning to put them into quarantine, said Marie-Lourde Jean-Charles with the Office of National Migration.

Gary Monplaisir, 26, said his parents and sister live in Port-au-Prince, but he wasn't sure if he would stay with them because to reach their house he, his wife and their 5-year-old daughter would cross a gang-controlled area called Martissant where killings are routine.

"I'm scared," he said. "I don't have a plan."

He moved to Chile in 2017, just as he was about to earn an accounting degree, to work as a tow truck driver. He later paid for his wife and daughter to join him. They tried to reach the U.S. because he thought he could get a better-paying job and help his family in Haiti.

"We're always looking for better opportunities," he said.

Some migrants said they were planning to leave Haiti again as soon as possible. Valeria Ternission, 29, said she and her husband want to travel with their 4-year-old son back to Chile, where she worked as a bakery's cashier.

"I am truly worried, especially for the child," she said. "I can't do anything here."

Lozano reported from Ciudad Acuña, Mexico, Sanon from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and Spagat from San Diego. Associated Press writers Danica Coto in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Maria Verza in Mexico City also contributed to this report.

Follow AP's coverage of migration at <https://apnews.com/hub/migration>

UN to world leaders: To curtail warming, you must do more

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 29 of 73

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Pressure keeps building on increasingly anxious world leaders to ratchet up efforts to fight climate change. There's more of it coming this week in one of the highest-profile forums of all — the United Nations.

For the second time in four days, this time out of U.N. headquarters in New York, leaders will hear pleas to make deeper cuts of emissions of heat-trapping gases and give poorer countries more money to develop cleaner energy and adapt to the worsening impacts of climate change.

"I'm not desperate, but I'm tremendously worried," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told The Associated Press in a weekend interview. "We are on the verge of the abyss and we cannot afford a step in the wrong direction."

So on Monday, Guterres and United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson are hosting a closed-door session with 35 to 40 world leaders to get countries to do more leading up to the huge climate negotiations in Scotland in six weeks. Those negotiations in the fall are designed to be the next step after the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

And all this comes after Friday, when U.S. President Joe Biden convened a private forum on climate to coax leaders to act now.

"We are rapidly running out of time," Guterres said at Biden's forum. "There is a high risk of failure" of negotiations in Glasgow.

This week's focus on climate change comes at the end of another summer of disasters related to extreme weather, including devastating wildfires in the western United States, deadly flooding in the U.S., China and Europe, a drumbeat of killer tropical cyclones worldwide and unprecedented heat waves everywhere.

Achieving some kind of success in emission-cut pledges or financial help during the week of U.N. sessions would ease the path to an agreement in Glasgow, just as early announcements of pollution curbs did in 2015, especially those from China and the United States, experts said. Now those two nations are key again. But, Guterres said, their relationship is "totally dysfunctional."

Nigel Purvis, a former U.S. State Department climate negotiator and CEO of the private firm Climate Advisers, said the political forces going into Glasgow don't look as optimistic as they did four months ago after a Biden virtual climate summit.

But, he says, there is still hope. Countries like China, the world's top carbon emitter, have to strengthen their Paris pledges to cut carbon pollution, while rich nations like the United States that did increase their emissions promises need to do more financially to help poorer countries.

"The Glasgow meeting is not shaping up to be as well politically prepared as the Paris conference was in 2015," Purvis said. And Pete Ogden, vice president of the United Nations Foundation for Energy and Climate, cited "worrying mistrust between nations at a time when greater solidarity is needed."

As the world's leaders gather, activists, other government leaders and business officials gather in New York City for Climate Week, a giant cheerleading session for action that coincides with the high-level U.N. meeting. And throughout the week the push is on the rich nations, the G-20, to do more.

"It is true that the G-20 countries bear the biggest part of the responsibility for carbon emissions. And in that regard, of course it is absolutely crucial that we see them accelerating in a very important way their actions," U.N. climate conference chief Patricia Espinosa said Friday as her agency announced that emission pledges for the Scotland conference were falling far short of the Paris goals.

The most stringent one seeks to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times. That translates to about 0.4 degree Celsius (0.7 degrees Fahrenheit) from now because of warming that's already happened.

A UN report on Friday showed that current pledges to cut carbon emissions set the world on a path toward 2.7 degrees Celsius (4.9 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming since the pre-industrial era. That shoots way past even the weaker Paris goal of limiting warming to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit).

"That is catastrophic," Guterres said in the interview. "The world could not live with a 2.7-degree increase in temperature."

The overall goal is to have "net zero" carbon emissions by the middle of the 21st century. That refers to a moment when the world's economies are putting the same amount of carbon dioxide into the air as

plants and oceans take out of it, thus not adding to global warming.

Guterres is pushing for rich nations to fulfill their longtime pledges of \$100 billion a year in climate aid to poor nations, with at least half of that going to help them cope with the impacts of global warming. So far, the world is falling about \$75 billion a year short, according to a new study by Oxfam. Funding to cope with climate change's impacts fell 25% last year for small island nations, "the most vulnerable of the vulnerable," he said.

Under the Paris agreement, every five years the nations of the world must come up with even more stringent emission cuts and more funding for the poorer nations to develop cleaner energy systems and adapt to climate change.

While the leaders convene for the U.N. meetings, activists, business leaders and lower-level government officials will be part of the cheerleading in a "climate week" series of events. Planners include big name corporations announcing billions of dollars worth of commitments to fighting climate change, lots of talk by big names such as Bill Gates about climate solutions, and even all seven late-night U.S. talk show hosts focusing on climate change Wednesday night.

"You've got the world leaders there, and so you can remind them about climate and get them focused on it" said Helen Clarkson, CEO of The Climate Group, which is coordinating climate week.

What counts most is what happens in six weeks in Glasgow, says Jonathan Overpeck, dean of environment at the University of Michigan, "But," he said, "the more that can be agreed upon early, the easier it will be to get the commitments that are needed to put an end to climate change. ... We're not yet on an emissions reductions path that is safe for our planet and its people."

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content. Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations and Frank Jordans in Berlin contributed to this report. Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/borenbears> and read more of AP's climate coverage at <http://www.apnews.com/Climate>

Search for Gabby Petito boyfriend continues after body found

Associated Press undefined

MOOSE, Wyo. (AP) — Authorities said a body discovered in northern Wyoming was believed to be that of a 22-year-old woman who disappeared while on a cross-country trek with a boyfriend now the subject of an intense search in a Florida nature preserve.

The FBI said the body of Gabrielle "Gabby" Petito was found Sunday by law enforcement agents who spent the weekend searching camp sites on the eastern border of Grand Teton National Park.

The cause of death not yet been determined, said FBI Supervisory Special Agent Charles Jones. Specifics on where and how the body was found were not disclosed.

"Full forensic identification has not been completed to confirm 100% that we found Gabby, but her family has been notified," Jones said. "This is an incredibly difficult time for (Petito's) family and friends."

Boyfiend Brian Laundrie, 23, has been identified as a person of interest in the case. He was last seen Tuesday by family members in Florida.

Jones and other law enforcement officials declined to take questions during a Sunday evening press conference in Grand Teton announcing the body's discovery.

Petito's father, Joseph, posted on social media an image of a broken heart above a picture of his daughter with a message that said, "she touched the world."

An attorney who has been acting as a spokesman for Petito's family asked in a statement that the family be given room to grieve.

Attorney Richard Benson Stafford indicated that the family would make a public statement at a later date, and he thanked officials with the FBI, Grand Teton Search and Rescue and other agencies that participated in the search for Petito.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 31 of 73

"The family and I will be forever grateful," Stafford said in a statement.

An undeveloped camping area on the east side of Grand Teton bordering national forest land will remain closed until further notice while the investigation continues, Jones said.

Jones said investigators were still seeking information from anyone who may have seen Petito or Laundrie around camping sites in the area of Spread Creek, where law enforcement search efforts focused over the weekend.

The pair left in July on a cross-country trek in a converted van to visit national parks in the U.S. West. Laundrie was alone when he drove the van back to his parents' home in North Port, Florida, on Sept. 1, police said.

More than 50 law enforcement officers on Sunday started a second day of searching for Laundrie at the more than 24,000-acre (9,712-hectare) Carlton Reserve in Sarasota County, Florida, a wildlife area with more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) of trails, as well as campgrounds.

Police in North Port, Florida said in a statement that they were heartbroken to learn of the discovery of the body and pledged to continuing searching for answers in the case.

Petito's family filed a missing persons report Sept. 11 with police in Suffolk County, New York.

Petito's family had been pleading for the Laundrie family to tell them where their son last saw her. Petito and Laundrie were childhood sweethearts who met while growing up on Long Island, New York. His parents later moved to North Port, about 35 miles (55 kilometers) south of Sarasota.

The couple's trek in the Ford Transit began in July from Long Island. They intended to reach Oregon by the end of October, according to their social media accounts. But Petito vanished after her last known contact with family in late August from Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, authorities said.

Police video released by the Moab Police Department in Utah showed that an officer pulled the van over on Aug. 12 after it was seen speeding and hitting a curb near the entrance to Arches National Park. The body cam video showed an emotional Petito, who sat inside a police cruiser while officers also questioned Laundrie.

Moab police ultimately decided not file any charges and instead separated the couple for the night, with Laundrie checking into a motel and Petito remaining with the converted sleeper van.

Two votes and coalition talks: How the German election works

By GEIR MOULSON Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German voters elect a new parliament on Sept. 26, a vote that will determine who succeeds Chancellor Angela Merkel after her 16 years in power.

While it should be clear within hours of the polls closing how the parties fared, it may take longer to find out who the next chancellor will be — and what the political complexion of his or her government will be. Here's a look at how the process works.

WHO CAN VOTE, AND WHEN?

German citizens age 18 and above are entitled to vote and to be elected. About 60.4 million people in the nation of 83 million are eligible to vote, about 2.8 million of them for the first time.

Polls open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (0600 GMT-1600 GMT) on Sunday. Postal votes are possible for several weeks before the election, and must arrive by the time polls close on election day. All the votes should be counted by Monday morning.

WHO DO GERMANS VOTE FOR?

Sunday's vote will decide who sits in the lower house of parliament, or Bundestag, which will then elect the chancellor. The Bundestag is elected for a four-year term.

Every voter gets two votes: one for a directly elected candidate, the other for a party list.

Each of the country's 299 constituencies directly elects a lawmaker by a simple majority. At least 299 further seats go to candidates elected on party lists. That vote is critical because it determines the percentage of seats each party wins.

If a party wins more seats via the direct vote than it would get under the party vote, it keeps the extra

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 32 of 73

seats — but the system also adds seats for other parties to ensure the proportional vote is reflected accurately.

Because Germany's traditional big parties have continued to dominate the direct vote even as their overall support has shrunk, that can result in the Bundestag having many more lawmakers than the minimum 598; the outgoing lower house had a record 709. A slight tweak this time to reduce the number of extra seats isn't expected to prevent it getting even bigger.

To share in the division of seats, a party must win 5% of the party list vote or have at least three directly elected lawmakers.

WHICH ARE THE MAIN PARTIES?

There are 47 parties running in the election, but few have realistic hopes of crossing the 5% threshold.

The biggest group in the outgoing parliament was the center-right Union bloc, made up of Merkel's Christian Democratic Union and its Bavaria-only sister party, the Christian Social Union. The center-left Social Democrats, the other traditional big party, were the second-largest.

Also represented were the far-right Alternative for Germany, which entered the Bundestag for the first time in 2017; the pro-business Free Democrats, the hard-left Left Party and the environmentalist Greens.

WHO GETS TO RUN GERMANY?

Germany's electoral system produces coalition governments. Polls suggest that no one party will come anywhere remotely near a parliamentary majority this time. The country has no tradition of minority governments.

Three parties have fielded candidates to be chancellor: Armin Laschet for the Union, Olaf Scholz for the Social Democrats, and Annalena Baerbock for the Greens, who is making her party's first bid for the top job.

The election results will show what coalitions are mathematically possible, then party leaders will discuss what is politically possible. The party that finishes first typically has an advantage, but could end up in opposition if others put together a coalition without it.

One thing is pretty much certain: Alternative for Germany won't be part of the next government. All other parties say they won't work with it.

HOW LONG COULD IT TAKE?

The process can take weeks or months, and recent polls suggest that it's likely to be complicated this time. Negotiations typically produce a detailed coalition agreement, which needs approval in votes by party congresses or even a ballot of one or more parties' entire membership.

Once a coalition is ready, Germany's president nominates to the Bundestag a candidate for chancellor, who needs a majority of all members to be elected. That person typically is, but doesn't have to be, a member of parliament. Until a new government is in place, the old one stays on in a caretaker capacity.

The outgoing coalition of Merkel's Union with the Social Democrats holds the record for the time taken to form a government, after an attempt to form an alternative alliance collapsed. The Bundestag elected Merkel for her fourth term on March 14, 2018 — nearly six months after German voters had their say on Sept. 24, 2017.

If two attempts to elect a chancellor with a majority fail, the constitution allows for the president to appoint the candidate who wins the most votes in a third vote as chancellor or to dissolve the Bundestag and hold a new national election. That has never yet happened.

Follow AP's coverage of Germany's election at <https://apnews.com/hub/germany-election>

Emmy Moments: Not the Pandemmys — but hardly normal, either

By JOCELYN NOVECK AP National Writer

OK, it definitely wasn't the Pandemmys, or the Zoomemmys, or whatever you want to call last year's virtual Emmy ceremony — with everyone at home, and visitors in hazmat suits showing up to bestow awards.

This year was different — defiantly so. People were together, and not even in masks (except during commercial breaks.) There were plenty of hugs and kisses — in fact, quipped presenter Seth Rogen, he

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 33 of 73

had just been sneezed in the face by Paul Bettany. (Guests had to present vaccine proof and negative COVID-19 tests.)

But of course, this wasn't the PRE-COVID Emmys either. The crowd, in a tent in downtown Los Angeles, was much smaller than in normal years. And many overseas nominees couldn't come due to travel restrictions — especially the cast and crew of "The Crown," which accepted its six drama awards from a party in London, as "Schitt's Creek" had done a year earlier in Canada.

And in a year where so much was different, there were some familiar problems. Awards were concentrated among a few shows. The hashtag #EmmysSoWhite emerged — a record number of nominees of color yielded only two Black winners, RuPaul for "RuPaul's Drag Race" and Michaela Coel for writing "I May Destroy You." A slew of Black actors were passed over.

Cedric the Entertainer proved an infectiously joyful and hard-working host, but the comedy bits were spotty at best. It also didn't help that some overlong speeches dragged down the proceedings, for example from the director of "The Queen's Gambit," who was criticized on Twitter for a speech that to some, seemed to feel as long as a chess game.

Still there were feel-good moments: Debbie Allen. Jean Smart! Kate Winslet. Ted Lasso himself — heck, all Ted's friends, too. And perhaps best of all, the fiercely original Coel, giving a stunning (and concise!) speech about writing.

Some key moments of the evening:

A JEANAISSANCE...

Yes, the expected Jeanaissance happened, with veteran Smart receiving a standing ovation after winning best actress in a comedy — her fourth Emmy in a long career — for playing a Las Vegas stand-up comic in "Hacks." She immediately paid tearful tribute to her husband, Richard Gilliland, who died in March: "I would not be here without him, and without his ... putting his career on the back burner so I could take advantage of all the wonderful opportunities I have had." It was a theme -- personal loss -- that was threaded through a number of speeches.

AND THE GREAT KATE

While "Mare of Easttown," also featuring Smart, lost out to "The Queen's Gambit" for best limited series, it won three key acting awards, including the Great Kate — Winslet, of course — who captivated audiences with her role as a "a middle-aged, imperfect, flawed mother," in her words, in which she also nailed a very difficult Philadelphia accent. The show "is this cultural moment, and it brought people together and gave them something to talk about other than a global pandemic," Winslet noted.

THE LASSO EFFECT

It was unquestionably the feel-good show of the year, and "Ted Lasso" — about the unrelentingly upbeat American coach of a British football team — started winning early, with ebullient stage actress Hannah Waddingham accepting the award for best supporting actress in a comedy, closely followed by Brett Goldstein for supporting actor. Then Jason Sudeikis, the titular coach, made it a happy trio, winning best actor. "This show's about families, this show's about mentors and teachers, this show's about teammates, and I wouldn't be here without those three things in my life," said Sudeikis. He told castmates and crew: "I'm only as good as you guys make me look." The Apple TV+ show capped off the night by winning best comedy.

CAN WE COME?

"We're going to party," said Peter Morgan, creator of "The Crown," as the royal saga from Netflix won drama writing, directing and all four acting honors. At times it seemed like that party — held in London due to travel restrictions — might be more fun than the long party in Los Angeles. Olivia Colman, who became the second actor to win for playing Queen Elizabeth II on the same show, after Claire Foy, was delighted but tearful as she recalled the death of her father during COVID. "He would have loved all of this," she said.

VACCINE HUMOR

There was not much politics in Emmy speeches, unless you counted Stephen Colbert riffing on the California governor recall attempt with a slightly labored joke about "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" being

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 34 of 73

recalled. "Mrs. Maisel has survived the recall and will remain marvelous," he concluded. But Cedric the Entertainer delivered some topical humor with a riff on vaccines. Likening the various jabs to stores, he called Pfizer the Neiman Marcus, Moderna the Macy's, and Johnson & Johnson the TJ Maxx of vaccines. He also offered up a dig at Nicki Minaj for the story about her cousin's friend in Trinidad.

DEBBIE ALLEN GETS TO STOP THE CLOCK...

"Turn that clock off," Allen said as she launched into her speech accepting the Governors Award. "I'm not paying any attention to it." She added she was "trembling with gratitude and grace and trying not to cry ... it's taken a lot of courage to be the only woman in the room most of the time." She urged a younger generation to "Tell your stories ... it's your turn." The crowd cheered — when you have her career as an actor, dancer, choreographer and activist, you're allowed to ignore the playoff music.

BUT NOT EVERYONE IS DEBBIE ALLEN

Then there was Scott Frank, director of "The Queen's Gambit." When he won, he thanked some folks, then more, then more, reading from a prepared speech.. The playoff music swelled, several times, but he continued, saying at one point: "Really?" Frank was called out on Twitter. "This is why directors need editors," wrote writer-producer Danny Zuker, calling the remarks "The Irishman" of speeches.

A WRITER, ON WRITING

Luckily, what followed was probably the night's highlight — the remarks by Coel, of "I May Destroy You." She said she had something to tell the writers out there. "Write the tale that scares you, that makes you feel uncertain, that isn't comfortable," she said. "I dare you." In a world, she added, where we all feel the need to be visible, equating it with success, "do not be afraid to disappear ... See what comes to you in the silence." Coel dedicated her show, in which she played a survivor of sexual assault, "to every single survivor of sexual assault."

'I just cry': Dying of hunger in Ethiopia's blockaded Tigray

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — In parts of Ethiopia's Tigray region, people now eat only green leaves for days. At a health center last week, a mother and her newborn weighing just 1.7 pounds died from hunger. In every district of the more than 20 where one aid group works, residents have starved to death.

For months, the United Nations has warned of famine in this embattled corner of northern Ethiopia, calling it the world's worst hunger crisis in a decade. Now internal documents and witness accounts reveal the first starvation deaths since Ethiopia's government in June imposed what the U.N. calls "a de facto humanitarian aid blockade."

Forced starvation is the latest chapter in a conflict where ethnic Tigrayans have been massacred, gang-raped and expelled. Months after crops were burned and communities stripped bare, a new kind of death has set in.

"You are killing people," Hayelom Kebede, the former director of Tigray's flagship Ayder Referral Hospital, recalled telling Ethiopia's health ministry in a phone call this month. "They said, 'Yeah, OK, we'll forward it to the prime minister.' What can I do? I just cry."

He shared with The Associated Press photos of some of the 50 children receiving "very intensive care" because of malnutrition, the first such images to emerge from Tigray in months. In one, a small child with startled-looking eyes stares straight into the camera, a feeding tube in his nose, a protective amulet lying in the pronounced hollow of his throat.

Medicines have almost run out, and hospital staffers haven't been paid since June, Hayelom said. Conditions elsewhere for Tigray's 6 million people are often worse.

The blockade and the starvation that comes with it mark a new phase in the 10-month war between Tigray forces and the Ethiopian government, along with its allies. Now the United States has issued an ultimatum: Take steps to stop the fighting and let aid flow freely, or a new wave of sanctions could come within weeks.

The war began as a political dispute between the prime minister, 2019 Nobel Peace Prize winner Abiy

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 35 of 73

Ahmed, and the Tigrayans who had long dominated Ethiopia's repressive national government. Since November, witnesses have said, Ethiopian forces and those from neighboring Eritrea looted food sources and destroyed health centers.

In June, the Tigray fighters retook the region, and Ethiopia's government declared a ceasefire, citing humanitarian grounds. Instead, the government has sealed off the region tighter than ever, fearing that aid will reach the Tigray forces.

More than 350,000 metric tons of food aid are positioned in Ethiopia, but very little of it can get into Tigray. The government is so wary that humanitarian workers boarding rare flights to the region have been given an unusual list of items they cannot bring: Dental flossers. Can openers. Multivitamins. Medicines, even personal ones.

The list, obtained by the AP, also banned means of documenting the crisis, including hard drives and flash drives. Photos and video from Tigray have disappeared from social media since June as aid workers and others, facing intense searches by authorities, fear being caught with them on their devices. Tigray has returned to darkness, with no telecommunications, no internet, no banking services and very little aid.

Ethiopia's prime minister and other senior officials have denied there is hunger in Tigray. The government has blamed the Tigray forces and insecurity for troubles with aid delivery. It also has accused humanitarian groups of supporting, even arming, the Tigray fighters.

The prime minister's spokeswoman, Billene Seyoum, did not say when the government would allow basic services to the region. The government "has opened access to aid routes by cutting the number of checkpoints from seven to two and creating air bridges for humanitarian flights," she said in a statement. But medical supplies on the first European Union air bridge flight were removed during government inspection, and such flights cannot carry the large-scale food aid needed.

In the most extensive account yet of the blockade's toll, a humanitarian worker told the AP that deaths from starvation are being reported in "every single" district of the more than 20 in Tigray where one aid group operates. The group had run out of food aid and fuel. The worker, like others, spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation.

"Currently, there are devastating reports coming from every corner," the aid group wrote to a donor in August, according to documents shared with the AP. "If no urgent solution is found, we will lose many people due to hunger."

In April, even before the current blockade was imposed, the same group wrote to the donor that "reports of malnourishment are rampant," and that 22 people in one sub-district had starved to death.

"People's skin color was beginning to change due to hunger; they looked emaciated with protruding skeletal bones," the aid group wrote.

In August, another staffer visited a community in central Tigray and wrote that the number of people at risk of starvation was "exponentially increasing" in both rural and urban areas. In some cases, "people are eating only green leaves for days."

The staffer described speaking with one mother who said her family had been living on borrowed food since June. For the past month, they had eaten only bread with salt. She worried that without food aid in the coming days they would die.

"Finally, we stopped asking her because we could not tolerate to hear additional grim news," the staffer wrote. "The administrator of the (sub-district) has also told us that there are many families who are living in similar conditions."

At least 150 people starved to death in August, including in camps for displaced people, the Tigray External Affairs Office has alleged. The International Organization for Migration, the U.N. agency which supports the camps, said: "We unfortunately are not able to speak on this topic."

Some toilets in the crowded camps are overflowing because there's no cash to pay for their cleaning, leaving thousands of people vulnerable to outbreaks of disease, a visiting aid worker said. People who ate three meals a day now eat only one. Camp residents rely on the charity of host communities who often struggle to feed themselves.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 36 of 73

"People have been able to get by, but barely," the aid worker said. "It's worse than subsistence, let's put it that way."

Food security experts months ago estimated that 400,000 people in Tigray face famine conditions, more than the rest of the world combined. But the blockade means experts cannot collect the needed data to make a formal declaration of famine.

Such a declaration would be deeply embarrassing for Ethiopia, which in the 1980s seized the world's attention with a famine so severe, also driven by conflict and government neglect, that some 1 million people were killed. Since then, Africa's second most populous country had become a success story by pulling millions from extreme poverty and developing one of the world's fastest-growing economies.

Now the war is hollowing out the economy, and stomachs. Malnutrition rates are near 30% for children under the age of 5, the U.N. World Food Program said Wednesday, and near 80% for pregnant and breastfeeding women.

As the war spreads, so might hunger. Tigray forces have entered the neighboring regions of Amhara and Afar in recent weeks, and some residents accuse them of carrying out acts of retaliation, including closing off supply routes. The Tigray forces deny it, saying they aim to pressure Ethiopia's government to lift the blockade.

The U.N. human rights office says abuses have been committed by all sides, although to date witness accounts indicate the most widespread atrocities have been against Tigrayan civilians.

There is little help coming. The U.N. says at least 100 trucks with food and other supplies must reach Tigray every day to meet people's needs. But as of Sept. 8, fewer than 500 had arrived since July on the only accessible road into the region. No medical supplies or fuel have been delivered to Tigray in more than a month, the U.S. says, blaming "government harassment" and decisions, not the fighting.

In mid-September the U.N. issued the first report of its kind showing in red the number of days remaining before cash or fuel ran out for key humanitarian work like treating Tigray's most severely malnourished. Often, that number was zero.

Some trucks carrying aid have been attacked, and drivers intimidated. In August, a U.N. team trying to pick up staff from Tigray was turned around by armed police who "ordered the drivers to drive significantly over speed limits while verbally abusing, harassing and threatening them," a U.N. report said.

Major international aid groups like Doctors Without Borders and the Norwegian Refugee Council have had their operations suspended, accused of spreading "misinformation" about the war. Almost two dozen aid workers have been killed, some while distributing food. Some aid workers are forced to ration their own food.

"It is a day-to-day reality to see human sufferings, starvation," the Catholic bishop of Adigrat, Abune Tesfaselassie Medhin, wrote in a Sept. 3 letter, shared with the AP, appealing to partners overseas for help and warning of catastrophe ahead.

The need for food will continue well into next year, the U.N. says, because the limited crops planted amid the fighting are likely to produce only between a quarter and at most half of the usual harvest.

Grim as they are, the reports of starvation deaths reflect only areas in Tigray that can be reached. One Tigrayan humanitarian worker pointed out that most people live or shelter in remote places such as rugged mountains. Others are in inaccessible areas bordering hostile Eritrea or in western Tigray, now controlled by authorities from the Amhara region who bar the way to neighboring Sudan, a potential route for delivering aid.

As food and the means to find it run out, the humanitarian worker said, "I am sure the people that are dying out of this man-made hunger are way more than this."

Ethiopia coverage: <https://apnews.com/hub/ethiopia-erasing-ethnicity>

Emmys: 'Crown,' 'Lasso,' 'Queen's Gambit,' streaming triumph

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 37 of 73

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Netflix's "The Crown" and "The Queen's Gambit" combined with Apple TV+'s "Ted Lasso" to sweep top series honors at the Sunday's Emmy Awards, a first for streaming services that cemented their rise to prominence in the television industry.

"I'm at a loss for words," said Peter Morgan, the creator and writer of the British royal saga "The Crown," which collected acting, writing and directing awards in addition to four acting honors.

His comment may also apply to the premium cable channels that once ruled the Emmy Awards and to the broadcast networks — including Sunday's ceremony host, CBS — that have long grown accustomed to being largely also-rans.

Netflix won a leading total of 44 awards, equaling the broadcast network record set back in 1974, by CBS. The streaming service, which fielded the first drama series nominee, "House of Cards" in 2007, finally won the category.

Newcomer Apple TV+'s first top series came less than two years after it launched.

"The Crown" and "The Queen's Gambit" tied as leaders with 11 awards each, with "Ted Lasso" topping the comedy side with seven trophies.

"The Queen's Gambit" made Anya Taylor-Joy a star and Emmy nominee for her portrayal of a troubled chess prodigy. Executive producer William Horberg singled her out in his acceptance speech.

"You brought the sexy back to chess, and you inspired a whole generation of girls and young women to realize that patriarchy has no defense against our queens," he said.

There was a bright spot for HBO with its limited series "Mare of Easttown," the crime drama that earned four Emmys, including a lead acting award for star Kate Winslet. For broadcaster NBC, "Saturday Night Live" again came through with variety honors.

The ceremony proved disappointing as well to those scrutinizing diversity in Hollywood. The record number of nominees of color yielded only two Black winners, including RuPaul for "RuPaul's Drag Race" and star-creator Michaela Coel's writing award for "I May Destroy You."

Cedric the Entertainer proved a game host, moving from a hip-hop opening number to gags and sketches, but the relatively small crowd — a result of pandemic precautions — was fairly muted in their response to him and others' one-liners.

There was a feeling of personal sadness that pervaded the night, with a number of winners recounting the loss of loved ones.

"The Crown" stars Olivia Colman and Josh O'Connor won the top drama acting honors Sunday, with Jason Sudeikis, star of the warm-hearted "Ted Lasso," and Jean Smart of the generation-gap story "Hacks," winners on the comedy side.

Colman and O'Connor were a winning fictional mother-son duo: She plays Queen Elizabeth II, with O'Connor as Prince Charles in the British royal family saga that combines gravitas and soap opera.

"I'd have put money on that not happening," Colman said of the award, calling it "a lovely end to the most extraordinary journey" with the show's cast and creators. She cut her remarks short, explaining why she was growing tearful.

"I lost my daddy during COVID, and he would have loved all of this," she said.

O'Connor gave a shoutout to Emma Corrin, who played opposite him as Princess Diana and was also a nominee Sunday, as a "force of nature."

He also offered thanks to his grandmother, who died a few months ago, and his grandfather, Peter O'Connor, for the "greatest gifts" of kindness and loyalty.

Sudeikis co-created "Ted Lasso," which many viewers found a balm for tough pandemic times. He gave a speech that evoked the chipper, upbeat title character he plays in the series about a U.K. soccer team and its unlikely American coach.

"This show's about families and mentors and teammates, and I wouldn't be here without those things in my life," said Sudeikis. He also thanked his fellow castmates, saying, "I'm only as good as you guys make me look."

Smart, who received a standing ovation, began her acceptance speech on a somber note: Her husband actor, Richard Gilliland, died six months ago.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 38 of 73

"I would not be here without him" and his willingness to put her career first, said Smart. She also praised their two children as "courageous individuals in their own right."

Earlier in the evening, ebullient "Ted Lasso" cast member Hannah Waddingham, winner of the best supporting actress award for a comedy, said Sudeikis "changed my life with this, and more importantly my baby girl's."

Brett Goldstein, who won the counterpart award for supporting actor for playing a retired soccer star, said he had promised not to swear and either mimed or was muted for a few seconds, then called the show the "privilege and pleasure" of his life.

Gillian Anderson and Tobias Menzies were honored for their supporting performances on "The Crown." Anderson, who played British political leader Margaret Thatcher, was one of numerous cast members to accept from a "Crown" gathering in London. Menzies who plays Prince Philip, didn't attend either ceremony.

Before announcing the winner in his category, presenter Kerry Washington paid tribute to another nominee, Michael K. Williams of "Lovecraft County." Williams died Sept. 6 at age 54.

"Michael was a brilliantly talented actor and a generous human being who has left us far too soon," Washington said.

Another lost star was remembered by John Oliver of "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver."

"No one was funnier in the last 20 years than Norm Macdonald on late-night comedy," Oliver said in accepting the Emmy for best variety talk show, suggesting people spend time checking out clips of Macdonald, as he did after Macdonald died Sept. 14 at age 61.

Kate Winslet, who played the title character in "Mare of Easttown," and Ewan McGregor, who starred in the fashion biopic "Halston," were honored as top actors for a limited series.

Winslet saluted her sister nominees in "this decade that has to be about women having each other's back."

Julianne Nicholson and Evan Peters claimed best supporting acting honors for "Mare of Easttown," about crime and family dysfunction. Both she and Peters praised star Winslet as an actor and colleague.

Debbie Allen received the Governors Award for a long and acclaimed career as an actor, dancer, choreographer and activist.

"I am trembling with gratitude and grace and trying not to cry ... it's been many years in the making, taken a lot of courage to be the only woman in the room most of the time. Courage and creative and fight and faith to believe I could keep going, and I have," she said.

The show opened with a musical number that featured Cedric the Entertainer rapping a modified version of the Biz Markie hip-hop hit "Just a Friend" with lyrics like "TV, you got what I need." LL Cool J bounded from the audience as stars including Rita Wilson, Mandy Moore and more dropped verses celebrating the breadth of television.

Seth Rogen presented the first award, throwing some cold water on the celebratory vibe by noting that the Emmys were being held in a giant tent. "There's way too many of us in this little room," he exclaimed in what seemed to be an attempt to be funny that fell flat.

In the cumulative awards handed out Sunday and at the previously-held creative arts events, the outlets that followed Netflix included HBO and HBO Max with 19 combined awards; Disney+ with 14; Apple TV+, 10; NBC, 8.

For more on this year's Emmy Awards, visit: <https://apnews.com/hub/emmy-awards>

Emmys Latest: Sudeikis celebrates "big team win" for "Lasso"

By The Associated Press undefined

The Latest on The Emmy Awards in Los Angeles (all times local):

10:45 p.m.

Jason Sudeikis took home best actor in a comedy series for his leading role in "Ted Lasso," but the actor seemed more enthused to share the show's victory with his castmates.

"It's a big team win," Sudeikis said backstage of the Apple TV+ series, which won four awards including

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 39 of 73

best comedy series. "That's the best one. That's the one we get to all walk away with. That's the one we are responsible for."

Sudeikis said celebrating with Hannah Waddingham and Brett Goldstein – who Emmys for best supporting actress and actor in a comedy series – was a "fantastic" moment for him.

Sudeikis said he's already seen a positive reaction to the second season "Ted Lasso," which takes a deep dive into the topic of mental health.

"I know folks who have reached out to me and said that it has encouraged them to take steps of helping themselves, which isn't the easiest things to do," he said. "It makes things a lot easier if you're in a good headspace yourself."

8:15 p.m.

"The Queen's Gambit" has captured the king.

The Netflix show starring Anya Taylor-Joy as a young girl in an orphanage who becomes a chess prodigy won the final Emmy Award handed out on Sunday night, for best limited series or TV movie.

It was the second Emmy of the night for "The Queen's Gambit," which also won for its directing.

It beat out fellow nominees "I May Destroy You," "Mare of Easttown," "The Underground Railroad" and "WandaVision."

MORE ON THE EMMYS:

— MJ Rodriguez wore teal, Billy Porter winged black at Emmys

— List of Emmy winners includes 'Ted Lasso,' 'Mare of Easttown' actors

— Emmys vow a 'good time' after bleak year; 'Crown' may rule

See AP coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/emmy-awards>

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

8:10 p.m.

A jewel for "The Crown," a breakthrough for Netflix.

The series about the British royal family won the Emmy Award for best drama series Sunday, giving Netflix its first win in the most elite of Emmy categories.

The show was also the night's biggest winner, with seven awards including a sweep of the dramatic acting categories.

"The Crown" won for its fourth season, which followed the royal family in the 1980s and 1990s with Olivia Colman as Queen Elizabeth II, Josh O'Connor as Prince Charles and Emma Corrin as Princess Diana.

It beat out its fellow nominees "Bridgerton," "The Boys," "The Handmaid's Tale," "Lovecraft Country," "The Mandalorian," "Pose" and "This Is Us."

8:05 p.m.

"Ted Lasso" is a winner in more than just spirit.

The Apple TV+ show has won the Emmy Award for best comedy series, giving the streaming service its first win in the major category.

It stars Jason Sudeikis in the title role as an endlessly positive American football coach brought to Britain to manage a major soccer team and set up to fail.

The show won four Emmys at Sunday night's ceremony, including best actor in a comedy for Sudeikis.

It beat out fellow nominees "Cobra Kai," "Emily in Paris," "The Flight Attendant," "Hacks," "The Kominsky Method," "PEN15" and "black-ish."

7:50 p.m.

Josh O'Connor played a man who would be king, and has earned his own crown at the Emmys.

O'Connor won the Emmy Award for best actor in a drama series for playing Prince Charles on "The Crown."

With his win, "The Crown" swept all four dramatic acting categories at Sunday night's ceremony.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 40 of 73

The 31-year-old British actor also won a Golden Globe for his role in the fourth season of the Netflix series. O'Connor beat out fellow nominees Jonathan Majors, Sterling K. Brown, Regé-Jean Page, Billy Porter and Matthew Rhys.

7:42 p.m.

Olivia Colman has an Oscar for playing one queen of England, and now has an Emmy for playing another. Colman won the Emmy for best actress in a drama series Sunday for playing Queen Elizabeth II in the fourth season of Netflix's "The Crown."

Accepting the award from a "Crown" viewing party in London, Colman teared up as she said "I wish my dad was here to see this. I lost my dad during COVID. He would have loved all of this."

She won the Academy Award for best actress in 2019 for playing Queen Anne in "The Favourite."

The Emmy is Colman's first in four nominations.

She beat out fellow nominees Elisabeth Moss, Uzo Aduba, Emma Corrin, Michaela Jaé "Mj" Rodriguez and Jurnee Smollett.

7:35 p.m.

If Ewan McGregor had designs on an Emmy, it worked.

McGregor won best actor in a limited series or TV movie for "Halston."

The 50-year-old McGregor played the famed fashion designer of the title in the Netflix series.

It's his first Emmy in four nominations.

He beat out fellow nominees Hugh Grant, Paul Bettany, Lin-Manuel Miranda and Leslie Odom Jr.

7:25 p.m.

Kate Winslet somehow pulled off that tough Philly accent, and Emmy voters rewarded her for it.

Winslet won best actress in a limited series or TV movie for "Mare of Easttown" on Sunday night.

The British actress played a Pennsylvania police detective, wife mother and grandmother who must investigate a teen girl's murder amid a troubled family life.

Winslet beat out fellow nominees Cynthia Erivo, Elizabeth Olsen, Anya Taylor-Joy and Michaela Coel.

"I just want to acknowledge my fellow nominees in this decade that has to be about women having each other's backs," Winslet said. "I support you, I salute you."

Moments earlier, Coel won best writing in a limited series or TV movie for her show "I May Destroy You," which deals with the aftermath of rape.

"I dedicate this story to every single survivor of sexual assault," Coel said.

7 p.m.

"RuPaul's Drag Race" is making it a marathon. And a rout.

The VH1 show won the Emmy for top reality-competition show for the fourth straight year on Sunday night.

From the stage, RuPaul reached out to young gender non-conforming viewers, saying "for you kids out there watching, you have a tribe that is waiting for you."

6:50 p.m.

Ted Lasso has roped himself an Emmy.

Jason Sudeikis, who plays the title character in the Apple TV+ show about a happy-go-lucky American football coach hired to head a British soccer team, won the Emmy Award for best actor in a comedy series on Sunday night.

It's the first career acting Emmy for Sudeikis, and the third Emmy of the night for "Ted Lasso."

The former "Saturday Night Live" actor tried to thank that show's mastermind Lorne Michaels, but found he was missing from his seat.

"I want to thank Lorne, who went to go take a dump, now, perfect." Sudeikis joked.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 41 of 73

6:40 p.m.

Jean Smart has an Emmy to mark a remarkable career renaissance.

Smart won best actress in a comedy series Sunday night for her role in HBO Max's "Hacks."

It's her fourth career Emmy and her first in 12 years. She got a standing ovation from the Emmy audience.

She teared up as she thanked her husband of more than 30 years, actor Richard Gilliland, who died six months ago yesterday.

"I would not be here without him, and without his kind of putting his career on the back burner so that I could take advantage of all the wonderful opportunities that I've had," Smart said.

The 70-year-old actor, previously best known for her role on "Designing Women," has been a staple of elite TV the past few years, with nominated roles on " Fargo," " Watchmen" and " Mare of Easttown."

6:15 p.m.

Last week, tonight, or for half-a-dozen years, John Oliver can't stop winning Emmys.

"Last Week Tonight With John Oliver" won the Emmy Award for best variety talk series for the sixth straight year on Sunday night.

It was the second award the show won Sunday. It also won for best writing.

From the stage, Oliver praised fellow nominee Conan O'Brien, whose show recently ended its late-night run on TBS.

"Like many of us in this room, I was kind of rooting for 'Conan,' so this is bittersweet. Thank you so much, Conan, for inspiring 30 years of comedy writers," Oliver said.

He also paid tribute to comic Norm Macdonald, who died on Tuesday.

Oliver said "no one was funnier in the last 20 years than Norm Macdonald on late-night comedy, so if you have any time in the next week, just do what I did and just spend time YouTubing clips of Norm and Conan, because it just doesn't get better than that." ____

5: 55 p.m.

The Emmy for best supporting actor in a drama series goes to Tobias Menzies for "The Crown."

Menzies won for playing Prince Phillip opposite Olivia Colman's Queen Elizabeth in the fourth season of the Netflix series, which has already taken four Emmys on Sunday night.

Menzies, a 47-year-old London-born actor, is also known for his roles on "Outlander" and "Game of Thrones."

He beat out fellow nominees Giancarlo Esposito, O-T Fagbenle, John Lithgow, Max Minghella, Chris Sullivan, Bradley Whitford and Michael K. Williams.

5: 50 p.m.

Gillian Anderson has turned the Iron Lady into Emmy gold.

Anderson won best supporting actress in a drama series on Sunday night for playing British prime minister Margaret Thatcher in the fourth season of "The Crown."

It was already the third Emmy of the night for the Netflix show, whose winners are accepting their awards at a viewing party in London.

And it was the second career Emmy for Anderson, who won her first 24 years ago for "The X-Files."

She beat out her "The Crown" castmates Helena Bonham Carter and Emerald Fennell, along with Madeline Brewer, Ann Dowd, Aunjanue Ellis, Yvonne Strahovski and Samira Wiley.

5:30 p.m.

The sidekick and best friend of Easttown have each won an Emmy.

Evan Peters won best supporting actor in a limited series or TV movie for HBO's "Mare of Easttown" on Sunday night, and Julianne Nicholson won best supporting actress for the show.

Nicholson won for playing the best friend of Kate Winslet's title character, a Pennsylvania detective trying to solve a murder amid struggles with family and friends.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 42 of 73

Peters won for playing Winslet's partner.

Both praised the show's star from the stage.

"Man, you're good at acting," Nicholson said to Winslet.

It was the first Emmy, and first nomination, for both Peters and Nicholson.

5:20 p.m.

Brett Goldstein topped his teammates at the Emmys.

Goldstein won best supporting actor in a comedy series for his role in "Ted Lasso," which had four nominees in the category.

"This cast made me sick they're so good," Goldstein said.

With his win, "Ted Lasso" took the first two Emmys of the night, with Hannah Waddingham taking best supporting actress in a comedy.

It's the first Emmy for Goldstein, and comes for his first nomination.

He beat out castmates Brendan Hunt, Nick Mohammed and Jeremy Swift along with Carl Clemons-Hopkins, Bowen Yang, Kenan Thompson and Paul Reiser.

5:15 p.m.

Hannah Waddingham, and "Ted Lasso," have won the first Emmy of the night.

Waddingham won best supporting actress in a comedy series Sunday for the Apple TV+ series, which could be in for a big night.

Waddingham screamed with delight when she reached the stage.

"Jason, you've changed my life with this," she said to the show's star and co-creator Jason Sudeikis.

Waddingham plays the owner of an English soccer team who hires the American title character to run it into the ground on "Ted Lasso."

She beat her castmate Juno Temple, along with Kate McKinnon, Cecily Strong, Aidy Bryant, Hannah Einbinder and Rosie Perez.

5:10 p.m.

Host Cedric the Entertainer, LL Cool J, and a bunch of audience members opened the 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards with a hip-hop tribute to television.

Cedric introduced the CBS telecast Sunday night by saying it would be anything but subdued, and began a rollicking declaration of his love for TV to the tune of Biz Markie's "Just a Friend."

"TV, you got what I need, would you say he's just a friend," the host sang.

The show looks a lot more like a traditional awards ceremony than last year's audience-free "Pandem-ies," but is still seriously scaled back, held in a tent in downtown Los Angeles.

The night's favorites include Netflix's drama "The Crown" and Apple TV+ comedy "Ted Lasso."

1 p.m.

Emmy Awards host Cedric the Entertainer and the show's producers promise it will be a celebration for all. But it could be much more rewarding, even historic, for some.

That includes Netflix's drama "The Crown" and Apple TV+ comedy "Ted Lasso." Each is considered a frontrunner Sunday for top series honors in their respective categories, and their casts received armloads of nominations.

More than the shows would benefit. Victories in both the best drama and comedy series categories would mark a first for streaming services and reinforce their growing dominance, to the dismay of competitors.

Biden pitching partnership after tough stretch with allies

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden goes before the United Nations this week eager to make the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 43 of 73

case for the world to act with haste against the coronavirus, climate change and human rights abuses. His pitch for greater global partnership comes at a moment when allies are becoming increasingly skeptical about how much U.S. foreign policy really has changed since Donald Trump left the White House.

Biden plans to limit his time at the U.N. General Assembly due to coronavirus concerns. He is scheduled to meet with Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday and address the assembly on Tuesday before shifting the rest of the week's diplomacy to virtual and Washington settings.

At a virtual COVID-19 summit he is hosting Wednesday, leaders will be urged to step up vaccine-sharing commitments, address oxygen shortages around the globe and deal with other critical pandemic-related issues.

The president also has invited the prime ministers of Australia, India and Japan, part of a Pacific alliance, to Washington and is expected to meet with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson at the White House.

Through it all, Biden will be the subject of a quiet assessment by allies: Has he lived up to his campaign promise to be a better partner than Trump?

Biden's chief envoy to the United Nations, Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, offered a harmonious answer in advance of all the diplomacy: "We believe our priorities are not just American priorities, they are global priorities," she said Friday.

But over the past several months, Biden has found himself at odds with allies on a number of high-profile issues.

There have been noted differences over the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, the pace of COVID-19 vaccine-sharing and international travel restrictions, and the best way to respond to military and economic moves by China. A fierce French backlash erupted in recent days after the U.S. and Britain announced they would help equip Australia with nuclear-powered submarines.

Biden opened his presidency by declaring that "America is back" and pledging a more collaborative international approach.

At the same time, he has focused on recalibrating national security priorities after 20 years marked by preoccupation with wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and thwarting Islamic terrorists in the Middle East and South Asia. He has tried to make the case that the U.S. and its democratic allies need to put greater focus on countering economic and security threats posed by China and Russia.

Biden has faced resistance -- and, at moments, outright anger -- from allies when the White House has moved on important global decisions with what some deemed insufficient consultation.

France was livid about the submarine deal, which was designed to bolster Australian efforts to keep tabs on China's military in the Pacific but undercuts a deal worth at least \$66 billion for a fleet of a dozen submarines built by a French contractor.

French President Emmanuel Macron has recalled France's ambassadors to the U.S. and Australia for consultations in Paris. France's foreign minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian, said Australia and the United States had both betrayed France. Biden and Macron are expected to speak by phone in the coming days, a French government spokesman said.

"It was really a stab in the back," Le Drian said. "It looks a lot like what Trump did."

Biden administration and Australian officials say that France was aware of their plans, and the White House promised to "continue to be engaged in the coming days to resolve our differences."

But Biden and European allies have also been out of sync on other matters, including how quickly wealthy nations should share their coronavirus vaccine stockpiles with poorer nations.

Early on, Biden resisted calls to immediately begin donating 4% to 5% of stockpiles to developing nations. In June, the White House instead announced it was buying 500 million doses to be distributed by a World Health Organization-backed initiative to share vaccine with low- and middle-income countries around the globe. Biden is soon expected to announce additional steps to help vaccinate the world.

Allies among the Group of Seven major industrial nations have shown differing levels of comfort with Biden's calls to persuade fellow democratic leaders to present a more unified front to compete economically with Beijing. When the leaders met this year in England, they agreed to work toward competing against China. But there was less unity on how adversarial a public position the group should take.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 44 of 73

Canada, the United Kingdom and France largely endorsed Biden's position, while Germany, Italy and the European Union showed more hesitancy.

Germany, which has strong trade ties with China, has been keen to avoid a situation in which Germany, or the European Union, might be forced to choose sides between China and the United States.

Biden clashed with European leaders over his decision to stick to an Aug. 31 deadline to end the U.S. war in Afghanistan, which resulted in the U.S. and Western allies leaving before all their citizens could be evacuated from Taliban rule.

Britain and other allies, many of whose troops followed American forces into Afghanistan after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, on the United States, had urged Biden to keep the American military at the Kabul airport longer but were ultimately rebuffed by the president.

Administration officials see this week's engagements as an important moment for the president to spell out his priorities and rally support to take on multiple crises with greater coordination.

It's also a time of political transition for some allies. Longtime German Chancellor Angela Merkel is set to leave office after Germany holds elections later this month and France's Macron is to face his voters in April at a moment when his political star has dimmed.

J. Stephen Morrison, a global health policy expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, expressed concern that the rift in U.S.-France relations has occurred at time when global leaders are far behind their goals for vaccinating the globe and need to step up their efforts.

"We need these countries to be in a position to come forward around the type of agenda ... that the U.S. has put together," Morrison said of Biden's planned vaccination push. "So the French being absent or not terribly engaged is a setback."

Emmys: O-T Fagbenle rocks Nigerian look, Porter wears wings

By LEANNE ITALIE AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Michaela Jaé "MJ" Rodriguez wore vintage Versace Atelier in teal in an homage to Old Hollywood, her hair flowing down her back, and Billy Porter worked large wings on his black trouser look Sunday at the slimmed-down Emmy Awards.

Coming less than a week after the wild and sometimes wacky fashion of the Met Gala, glamour was back at the Emmys. There were looks of soft pink and yellow, statement minis in bright sequins — and Nicole Byer in a stunning off-shoulder orchid purple tulle gown that was sure to land her a best-dressed spot.

Many, including Kate Winslet, Jean Smart and Cecily Strong, went for classic black, the latter with a high slit and low plunge. Black isn't Cedric the Entertainer's style. The evening's host walked the red carpet in color-blocked shades of blue.

Porter worked the poses for the cameras, showing off his wings.

"I AM the fairy godmother. There is a theme going on," Porter said of his recent turn in "Cinderella."

O-T Fagbenle, meanwhile, wore a traditional Nigerian look in red with black accents by a Lagos brand, Sofisticat.

Byer wore custom Christian Siriano. She thanked all the women who came before her to break the couture barrier for plus-size women, and she went for it in the strapless look with sheer layers that flowed to the ground.

And what did "Ted Lasso" himself wear? Jason Sudeikis, without his character's signature pom 'stache, showed off his Eazy-E socks tucked under a velvet suit of blue by Tom Ford.

"It's kind of like keeping everything in perspective," he said.

Sudeikis' co-star, Hannah Waddingham, was a goddess in a one-shoulder gown in soft peach.

Rodriguez paired her gown with 71 carats of Bulgari diamonds with the goal of mixing "old Hollywood with the new," she said.

The pandemic put a damper on the Emmys last year, but fashion was back with a far smaller in-person crowd. Keri Russell dressed all the way up in a Zuhair Murad couture gown in rose mauve with feathers surrounding the hem of a caped back.

Anya Taylor-Joy, always a red carpet star from another era, wore a backless pale yellow Dior couture

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 45 of 73

dress in satin with a dramatic yellow opera coat, her hair in a carefully curled updo.

"She's like a painting," said Andrea Lavinthal, style and beauty director for People. "Everything about her is so glamorous and elegant."

Kathryn Hahn paired her strapless black Lanvin trouser look with an ultra-wide leather belt and statement neckless of white and green jewels. Taraji P. Henson didn't disappoint in a black and white sequin embroidered tulle look by Elie Saab, her hair in a top knot.

"I have pockets," she noted. "It always helps."

Known for his loudly colored and patterned suits, RuPaul wore a black double-breasted jacket with a white swirl pattern on his pants, while Bowen Yang of "Saturday Night Live" rocked a pair of towering silver boots.

But the trend of the evening was color, color and more color.

Yara Shahidi wore a Cartier necklace of yellow gold, emeralds and diamonds as she twirled in a princess gown of kelly green by Dior, while Kaley Cuoco brought the color in a neon yellow look by Vera Wang.

Another standout: Michaela Coel in a bright yellow bandeaux top and matching skirt as she raced inside after closing down the carpet. Issa Rae wore a custom mesh look in white from Aliette. It was a simple, sporty silhouette, with impact. In London, where most of the cast of "The Crown" gathered, Emma Corrin made a statement far from Los Angeles in a pale yellow custom Miu Miu dress with a helmet-like head piece.

There were other looks of note: Cynthia Erivo in white leather Louis Vuitton mermaid gown with a feathered hem of blue and green; Angela Bassett in body-hugging Greta Constantine in black with a bright pink ruffle traveling from top to floor; and Elizabeth Olsen with the unique privilege of wearing a white look designed by The Row, the brand of her twin sisters, Mary-Kate and Ashley.

"We really loved all the bright and bold colors," Lavinthal said. "It felt like a fun Crayola box. It certainly felt celebratory. It's nice that it wasn't this subdued and timid return to the red carpet. People seemed excited about it."

Lavinthal also praised the men: Dan Levy in cobalt blue Valentino with a tie enclosure instead of buttons and Kenan Thompson in pink joining Sudeikis, Cedric and others who gave up the idea of a black tuxedo.

"Seth Rogan was in orange," she said. "He looked like autumn. It just needed some leaves."

Julee Wilson, beauty director for Cosmopolitan, said she gasped when she saw Coel in her Christopher John Rogers yellow look, "but then the matching eyeliner just took it to another level."

She added: "Her sharp buzz cut was the exclamation point. I think it's so powerful to see stars like her and Cynthia Erivo rock basically no hair on the red carpet and still slay."

Erivo is known for her nail designs, "and of course she brought it in a set of long white claws. They weren't super embellished, but I loved that they matched her platinum buzz cut hair, which in turn all coordinated with her white gown."

Wilson said of Taylor-Joy's look: "Holy Hollywood! She nailed the quintessential Old Hollywood look from head to toe. Everything is perfection. I can't stop staring at her bold crimson lip. It's the perfect pop against her monochromatic skin and dress."

Samantha Sutton, senior fashion editor for InStyle.com, was on board with another trend.

"One trend that stood out to me were all the long trains," she said. "Anya Taylor-Joy, Michaela Coel, Catherine O'Hara and more wore looks that trailed behind them and seemed to sweep the red carpet."

Sutton also loved the highlighter colors, including Cuoco and Bassett's pink, fun ruffled detail.

Belts, she said, got one huge boost.

"Everyone will be talking about Kathryn Hahn's extra-large version," Sutton said.

Siriano had a huge red carpet night. In addition to Byer, he put Waddingham in her custom coral pink pleated chiffon gown, Moses Ingram in a silk charmeuse and chiffon wrap slip gown, Jennifer Coolidge in custom navy silk crepe with a cape sleeve and Carl Clemons-Hopkins in a custom silk trouser and skirt with a non-binary waist belt.

Sutton concurred with Lavinthal on the men: "They really went above and beyond the basic black tux this year."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 46 of 73

Adam Glassman, creative director of Oprah Daily and special correspondent for Extra TV, said there wasn't just one or two major standouts but plenty of "joy and exuberance and color and life."

He called Siriano the "most inclusive, embracing designer out there. He's the least snobbiest designer when it comes to age and size and everything else." While some of the celebs are ambassadors for the brands they wore (Taylor-Joy and Shahidi for Dior), Siriano welcomes everybody, Glassman said.

The pinks took it in terms of color, but so did the reds on Tracee Ellis Ross, Sarah Paulson and Catherine Zeta-Jones, he said.

And the outfit of the moment — stepping back into the light after months of seclusion — Glassman picked Olsen in her sisters' white caftan.

"A dress up, home entertaining caftan," he said. "Perfect for the times."

Senate parliamentarian deals blow to Dems' immigration push

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats can't use their \$3.5 trillion package bolstering social and climate programs for their plan to give millions of immigrants a chance to become citizens, the Senate's parliamentarian said, a crushing blow to what was the party's clearest pathway in years to attaining that long-sought goal.

The decision by Elizabeth MacDonough, the Senate's nonpartisan interpreter of its often enigmatic rules, is a damaging and disheartening setback for President Joe Biden, congressional Democrats and their allies in the pro-immigration and progressive communities. Though they said they'd offer her fresh alternatives, MacDonough's stance badly wounds their hopes of unilaterally enacting — over Republican opposition — changes letting several categories of immigrants gain permanent residence and possibly citizenship.

The parliamentarian opinion that emerged Sunday is crucial because it means the immigration provisions could not be included in an immense \$3.5 trillion measure that's been shielded from GOP filibusters. Left vulnerable to those bill-killing delays, which require 60 Senate votes to defuse, the immigration language has virtually no chance in the 50-50 Senate.

In a three-page memo to senators obtained by The Associated Press, MacDonough noted that under Senate rules, provisions are not allowed in such bills if their budget effect is "merely incidental" to their overall policy impact.

Citing sweeping changes that Democrats would make in immigrants' lives, MacDonough, a one-time immigration attorney, said the language "is by any standard a broad, new immigration policy."

The rejected provisions would open multiyear doorways to legal permanent residence — and perhaps citizenship — for young immigrants brought illegally to the country as children, often called "Dreamers." Also included would be immigrants with Temporary Protected Status who've fled countries stricken by natural disasters or extreme violence; essential workers and farm workers.

Estimates vary because many people can be in more than one category, but the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says 8 million people would be helped by the Democratic effort, MacDonough said. Biden had originally proposed a broader drive that would have affected 11 million immigrants.

Democrats and their pro-immigration allies have said they will offer alternative approaches to MacDonough that would open a doorway to permanent status to at least some immigrants.

"We are deeply disappointed in this decision but the fight to provide lawful status for immigrants in budget reconciliation continues," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said in a written statement. "Senate Democrats have prepared alternate proposals and will be holding additional meetings with the Senate parliamentarian in the coming days."

"A path to permanent residency and citizenship has a significant budgetary impact, great bipartisan support, and above all it is critical to America's recovery," said Kerri Talbot, deputy director of the Immigration Hub, a group of pro-immigration strategists. She said work would continue "to ensure that millions of undocumented immigrants can have lasting protections."

The parliamentarian's ruling was riling progressives at a time when Democratic leaders will need virtually every vote in Congress from their party to approve a 10-year, \$3.5 trillion bill that embodies Biden's

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 47 of 73

top domestic goals.

It also comes with Republicans already signaling that they will use immigration, linking it to some voters' fears of crime, as a top issue in next year's campaigns for control of the House and Senate. The issue has gained attention in a year when huge numbers of immigrants have been encountered trying to cross the Southwest border.

"Democratic leaders refused to resist their progressive base and stand up for the rule of law, even though our border has never been less secure," said Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. He said putting the provisions into filibuster-protected budget measure was "inappropriate and I'm glad it failed."

In fact, both parties have stretched the use of the special budget protections over the years. Democrats used them to enact President Barack Obama's 2010 health care law, and Republicans used them during their failed 2017 drive to repeal that statute.

"It would have led to an increased run on the border — beyond the chaos we already have there today," said the Senate Budget Committee's top Republican, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham.

One alternative advocates have said they're exploring would be to update a "registry" date that allows some immigrants in the U.S. by that time to become permanent residents if they meet certain conditions. But it was unclear if they would pursue that option or how the parliamentarian would rule.

White House spokesperson Vedant Patel called the parliamentarian's decision disappointing but said senators would offer new immigration ideas.

MacDonough cited a CBO estimate that Democrats' proposals would increase federal deficits by \$140 billion over the coming decade. That is largely because of federal benefits the immigrants would qualify for.

But that fiscal impact, wrote MacDonough, was overshadowed by improvements the Democratic effort would make for immigrants' lives.

"Many undocumented persons live and work in the shadows of our society out of fear of deportation," she said. Permanent legal status would grant them "freedom to work, freedom to travel, freedom to live openly in our society in any state in the nation, and to reunite with their families and it would make them eligible, in time, to apply for citizenship — things for which there is no federal fiscal equivalent."

That, she wrote, "is tremendous and enduring policy change that dwarfs its budgetary impact."

Democrats and a handful of GOP allies have made halting progress during the past two decades toward legislation that would help millions of immigrants gain permanent legal status in the U.S. Ultimately, they've been thwarted each time by broad Republican opposition.

The House has approved separate bills this year achieving much of that, but the measures have gone nowhere in the Senate because of Republican filibusters.

The overall \$3.5 trillion bill would boost spending for social safety net, environment and other programs and largely finance the initiatives with tax increases on the rich and corporations.

Progressive and moderate Democrats are battling over the measure's price tag and details. Party leaders can't lose any Democratic votes in the 50-50 Senate and can lose no more than three in the House.

MacDonough was appointed in 2012 when Democrats controlled the chamber and is respected as an even-handed arbiter of Senate rules.

Earlier this year, one of her rulings forced Democrats to remove a minimum wage increase from a COVID-19 relief bill, killing another top progressive priority.

AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro and AP writer Alexandra Jaffe contributed to this report.

Trump endorses 'big lie' proponents for state election posts

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Before winning Donald Trump's coveted endorsement in his race to become Arizona's top election official, Mark Finchem received several calls from people close to the former president making clear they approved of the work he was doing to challenge the results of the 2020 election.

"They said I had been noticed," said Finchem, a state representative who was outside the U.S. Capitol

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 48 of 73

during the Jan. 6 insurrection and has been a key proponent of a widely panned partisan ballot review in Arizona. In subsequent conversations, he said, Trump praised his work and expressed hope he would continue.

As Trump considers another presidential run in 2024, he has taken similar interest in important but relatively obscure races in other critical battlegrounds, throwing his support behind candidates who have not only perpetuated the lie that the 2020 election was stolen, but in some cases also actively tried to overturn the results. The moves reflect Trump's desire to exert influence on all levels of the Republican Party and install allies into critical roles in the states that may be more amenable to helping him subvert future election results.

"President Trump's failed attempts to overturn the results and the will of the people were really just the beginning," said Jena Griswold, the Colorado secretary of state, who serves as chair of the Democratic Association of Secretaries of State, a group dedicated to electing Democrats to the positions.

While the races for secretary of state and attorney general have historically been overshadowed by higher-profile contests, the offices hold significant power. Attorneys general are their states' top law enforcement officers, while secretaries of state serve as chief election officers, overseeing efforts like voter registration and mail-in ballot distribution, depending on the state.

Rick Pildes, a constitutional law professor at New York University School of Law, said Trump's attention on the positions had changed the kinds of candidates they were attracting, with "much more partisan activists" taking interest.

"It's an extraordinary thing for a former president who may very well be looking to run again to weigh in on secretary of state offices. I don't know if we've ever seen that before," Pildes said.

Despite a lack of credible evidence to support Trump's allegations of mass voter fraud, the former president has continued to push the "big lie," turning it into a litmus test for GOP candidates. Trump remains deeply popular with Republican voters, a majority of whom continue to believe the election was stolen, despite dozens of state and local elections officials, numerous judges and Trump's own attorney general saying President Joe Biden won fairly.

Underscoring that power, one of the 10 House Republicans who voted to impeach Trump for inciting the Capitol insurrection announced last week that he would be retiring rather than having to face what was expected to be a bruising primary against a Trump-endorsed challenger.

"1 down, 9 to go!" Trump crowed.

Trump is now pushing his way down the ballot and has so far endorsed three candidates running for secretary of state, all in states that could play major roles in determining the outcome of the 2024 presidential election and where officials rebuffed his efforts to overturn the results last year.

His aides are open about the strategy.

"Our top priority is endorsing strong fighters who care about election integrity," said Trump spokesperson Liz Harrington. "He notices when people are fighting for the truth about the November election results."

In Arizona, which became a key front in Republicans' disinformation war, Trump last week backed Finchem, a vocal proponent of the state's partisan review of the 2020 vote count in Maricopa County. Election experts have cited numerous flaws with the review, from biased and inexperienced contractors to conspiracy-chasing funders and bizarre, unreliable methods.

Finchem believes the results in the state should be decertified, and he has played a key role in efforts to undermine confidence in the vote, including by bringing Rudy Giuliani and other Trump attorneys to Phoenix to air bogus allegations of fraud.

Democrats pushed unsuccessfully to expel Finchem from the Arizona House after he was photographed outside the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, when Trump supporters stormed the building, trying to halt certification of Biden's victory. Finchem has said he was in the area to speak at a permitted rally and didn't know the Capitol had been breached until hours later.

In Michigan's secretary of state race, Trump endorsed Kristina Karamo, who had backed an unsuccessful lawsuit from Texas that had tried to prevent Michigan and three other states from casting their electoral

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 49 of 73

votes for Biden. For Georgia secretary of state, Trump endorsed U.S. Rep. Jody Hice, a loyalist who voted against certifying the election results and who is running to unseat Republican incumbent Brad Raffensperger, who stood by Georgia's election results and rejected Trump's entreaties to "find" more votes, enraging the former president.

Trump on Friday sent a letter to Raffensperger requesting he "start the process of decertifying the Election, or whatever the correct remedy is, and announce the true winner."

In addition to the secretary of state races, Trump last week endorsed Matt DePerno, a Michigan lawyer who is running for state attorney general and who made debunked claims about vote-counting machines in Michigan's 2020 election. A report from the Republican-controlled Michigan Senate found no evidence of the fraud that DePerno alleged and recommended the current attorney general investigate those profiting off election misinformation.

DePerno has since boasted of raising more than \$400,000 to help fund his lawsuit and separately paying \$280,000 to fund the election review in Arizona.

Griswold, the Democratic secretary of state in Colorado, said the stakes in 2022 were high, with elections coming up in five swing states — Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, Michigan and Georgia — along with countless county-level races.

"Democracy will be on the ballot in 2022," said Griswold, who is seeking reelection. "We need to see people who believe in democracy and the will of the people in these roles."

Trey Grayson, a Republican who served as Kentucky secretary of state from 2004 to 2011, said that Trump's endorsement would likely be a powerful force in the races, but that choosing candidates based on loyalty and adherence to the "big lie" was "probably not the best way to win general elections and get good people into the office."

And he bemoaned the message it might send if, for instance, Raffensperger ended up losing in Georgia.

"The message it sends is if you do the right thing, you're going to be punished," he said. "And that bothers me — it really bothers me — as someone who cares a great deal about democracy and someone who cares a great deal about the Republican Party."

Pildes said that, when it comes to election administration, even the perception of partisan intervention can be damaging.

"The concern is heightened if those elected officials feel that they owe their political success to a particular candidate," Pildes said.

Finchem, for his part, said Trump had made no mention of 2024 in their calls.

"As far as the president's plans and his strategy, that's way above my pay grade ... and, frankly, I don't want to know. Once a secretary of state is elected, once that choice is made," he said, "you really have the responsibility to be nonpartisan as much as you can be."

Associated Press writer Nicholas Riccardi in Denver contributed to this report.

Canada votes in pandemic election that could cost Trudeau

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Prime Minister Justin Trudeau gambled on an early election in a bid to win a majority of seats in Parliament, but now faces the threat of being knocked from power in Canada's election on Monday.

Polls indicate Trudeau's Liberal Party is in a tight race with the rival Conservatives: It will likely win the most seats in Parliament, but still fail to get a majority, forcing it to rely on an opposition party to pass legislation.

"Trudeau made an incredibly stupid error in judgement," said Robert Bothwell, a professor of Canadian history and international relations at the University of Toronto.

Trudeau entered the election leading a stable minority government that wasn't under threat of being toppled.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 50 of 73

The opposition has been relentless in accusing Trudeau of calling the early vote — two years before the deadline — for his own personal ambition. Trudeau channeled the star power of his father, the Liberal icon and late Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, when he first won in 2015, but a combination of high expectations, scandal and calling the election last month during the pandemic have hurt his brand.

Trudeau is betting that Canadians will reward him for navigating the coronavirus crisis better than most countries did. Canada is now one of the most vaccinated nations in the world and Trudeau's government spent hundreds of billions of dollars to prop up the economy amid lockdowns.

Trudeau argues that the Conservatives' approach, which has been more skeptical of lockdowns and vaccine mandates, would be dangerous and says Canadians need a government that follows science.

Conservative leader Erin O'Toole didn't require his party's candidates to be vaccinated and won't say how many are unvaccinated. O'Toole describes vaccination as a personal health decision, but a growing number of vaccinated Canadians are becoming increasingly upset with those who refuse to get vaccinated.

"He's more interested in standing up for the rights of anti-vaxxers within his own party than he is in standing up for people who have done the right things and want to get back to normal," Trudeau said at a campaign stop in Windsor, Ontario, on Friday.

Trudeau supports making vaccines mandatory for Canadians to travel by air or rail, something the Conservatives oppose. And Trudeau has pointed out that Alberta, run by a Conservative provincial government, is in crisis.

Alberta Premier Jason Kenney, an ally of O'Toole, said the province might run out of beds and staff for intensive care units within days. Kenney has apologized for the dire situation and is now reluctantly introducing a vaccine passport and imposing a mandatory work-from-home order two months after lifting nearly all restrictions.

A Conservative win would represent a rebuke of Trudeau, who now is at risk of losing office to a politician with a fraction of his own name recognition. O'Toole, 47, is a military veteran, former lawyer and a member of Parliament for nine years.

O'Toole advertised himself a year ago as a "true-blue conservative." He became Conservative Party leader with a pledge to "take back Canada," but immediately started working to push the party toward the political center.

O'Toole's new strategy, which has included disavowing positions held dear by his party's base on issues such as climate change, guns and balanced budgets, is designed to appeal to a broader cross section of voters in a country that tends to be far more liberal than its southern neighbor.

The son of a long-time politician has faced criticism he will say and do anything to get elected.

"I'm not your dad's Conservative Party," O'Toole said.

Whether moderate Canadians believe O'Toole is the progressive conservative he claims to be and whether he has alienated traditional conservatives have become central questions of the campaign.

Jenni Byrne, who served as campaign manager and deputy chief of staff to former Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper, said there is a lack of enthusiasm among Conservatives across the country.

"We will know on Tuesday morning whether the Erin O'Toole version of the Conservative Party is connecting with voters, but if there is any truth to the polls, it's something that I don't think is connecting in numbers that we have connected with in the past, including in the last election," Byrne said.

The wild card could be a politician who narrowly lost the leadership of the Conservative Party in 2017 but who now leads a far-right party that opposes vaccines and lockdowns. Polls suggest as many as 5% to 10% support Maxime Bernier and the People's Party of Canada — potentially bleeding support from O'Toole's Conservatives and helping the Liberals retain power.

Trudeau's legacy includes embracing immigration at a time when the U.S. and other countries closed their doors. He also legalized cannabis nationwide and brought in a carbon tax to fight climate change. And he preserved free trade deal with the U.S. and Mexico amid threats by former U.S. President Donald Trump to scrap the agreement.

Perhaps sensing Trudeau is in trouble, former U.S. President Barack Obama and ex-Democratic Party

nominee Hillary Clinton tweeted support for Trudeau.

There won't be a Trump endorsement of O'Toole. Conservative campaign co-chair Walied Soliman said there is no alignment whatsoever between O'Toole and Trumpism.

But if O'Toole wins, he has promised to take a tougher stand against China, including banning Chinese technology giant Huawei from Canada's next generation of telecommunication networks.

O'Toole has also said he'll move Canada's embassy in Israel to Jerusalem just as Trump moved the U.S. embassy, upending decades of policy.

Senate parliamentarian deals blow to Dems' immigration push

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats can't use their \$3.5 trillion package bolstering social and climate programs for their plan to give millions of immigrants a chance to become citizens, the Senate's parliamentarian said late Sunday, a crushing blow to what was the party's clearest pathway in years to attaining that long-sought goal.

The decision by Elizabeth MacDonough, the Senate's nonpartisan interpreter of its often enigmatic rules, is a damaging and disheartening setback for President Joe Biden, congressional Democrats and their allies in the pro-immigration and progressive communities. Though they said they'd offer her fresh alternatives, MacDonough's stance badly wounds their hopes of unilaterally enacting — over Republican opposition — changes letting several categories of immigrants gain permanent residence and possibly citizenship.

The parliamentarian opinion is crucial because it means the immigration provisions could not be included in an immense \$3.5 trillion measure that's been shielded from GOP filibusters. Left vulnerable to those bill-killing delays, which require 60 Senate votes to defuse, the immigration language has virtually no chance in the 50-50 Senate.

In a three-page memo to senators obtained by The Associated Press, MacDonough noted that under Senate rules, provisions are not allowed in such bills if their budget effect is "merely incidental" to their overall policy impact.

Citing sweeping changes that Democrats would make in immigrants' lives, MacDonough, a one-time immigration attorney, said the language "is by any standard a broad, new immigration policy."

The rejected provisions would open multiyear doorways to legal permanent residence — and perhaps citizenship — for young immigrants brought illegally to the country as children, often called "Dreamers." Also included would be immigrants with Temporary Protected Status who've fled countries stricken by natural disasters or extreme violence; essential workers and farm workers.

Estimates vary because many people can be in more than one category, but the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says 8 million people would be helped by the Democratic effort, MacDonough said. Biden had originally proposed a broader drive that would have affected 11 million immigrants.

Democrats and their pro-immigration allies have said they will offer alternative approaches to MacDonough that would open a doorway to permanent status to at least some immigrants.

"We are deeply disappointed in this decision but the fight to provide lawful status for immigrants in budget reconciliation continues," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said in a written statement. "Senate Democrats have prepared alternate proposals and will be holding additional meetings with the Senate parliamentarian in the coming days."

"A path to permanent residency and citizenship has a significant budgetary impact, great bipartisan support, and above all it is critical to America's recovery," said Kerri Talbot, deputy director of the Immigration Hub, a group of pro-immigration strategists. She said work would continue "to ensure that millions of undocumented immigrants can have lasting protections."

The parliamentarian's ruling was riling progressives at a time when Democratic leaders will need virtually every vote in Congress from their party to approve a 10-year, \$3.5 trillion bill that embodies Biden's top domestic goals.

It also comes with Republicans already signaling that they will use immigration, linking it to some voters'

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 52 of 73

fears of crime, as a top issue in next year's campaigns for control of the House and Senate. The issue has gained attention in a year when huge numbers of immigrants have been encountered trying to cross the Southwest border.

"Democratic leaders refused to resist their progressive base and stand up for the rule of law, even though our border has never been less secure," said Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. He said putting the provisions into filibuster-protected budget measure was "inappropriate and I'm glad it failed."

In fact, both parties have stretched the use of the special budget protections over the years. Democrats used them to enact President Barack Obama's 2010 health care law, and Republicans used them during their failed 2017 drive to repeal that statute.

"It would have led to an increased run on the border — beyond the chaos we already have there today," said the Senate Budget Committee's top Republican, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham.

One alternative advocates have said they're exploring would be to update a "registry" date that allows some immigrants in the U.S. by that time to become permanent residents if they meet certain conditions. But it was unclear if they would pursue that option or how the parliamentarian would rule.

White House spokesperson Vedant Patel called the parliamentarian's decision disappointing but said senators would offer new immigration ideas.

MacDonough cited a CBO estimate that Democrats' proposals would increase federal deficits by \$140 billion over the coming decade. That is largely because of federal benefits the immigrants would qualify for.

But that fiscal impact, wrote MacDonough, was overshadowed by improvements the Democratic effort would make for immigrants' lives.

"Many undocumented persons live and work in the shadows of our society out of fear of deportation," she said. Permanent legal status would grant them "freedom to work, freedom to travel, freedom to live openly in our society in any state in the nation, and to reunite with their families and it would make them eligible, in time, to apply for citizenship — things for which there is no federal fiscal equivalent."

That, she wrote, "is tremendous and enduring policy change that dwarfs its budgetary impact."

Democrats and a handful of GOP allies have made halting progress during the past two decades toward legislation that would help millions of immigrants gain permanent legal status in the U.S. Ultimately, they've been thwarted each time by broad Republican opposition.

The House has approved separate bills this year achieving much of that, but the measures have gone nowhere in the Senate because of Republican filibusters.

The overall \$3.5 trillion bill would boost spending for social safety net, environment and other programs and largely finance the initiatives with tax increases on the rich and corporations.

Progressive and moderate Democrats are battling over the measure's price tag and details. Party leaders can't lose any Democratic votes in the 50-50 Senate and can lose no more than three in the House.

MacDonough was appointed in 2012 when Democrats controlled the chamber and is respected as an even-handed arbiter of Senate rules.

Earlier this year, one of her rulings forced Democrats to remove a minimum wage increase from a COVID-19 relief bill, killing another top progressive priority.

AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro and AP writer Alexandra Jaffe contributed to this report.

US launches mass expulsion of Haitian migrants from Texas

By JUAN A. LOZANO, ERIC GAY, ELLIOT SPAGAT and EVENS SANON Associated Press

DEL RIO, Texas (AP) — The U.S. flew Haitians camped in a Texas border town back to their homeland Sunday and tried blocking others from crossing the border from Mexico in a massive show of force that signaled the beginning of what could be one of America's swiftest, large-scale expulsions of migrants or refugees in decades.

More than 320 migrants arrived in Port-au-Prince on three flights, and Haiti said six flights were expected Tuesday. In all, U.S. authorities moved to expel many of the more 12,000 migrants camped around a bridge

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 53 of 73

in Del Rio, Texas, after crossing from Ciudad Acuña, Mexico.

The U.S. plans to begin seven expulsion flights daily on Wednesday, four to Port-au-Prince and three to Cap-Haitien, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. Flights will continue to depart from San Antonio but authorities may add El Paso, the official said.

The only obvious parallel for such an expulsion without an opportunity to seek asylum was in 1992 when the Coast Guard intercepted Haitian refugees at sea, said Yael Schacher, senior U.S. advocate at Refugees International whose doctoral studies focused on the history of U.S. asylum law.

Similarly large numbers of Mexicans have been sent home during peak years of immigration but over land and not so suddenly.

Central Americans have also crossed the border in comparable numbers without being subject to mass expulsion, although Mexico has agreed to accept them from the U.S. under pandemic-related authority in effect since March 2020. Mexico does not accept expelled Haitians or people of other nationalities outside of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

When the border was closed Sunday, the migrants initially found other ways to cross nearby until they were confronted by federal and state law enforcement. An Associated Press reporter saw Haitian immigrants still crossing the river into the U.S. about 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometers) east of the previous spot, but they were eventually stopped by Border Patrol agents on horseback and Texas law enforcement officials.

As they crossed, some Haitians carried boxes on their heads filled with food. Some removed their pants before getting into the river and carried them. Others were unconcerned about getting wet.

Agents yelled at the migrants who were crossing in the waist-deep river to get out of the water. The several hundred who had successfully crossed and were sitting along the river bank on the U.S. side were ordered to the Del Rio camp. "Go now," agents yelled. Mexican authorities in an airboat told others trying to cross to go back into Mexico.

Migrant Charlie Jean had crossed back into Ciudad Acuña from the camps to get food for his wife and three daughters, ages 2, 5 and 12. He was waiting on the Mexican side for a restaurant to bring him an order of rice.

"We need food for every day. I can go without, but my kids can't," said Jean, who had been living in Chile for five years before beginning the trek north to the U.S. It was unknown if he made it back across and to the camp.

Mexico said Sunday it would also begin deporting Haitians to their homeland. A government official said the flights would be from towns near the U.S. border and the border with Guatemala, where the largest group remains.

Haitians have been migrating to the U.S. in large numbers from South America for several years, many having left their Caribbean nation after a devastating 2010 earthquake. After jobs dried up from the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, many made the dangerous trek by foot, bus and car to the U.S. border, including through the infamous Darien Gap, a Panamanian jungle.

Some of the migrants at the Del Rio camp said the recent devastating earthquake in Haiti and the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse make them afraid to return to a country that seems more unstable than when they left.

"In Haiti, there is no security," said Fabricio Jean, a 38-year-old Haitian who arrived in Texas with his wife and two daughters. "The country is in a political crisis."

Since Friday, 3,300 migrants have already been removed from the Del Rio camp to planes or detention centers, Border Patrol Chief Raul L. Ortiz said Sunday. He expected to have 3,000 of the approximately 12,600 remaining migrants moved within a day, and aimed for the rest to be gone within the week.

"We are working around the clock to expeditiously move migrants out of the heat, elements and from underneath this bridge to our processing facilities in order to quickly process and remove individuals from the United States consistent with our laws and our policies," Ortiz said at news conference at the Del Rio bridge. The Texas city of about 35,000 people sits roughly 145 miles (230 kilometers) west of San Antonio.

Six flights were scheduled in Haiti on Tuesday — three in Port-au-Prince and three in the northern city of Cap-Haitien, said Jean Négot Bonheur Delva, Haiti's migration director.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 54 of 73

The rapid expulsions were made possible by a pandemic-related authority adopted by former President Donald Trump in March 2020 that allows for migrants to be immediately removed from the country without an opportunity to seek asylum. President Joe Biden exempted unaccompanied children from the order but let the rest stand.

Any Haitians not expelled are subject to immigration laws, which include rights to seek asylum and other forms of humanitarian protection. Families are quickly released in the U.S. because the government cannot generally hold children.

Some people arriving on the first flight covered their heads as they walked into a large bus parked next to the plane. Dozens lined up to receive a plate of rice, beans, chicken and plantains as they wondered where they would sleep and how they would make money to support their families.

All were given \$100 and tested for COVID-19, though authorities were not planning to put them into quarantine, said Marie-Lourde Jean-Charles with the Office of National Migration.

Gary Monplaisir, 26, said his parents and sister live in Port-au-Prince, but he wasn't sure if he would stay with them because to reach their house he, his wife and their 5-year-old daughter would cross a gang-controlled area called Martissant where killings are routine.

"I'm scared," he said. "I don't have a plan."

He moved to Chile in 2017, just as he was about to earn an accounting degree, to work as a tow truck driver. He later paid for his wife and daughter to join him. They tried to reach the U.S. because he thought he could get a better-paying job and help his family in Haiti.

"We're always looking for better opportunities," he said.

Some migrants said they were planning to leave Haiti again as soon as possible. Valeria Ternission, 29, said she and her husband want to travel with their 4-year-old son back to Chile, where she worked as a bakery's cashier.

"I am truly worried, especially for the child," she said. "I can't do anything here."

Lozano reported from Ciudad Acuña, Mexico, Sanon from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and Spagat from San Diego. Associated Press writers Danica Coto in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Maria Verza in Mexico City also contributed to this report.

Follow AP's coverage of migration at <https://apnews.com/hub/migration>

Military training jet crashes in Texas, injuring both pilots

LAKE WORTH, Texas (AP) — A military training jet crashed Sunday in a neighborhood near Fort Worth, Texas, injuring the two pilots and damaging three homes but not seriously hurting anyone on the ground, authorities said.

Both pilots managed to eject from the plane before it crashed in Lake Worth, which is just west of Fort Worth, authorities said at a news conference.

"This incident could have been much worse knowing that this plane went down in a residential area," Lake Worth Fire Chief Ryan Arthur said of the crash, which was reported to authorities shortly before 11 a.m.

One of the pilots was electrocuted after being caught in power lines, Lake Worth police said in a statement, adding that "although badly burnt, the pilot was conscious, alert and breathing." Police said the second pilot was found in a wooded area a short distance away. Both were taken to area hospitals.

The chief of naval air training in Corpus Christi said in a Facebook post Sunday evening that the instructor pilot was in stable condition, while the student naval aviator was in serious condition.

Police said that three people in the neighborhood sustained minor injuries, and at least one was taken to the hospital.

The jet was a Navy T-45C Goshawk assigned to Training Air Wing 2 at Naval Air Station Kingsville, about 420 miles (676 kilometers) south of Lake Worth, the chief of naval air training said in the post. The post says they were conducting a routine training flight that originated from the Corpus Christi International

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 55 of 73

Airport, about 350 miles (563 kilometers) south of Lake Worth along the Gulf Coast.

Three homes were damaged and three residents of those homes were treated at the scene and released, the Fort Worth Fire Department said. The crash cut power to 44 homes in the area, and utility crews were working to restore it.

"We are incredibly fortunate that the plane crashed in the backyards of the homes and not the residences themselves," the Fort Worth department said.

Two off-duty Fort Worth firefighters witnessed the crash and were the first on the scene, where they were able to tend to the injured pilots, the department said.

Arthur said the people who live in the damaged homes will be displaced because of the crash.

The neighborhood is near the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base. Officials said multiple representatives from the military were at the crash scene. Attempts to reach the naval air station for comment were not immediately successful Sunday.

"Our hearts go out to these military members and their families," Police Chief J.T. Manoushagian said.

"I would imagine that for a pilot, this is the day that you dread, that you hope never comes," he said.

Mary Joyner, whose mother lives near the crash site, told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that they were sitting at the kitchen table when they heard a "ba-boom" and the power went out. Stepping into the front yard, she saw a plume of black smoke and smelled a metallic aroma

Joyner said she grew up in the house and her family was accustomed to the daily sound of planes flying overhead.

"You live here all your life, you know it can happen, the planes are right here," Joyner said. "You always have the thought."

Body found in Wyoming believed to be Gabrielle Petito

Associated Press undefined

MOOSE, Wyo. (AP) — Authorities say a body discovered Sunday in Wyoming is believed to be Gabrielle "Gabby" Petito, who disappeared while on a cross-country trek with a boyfriend who has been identified by authorities as a person of interest and is now being sought within a Florida nature preserve.

The FBI said the body was found by law enforcement agents who had spent the past two days searching campgrounds.

The cause of death has not yet been determined, said FBI Supervisory Special Agent Charles Jones.

"Full forensic identification has not been completed to confirm 100% that we found Gabby, but her family has been notified," Jones said. "This is an incredibly difficult time for (Petito's) family and friends."

An attorney who has been acting as a spokesman for Petito's family asked in a statement that the family be given room to grieve.

Attorney Richard Benson Stafford indicated that the family would make a public statement at a later date, and he thanked officials with the FBI, Grand Teton Search and Rescue and other agencies that participated in the search for Petito.

"The family and I will be forever grateful," Stafford said in a statement.

An undeveloped camping area on the east side of Grand Teton bordering national forest land will remain closed until further notice while the investigation continues, Jones said.

Jones said investigators are still seeking information from anyone who may have seen Petito or Brian Laundrie around the camp sites, the same area that was the subject of law enforcement search efforts over the weekend.

Petito and her boyfriend, Laundrie, left in July on a cross-country trek in a converted van to visit national parks in the U.S. West. Police said Laundrie was alone when he drove the van back to his parents' home in North Port, Florida, on Sept. 1.

Laundrie has been identified as a person of interest in the case. He was last seen Tuesday by family members in Florida.

More than 50 law enforcement officers on Sunday started a second day of searching for Laundrie at the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 56 of 73

more than 24,000-acre (9,712-hectare) Carlton Reserve in Sarasota County, Florida, a wildlife area with more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) of trails, as well as campgrounds.

Petito's family filed a missing persons report Sept. 11 with police in Suffolk County, New York.

Petito's family had been pleading for the Laundrie family to tell them where their son last saw her. Petito and Laundrie were childhood sweethearts who met while growing up on Long Island, New York. His parents later moved to North Port, about 35 miles (55 kilometers) south of Sarasota.

The couple's trek in the Ford Transit van began in July from Long Island. They intended to reach Oregon by the end of October, according to their social media accounts, but Petito vanished after her last known contact with family in late August from Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, authorities said.

Police video released by the Moab Police Department in Utah showed that an officer pulled the van over on Aug. 12 after it was seen speeding and hitting a curb near the entrance to Arches National Park. The body cam video showed an emotional Petito, who sat inside a police cruiser while officers also questioned Laundrie.

Moab police ultimately decided not file any charges and instead separated the couple for the night, with Laundrie checking into a motel and Petito remaining with the converted sleeper van.

This story has been corrected to show that it was a Ford Transit van.

As leaders reconvene at UN, climate and COVID top the list

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Last year, no leaders came at all. This year will be quite different — sort of.

With the coronavirus pandemic still raging in many parts of the world, leaders from more than 100 nations are heading to New York this week for the United Nations' annual high-level gathering — a COVID-inflected, semi-locked down affair that takes place in one of the pandemic's hardest-hit cities of all. It will be a departure from the last in-person meeting of the General Assembly in 2019 — and far different, too, from last year's all-virtual version.

Awaiting them: daunting challenges enough to scare anyone who runs a country, from an escalating climate crisis and severe vaccine inequities to Afghanistan's future under its new Taliban rulers and worsening conflicts in Myanmar and the Tigray region of Ethiopia.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has pointed to many other signs of a more chaotic, insecure and dangerous world: rising poverty and hunger; technology's advances "without guard rails" like lethal autonomous weapons; the risks of climate breakdown and nuclear war; and growing inequality, discrimination and injustice bringing people into the streets to protest "while conspiracy theories and lies fuel deep divisions within societies."

The U.N. chief keeps repeating that the world is at "a pivotal moment" and must shift gears to "a greener and safer world." To do that, leaders need to give multilateralism "teeth," starting with joint action to reverse the global failure to tackle COVID-19 in 2020 and to ensure that 70% of the world's population is vaccinated in the first half of 2022.

But as is often true with the United Nations, it remains to be seen whether the high-level meetings, which start Monday and end Sept. 27, make actual progress.

After COVID-19 forced leaders to deliver remote, pre-recorded speeches at last year's meeting, more than 100 heads of state and government and more than two dozen ministers decided to come to New York this year despite the pandemic. That reflects the United Nations' unique role as a global town square for all 193 member countries, whether tiny or vast, weak or powerful.

The assembly's annual gathering of world leaders — called the General Debate — has always been a place where presidents, prime ministers, monarchs and other top officials can discuss local, regional and global concerns at public or private meetings and receptions, and over lunches and dinners. In other words, it creates a space to carry out the delicate business of diplomacy face to face, considered far more productive than virtual meetings online.

Richard Gowan, U.N. director of the International Crisis Group, said the General Assembly's first in-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 57 of 73

person meeting since the pandemic began — though about 60 leaders have opted to deliver pre-recorded speeches — is not only symbolic but an opportunity to “show that international cooperation matters.”

“For leaders from poorer countries, this is also a rare opportunity to speak publicly about the ongoing aftershocks of COVID-19,” he said. “It’s also, frankly, quite fun to come to New York. A lot of these leaders have been stuck in their capitals.”

After four years of Donald Trump representing the United States at the meetings, this week will see Joe Biden make his first appearance as president at Tuesday’s opening of the General Debate. Gowan said “the really significant question is exactly how he frames relations with China.”

“He won’t be as forthright in criticism of China as Trump was, especially in 2019 and 2020,” Gowan said. “But I think that Biden will try and cast China as a country that is challenging the rules-based world order and a country that should not be trusted with leadership of the international system.”

The pandemic is not only something for world leaders to discuss but also for them to deal with on the ground: A key issue ahead of the meetings has been COVID-19 entry requirements for leaders to the United States — and to the U.N. headquarters itself.

By tradition, the first speaker after the secretary-general delivers his state of the world report is Brazil. Its president, Jair Bolsonaro, who isn’t vaccinated, reiterated Thursday he doesn’t plan to get the shot any time soon. Bolsonaro’s justification: He had COVID-19 and thus, he says, he has a high level of antibodies.

Entering the United States requires a vaccination or a recent COVID-19 test, but New York City has a vaccination requirement for convention centers, and it considers the General Assembly hall — which isn’t technically U.S. soil — to be one of those.

Assembly President Abdulla Shahid said in a letter Thursday that the U.N. is relying on an honor system only. That means there will be no New York City police checking people entering U.N. headquarters.

Many diplomats say they will be closely watching the last scheduled speakers on the final day, Sept. 27, because each has something contentious percolating.

North Korea just tested new cruise missiles that could deliver nuclear weapons. In Myanmar, generals ousted the democratically elected government in February. Guinea’s military toppled the democratically elected president a month ago. And in Afghanistan, the Taliban took power on Aug. 15 when the Afghan army didn’t put up a fight as the last U.S. troops were withdrawing from the country after 20 years of war.

The credentials of Myanmar’s current ambassador, from the country’s ousted democratic government, are being challenged by the military junta, but U.N. officials say the General Assembly’s Credentials Committee won’t meet to hear the challenge until after the week’s meetings conclude. And the Taliban haven’t yet submitted a letter challenging the credentials of the previous government’s ambassador.

Among those delivering prerecorded statements this year will be the presidents of Iran, Egypt, Indonesia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. French President Emmanuel Macron was supposed to deliver a pre-recorded statement, but the government said Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian will now deliver the country’s address in person on the final day.

France and China have reacted angrily to the surprise announcement by Biden, alongside the leaders of Australia and Britain, of a deal to provide Australia with at least eight nuclear-powered submarines. Australia had signed a contract worth at least \$66 billion for a dozen French conventional diesel-electric submarines and their construction was already under way.

France, the United States’ oldest ally, responded by recalling its ambassadors from the U.S. and Australia on Friday, and the dispute’s implications for Asian and global security are certain to be hot topics in private meetings this week.

The action begins Monday morning when the secretary-general brings world leaders and the global pop sensation band BTS together to put a spotlight on the 17 U.N. goals for 2030 ranging from ending poverty and protecting the planet to achieving gender equality, providing every child a quality education and ensuring healthy lives for all people.

An hour later, some 40 world leaders will attend a closed meeting on climate change co-chaired by Guterres and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson in the run-up to November’s major climate event in

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 58 of 73

Glasgow, Scotland.

"We need urgent progress on cash, cars, coal and trees," said Britain's U.N. ambassador, Barbara Woodward. That means raising \$100 billion to help vulnerable countries deal with climate change and getting ambitious plans from countries on cutting emissions, she said.

Louis Charbonneau, U.N. director for Human Rights Watch, said world leaders must address human rights crises as well.

"They should be clear that there can be no business as usual with serious rights abusers and support U.N. action that will impose real costs," he said. "Abusive leaders around the globe need to know that the world is watching, and that they may one day be held to account for grave violations."

Edith M. Lederer, chief U.N. correspondent for The Associated Press, has been reporting internationally for nearly 50 years. Follow her on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/EdithLedererAP>

Early results in Russia show pro-Kremlin party leads

By JIM HEINTZ and DARIA LITVINOVA Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Early results Sunday in Russia's parliamentary election showed the dominant pro-Kremlin party well in the lead, but it was unclear if the party will retain the two-thirds majority of seats that allow it to change the constitution.

The election is widely seen as an important part of Russian President Vladimir Putin's efforts to cement his grip on power ahead of the 2024 presidential election, in which control of the State Duma, or parliament, will be key.

Results from about 30% of the country's polling stations gave the pro-Kremlin United Russia party 45% of the vote for the 225 deputies apportioned by party lists, according to the elections commission. Another 225 lawmakers will be chosen by individual races, and the elections commission said early results showed United Russia candidates leading in 179 of those single-constituency seats.

The election Sunday lacked significant opposition presence after Russian authorities declared organizations linked to imprisoned Alexei Navalny, the Kremlin's most prominent foe, to be extremist. The voting was also marred by numerous reports of violations, including ballot-stuffing.

The early results showed three other parties that almost always support Putin returning to the State Duma, as well as the New People party, which was formed last year and is regarded by many as a Kremlin-sponsored project.

The Communist Party received about 22% of the party-list vote, a sizeable improvement from the 13% it got in the last election in 2016. United Russia got about 54% five years ago, so the early results indicate a substantial falloff in support.

The Communists "are gaining everywhere where they were able to field a strong campaign and that's great. It's not great because we love the Communist Party, because we don't, but because it increases the level of political competition in Russia," said Leonid Volkov, a top Navalny aide.

Ahead of the election, Putin expressed hope that the United Russia party would retain its dominance in the parliament, where it held 334 seats out of 450. But although the party is Putin's power base, it is far less popular than the president himself.

The vote this year saw most opposition politicians and activists barred from running as Russian authorities unleashed a massive effort to suppress protests and dissent.

Reports of ballot violations from Russian media, opposition politicians and election observers in the three-day vote have been flowing since Friday morning, when unexpectedly long lines formed at polling stations in Moscow and other cities. Some of those in line told reporters they were forced to vote by their employers, often a state-run institution.

Over the weekend, multiple videos of ballot-stuffing circled on social media. In some regions, incidents of "carousel voting" were reported — groups of voters casting ballots multiple times at different polling stations — as well as clashes between election monitors and poll workers.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 59 of 73

Russia's Central Election Commission chief Ella Pamfilova confirmed at least eight incidents of ballot-stuffing in six Russian regions. In all, the commission has so far invalidated 7,465 ballots in 14 regions.

In recent months, authorities have unleashed a sweeping crackdown against opposition politicians and the Smart Voting strategy devised by Navalny to consolidate the protest vote against United Russia. Smart Voting increases opposition candidates' chances of winning by telling voters which candidates in specific areas have the best chances at defeating ones backed by the Kremlin, and the authorities have made numerous attempts to wipe it off the internet.

About 50 websites run by Navalny have been blocked, including the one dedicated to Smart Voting.

On Friday, Apple and Google removed an app which features Smart Voting from its online stores for Russian users under pressure from the authorities. The founder of the messaging app Telegram, Pavel Durov, on Saturday also blocked a chat bot dedicated to Smart Voting. And YouTube blocked access to several videos listing the candidates endorsed by Smart Voting.

Navalny's allies ascribed the crackdown on Smart Voting and the reports of voting violations to the Kremlin's lack of confidence in getting the result it wants.

"Either they're so insecure and fear Smart Voting so much ... or the ratings are even worse than we've seen, or they failed to keep their nerves in check — but the level of blatant falsifications have turned out to be even higher than in 2011," Navalny's top strategist, Leonid Volkov, wrote on Facebook.

Reports of mass vote rigging in Russia's 2011 parliamentary elected triggered months of anti-government and anti-Putin protests.

Volcano erupts on Atlantic island; lava destroys some homes

By JONATHAN RODRÍGUEZ and JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

LOS LLANOS DE ARIDANE, Spain (AP) — A volcano on Spain's Atlantic Ocean island of La Palma erupted Sunday after a weeklong buildup of seismic activity, prompting authorities to evacuate thousands as lava flows destroyed isolated houses and threatened to reach the coast. New eruptions continued into the night.

The Canary Islands Volcanology Institute reported the initial eruption shortly after 3 p.m. near the southern end of the island, which saw its last eruption in 1971. Huge red plumes topped with black-and-white smoke shot out along the Cumbre Vieja volcanic ridge, which scientists had been closely watching following the accumulation of molten lava below the surface and days of small earthquakes.

Víctor Torres, president of the Canary Islands, said that by 11 p.m. some 5,000 people had been evacuated from their homes. Most, he said, had found family or friends to take them in. The rest were in shelters.

La Palma, with a population of 85,000, is one of eight volcanic islands in Spain's Canary Islands archipelago off Africa's western coast. At their nearest point, the islands are 100 kilometers (60 miles) from Morocco.

A 4.2-magnitude quake was recorded before the eruption, which took place in an area known as Cabeza de Vaca on the western slope as the ridge descends to the coast. As the eruptions continued, at least two open mouths belched bright red magma into the air that then flowed in tight streams down the mountain slope.

Shortly after the initial explosion rocked the area, one black lava flow with a burning tip immediately slid toward houses in the village of El Paso. Mayor Sergio Rodríguez said 300 people in immediate danger were evacuated, roads were closed and authorities urged the curious not to approach the area.

The lava eventually destroyed at least eight homes, according to local officials, causing at least one chalet with a tower to crumble. Authorities warned that the lava flows could also threaten the municipalities of El Paraíso, Alcalá and surrounding areas.

Carlota Martín was at an agricultural plot her family has in Todoque, just downhill from the eruption site, when she heard a huge explosion.

"When we saw the column of smoke, we thought it could not be real, but it kept growing and we knew we had to get out of there," she told The Associated Press. "You leave, but you are also looking back because you want to see what will happen. Nobody knows how the lava flows will descend, but our plot and lots of houses in the area could be in the way."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 60 of 73

Mariano Hernández, president of La Palma island, said there were no immediate reports of deaths or injuries but the lava flows made him concerned "about the populated areas on the coast."

"People should not come near the eruption site where the lava is flowing," Hernández said. "We are having serious problems with the evacuation because the roads are jammed with people who are trying to get close enough to see it."

Itahiza Dominguez, head of seismology of Spain's National Geology Institute, told Canary Islands Television that although it was too early to tell how long this eruption would last, prior "eruptions on the Canary Islands lasted weeks or even months."

The last eruption on La Palma 50 years ago lasted just over three weeks. The last eruption on all the Canary Islands occurred underwater off the coast of El Hierro island in 2011. It lasted five months.

Volcanologist Vicente Soler of Spain's Higher Council said "the material appears to be very fluid, the lava flows will reach the sea sooner or later." The scientific committee of the Volcano Risk Prevention Plan said part of the island's southwest coast was at risk for landslides and rock falls.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez cancelled his trip to New York to attend the U.N. General Assembly so he could travel from Spain's mainland to the Canary Islands.

"The people of La Palma should rest assured that we have all the resources and emergency personal necessary," Sánchez said after meeting with local officials on the island.

Joseph Wilson reported from Barcelona. Renata Brito contributed to this report from Barcelona.

AP Top 25: Clemson, Ohio State slip; Penn State jumps to 6th

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

Clemson and Ohio State slipped to the back of the top 10 in The Associated Press college football poll on Sunday and Penn State jumped four spots to No. 6 after another weekend in which lots of ranked teams had issues.

Even No. 1 Alabama.

The defending national champion Crimson Tide remained an overwhelming No. 1 after holding on to beat Florida 31-29, Alabama's closest margin of victory during its current 17-game winning streak. The Tide received 59 of 62 first-place votes.

No. 2 Georgia, which had no problem with South Carolina, received the other three first-place votes in the AP Top 25, which is presented by Regions Bank.

No. 3 Oregon moved up a spot and No. 4 Oklahoma slipped one after a close victory over Nebraska.

Iowa was No. 5 for a second straight week and Penn State has its best ranking since the Nittany Lions were fifth on Nov. 3, 2019. Penn State beat Auburn on Saturday night to give it two victories against ranked teams, along with Wisconsin.

No. 9 Clemson and No. 10 Ohio State both won Saturday, but neither looked typically dominant. The Tigers managed only 14 points against Georgia Tech and the Buckeyes struggled defensively before pulling away late against winless Tulsa.

Clemson was last ranked this low early in 2015, when the Tigers started the season in the low teens but ended up playing for the national championship.

For Ohio State, 11th has been its lowest rankings since the 2014 season, when a Week 2 loss to Virginia Tech sent the Buckeyes tumbling as far as No. 23. They never lost again that season and won the national title.

The last time Clemson and Ohio State were both ranked below No. 8 was Nov. 2, 2014, when Ohio State was 13th and Clemson was 19th.

POLL POINTS

Six ranked teams lost Saturday, though none in the top 10, raising to 19 the total number of ranked teams to lose through the first three weeks of the season.

That's the most through three weeks of a season in the history of the poll, according to ESPN's stats

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 61 of 73

and info.

The number is padded by 10 ranked teams losing to ranked teams. Also, only one top-10 team has lost to an unranked team: North Carolina was preseason No. 10 when it opened with a loss to Virginia Tech.

It's been a volatile first few weeks of the 2021 season, though not quite as crazy and unpredictable as it might look at first glance.

A total of 35 teams have been ranked through three regular-season polls.

IN

— No. 20 Michigan State is off to an impressive start in Year 2 under coach Mel Tucker, 3-0 by an average margin of 23 points. The Spartans won 38-17 at Miami on Saturday and are ranked for the first time since Oct. 5, 2019.

— No. 22 Fresno State won maybe the weekend's most thrilling game, upsetting UCLA with two late scoring drives led by quarterback Jake Haener. The Bulldogs are ranked for the first time since the final AP Top 25 of 2018.

No. 24 UCLA dropped 11 spots after its first loss of the season.

— No. 25 Kansas State is off to a 3-0 start after beating Nevada 38-17. The Wildcats were ranked briefly in 2020 and then stumbled to a 4-5 finish.

OUT

— Virginia Tech slipped out after losing at West Virginia.

— Arizona State is out for the first time this season after losing to BYU. The Cougars moved up eight spots to No. 15 after a second straight victory against a ranked Pac-12 team.

— Miami is out for the first time this season after falling to 1-2.

CONFERENCE CALL

SEC — 7 (Nos. 1, 2, 7, 11, 13, 16, 23).

Big Ten — 6 (Nos. 5, 6, 10, 18, 19, 20).

Big 12 — 3 (Nos. 4, 14, 25).

ACC — 2 (Nos. 9, 21).

Pac-12 — 2 (Nos. 3, 24).

American — 1 (No. 8).

Mountain West — 1 (No. 22).

Sun Belt — 1 (No. 17).

Independents — 2 (Nos. 12, 15).

RANKED vs. RANKED

No. 12 Notre Dame vs. No. 18 Wisconsin at Soldier Field in Chicago. Toughest test yet for an Irish team that is unbeaten but far from perfect.

No. 7 Texas A&M vs. No. 16 Arkansas at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. Last time this was a ranked matchup was 2016.

Follow Ralph D. Russo at <https://twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP> and listen at <https://APpodcast.com>

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/hub/college-football> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25. Sign up for the AP's college football newsletter: <https://apnews.com/cfbtop25>

France's Macron to talk to Biden amid crisis over submarines

By ELAINE GANLEY Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron will speak in the coming days with President Joe Biden in their first contact since a major diplomatic crisis erupted between France and the United States over a submarine deal with Australia, an official said Sunday.

The phone call is at the request of Biden, government spokesman Gabriel Attal said, adding that there was "shock" and "anger" at first in France over news of the deal. But now it's time to try to move forward,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 62 of 73

he said.

What the French now call a "grave crisis" erupted over the sudden, surprise end to a 2016 contract worth at least \$66 billion between France and Australia to build 12 conventional diesel-electric submarines. Instead, Australia signed on with the United States and Britain for eight nuclear-powered submarines. France insists it was not informed of the deal in advance.

France recalled its ambassadors from the United States and Australia in a sign of the seriousness of the crisis.

Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian met Sunday with the two ambassadors to discuss "the strategic consequences of the current crisis," the ministry said without elaborating.

"What's at play in this affair, this crisis ... are strategic issues before being commercial issues," Attal told BFMTV. "The question is ... the forces present, the balance, in the Indo-Pacific where part of our future is at play, and our relations with China."

The deal by the United States reflects the American pivot toward the Indo-Pacific region, seen as increasingly strategic as China bolsters its influence there. Yet France feels the deal steps on its feet in a region where it has long had a strong presence that it, too, is working to bolster, in addition to a five-year contract with Australia.

"France is a country of the Indo-Pacific," Attal said, noting the French territory of New Caledonia, the French citizens living in the region and the French military forces based there.

The Indo-Pacific is also an issue for Europe, he said.

Macron will be seeking explanations from Biden about what led to a "major rupture in confidence," the spokesman added. "There was a moment of shock, of anger ... Now, we must advance."

On Friday night, Le Drian railed against what France views as a betrayal marked by "duplicity, disdain and lies" in the submarine affair.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Sunday that France "would have had every reason to know that we have deep and grave concerns" about the capability of France's Attack class subs, which he said can't meet Australia's strategic interests.

Chris Rock says he has COVID-19, urges vaccination

NEW YORK (AP) — Chris Rock on Sunday said he has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and sent a message to anyone still on the fence: "Get vaccinated."

The 56-year-old comedian wrote on Twitter: "Hey guys I just found out I have COVID, trust me you don't want this. Get vaccinated."

Rock has previously said he was vaccinated. Appearing on "The Tonight Show" in May, he called himself "Two-shots Rock" before clarifying that he received the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

"You know, I skipped the line. I didn't care. I used my celebrity, Jimmy," he told host Jimmy Fallon. "I was like, 'Step aside, Betty White. Step aside, old people. ... I did 'Pootie Tang.' Let me on the front of the line.'"

UK's Johnson to urge climate action over 4-day trip to US

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was travelling to the United States on Sunday with senior Cabinet officials to urge world leaders attending the U.N. General Assembly to take urgent action on climate change ahead of this fall's COP26 climate summit in Scotland.

Johnson is set to co-host a meeting on climate change with U.N. Secretary General António Guterres on Monday. The two will discuss the need to help developing countries mitigate the impact of climate change.

"This week, as world leaders arrive in New York for the biggest diplomatic event of the year, I will be pushing them to take concrete action on coal, climate, cars and trees so we can make a success of COP26 and keep our climate goals within reach," Johnson said in a statement.

Britain is hosting the COP26 climate summit from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12 in Glasgow. The conference is billed as a pivotal moment to persuade governments, industry and investors to make binding commitments

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 63 of 73

on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and to make progress on reducing global warming to below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The British government says 100 world leaders have confirmed they will attend the conference. But Alok Sharma, the British official serving as the conference's president, was not able to confirm Sunday whether Chinese President Xi Jinping has committed to attending the talks, or whether China would definitely be sending a delegation.

"On the issue of whether Xi Jinping is going to come, that is not yet confirmed. Normally these things come a bit closer to summits. I am very, very hopeful that we will have a delegation from China," Sharma told the BBC.

He told Sky News that Beijing, as the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitter, would have to be a key part of any climate change agreement.

"They have said to me they want the COP26 to be a success. The ball is in their court. We want them to come forward and make it a success together with the rest of the world," he said.

Johnson, Sharma and newly-appointed British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss arrive in New York on Sunday for a four-day visit to the U.S.

After the U.N. General Assembly, Johnson and Truss will visit the White House for talks on climate, the pandemic and international security. It will be Johnson's first visit to the White House since President Joe Biden took office.

The Latest: Health official: Booster use may be expanded

By The Associated Press undefined

WASHINGTON -- The National Institutes of Health director says a government advisory panel's decision to limit Pfizer COVID-19 booster shots to Americans 65 and older as well as those at high risk of severe disease is a preliminary step and predicts broader approval for most Americans "in the next few weeks."

Dr. Francis Collins told "Fox News Sunday" that the panel's recommendation Friday was correct based on a "snapshot" of available data on the effectiveness of Pfizer's two-shot regimen over time. But he said real-time data from the U.S. and Israel continue to come in showing waning efficacy among broader groups of people that will need to be addressed soon.

Collins, who also appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation," said: "I think there will be a decision in the coming weeks to extend boosters beyond the list that they approved on Friday."

Dr. Anthony Fauci, who is President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser, on Sunday praised the advisory board's plan for covering a "good chunk" of Americans. But he stressed that "this is not the end of the story" based on evolving data and said the recommendations will likely be expanded in the coming weeks to months.

The Food and Drug Administration will consider the advisory group's advice and make its own decision, probably within days. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also is set to weigh in this week.

MORE ON THE PANDEMIC:

- Same goal, different paths: U.S. and E.U. seek maximum vaccine rates
- Florida's daily coronavirus cases drop from last month
- UN using honor system to check vaccinations for New York meeting

— See AP coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-pandemic>

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

KATHMANDU, Nepal — Tens of thousands of devotees have packed the old palace courtyard in the heart of Nepal's capital to celebrate the feast of Indra Jatra, marking the return of the festival season in the Himalayan nation after it was scaled down because of the pandemic.

Kumari, a young girl who is revered by both Hindus and Buddhists in Nepal as the living goddess, left

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 64 of 73

her temple palace for the first time in two years and was driven around the center of Kathmandu in a wooden chariot pulled by devotees.

Nepal's president and highest officials also lined up to get her blessing, together with the tens of thousands of others. Last year's festivals were scaled down amid a surge in coronavirus cases.

MACKINAW CITY, Mich — A popular Halloween-themed event held annually in northern Michigan has been cancelled this fall due to concerns over the coronavirus, including the rising number of cases of the delta variant in the area.

Fort Fright at Colonial Michilimackinac in Mackinaw City had been scheduled for October 8-9.

The event is drawn from a collection of short stories published by Mackinac State Historic Parks and based on French-Canadian folktales brought to the Mackinac Straits area by the voyageurs during the height of the French fur trade.

Staffing challenges and concerns about housing volunteers also played into the decision to cancel the event, according to organizers.

Colonial Michilimackinac is an 18th-century fort and fur trading village located along the Straits of Mackinac. It was reconstructed based on historic maps and more than 60 years of archaeological excavations.

Boxer-senator Manny Pacquiao to run for Philippine president

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine boxing icon and senator Manny Pacquiao says he will run for president in the 2022 elections.

Pacquiao accepted the nomination of his PDP-Laban party at its national convention on Sunday, saying that the Filipino people have been waiting for a change of government.

"I am a fighter, and I will always be a fighter inside and outside the ring," Pacquiao, 42, said in his speech.

"We need government to serve our people with integrity, compassion and transparency," he added.

Pacquiao is the president of the PDP-Laban faction led by him and Sen. Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III.

Another faction of the same party earlier this month nominated President Rodrigo Duterte to be its vice presidential candidate, and Duterte's former aide, Sen. Bong Go, as its presidential nominee.

Duterte, who is forbidden by the constitution from seeking a second six-year term, has accepted the nomination, but Go has declined to run for president.

Duterte has led a brutal campaign against illegal drugs, and said last week he would rather "die first" before facing an international tribunal, the day after the International Criminal Court announced it would investigate allegations of crimes against humanity linked to the crackdown that has left thousands dead.

Pacquiao has accused the administration of Duterte, his former ally, of making corruption worse in the Philippines.

To critics who question his qualifications, the famous boxer has said his experience of personal hardships will better equip him to understand people's suffering — and fight poverty and corruption.

"In my whole life, I have not backed down on any fight," Pacquiao said.

He warned politicians whom he holds responsible for corruption "will soon end in jail together."

The rival party faction supporting Duterte earlier said it will petition the Commission on Elections to declare Pacquiao and his allies illegitimate officers of the ruling party.

Recall vote highlights California's geopolitical divisions

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE and MICHAEL R. BLOOD Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The California recall election was a blowout win for Gov. Gavin Newsom that reinforced the state's political divisions: The Democratic governor won big support in coastal areas and urban centers, while the rural north and agricultural inland, with far fewer voters, largely wanted him gone.

"It's almost like two states," Menlo College political scientist Melissa Michelson said.

Though California is a liberal stronghold where Democrats hold every statewide office and have two-thirds majorities in the Legislature, it is also home to deeply conservative areas. Those residents have

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 65 of 73

long felt alienated from Sacramento, where Democrats have been in full control for more than a decade. A conservative movement in far Northern California has for years sought to break away and create its own state to better reflect the area's political sensitivities.

While Republicans still are able to win some local elections, the party hasn't captured a statewide race since 2006. Last year, then-President Donald Trump got 6 million votes in California in 2020 -- more than any Republican presidential candidate before him — but still lost in a landslide to Democrat Joe Biden, who won nearly 64% of the votes.

Republicans hold just 11 of the state's 53 U.S. House seats, but their strongholds don't have nearly enough votes to overcome Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area and other Democratic areas in statewide elections. And counties such as San Diego and especially Orange, respectively the second- and third-most populated, used to be mainly Republican but no longer are.

With about 85% of the recall ballots counted, those opposed to retiring Newsom early had 64%. In San Diego, "no" on recall was winning by 17 percentage points and in Orange it was up by 4 points.

Fresno, the 10th-most populated county, was the largest where the recall was leading. But it was only ahead by 1 percentage point.

Jeffrey Cummins, a professor of political science at Fresno State University, said the results reinforce that Newsom's partisan critics represent "a pretty small share of the population."

"They are very vocal about that disdain for Sacramento and state government in particular, and the recall just gave them ... a national platform to voice their opposition to the direction the state is headed," he said.

GOP organizers of the recall failed to broaden their appeal and even struggled to turn out Republicans in their core areas. For example, Kern County — most of which is represented in Congress by House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy — will have less than 50% turnout when all the votes are counted. Statewide turnout is projected at about 55%

Los Angeles County — with 10 million people, the largest county in the nation — is the state's Democratic nucleus, where statewide elections can be won or lost depending on turnout. With 3 million Democrats, it accounts for nearly one-third of the party's statewide total.

"We were in the LA media market more than any other. And that was intentional," Newsom campaign spokesman Nathan Click said. It apparently worked — Newsom got nearly 71% support there.

It's long been true that Democrats tend to dominate in urban areas across the U.S., with Republicans more prevalent in rural and farming areas. But deep, geographic polarization wasn't always a marker in California politics.

There's no single cause to the current divide. But they include the early 1990s recession and the closing of military bases and collapse of the defense industry, which prompted many white, working-class residents to leave the state.

California's economy became more focused on a rising Silicon Valley and the entertainment industry, both liberal bastions. At the same time, the state grew more diverse as millions of Latino and Asian people moved in. Over time, the coastal areas where most of the population lives grew more diverse and Democratic.

Eric McGhee, a senior fellow at the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California, said a decade ago the geographic divide largely was defined by the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas, but San Diego, Orange and San Bernardino counties, with a combined population of 8.5 million people, have all become more diverse and Democratic.

Since his first days in office, Newsom has promised to not ignore the Central Valley and has made it a point to travel there on a regular basis. He backs the controversial high-speed rail project under construction in the region and has vowed to provide more drinking water to areas that lack it.

But his administration has also alienated farmers, the backbone of the region's economy, with restrictions on water usage amid a drought.

Newsom on Wednesday pledged to respect and work hard on behalf of those who supported him and those who didn't.

"Those who voted 'yes,' they matter. I care. And I want them to know I'm going to do my best to have their backs as well," he said.

But the reality is that Newsom can't make everyone happy.

"Newsom is governing a very large and very diverse state, and it's hard to be attentive to the very liberal coasts and the more moderate or even conservative" areas, said Jessica Trounstein, a political science professor at the University of California, Merced, in the state's Central Valley.

Blood reported from Los Angeles.

Biden pitching partnership after tough stretch with allies

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden goes before the United Nations this week eager to make the case for the world to act with haste against the coronavirus, climate change and human rights abuses. His pitch for greater global partnership comes at a moment when allies are becoming increasingly skeptical about how much U.S. foreign policy really has changed since Donald Trump left the White House.

Biden plans to limit his time at the U.N. General Assembly due to coronavirus concerns. He is scheduled to meet with Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday and address the assembly on Tuesday before shifting the rest of the week's diplomacy to virtual and Washington settings.

At a virtual COVID-19 summit he is hosting Wednesday, leaders will be urged to step up vaccine-sharing commitments, address oxygen shortages around the globe and deal with other critical pandemic-related issues.

The president also has invited the prime ministers of Australia, India and Japan, part of a Pacific alliance, to Washington and is expected to meet with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson at the White House.

Through it all, Biden will be the subject of a quiet assessment by allies: Has he lived up to his campaign promise to be a better partner than Trump?

Biden's chief envoy to the United Nations, Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, offered a harmonious answer in advance of all the diplomacy: "We believe our priorities are not just American priorities, they are global priorities," she said Friday.

But over the past several months, Biden has found himself at odds with allies on a number of high-profile issues.

There have been noted differences over the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, the pace of COVID-19 vaccine-sharing and international travel restrictions, and the best way to respond to military and economic moves by China. A fierce French backlash erupted in recent days after the U.S. and Britain announced they would help equip Australia with nuclear-powered submarines.

Biden opened his presidency by declaring that "America is back" and pledging a more collaborative international approach.

At the same time, he has focused on recalibrating national security priorities after 20 years marked by preoccupation with wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and thwarting Islamic terrorists in the Middle East and South Asia. He has tried to make the case that the U.S. and its democratic allies need to put greater focus on countering economic and security threats posed by China and Russia.

Biden has faced resistance -- and, at moments, outright anger -- from allies when the White House has moved on important global decisions with what some deemed insufficient consultation.

France was livid about the submarine deal, which was designed to bolster Australian efforts to keep tabs on China's military in the Pacific but undercuts a deal worth at least \$66 billion for a fleet of a dozen submarines built by a French contractor.

French President Emmanuel Macron has recalled France's ambassadors to the U.S. and Australia for consultations in Paris. France's foreign minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian, said Australia and the United States had both betrayed France. Biden and Macron are expected to speak by phone in the coming days, a French government spokesman said.

"It was really a stab in the back," Le Drian said. "It looks a lot like what Trump did."

Biden administration and Australian officials say that France was aware of their plans, and the White House promised to "continue to be engaged in the coming days to resolve our differences."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 67 of 73

But Biden and European allies have also been out of sync on other matters, including how quickly wealthy nations should share their coronavirus vaccine stockpiles with poorer nations.

Early on, Biden resisted calls to immediately begin donating 4% to 5% of stockpiles to developing nations. In June, the White House instead announced it was buying 500 million doses to be distributed by a World Health Organization-backed initiative to share vaccine with low- and middle-income countries around the globe. Biden is soon expected to announce additional steps to help vaccinate the world.

Allies among the Group of Seven major industrial nations have shown differing levels of comfort with Biden's calls to persuade fellow democratic leaders to present a more unified front to compete economically with Beijing. When the leaders met this year in England, they agreed to work toward competing against China. But there was less unity on how adversarial a public position the group should take.

Canada, the United Kingdom and France largely endorsed Biden's position, while Germany, Italy and the European Union showed more hesitancy.

Germany, which has strong trade ties with China, has been keen to avoid a situation in which Germany, or the European Union, might be forced to choose sides between China and the United States.

Biden clashed with European leaders over his decision to stick to an Aug. 31 deadline to end the U.S. war in Afghanistan, which resulted in the U.S. and Western allies leaving before all their citizens could be evacuated from Taliban rule.

Britain and other allies, many of whose troops followed American forces into Afghanistan after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, on the United States, had urged Biden to keep the American military at the Kabul airport longer but were ultimately rebuffed by the president.

Administration officials see this week's engagements as an important moment for the president to spell out his priorities and rally support to take on multiple crises with greater coordination.

It's also a time of political transition for some allies. Longtime German Chancellor Angela Merkel is set to leave office after Germany holds elections later this month and France's Macron is to face his voters in April at a moment when his political star has dimmed.

J. Stephen Morrison, a global health policy expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, expressed concern that the rift in U.S.-France relations has occurred at time when global leaders are far behind their goals for vaccinating the globe and need to step up their efforts.

"We need these countries to be in a position to come forward around the type of agenda ... that the U.S. has put together," Morrison said of Biden's planned vaccination push. "So the French being absent or not terribly engaged is a setback."

Dutch king unveils Holocaust name monument in Amsterdam

By MIKE CORDER Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — King Willem-Alexander officially unveiled a new memorial in the heart of Amsterdam's historic Jewish Quarter on Sunday honoring more than 102,000 Dutch victims of the Holocaust, and the Dutch prime minister vowed that it would remind citizens today to be vigilant against antisemitism.

Designed by Polish-Jewish architect Daniel Libeskind, the memorial is made up of walls shaped to form four Hebrew letters spelling out a word that translates as "In Memory Of."

The walls are built using bricks, each of which is inscribed with the name, date of birth and age when they died of one of the more than 102,000 Jews, Roma and Sinti who were murdered in Nazi concentration camps during World War II or who died on their way to the camps.

Jacques Grishaver, chairman of the Dutch Auschwitz Committee, officially opened the monument with the king in the presence of dignitaries and Holocaust survivors. After walking through the gates, each picked up a white stone and placed it in front of a commemorative wall, a Jewish tradition when visiting graves.

The king helped Grishaver to pick up and put down his stone. After the ceremony, he spoke to three survivors of the Holocaust.

Dutch caretaker Prime Minister Mark Rutte said the monument also should force people to confront the question of whether the Netherlands did enough to protect Jews during the war and what he called "the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 68 of 73

cold reception for the small group who returned from hell after the war.”

He called the era “a black page in the history of our country” and said the monument also has an important contemporary message “in our time when antisemitism is never far away. The monument says — no, it screams — be vigilant.”

The memorial is built close to a former concert hall where Jews rounded up by Amsterdam’s wartime Nazi occupiers were held before being sent to the camps.

Amsterdam Municipality granted permission for construction to start in 2017, but building work was delayed after residents argued that the monument was too big for the location. It was paid for in part by crowd-funding — 84,000 people paid 50 euros (\$58) each to “adopt” one of the bricks.

The official unveiling came a year after a friend of Anne Frank, Jacqueline van Maarsen, laid the first stone, which bears the name of 20-year-old Dina Frankenhuis, who was murdered in Sobibor.

Rutte said the monument carries a vital message.

“This name monument says 102,163 times: ‘No, we will not forget you. No, we won’t accept that your name is erased. No, evil does not have the last word,’” he said. “Every one of them was somebody and today they get back their names.”

Australia says France knew of ‘grave’ submarine concerns

By ROD McGUIRK Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — France would have known Australia had “deep and grave concerns” that a submarine fleet the French were building would not meet Australian needs, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Sunday after the contract’s cancellation set off a diplomatic crisis.

France accused Australia of concealing its intentions to back out of the 90 billion Australian dollar (\$66 billion) contract for French majority state-owned Naval Group to build 12 conventional diesel-electric submarines.

President Joe Biden revealed last week a new alliance including Australia and Britain that would deliver an Australian fleet of at least eight nuclear-powered submarines.

Morrison blamed the switch on a deteriorating strategic environment in the Indo-Pacific. He has not specifically referred to China’s massive military buildup, which has gained pace in recent years.

“The capability that the Attack class submarines were going to provide was not what Australia needed to protect our sovereign interests,” Morrison said.

“They would have had every reason to know that we have deep and grave concerns that the capability being delivered by the Attack class submarine was not going to meet our strategic interests and we have made very clear that we would be making a decision based on our strategic national interest,” he added, referring to the French government.

France responded to the contract cancellation, which Morrison has said will cost his government at least AU\$2.4 billion (\$1.7 billion), by recalling its ambassadors from Australia and the United States.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian on Saturday denounced what he called the “duplicity, disdain and lies” surrounding the sudden end of the contract and said France was now questioning the strength of the alliance.

On Sunday, the French government spokesman said President Emmanuel Macron will speak in the coming days with Biden in what will be their first contact since the crisis erupted.

The phone call is at the request of Biden, spokesman Gabriel Attal said, adding that there was “shock” and “anger” at first. But now it’s time to try to move forward, he said.

China has denounced the sharing of such U.S. and British nuclear technology as irresponsible.

France won the contract in 2016 over offers from Germany and Japan. The Shortfin Barracuda was to be a nuclear submarine design adapted to be powered by diesel on the surface and battery underwater.

Japan was particularly disappointed because then-Prime Minister Tony Abbott had promised the close defense ally the contract before he was deposed by his own party in 2015.

The government has talked down media reports of ructions between the partners in the French subma-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 69 of 73

rine project and delays on the original delivery date of 2027.

There have been concerns of a defense capability gap emerging that the aging Australia-made Collins class conventional submarines could not fill.

Australia's first nuclear submarines are not expected to be delivered until close to 2040.

Defense Minister Peter Dutton said his government was prepared to lease nuclear submarines from the United States while Australia's fleet was being built.

Dutton and Foreign Minister Marise Payne are in the United States for annual meetings with their U.S. counterparts and their first with the Biden administration.

Morrison flies to the United States on Monday for a meeting with Biden and the leaders of India and Japan that make up the Quad security forum.

Favela centennial shows Brazil communities' endurance

By MAURICIO SAVARESE and DIANE JEANTET Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Dozens of children lined up at a community center in Sao Paulo for a slice of creamy, blue cake. None was celebrating a birthday; their poor neighborhood, the favela of Paraisopolis, was commemorating 100 years of existence.

"People started coming (to the city) for construction jobs and settled in," community leader Gilson Rodrigues said. "There was no planning, not even streets. People started growing crops. It was all disorganized. Authorities didn't do much, so we learned to organize ourselves."

The favela's centennial, which was marked on Thursday, underscores the permanence of its roots and of other communities like it, even as Brazilians in wealthier parts of town often view them as temporary and precarious. Favelas struggle to shed that stigma as they defy simple definition, not least because they evolved over decades.

Once farmland isolated from the city, today Paraisopolis is nestled in the midst of urban sprawl. Its population began expanding after a 1942 law froze rent prices, effectively halting private construction. Absent action from authorities to provide housing, people sought affordable alternatives, according to Nabil Bonduki, a professor at the University of Sao Paulo's School of Architecture and Urban Planning.

The community grew with people moving in to construct nearby Morumbi Stadium. Today it is the city's biggest soccer arena, home to the popular Sao Paulo Football Club — though the team's fans are largely unaware who built it. And Paraisopolis is Sao Paulo's second-biggest favela, home to 43,000 people, according to the most-recent census, in 2010. Recent, unofficial counts put its population around 100,000.

Unpainted brick homes densely pack Paraisopolis' 10 square kilometers (3.9 square miles), an area threaded with serpentine alleys where youngsters can be found playing soccer or listening to loud music on weekends.

Most streets are now paved and internet connections work well, but newer areas of the favela lack infrastructure like sewage systems. Some don't have postal codes.

In Rio de Janeiro, favela residents are said to be "from the hill," the iconic vision of which is a slope covered by brick buildings; painters sell such landscapes to tourists at the Sunday arts fair in upmarket Ipanema. Many Rio favelas were indeed built on the hillside, but others are found on flatland, like the now-famous City of God favela that began as a public housing project.

Across Brazil, 11.4 million people live in low-income neighborhoods the national statistics institute classifies as "subnormal agglomerates," according to the census, with about 40% of those in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro states. That includes not just favelas, but also invasions, grottoes, lowlands, stilted houses and the like, according to the institute. They share histories of irregular occupation and deficient public services.

While favelas began as informal, squatter settlements in the back half of the 19th century, today some have deeds, water distribution and sewage networks. Their residents generate \$7 billion in annual economic activity and many are technically middle class, according to Catalytic Communities, a Rio-based advocacy group.

Differences from one favela to the next also confound catchall labels. UN-Habitat defines "slums" as

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 70 of 73

areas lacking improved water, sewage, living space, housing durability, or property rights. Favelas can feature one or more of those descriptions, yet advocates bristle at the word "slum" as pejorative, arguing it conveys poverty, squalor, drugs and violence rather than assets like resourcefulness and resilience.

While activists and academics use "favela," some residents prefer "community."

"I understand the movement that came from some favelas' leaders and residents themselves to use 'community' to free themselves from the stigma," said Aduino Cardoso, a professor at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro's urban planning institute. "The stigma is rather complicated in a society that is very prejudiced."

Still, Cardoso employs "favela," saying people shouldn't ignore history; favela residents built the city's buildings and cultural heritage – among them Rio's famous Carnival schools.

Over the last 15 years, the term has garnered positive connotations, said Rafael Gonçalves, a favela historian and professor at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro.

"Many favelas have museums today," he said. "Residents say: 'We want to tell our story; we want to say that this is not some spontaneous housing that was born out of nowhere.'"

Authorities who long tried to contain, obscure or demolish favelas now accept the neighborhoods are fixtures, Gonçalves added. Still, many suffer neglect, despite enduring for decades. That includes Paraisópolis.

Dressed in a suit reserved for special occasions, Paraisópolis community leader Rodrigues had tears welling as he cut the 100th anniversary cake.

He said he's always thought of Paraisópolis as his neighborhood, despite the open sewage in some areas and other difficulties. "But for 100 years, we've taken these challenges and transformed them into opportunities. We'll do it for another 100 years, if necessary."

AP journalist Diane Jeantet reported from Rio. AP videojournalist Tatiana Pollastri contributed from Sao Paulo.

Probe of Southern Baptist sex abuse response moves forward

By HOLLY MEYER Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — The Rev. Marshall Blalock feels the weight of his new responsibility.

The South Carolina pastor serves as vice chair of a recently formed Southern Baptist Convention task force charged with overseeing an investigation into how a top denominational committee handled sex abuse allegations, a review that comes years into the SBC's public reckoning with the scandal.

Blalock thinks the work of the task force, set into motion in June by a vote of Southern Baptists at a national gathering, could be a foundational part of how the SBC addresses the issue in the future.

"If the task force does what the convention's asked us to do, if the Executive Committee responds favorably, I think we're making huge first steps toward really setting the future toward preventing and appropriately responding to and caring for sexual abuse survivors," Blalock said.

The sex abuse scandal was thrust into the spotlight in 2019 by a landmark report from the Houston Chronicle and San Antonio Express-News documenting hundreds of cases in Southern Baptist churches, including several in which alleged perpetrators remained in ministry.

Appointed by new SBC President Ed Litton, the seven-member task force of pastoral, legal, counseling and advocacy professionals is charged with overseeing an outside firm's probe of allegations that the Executive Committee mishandled abuse cases, resisted reforms and intimidated victims and advocates.

"We're tired of abuse, and it has to be dealt with," Litton, who was elected in June amid divisions over race, women's roles in the church and how to address the abuse issue, said during a recent event. "But I also think a clear message came out that this is not a witch hunt. That this is an opportunity for us to pave the way for the future."

More than two months in, the task force has completed two key tasks: picking Guidepost Solutions to be the third-party firm conducting the probe, and asking the Executive Committee to waive attorney-client privilege for the purposes of the investigation at its upcoming business meeting.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 71 of 73

"It's all about uncovering the truth so we can deal with it," said the Rev. Bruce Frank, a North Carolina pastor and task force chair.

The Executive Committee has welcomed the selection of Guidepost, noting it is the same investigative firm it had planned to use before the task force was formed.

"We look forward to meeting again with Guidepost in order to expeditiously coordinate our activities in support of their important work," the committee said this month in a statement.

Jules Woodson, a church sexual abuse survivor based in Colorado Springs, Colorado, remains wary but is hopeful that meaningful change may be ahead for the SBC. She was encouraged after meeting with the task force, she said, and is willing to engage with Guidepost even though she is still skeptical of the firm.

"It is so hard as a survivor to put faith, hope and trust in people and processes and a system that has continuously failed us," Woodson said. "For the first time in forever, we are finally seeing steps being taken in the right direction."

She said she cried tears of joy when the trustees of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, the SBC's public policy arm, recently indicated the ERLC is willing to lead an assessment of sexual abuse within the denomination, and set a plan in motion to figure out how to do it.

"The evil of abuse must continue to be confronted," Brent Leatherwood, the commission's acting president, said in a statement. "As we've stated before, our churches must be safe for survivors and safe from abuse."

The motion approved by delegates at the June gathering directed the task force to agree to the standards and best practices recommended by the third-party investigator, "including but not limited to the Executive Committee staff and members waiving attorney client privilege in order to ensure full access to information and accuracy in the review."

Frank, the task force chair, sent a formal request Aug. 2 for privilege to be waived, calling it "critical to ensure full access to relevant information, complete accountability and transparency, and properly assess steps for reform."

The Executive Committee did not make a commitment in its statement, but says it is not opposed in principle to such a request and "speculation to the contrary is internet rumor and untrue." The committee meets Monday and Tuesday and is expected to take up the waiver issue.

Executive Committee Chair Rolland Slade said he supports the request because it is the will of the members at the June conference: "We have the duty to execute and to observe the wishes of the messengers."

Attorney and advocate Rachael Denhollander, who is one of two advisers to the task force, said identifying, recognizing and acknowledging truth is crucial to making meaningful and effective change.

"If the executive committee decides not to waive privilege, then they are sending a clear message that they're rejecting accountability and transparency," Denhollander said.

Woodson said all would not be lost in such a scenario, but the onus would once again be placed on survivors.

"How many times," she said, "do we have to come forward and tell our stories over and over and over again?"

Associated Press religion coverage receives support from the Lilly Endowment through The Conversation U.S. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Sept. 20, the 263rd day of 2021. There are 102 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 20, 2001, during an address to a joint session of Congress, President George W. Bush announced a new Cabinet-level office to fortify homeland security and named Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge its director.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 72 of 73

On this date:

In 1519, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan and his crew set out from Spain on five ships to find a western passage to the Spice Islands. (Magellan was killed enroute, but one of his ships eventually circled the world.)

In 1881, Chester A. Arthur was sworn in as the 21st president of the United States, succeeding the assassinated James A. Garfield.

In 1946, the first Cannes Film Festival, lasting 16 days, opened in France.

In 1962, James Meredith, a Black student, was blocked from enrolling at the University of Mississippi by Democratic Gov. Ross R. Barnett. (Meredith was later admitted.)

In 1967, the Cunard liner RMS Queen Elizabeth 2 was christened by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in Clydebank, Scotland.

In 1973, in their so-called "battle of the sexes," tennis star Billie Jean King defeated Bobby Riggs in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3, at the Houston Astrodome.

In 1976, Playboy magazine released an interview in which Democratic presidential nominee Jimmy Carter admitted he'd "looked on a lot of women with lust."

In 1984, a suicide car bomber attacked the U.S. Embassy annex in north Beirut, killing at least 14 people, including two Americans and 12 Lebanese. The family sitcoms "The Cosby Show" and "Who's the Boss?" premiered on NBC and ABC, respectively.

In 1995, in a move that stunned Wall Street, AT&T Corporation announced it was splitting into three companies.

In 2000, Independent Counsel Robert Ray announced the end of the Whitewater investigation, saying there was insufficient evidence to warrant charges against President and Mrs. Clinton.

In 2004, CBS News apologized for a "mistake in judgment" in its story questioning President George W. Bush's National Guard service, saying it could not vouch for the authenticity of documents featured in the report.

In 2017, Hurricane Maria, the strongest hurricane to hit Puerto Rico in more than 80 years, struck the island, wiping out as much as 75 percent of the power distribution lines and causing an island-wide blackout.

Ten years ago: Repeal of the U.S. military's 18-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" compromise took effect, allowing gay and lesbian service members to serve openly. A suicide bomber posing as a Taliban peace envoy assassinated former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani (boor-HAHN'-uh-deen ruh-BAH'-nee).

Five years ago: In their final speeches at the annual gathering of world leaders, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon railed against leaders who kept "feeding the war machine" in Syria, while U.S. President Barack Obama said there was no military solution to the five-year conflict. A Black police officer fatally shot Keith Lamont Scott, a Black man, at a Charlotte, North Carolina, apartment complex, prompting days of civil unrest. (Charlotte-Mecklenburg police later said that the shooting was justified.)

One year ago: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden said the Republican effort to approve a replacement for the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg before the November election was an "abuse of power"; he said voters should pick the president who would pick the justice. (Amy Coney Barrett would be confirmed days before the election.) "Schitt's Creek," a Canadian show about a fish-out-of-water family, made history at the Emmy Awards by sweeping the comedy categories; the virtual awards ceremony included remote links to 100-plus nominees. Byron DeChambeau closed with a 3-under-par 67 for a six-shot victory over Matthew Wolff in the U.S. Open at Winged Foot in Mamaroneck, New York, on a course so tough that no one else broke par. Tour de France rookie Tadej Pogacar won cycling's showpiece race on the eve of his 22nd birthday.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Sophia Loren is 87. Rock musician Chuck Panozzo is 73. Actor Tony Denison is 72. Hockey Hall of Famer Guy Lafleur is 70. Actor Debbi Morgan is 70. Jazz musician Peter White is 67. Actor Betsy Brantley is 66. Actor Gary Cole is 65. TV news correspondent Deborah Roberts is 61. Country-rock musician Joseph Shreve (Flynnville Train) is 60. Rock musician Randy Bradbury (Pennywise) is 57. Actor Kristen Johnston is 54. Rock singers Gunnar and Matthew Nelson are 54. Rock musician Ben Shepherd is

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 075 ~ 73 of 73

53. Actor Euka Okuma is 49. Actor-model Moon Bloodgood is 46. Actor Jon Bernthal is 45. Singer The-Dream is 44. Actor Charlie Weber is 43. Rock musician Rick Woolstenhulme (WOOL'-sten-hyoolm) (Life-house) is 42. Rapper Yung Joc is 41. Actor Crystle Stewart is 40. Actor Aldis Hodge is 35. Rock drummer Jack Lawless is 34. Actor Malachi (MAL'-ah-ky) Kirby is 32.