

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 1 of 72

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- SD News Watch: South Dakotans want Native studies taught in public school](#)
- [7- ADT Security System Ad](#)
- [8- Hale Groves Ad](#)
- [9- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)
- [10- Weather Pages](#)
- [14- Daily Devotional](#)
- [15- 2021 Community Events](#)
- [16- Subscription Information](#)
- [17- News from the Associated Press](#)



Upcoming Events

Thursday, Nov. 11

2 p.m.: Veteran's Day Program in the Arena

Junior High GBB: Langford at Groton. 7th grade game at 4 p.m. followed by 8th grade game

Friday & Saturday, Nov. 12-13

Debate & Oral Interp at SF Washington

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

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South Dakotans want Native studies taught in public school

Bart Pfankuch

South Dakota News Watch

South Dakota education officials have struggled to revise social studies standards that include guidelines for teaching Native American history and culture, but a new poll suggests state residents are very firm in their support for inclusion of Native studies in public schools.

The poll of 500 registered South Dakota voters in October showed that 88% of respondents were very or somewhat supportive of teaching Native history and culture in South Dakota schools. The poll showed that 6.4% of respondents said teaching Native studies was not too important, 2.6% said not at all important and 3.2% were unsure.

The poll results come at a time when the public school system in South Dakota is grappling with how to update its social studies standards and improve the teaching of civics and history. The discussion over what history to teach in public schools in South Dakota has raised concerns of some Native American groups that Native history will be reduced, eliminated or whitewashed to ignore the historic and modern traumas suffered by many Native Americans, the state's largest minority group.

The poll was sponsored by South Dakota News Watch and the Chiesman Center for Democracy at the University of South Dakota. The telephone poll was conducted in late October by Mason Dixon, and the margin of error was plus or minus 4.5%. The poll is the latest effort in the ongoing "South Dakota Matters" series of community conversations and polls sponsored by News Watch.

The overwhelming support for teaching Native history and culture was welcome news to some educators in South Dakota.



John Little

John Little, director of Native recruitment and alumni engagement at USD, said enhanced teaching of Native history and culture will give both Native and non-Native students a better sense of themselves and the world in which they live.

For Native students, seeing their own history presented as part of the state's history can be empowering, just as seeing their history overlooked can be harmful, said Little, an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, who grew up in South Dakota.

"The fear of not teaching Native history is erasure of our culture," said Little, who is teaching a Native studies course at USD this fall. "If you're being taught only certain things, and you see that you're not existing in the history being taught, it's detrimental for students to not see themselves in their culture."

For non-Natives, learning about indigenous people and culture will expand their worldview, Little said, ultimately making them better people and, in a practical sense, more marketable in the workplace.

"It's just really important to get outside your worldview and learn about culture and history whenever you have the opportunity," he said. "That will only enhance your job prospects and make you more marketable by learning

different perspectives."

A struggle over standards

The poll was conducted as controversy has swirled around how Native history and culture are taught in South Dakota public schools.

In late July, a 50-member committee that spent months developing a proposed set of social studies

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 3 of 72

standards submitted its report to the state Department of Education. In early August, the DOE put forward an amended version of the proposed standards that removed more than a dozen references to Native American history and culture and altered other references to standards aimed at teaching Native topics.

The department released a statement saying that "adjustments" were made to the proposed standards to provide "greater clarity and focus" for districts, teachers and the public.

The revisions led to an outcry among Native leaders in South Dakota, about 100 of whom, some on horseback, held a protest in Pierre in September to promote accurate and in-depth teaching of Native history and to call for the resignations of DOE officials and Gov. Kristi Noem.

Meanwhile, the DOE received more than 600 public comments on the proposed standards, many opposed to the changes made by the state.

A short time later, Noem said she would delay the revision to the social studies standards.

"The Department of Education changed the working group's recommendations to the social studies standards significantly, but it is clear to me that there needs to be more public input to bring greater balance and emphasis on our nation's true and honest history," Noem said in a release at the time.

In October, Noem announced she was restarting the revision process, and the state is now accepting applications for membership on a new advisory committee.

Noem, a conservative Republican, has sparred with Native tribes over highway checkpoints during the COVID-19 pandemic and was banned from visiting the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in 2019 after pushing a law aimed at punishing pipeline protesters.

Noem raised concern among some Native groups in early 2021 when she proposed her South Dakota Civics and History Initiative, a two-year, four-pronged plan to create new teaching content, provide new resources and training for teachers, and increase access to civic and historical lessons and experiences for students, especially at the elementary level. When the plan is finalized, use of the program will be optional for school districts.

Some Native leaders worry the initiative will be politicized and ultimately reduce the role Native history plays in public school curricula.

Native-led groups have also said they will bring forth legislation in 2022 to require teaching of Native studies in South Dakota public schools.

Montana and North Dakota already require schools to include Native American education in schools. The North Dakota Legislature this year passed a bill mandating that Native American history be part of the curriculum in all elementary and secondary public and nonpublic schools in the state. Montana in 1972 added to the state constitution the requirement to teach all students on "the unique cultural heritage of American Indians," noting that the state is "committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their cultural integrity."

Balancing what is taught

Jacqueline Sly, a former state representative from Rapid City who now chairs the South Dakota Board of Education Standards, said Native American history is being taught in public schools now, though it isn't being done systematically and varies in depth and extent from district to district and sometimes from class to class.

"It is being taught in our schools; I look at the materials they are using and all of them include Native



About 100 people, many of them Native Americans, held a protest in Pierre in September to push for improved teaching of Native American history and culture in South Dakota schools and to decry removal of Native references from proposed social studies standards.

Photo: Courtesy DRG Media Group



Jacqueline Sly

teachers and people who are looking at curriculum are struggling with.”

Sly said she was happy to see so many poll respondents in favor of teaching Native history and culture, and remains hopeful that the next attempt to revise the state social studies standards will result in a more cohesive plan for integrating Native studies into curricula.

“I definitely think there’s resources there and we need to be using them as we’re teaching our students about South Dakota history,” Sly said. “As we move into this next revision, we need to look at those concepts and see how we can actually bring those into our standards.”

In August, the DOE announced that about \$75,000 in new civics and history grants had been awarded to six school districts in South Dakota.

One of those initial grants, for about \$17,000, was awarded to Vermillion High School, where a team of social studies teachers is developing a new history course that will focus in part on Native history in South Dakota. Teachers Joe Delvaux, Lenni Billberg and Shannon Fitzsimmons are leading an effort to develop the new course, which will include significant experiential learning, such as field trips, guest speakers and hands-on activities that bring history to life.

Delvaux said he expects the course will launch in fall 2022 and focus on people who, before Eu-

American history,” Sly said. “Could they do more? Potentially, yes. How in depth they go can depend on the teacher.”

Sly praised the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings program that provides a framework for teaching Native history and culture. The 35-page set of online lesson plans includes teaching aids in history, culture, language, treaties, identity and way of life of Lakota, Dakota and Nakota Sioux Indians, who make up most of the Native tribes in the Dakotas.

Sly said that while the state sets education standards, local school districts have control over curriculum, or how teaching occurs. One challenge districts will face as they seek to increase or enhance teaching of Native history and culture is deciding what gets left out since the length of the school day will not change.

“If we want to expand on that, what else is given up to make room for that?” Sly said. “Do we give up some time on the Civil War, or on early pioneers in South Dakota? Finding that balance ... that’s what

POLL RESULT: HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU FEEL IT IS TO INCLUDE NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE IN THE CURRICULUM OF SOUTH DAKOTA’S PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

RESPONDENT GROUP

Very important/somewhat important — total
Not too important/not important — total
Not sure — total

ALL RESPONDENTS

61.2% very important/26.6% somewhat important — 87.8%
6.4% not too important/2.6% not important — 9.0%
Not sure — 3.2%

INDEPENDENTS

67.2% very important/28.0% somewhat important — 95.2%
2.4% not too important/0.0% not important — 2.4%
Not sure — 2.4%

DEMOCRATS

73.0% very important/19.7% somewhat important — 92.7%
5.1% not too important/0.7% not important — 5.8%
Not sure — 1.5%

REPUBLICANS

51.3% very important/29.8% somewhat important — 81.1%
9.2% not too important/5.0% not important — 14.2%
Not sure — 4.6%

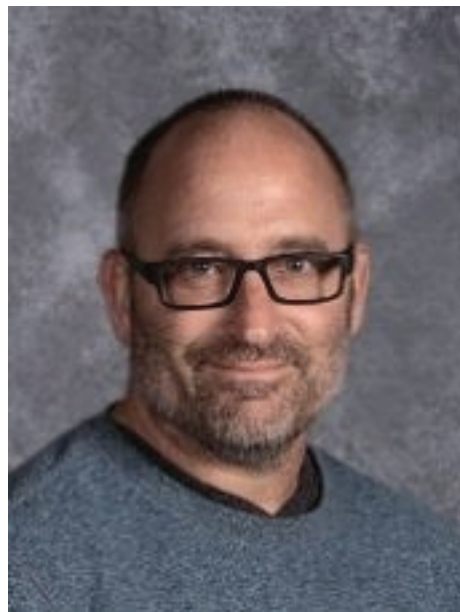
Notes: Mason-Dixon poll conducted Oct. 20-23, 2021; total of 500 registered South Dakota voters; margin of error +/- 4.5%

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 5 of 72



Leni Billberg



Joe Delvaux



Shannon Fitzsimmons

ropean settlement, influenced local and state history, including Native Americans, and on others such as Hutterites.

"We want to tell the most authentic story of the land and the people," he said.

Presenting an in-depth, honest account of history is important to provide students a way to connect with their community but also to become more well-rounded as individuals no matter what path they take in life.

"When you have a sense of place, you feel like you're connected to a region and a landscape," Delvaux said. "It roots you deeper in that community, it gives you some ownership of the past, the present and the future if you see and learn about the people who occupied this space before you, and then meeting people and hearing their stories."

Teachers in Vermillion will benefit from a wealth of local historic sites and a variety of residents who are versed in Native history and culture, Delvaux said. The school also has a cooperative relationship with local Native leaders who are willing to share their knowledge and experience with students, he said. Connections to the University of South Dakota, located in Vermillion, will also be helpful, he said.

Billberg said Vermillion High had a previous course that focused on the history and culture of the Missouri River Valley, where Vermillion is located. She expects the new course will expand on those teachings in a hands-on way.

The state grant will provide teacher training, new materials, field trips, class speakers and events that can take their students deeper than ever into local and state history.

"Those are the things kids will retain and bring home with them, and they'll want to talk about those experiences," Billberg said. "As a world, sometimes we don't look at anything around us. We need kids to know where they belong and where they fit in, and carry that forth in their lives."

Little said the level of Native history being taught in South Dakota public schools varies by region and district. His own public school experience in south-central South Dakota was uneven, he said.

In sixth grade, Little took a required South Dakota history course with an aged textbook that he said did not include many references to Native history or culture. The book, he said, referred to the massacre at Wounded Knee as a "battle," which Little said mischaracterized what happened in southwestern South Dakota in 1890.

"It was a limited view of South Dakota history," he said. "If 300 mostly unarmed men, women and children are murdered, it was clearly not a 'battle.'"

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 6 of 72

But Little also took a Lakota language course as a freshman at Winner High School in which he saw films on Native history and was required to read a book by a Native American author.

"That class was important for me to see myself in the curriculum," he said.

Little said he has mixed feelings about proposals to mandate teaching of Native history and culture in public schools.

While he supports enhanced teaching of Native history, he worries that forcing districts to teach a course may lead to a backlash.

"You've got to find that balance because it's important to have that curriculum and those conversations about whose traditional homelands they're living on, but if it's force-fed, people don't like that," he said.

Little said a good place to start in South Dakota would be to ensure that the textbooks and materials being used in classrooms present a fair, true history of Native Americans and accurately represent their culture.



ABOUT BART PFANKUCH

Bart Pfankuch, Rapid City, S.D., is the content director for South Dakota News Watch. A Wisconsin native,

he is a former editor of the Rapid City Journal and also worked at newspapers in Florida. Bart has spent more than 30 years as a reporter, editor and writing coach.

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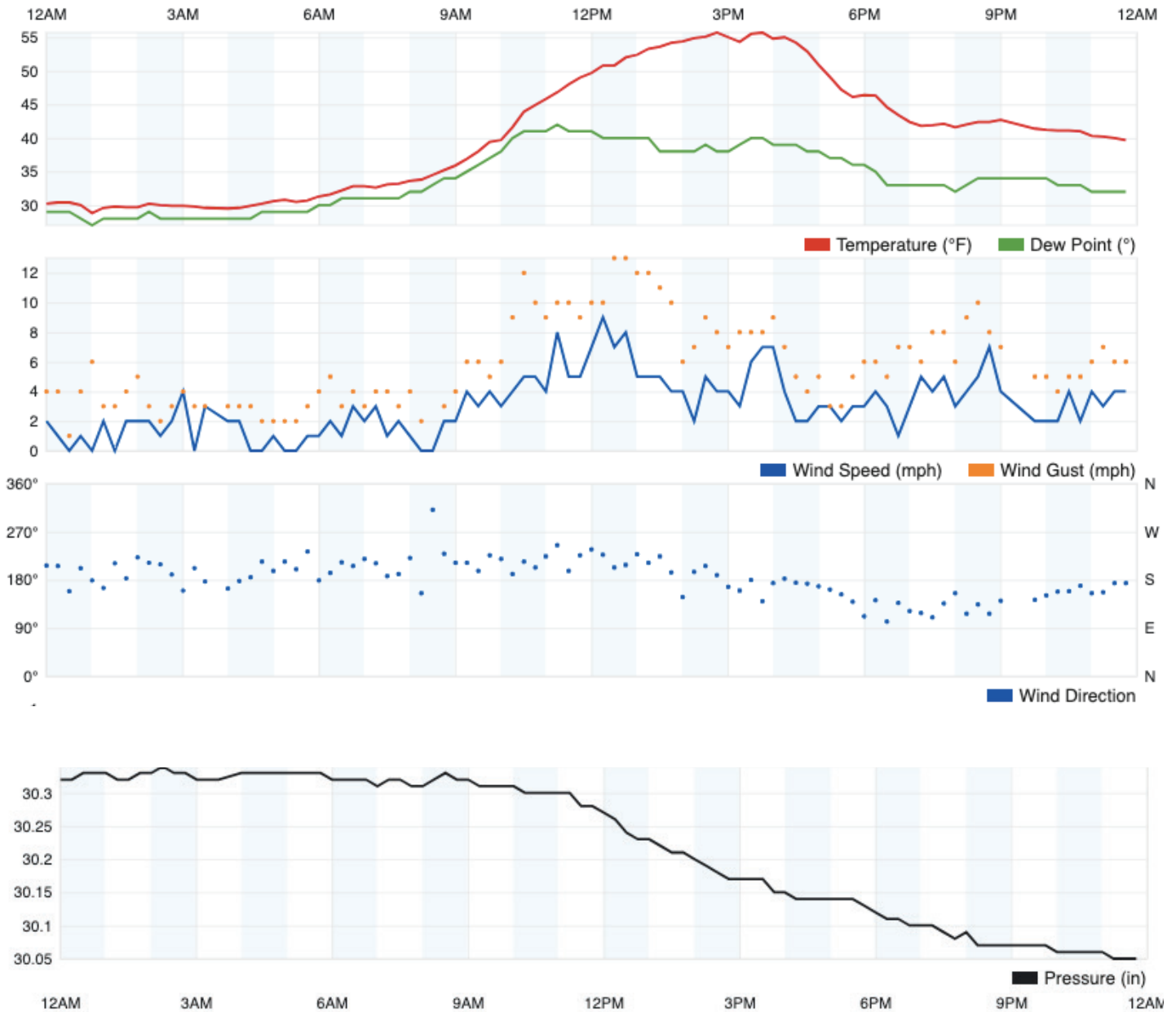
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Groton Daily Independent






Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 9 of 72

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



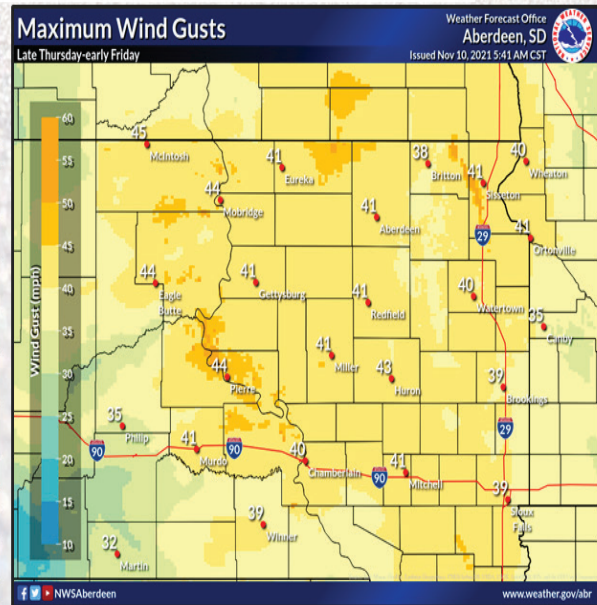
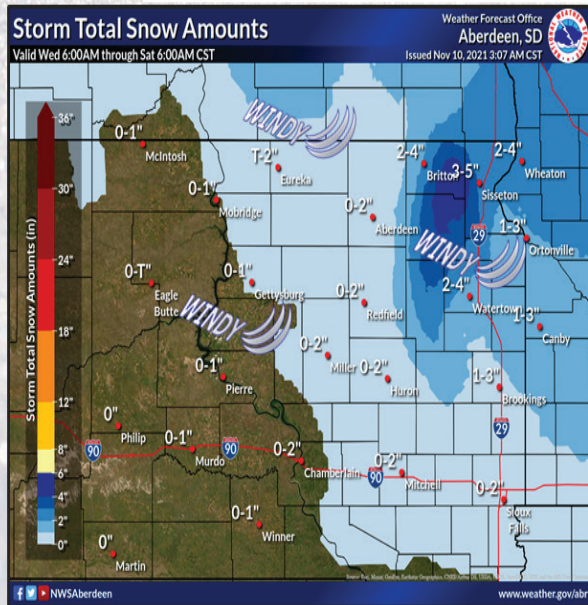
Broton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 10 of 72

Today	Tonight	Veterans Day	Thursday Night	Friday
 90%	 20%	 50%	 70%	 30%
Rain	Slight Chance Rain then Mostly Clear	Breezy. Increasing Clouds then Chance Rain/Snow	Snow Likely and Blustery	Breezy. Chance Snow then Mostly Cloudy
High: 48 °F	Low: 31 °F	High: 40 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 33 °F

Snow, Plenty of Wind and Colder Temps Coming!
Thursday afternoon through Friday afternoon

- Snowfall will generally be 1-3" with enhanced amounts of 2-5" across northeast South Dakota
- Wind gusts in excess of 50 mph
- Near Blizzard Conditions possible across northeast South Dakota



Visit www.weather.gov/abr for a detailed local forecast

Updated: 11/10/2021 5:47 AM CT

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
 OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

An early season strong winter storm system will continue to take shape today into tonight. We will just see the initial push of moisture today in the form of just rain across the area. Rainfall amounts could approach a quarter of an inch or more in some areas by tonight. A brief dry period will move in tonight through the first half of the day on Thursday. As low pressure winds up to our east on Thursday and Thursday night, snow and wind will wrap around the backside and down across north-central and northeast South Dakota and west-central Minnesota. Strong winds and falling snow will lead to low visibilities Thursday night into Friday morning. Areas impacted the greatest from this storm will be across the Glacial Lakes/Prairie Coteau region of northeast South Dakota.

Broton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 11 of 72



Timing Out Winds With Upcoming System

Winds Predominantly Out of the West to Northwest

	Maximum Wind Gust Forecast																															
	11/9 Tue			11/10 Wed						11/11 Thu						11/12 Fri						11/13 Sat										
	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm
Aberdeen	14	14	18	23	24	23	24	22	25	23	21	22	21	32	39	40	40	39	41	43	43	43	43	44	40	24	18	18	15	12	14	17
Britton	8	12	17	22	25	24	26	24	24	23	21	21	21	29	37	38	37	36	39	41	41	41	40	41	39	28	21	20	15	12	15	17
Eagle Butte	25	28	30	29	23	29	36	37	37	31	28	31	36	40	49	53	52	51	43	44	45	45	40	38	35	20	17	13	15	17	20	25
Eureka	18	21	24	26	24	20	29	33	33	28	24	23	26	35	43	47	47	45	45	45	45	46	45	43	37	23	18	15	13	13	18	21
Gettysburg	25	23	25	28	26	23	36	37	37	29	25	26	30	38	47	51	49	49	49	48	48	47	47	46	41	25	22	17	14	16	18	22
Kennebec	26	24	23	23	23	20	32	33	35	28	25	26	28	36	43	49	51	44	44	45	45	45	45	41	40	23	17	16	12	15	17	17
McIntosh	23	30	31	30	24	30	40	44	41	35	31	32	40	44	49	53	52	49	46	47	47	43	41	39	36	20	16	12	15	18	25	29
Milbank	10	9	10	10	14	14	18	20	20	22	22	23	23	26	32	32	31	29	30	33	36	38	38	38	36	28	22	18	18	14	12	13
Miller	17	18	22	25	24	23	22	29	29	24	24	23	26	36	45	46	45	43	41	41	43	44	45	45	40	23	21	17	15	12	15	17
Mobridge	25	23	26	26	24	18	31	33	33	29	24	26	32	36	41	46	47	47	47	45	44	43	41	40	36	21	16	14	12	15	20	21
Murdo	25	26	25	24	23	26	36	37	36	30	25	29	32	39	46	54	55	48	43	43	40	41	41	40	38	21	17	13	13	16	18	22
Pierre	24	23	22	21	18	17	30	32	32	28	21	23	26	37	45	49	49	46	46	47	47	44	44	40	37	22	14	13	9	15	16	18
Redfield	18	17	21	23	25	24	23	26	28	23	23	24	24	32	41	43	43	40	41	43	43	43	44	45	40	24	21	17	15	10	15	17
Sisseton	10	8	13	13	17	17	22	21	22	23	22	24	24	29	35	35	35	33	36	39	43	43	43	41	40	28	22	21	20	17	15	15
Watertown	10	10	15	18	22	22	24	22	22	23	23	24	24	29	38	38	36	33	36	38	41	41	41	41	39	28	22	21	20	16	14	17
Wheaton	9	9	14	17	18	20	21	22	17	16	22	23	23	23	30	31	28	28	31	37	38	38	37	35	35	26	22	18	17	15	13	12

ISSUED: 6:27 PM - Tuesday, November 09, 2021



National Weather Service
Aberdeen South Dakota

Strong winds will be associated with the upcoming system. Here is the timing and strength. Winds predominantly out of the west to northwest.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 12 of 72

Today in Weather History

November 10th, 1998: Heavy snow fell across central, north-central, and northeast South Dakota from the early morning hours of the 9th into the late afternoon hours of the 10th. Heavy snow also fell across west-central Minnesota from late in the evening on the 9th to the early morning hours of the 10th. Snowfall amounts ranged from 6 to 14 inches. Early in the storm, much of the precipitation fell as rain, freezing rain, and heavy wet snow. During the early morning hours of the 10th, northwest winds increased to 20 to 50 mph and gusted at times to 60 mph. These high winds brought widespread blizzard conditions into the late evening hours of the 10th. On both the 10th and 11th, most area schools were closed, along with many highways, including Highways 12 and 83.

Interstates 29 and 90 were also closed due to slick roads and near-zero visibilities. Hundreds of vehicles were stranded in this storm, with many people needing rescue, and many motorists slid off the streets. There were also numerous accidents, with a few resulting in injuries. Due to the ice buildup from the rain, freezing rain, and wet snow early in the storm, along with the high winds, many tree limbs, some trees, and power lines and poles were brought down, which resulted in multiple power outages across the region. The area most affected by power outages was north of a line from Moberly to Ipswich, along Highway 212, to the North Dakota border. Some 25 cities were affected by power outages. Hosmer was without power for over 40 hours. At South Shore, a family lost power for 120 hours. A lineman tried to get to the home twice but could not because of the low visibility. A teenager was also lost overnight near South Shore while he was hunting with friends. He was found at 8 am the next morning. In Watertown, two people were injured in an accident. Several of the downed trees across parts of the area blocked traffic for a time. Numerous businesses were closed, and activities were canceled on the 9th and 10th. In Pierre, the strong winds ripped the canopy off the Amoco gas station. The blizzard brought the fifth-lowest barometric pressure on record to Watertown. Some snowfall amounts from this horrible blizzard included; 15.4 inches near Bryant; 12.5 inches in Webster; 12.3 in Pierre; 10.8 in Sisseton; 10.5 inches near Summit; 10.0 inches in Pollock and near Onida; and 9.0 in Blunt and Conde.

1915 - An unusually late season tornado struck the central Kansas town of Great Bend killing eleven persons along its 35 mile track. The tornado destroyed 160 homes in Great Bend killing 11 persons and causing a million dollars damage. Hundreds of dead ducks dropped from the sky northeast of the track's end. (The Weather Channel)

1975 - Another freshwater fury hit the Great Lakes. A large ore carrier on Lake Superior, the Edmund Fitzgerald, sank near Crisp Point with the loss of its crew of 29 men. Eastern Upper Michigan and coastal Lower Michigan were hardest hit by the storm, which produced wind gusts to 71 at Sault Ste Marie MI, and gusts to 78 mph at Grand Rapids MI. Severe land and road erosion occurred along the Lake Michigan shoreline. A popular hit song by Gordon Lightfoot was inspired by the storm. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A cold front brought snow to the Appalachian Region and freezing temperatures to the central U.S. Up to nine inches of snow blanketed Garrett County of extreme western Maryland. Freezing temperatures were reported as far south as El Paso TX and San Angelo TX. Gale force winds lashed the Middle Atlantic Coast and the coast of southern New England. Thunderstorms brought fire quenching rains to Alabama, and produced large hail and damaging winds to eastern North Carolina. Ahead of the cold front, seven cities in Florida and Georgia reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 80s. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Strong winds circulating around a deep low pressure system in southeastern Ontario buffeted the northeastern U.S., with the Lower Great Lakes Region hardest hit. Winds in western New York State gusted to 68 mph at Buffalo, to 69 mph at Niagra Falls, and to 78 mph at Brockport. Four persons were injured at Rome NY when a tree was blown onto their car. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Strong southwesterly winds prevailed along the eastern slopes of the Rockies in Montana and Wyoming. Winds of 80 to 90 mph prevailed across the northwest chinook zone of Montana, with gusts to 112 mph. Unseasonably warm weather accompanied the high winds. Shortly after midnight the temperature at Kalispell, MT, reached a record 59 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

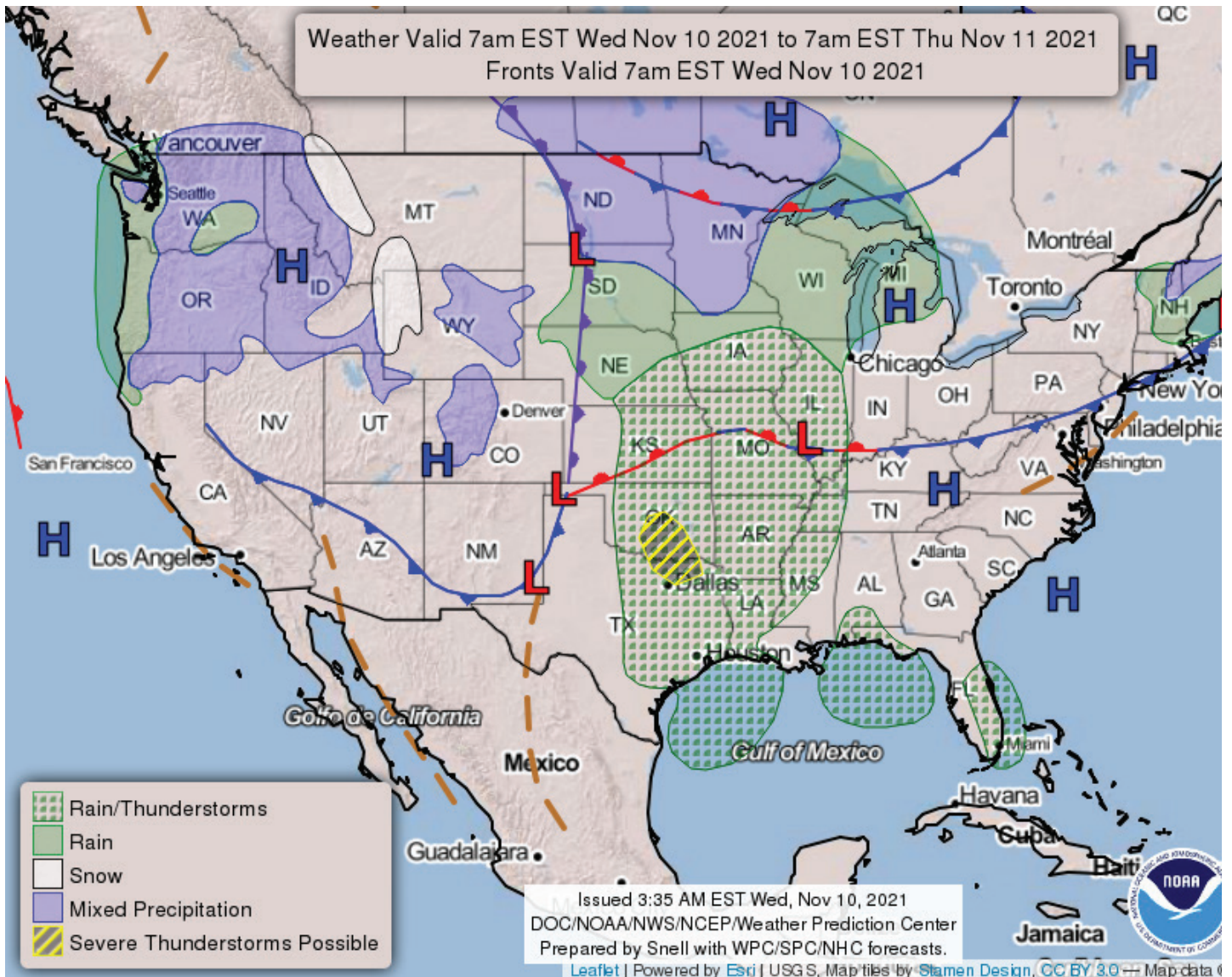
Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 13 of 72

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 55.7 °F at 3:45 PM
Low Temp: 28.8 °F at 1:00 AM
Wind: 12 mph at 12:30 PM
Precip: 0.00

Record High: 69° in 1954
Record Low: -7° in 1896
Average High: 45°F
Average Low: 22°F
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.31
Precip to date in Nov.: 4.30
Average Precip to date: 20.78
Precip Year to Date: 19.72
Sunset Tonight: 5:09:14 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:24:52 AM



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 14 of 72



WONDERS AND MIRACLES

Have you ever planted a seed in a jar, placed it in a window where the sun's warmth and light were at work and watched in "wonder" as God brought life to that small "package?" Left in darkness, little, if anything, would have happened. But when the seed was placed in soil, nourished by the sun and the life-giving elements in the soil, its thirst quenched by water, a "miracle" took place. It "did" what God created it to do.

Some might question the difference between the words, "wonder" and "miracle." We often watch in awe when we do not understand what is going on around us. Sometimes things that "amaze" us are easily explained by someone who knows more than we do. Then, when we understand what happened, we may still be filled with wonder, but it is no longer a mystery. It's like God's love for us. We wonder "why" and "how" He loves until we know Jesus.

A miracle, however, is some event or action that cannot be explained. It is an extraordinary event that demonstrates God's power. Without giving us any warning or making any announcement, He "invades what is going on" and unpredictably changes things to let us know "who is in charge!" What has been, no longer is, and what will be cannot be predicted. It was obvious in the journey of the Israelites: God unexpectedly saved and protected them. So, the Psalmist wrote, "Remember His miracles." It was His grace that saved them.

But what about miracles in our lives? "By His grace, we can be saved." Like them, He will save us, too. Now, that's a miracle all can enjoy!

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for Your love, mercy, grace, and salvation. They are so undeserved and yet are such strong evidence of your love. May we never forget these miracles! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced. Psalm 105:5

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 15 of 72

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)
11/11/2021 Veteran's Day Program at the GHS Arena
11/21/2021 Groton Area Snow Queen Contest
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

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 16 of 72

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Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 17 of 72

News from the  Associated Press

Tuesday's Scores

The Associated Press undefined

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

SDHSAA SoDak 16=

State Qualifier=

Class A=

Dakota Valley def. Lakota Tech, 25-6, 25-10, 25-17

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Florence/Henry, 25-16, 26-24, 25-12

Garretson def. Redfield, 25-17, 25-20, 25-18

Hamlin def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-21, 25-15, 27-25

Hill City def. Winner, 25-9, 25-17, 25-17

Parkston def. Rapid City Christian, 19-25, 25-27, 27-25, 25-22, 17-15

Sioux Falls Christian def. Pine Ridge, 25-5, 25-7, 25-8

Wagner def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 20-25, 24-26, 25-16, 25-18, 15-10

Class B=

Aberdeen Christian def. Philip, 20-25, 25-16, 25-14, 25-17

Arlington def. Freeman, 25-13, 25-19, 21-25, 25-16

Burke def. Wolsey-Wessington, 25-15, 25-20, 23-25, 25-16

Chester def. Gayville-Volin, 25-19, 25-10, 25-22

Colman-Egan def. Miller, 25-14, 25-13, 25-17

Faulkton def. Timber Lake, 25-18, 25-12, 25-21

Platte-Geddes def. Faith, 25-17, 25-16, 25-10

Warner def. Edgemont, 25-9, 25-7, 25-9

Some high school volleyball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

Information from: ScoreStream Inc., <http://ScoreStream.com>

South Dakota State turns back Bradley 81-65 in opener

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Douglas Wilson had 20 points and 10 rebounds as South Dakota State topped Bradley 81-65 in a season opener on Tuesday night.

Wilson hit all 10 of his free throws.

Noah Freidel had 16 points for South Dakota State. Matt Dentlinger added 13 points. Alex Arians had 11 points and seven rebounds. Baylor Scheierman had 10 points and 14 rebounds.

Terry Roberts had 15 points for the Braves. Rienk Mast added 11 points and 15 rebounds. Ja'Shon Henry had 10 points.

For more AP college basketball coverage: <https://apnews.com/Collegebasketball> and http://twitter.com/AP_Top25

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SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

09-14-16-26-49, Mega Ball: 14, Megaplier: 3

(nine, fourteen, sixteen, twenty-six, forty-nine; Mega Ball: fourteen; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$45 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$160 million

Mine Collapse Lawsuit Seeks Class-Action Status, Justice for All Hideaway Hills Homeowners

RAPID CITY, S.D., Nov. 9, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- The State of South Dakota's failure to properly close and remediate gypsum mines it owned and operated beneath the Hideaway Hills neighborhood has made all 158 homes uninhabitable and worthless, according to a new court filing by homeowners seeking class-action certification in litigation against the state.

According to the motion filed Tuesday by the Fox Rothschild law firm, class-action litigation is necessary because conditions in Hideaway Hills are so intertwined that examination or testing of just one home fails to provide accurate information about that home or the homes of its neighbors. In addition, there is no way to remediate just one home in the neighborhood, and any solution must address the entire neighborhood. The lawsuit asks that the state pay each household the full value for their homes.

Recent core-sample drilling tests confirm that underground instability extends to every home in the neighborhood and correcting the problem would require homes to be removed to resolve the subsurface instability. Even if correction were possible, it's not certain that repairs would successfully ensure the ongoing safety of the neighborhood.

"Those homes are now not only worthless, but threaten the lives of their occupants," the motion states. "Three hundred and fifty lives are in danger because their homes rest on a subsurface, owned by the State, that was rendered incapable of supporting structures by the State's exploitation of the land, failure to properly reclaim the land, and its failure to maintain the subsurface in a condition that would support the surface. The State of South Dakota has strict liability for this catastrophic damage and resulting injuries."

Geological experts have found 16 active collapses near the site of a large hole that opened in April 2020 near East Daisy Drive. The mine extends at least twice as far as what was previously thought, and experts have documented ground depressions, sink holes and soil subsidence throughout the neighborhood, according to the filing.

If granted, class certification will allow every Hideaway Hills homeowner to potentially obtain financial relief from the state of South Dakota, which owned and operated gypsum mines in the area for decades. The lawsuit charges that the state – which still owns subsurface mineral rights under the neighborhood – failed to properly reclaim underground, pit and strip mines before the land was sold to a developer.

In May, the named plaintiffs won a key ruling from Circuit Court Judge Kevin Krull, who found that the homeowners "demonstrated that their injuries likely will be redressed by a favorable decision – i.e., an award of damages, based on their constitutional right to individually bring an inverse condemnation case against the State."

The case is Andrew Morse and John and Emily Clarke et al. v. State of South Dakota et al., No. 46CIV-20-000295 in the Circuit Court, 4th Judicial District, County of Meade, South Dakota.

Fox Rothschild has grown to a 950-lawyer national law firm with 27 offices by focusing on client service and responsiveness and by attracting bright and creative lawyers who know how to deliver. More information at foxrothschild.com.

Media Contact: Robert Tharp 800-559-4534 robert@androvett.com

View original content: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/mine-collapse-lawsuit-seeks-class>

action-status-justice-for-all-hideaway-hills-homeowners-301420256.html
SOURCE Fox Rothschild

South Dakota redistricting paused after medical emergency

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Legislature paused its effort to reach a consensus on redrawing political boundaries late Tuesday after the House Republican leader suffered a medical incident and had to be taken to the hospital.

Rep. Kent Peterson was conscious as he was wheeled out of a Republican caucus meeting on a stretcher, but the incident halted negotiations over redrawing the state's political map. Peterson had played a central role as a special legislative session stretched into two days of wrangling between conflicting House and Senate proposals. Lawmakers had been nearing a deal, but postponed their work until Wednesday.

"I feel very confident he will be here in the morning ready to go," said House Speaker Spencer Gosch. Gosch declined to comment on Peterson's medical information.

The once-in-a-decade redistricting process has laid bare political rivalries in the state's GOP with a divide between moderate Republicans and their more conservative colleagues.

The Senate put forward a proposal that would meet federal requirements to protect the voting rights of Native Americans, but House lawmakers charged the Senate with orchestrating a shake-up by pitting lawmakers against each other in the new political map.

Former South Dakota Gov. Frank Farrar honored at Capitol

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Former South Dakota Gov. Frank Farrar was memorialized Tuesday in a ceremony at the state Capitol.

He died last month at the age of 92 after an injury to his head.

Farrar was known as the "boy wonder" of South Dakota politics after he became the youngest person ever elected state attorney general in 1962. He became the state's 24th governor six years later, running unopposed for the Republican nomination and easily winning the general election.

But his political fame was short-lived. He had the distinction of being the last elected incumbent governor to lose reelection when, in 1970, he lost his bid for a second term to Democrat Dick Kneip.

He left politics to focus on banking and philanthropy, but remained a regular figure at South Dakota political events.

"He was South Dakota's elder statesman and he really leaned into that role," Gov. Kristi Noem said at the event. "He brought background, he brought intellect, he brought institutional memory."

At 65, after being told he had terminal cancer, Farrar began competing in triathlons and Ironman competitions, which he credited for his longevity and helping him beat cancer.

"There were few things that stopped Frank Farrar," said former Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

South Dakota House votes to launch impeachment probe of AG

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's House launched an investigation Tuesday into whether the state's attorney general should be impeached for his conduct surrounding a car crash last year that killed a pedestrian.

A sizable majority of the Republican-dominated House voted to have a committee prepare a report and recommend whether Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg should be impeached. It could take weeks for the committee of seven Republicans and two Democrats to delve into the crash investigation. The committee is a mix of Ravnsborg's political allies and those who have called for his ouster.

Ravnsborg, a Republican who was elected to his first term as attorney general in 2018, pleaded no contest in August to a pair of misdemeanors in the crash that killed 55-year-old Joseph Boever, who was

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 20 of 72

walking along a rural stretch of highway when Ravensborg struck him with his car. Ravensborg has insisted that he did not realize he killed a man until he returned to the scene the next day and discovered his body.

House lawmakers said they first wanted to know whether Ravensborg could be impeached for his misdemeanor convictions, the fact that he killed a man, or that law enforcement associations have said they no longer have confidence in his office.

The state constitution stipulates that officials like the attorney general can be impeached for "corrupt conduct, malfeasance or misdemeanor in office." But a state official has never been impeached in South Dakota.

"Our first meeting is literally to sit down, go through the constitution, go through case law, to get an idea," said House Speaker Spencer Gosch, a Republican.

Gov. Kristi Noem, who has called for Ravensborg to resign, has delivered a hard drive containing the crash investigation to Gosch, but he said the committee would subpoena the crash investigation from the Department of Public Safety "just to ensure accuracy."

Ravnsborg's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the House's move.

Republican Rep. Will Mortenson, who first called for Ravensborg's impeachment in February, pushed to allow public access to the material the committee reviews. The House agreed to make public that material, with the exception of redacted confidential and "nonrelevant information."

"This is unprecedented in state history, which means we need to be thoughtful," Mortenson said. "And keep in mind the public, the family of any victims here and the subject of impeachment as well."

The investigative committee had not scheduled its first meeting, but Gosch said it would meet later on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Jury awards \$42 million to Rapid City woman injured at work

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Pennington County jury has awarded \$42 million to a Rapid City woman after she was denied medical benefits from her previous employer and the employer's insurance company.

United Parcel Service and Liberty Mutual were ordered to pay Fern Johnson \$41 million in punitive damages and \$1 million in compensatory damages in a verdict reached Friday.

Johnson took a worker's compensation claim to court following an injury on the job while working for UPS in 1996. A laparoscopy determined Johnson had a hernia and she underwent surgery. She stopped working for UPS in 1997 due to groin and back pain.

Johnson's compensable medical expenses were paid for by the employer up until spring of 2010, at which point the appellants requested their attorney to review the case, the Rapid City Journal reported.

UPS hired a neurologist to conduct an independent medical exam. Dr. Bruce Norback said that Johnson's employment at UPS was no longer a major contributing cause of her need for medical treatment related to her pain because she had not worked for UPS for 13 years, but still experienced worsening symptoms.

A verdict awarding \$45 million to Johnson was then reversed by the South Dakota Supreme Court and remanded back to circuit court for retrial, resulting in the second jury award.

One of Johnson's attorneys, G. Verne Goodsell, said "the consistency of the two verdicts confirms that our community will not tolerate bad and reckless behavior by insurance companies who harm our citizens, particularly when the companies pocket the money for medical care that belongs to the injured worker."

Merkel asks Putin to intervene with Belarus over migrants

By VANESSA GERA, MONIKA SCISLOWSKA and GEIR MOULSON Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Chancellor Angela Merkel asked Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday to intervene with Belarus over the migrant situation on that country's border with Poland, where groups of migrants made bold attempts this week to cross into European Union territory.

The chancellor's office said Merkel spoke with Putin by phone and underlined that the exploitation "of migrants against the European Union by the Belarusian regime is inhuman and completely unacceptable." Merkel asked the Russian president "to exert his influence on the regime in Minsk," her office said.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 21 of 72

Russia is a close ally of the government in Belarus. Germany is a favored destination for migrants who manage to enter the EU.

The readout of the call released by the Kremlin said Putin "proposed to establish a discussion of the problems that have arisen in direct contacts of representatives of the EU member states with Minsk." It also said that Putin and Merkel "agreed to continue the conversation on the issue."

Meanwhile, European Council President Charles Michel was in Warsaw on Wednesday to show support for Poland as it faces migration pressure and a humanitarian crisis on a border that also forms the eastern edge of the EU.

Poland's Defense Ministry and local police reported Wednesday that multiple groups of migrants tried to enter the country late Tuesday and early Wednesday but that all the people who made it were detained.

Hundreds of migrants have been camping since Monday on the Belarus side of the border, across from the Polish village of Kuznica.

Poland's Defense Ministry also accused Belarusian forces of firing shots into the air in a border area where migrants caught between the neighboring countries have set up a makeshift camp. The ministry posted a video on Twitter with noises of what sounded like shots.

In recent months, Poland, Lithuania and to a lesser degree, Latvia, all EU members located on the 27-nation bloc's eastern border, have complained about unusually high numbers of migrants entering or trying to enter the countries from Belarus.

EU leaders accuse the regime of Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko of opening up a new migration route to Europe to create instability in retaliation for sanctions the bloc imposed on Lukashenko's authoritarian government.

The EU imposed the sanctions over a brutal crackdown on domestic dissent following Lukashenko's disputed election to a sixth term in August 2020.

Caught in the bitter political standoff have been thousands of migrants, some of them families with children, who have been pushed back and forth in a forested area of swamps and bogs at the Poland-Belarus border. Eight deaths there have been confirmed, and the situation is growing even more dangerous as temperatures drop to below freezing at night.

Poland's government has faced criticism from the United Nations refugee agency and many Poles for pushing migrants back across the border into the forest. But the government in Warsaw received support from the United States and from European leaders as large numbers of migrants have used wire cutters and what appeared to be tree trunks or poles to try to force their way into Polish territory.

Belarus' State Border Guard Committee said in a post on the Telegram messaging app Wednesday that four men of Kurdish descent in the makeshift migrant camp at the border were injured. The committee accused Poland's security forces of inflicting the injuries.

"According to the refugees, they were detained on the territory of Poland, where they tried to ask for protection and refugee status. Judging by the numerous injuries.. the Polish security forces mistreated the men and forcibly pushed them out through a barbed fence on the border with Belarus," read the post accompanied by pictures of bloodied individuals.

It is impossible to independently verify the information. Independent journalists face limits to their reporting in autocratic Belarus, while a state of emergency in Poland also prevents journalists from entering a zone along the border.

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, who met with the European Council president on Wednesday, has described the current situation as the first time in 30 years that "the integrity of our borders is being tested." Poland threw off Moscow-backed communist rule three decades ago.

Morawiecki also suggested on Tuesday that Russia was behind the migration pressure from Belarus. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov rejected the suggestion as "unacceptable."

"We consider statements by the Polish prime minister that Russia is responsible for this situation absolutely irresponsible and unacceptable," Peskov said.

In one of the cases of attempted forced entry, a group of migrants with tools and equipment breached a

razor wire fence late Tuesday near the village of Bialowieza in northeast Poland, according to local border guards' spokesman Michal Tokarczyk.

All were detained and returned to the border with Belarus, Tomczyk said.

Humanitarian group workers and local volunteers in the area have been helping migrants who make it across the border, offering them food, water and clothing.

Polish police stopped a group of activists who were on their way to the Poland-Belarus border on Tuesday night as they approached the Kuznica border crossing, German news agency dpa reported.

The activists had planned to pick up migrants in Poland and help them reach Germany. However, the German Interior Ministry warned that "unauthorized transport and possible unauthorized entry" could have criminal consequences, dpa reported.

Moulson reported from Berlin. Daria Litvinova in Moscow, Kirsten Grieshaber in Berlin and Jan M. Olsen in Copenhagen, Denmark, also contributed.

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

Kishida reelected Japan's PM in parliamentary vote

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Fumio Kishida was reelected as Japan's prime minister on Wednesday after his governing party scored a major victory in key parliamentary elections.

Elected just over a month ago by parliament, Kishida called a quick election in which his Liberal Democratic Party secured 261 seats in the 465-member lower house, the more powerful of Japan's two-chamber legislature, enough to maintain a free hand in pushing through legislation.

The Oct. 31 victory increased his grip on power and was seen as a mandate from voters for his weeks-old government to tackle the pandemic-battered economy, manage the coronavirus and other challenges. Kishida said he saw the results as a signal that voters chose stability over change.

"Now I will focus on promptly tackling various policy measures," Kishida said after his reelection.

Later Wednesday, he formed his second Cabinet by keeping all but one of the ministers he appointed when he took office on Oct. 4. After a palace ceremony, Kishida was to map out his economic measures and other key policies at a news conference at night.

Kishida was chosen by the Liberal Democrats as a safe, conservative choice a month ago. They had feared heavy election losses if unpopular former Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga had stayed in power. Suga resigned after only a year in office as his popularity plunged over his handling of the coronavirus pandemic and his insistence on holding the Tokyo Olympics despite concerns of a virus surge.

The better-than-expected election results may give Kishida's government more power and time to work on campaign promises, including strengthening Japan's defense capability.

Kishida's grip on power also may be strengthened by his Cabinet changes.

A key policy expert from his party faction, former Education Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi, will be the new foreign minister, while former Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi will shift to the governing party's No. 2 post.

Motegi voted for Kishida in the party leadership race and will replace party heavyweight Akira Amari, who resigned from the post over his unimpressive election performance following a bribery scandal.

Though many of Kishida's ministers are first-timers, key posts went to those from influential party wings, including those led by conservative ex-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and former Finance Minister Taro Aso.

Kishida promises to create a self-reinforcing cycle of growth and improved economic distribution to raise incomes under his "new capitalism" economic policy.

Kishida's immediate post-election task is to compile a major economic stimulus package of about 30 trillion yen (\$265 billion) that includes cash payouts, to be announced next week. He also aims to pass an extra budget by the end of this year to fund the projects.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 23 of 72

Kishida is also expected to outline his pandemic measures later this week.

As a former foreign minister, Kishida will continue to prioritize the Japan-U.S. security alliance and promote a vision of a "free and open Indo-Pacific" with other democracies, including Quad dialogue members the U.S., Australia and India.

Kishida has stressed the importance of a stronger military amid worries over China's growing power and influence and North Korea's missile and nuclear threats.

He has opposed changes to a law that requires married couples to adopt a single surname, which forces most women to abandon their maiden names. The Liberal Democrats are widely seen as opposed to gender equality and diversity.

EXPLAINER: Did state's own witnesses hurt Rittenhouse case?

By MICHAEL TARM AP Legal Affairs Writer

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP) — Prosecutors wrapped up more than a week of testimony at Kyle Rittenhouse's homicide trial after calling more than a dozen witnesses — some appearing to help the defense more than the prosecution.

The onus was on prosecutors to counter Rittenhouse's self-defense claim in shooting dead two protesters and wounding a third at a protest in Kenosha last year following the shooting of Jacob Blake, who is Black, by a white police officer. The defense team began their case on Tuesday.

Rittenhouse, then 17, fatally shot Joseph Rosenbaum at a car lot. After running from that scene, he shot and killed Anthony Huber and wounded Gaige Grosskreutz.

A look at the state's presentation to jurors:

HOW DO LEGAL EXPERTS THINK IT WENT?

Legal experts agreed prosecutors had the bigger challenge going in, and some said they didn't come close to offering the kind of testimony sure to persuade jurors.

"The case has gone very badly for the prosecution," said Phil Turner, a former federal prosecutor who has followed the trial through the media.

Prosecutors endeavored to show Rittenhouse's fears for his life on the night of Aug. 25, 2020, weren't justified. But successive state witnesses, Turner and other legal experts said, seemed to buttress the defense assertion that Rittenhouse had good reason to be afraid.

But not everyone believes the state's presentation went that badly.

Joe Lopez, a Chicago-based defense attorney, singled out witnesses who said Rosenbaum acted oddly but didn't pose a threat as testimony helpful to the state.

"The prosecution has called witnesses that hurt their case — but sometimes you take the good with the bad," Lopez said.

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF STATE WITNESSES SEEMING TO AID THE DEFENSE?

Ryan Balch is a military veteran who carried an AR-style rifle that night and patrolled with Rittenhouse. He told jurors how Rosenbaum made ominous threats within earshot of Rittenhouse.

"If I catch any of you guys alone tonight I'm going to f--- kill you!" he recalled Rosenbaum shouting.

Another witness, videographer Richie McGinniss, described Rosenbaum chasing Rittenhouse and lunging for Rittenhouse's gun. When prosecutor Thomas Binger pressed McGinniss to concede he didn't know what Rosenbaum's intent was, McGinniss had a pointed — and damaging — answer.

"Well," McGinniss promptly replied, "he said, 'F--- you.' And then he reached for the weapon."

Gal Pissetzky, another Chicago-based defense attorney, said that was vital testimony — for the defense.

"If (lunging for the gun) is not a threatening action that would put Rittenhouse in fear for his life, I am not sure what would be," he said.

McGinniss also described Rittenhouse as appearing to do all he could to flee and even shouting "friendly, friendly, friendly" at Rosenbaum to convey he meant no harm.

Grosskreutz is another state witness who may have helped the defense case as much as the prosecution's. He testified that he carried a loaded pistol that night and acknowledged that it was aimed at Rit-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 24 of 72

tenhouse when Rittenhouse shot him — although Grosskreutz maintained he didn't intentionally aim the gun and said he wouldn't have fired.

WERE THERE NOTABLE MISSTEPS BY PROSECUTORS?

Prosecutors made at least one unforced error that allowed evidence favorable to the defense that otherwise would have been barred.

It happened with Rosenbaum's fiancée, Kariann Swart, on the stand when a prosecutor asked her if Rosenbaum had taken medication earlier on the day he was shot.

By asking that question, the judge ruled prosecutors opened the door for the defense to ask Swart what the medication was for. Under cross-examination, she told jurors it was for bipolar disorder and depression.

In self-defense cases, the mental health history of an alleged aggressor isn't considered relevant unless the person who used deadly force was aware of it. Rittenhouse wasn't.

But getting Rosenbaum's mental health in front of jurors could add credibility to the idea that Rosenbaum was an unstable aggressor.

WHAT TESTIMONY HELPED PROSECUTORS?

Some testimony depicted Rittenhouse as reckless for attending such a volatile protest with an AR-style semi-automatic rifle, suggesting that was the primary cause of the tragic series of events.

Prosecutors also presented evidence contrasting Rittenhouse's actions with others who came armed to the protest but never fired a shot.

Prosecutors also sought to play down Rosenbaum as a threat.

Jason Lackowski, another armed veteran in Rittenhouse's group, told jurors he saw Rosenbaum as "a babbling idiot" and that he perceived his threats as hollow.

WHAT ELSE MAY HAVE HELPED THEIR CASE?

Prosecutors had some success in raising doubts about a key defense assertion that Rittenhouse feared his alleged attackers would wrest his rifle away and use it to shoot him.

State witness Dominick Black, a friend of Rittenhouse's who similarly showed up with a weapon, told jurors he bought the rifle for Rittenhouse months before the shootings because Rittenhouse wasn't old enough to own one at the time.

He testified that a gun sling Rittenhouse wore around his neck and shoulder area included a strap that anchored the gun to Rittenhouse's body. He said that strap would have made it difficult for anyone to pry the gun away — undermining the defense claim that Rittenhouse feared losing control of his weapon.

WHAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE?

Trying to guess how jurors are perceiving evidence is hazardous in any case, perhaps more so in one as novel and politically charged as Rittenhouse's.

The significance of evidence presented by prosecutors is often not evident until closing arguments — an opportunity for prosecutors to connect all the dots for jurors.

Find AP's full coverage on the trial of Kyle Rittenhouse at: <https://apnews.com/hub/kyle-rittenhouse>

Climate talks draft agreement expresses 'alarm and concern'

By SETH BORENSTEIN and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — Governments are poised to express "alarm and concern" about global warming already happening and encourage one another to end their use of coal, according to a draft released Wednesday of the final document expected at U.N. climate talks.

The early version of the document circulating at the talks in Glasgow, Scotland, also impresses on countries the need to cut carbon dioxide emissions by about half by 2030 even though pledges so far from governments don't add up to that frequently stated goal.

In a significant move, the draft urges countries to "accelerate the phasing out of coal and subsidies for fossil fuels," but makes no explicit reference to ending the use of oil and gas. There has been a big push among developed nations to shut down coal-fired power plants, which are a major source of heat-trapping

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 25 of 72

gases, but it remains a critical and cheap source of electricity for countries like China and India.

The draft doesn't yet include full agreements on the three major goals that the U.N. set going into the negotiations — to the disappointment of some observers. Those goals are the one on slashing emissions that is mentioned, requiring rich nations to give poorer ones \$100 billion in climate aid and ensuring that half of that money goes to adapting to worsening global warming.

The draft does provide insight, however, into the issues that need to be resolved in the last few days of the conference, which is scheduled to end Friday but may push past that deadline. But a lot of negotiating and decision-making is yet to come since whatever emerges from the meetings has to be unanimously approved by nearly 200 nations attending.

The draft says the world should try to achieve "net-zero (emissions) around mid-century." Doing so requires countries to pump only as much greenhouse gas into the atmosphere as can be absorbed again through natural or artificial means.

It also acknowledges "with regret" that rich nations have failed to live up to the climate aid pledge.

The document reaffirms the goals set in Paris in 2015 of limiting warming to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times, with a more stringent target of trying to keep warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) preferred because the harms of climate change "will be much lower."

Highlighting the challenge of meeting those goals, the document "expresses alarm and concern that human activities have caused around 1.1 C (2 F) of global warming to date and that impacts are already being felt in every region."

Separate draft proposals were also released on other issues being debated at the talks, including rules for international carbon markets and the frequency by which countries have to report on their efforts.

The draft calls on nations that don't have national goals that would fit with the 1.5- or 2-degree limits to come back with stronger targets next year. Depending on how the language is interpreted, the provision could apply to most countries. Analysts at the World Resources Institute counted this element of the draft as a win for vulnerable countries.

"This is crucial language," WRI International Climate Initiative Director David Waskow said Wednesday. "Countries really are expected and are on the hook to do something in that timeframe to adjust."

In a nod to one of the big issues for poorer countries, the draft vaguely "urges" developed nations to compensate developing countries for "loss and damage," a phrase that some rich nations don't like.

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

Prince Harry says he warned Twitter CEO of U.S. Capitol riot

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Prince Harry said he warned the chief executive of Twitter ahead of the Jan. 6 Capitol riots that the social media site was being used to stage political unrest in the U.S. capital.

Harry made the comments Tuesday while he was taking part in an online panel on misinformation in California. He said he made his concerns known via email to Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey the day before the riot.

"Jack and I were emailing each other prior to January 6 where I warned him that his platform was allowing a coup to be staged," Harry said at the RE:WIRED tech forum. "That email was sent the day before and then it happened and I haven't heard from him since."

Twitter declined to comment on Harry's remarks.

Social media sites have come under fire for not doing enough to halt the spread of misinformation and inciteful content, and the storming of the U.S. Capitol by supporters of Donald Trump is often cited as an example of the consequences of allowing hate to fester. Big tech in general has been accused of putting growth and profits ahead of public safety.

Harry accused other social media sites like Facebook of misleading "billions of people" with misinformation

about COVID-19 and climate change. He also targeted YouTube, saying many videos spreading COVID-19 misinformation were left up despite violating the site's own policies.

"And worse, they came to the users via the recommendation tool within YouTube's own algorithm versus anything that the user was actually searching for," he said. "It shows really that it can be stopped but also they didn't want to stop it because it affects their bottom line."

Harry was listed as the co-founder of his nonprofit organization Archewell at the tech forum. Earlier this year he joined the U.S. think tank the Aspen Institute as a commissioner looking into misinformation and disinformation in the media.

Harry and his wife, the Duchess of Sussex, announced in early 2020 that they were quitting royal duties and moving to North America, citing what they said were the unbearable intrusions and racist attitudes of the British media.

As many try living with virus, China keeps up zero tolerance

By HUIZHONG WU Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Wang Lijie planned to spend three days in the Gobi Desert last month to take in the area's famous poplar forest as its trees turned a golden yellow.

Instead, the Beijing resident has been stuck for more than three weeks, much of it in quarantine, after authorities discovered a cluster of COVID-19 cases in a nearby city. He was among more than 9,000 tourists who became trapped in Ejin Banner, a remote part of China's Inner Mongolia region that is in the Gobi.

As vaccination rates rise in many parts of the world and even countries that previously had strict COVID-containment strategies gingerly ease restrictions, China is doubling down on its zero-tolerance policy.

China pioneered that approach — of strict lockdowns, multiple rounds of mass testing and centralized quarantine — during the world's first major outbreak of the coronavirus in Wuhan. And it continues now, even as it says it has fully vaccinated 77% of its 1.4 billion people and started giving booster shots.

"The cost is truly rather high, but compared with not managing it, relaxing (the zero-tolerance policy), then that cost is even higher," Zhong Nanshan, a top government doctor, said in a recent TV interview.

The impact of the restrictions is not widespread — but unpredictable. Unlucky travelers can find themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time, like the tourists in the Gobi Desert, some of whom were bused 18 hours to finish their quarantine in another city. People from Beijing have complained online about leaving for a work trip and not being able to return home.

In a sign of the effect the regulations can have even on thriving businesses, the wildly popular hotpot restaurant chain, Haidilao, decided to shutter 300 outlets in part because of the pandemic and is scaling back a plan to add 1,200 new ones. The strain has been particularly felt in places like Ruili, a city in the southwest that has been locked down repeatedly this year.

But for authorities in Beijing, control over the virus has become a point of pride, a potent tool of propaganda — and proof, they say, of a superior form of governance. They often trumpet their success at keeping deaths relatively low, especially in contrast to the United States, whose COVID-19 response the Foreign Ministry spokesman has called a "total failure."

China has reported about 4,600 deaths — compared to more than 755,000 in the U.S., a country with less than a quarter the population.

"It's becoming part of the official narrative that promotes that approach and links that to the superiority of the Chinese political system," said Yanzhong Huang, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

It's impossible to tell how much popular support the policies have since opinion polls are rare and criticism often censored. When Zhang Wenhong, a doctor in Shanghai who has been compared to top American health official Anthony Fauci, briefly raised the prospect of living with the virus, he was shut down by official criticism and a plagiarism investigation.

But the head of China's Center for Disease Control, Gao Fu, recently suggested the country could open up once it is 85% vaccinated — a sign the government is aware that at least some are eager for that.

In the last three and a half weeks, Wang has had 18 tests for COVID-19. Yet, he isn't complaining. He's

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 27 of 72

able to work remotely and has started a vlog of his daily life, interacting with residents of Inner Mongolia online.

"Regardless of the time you sacrificed, or how much money you spent, in the face of life, in front of health, those things are not worth mentioning," said Wang. "For everyone's health, for society to be more stable, some people have to make sacrifices."

But China's strategy sets it apart, as many countries shift to trying to live with the virus, especially as it continues to mutate and vaccines cannot fully prevent infection. Most notably, New Zealand, which had long pursued a zero-tolerance approach, announced last month a cautious plan to ease restrictions, despite a simmering outbreak. Australia, Thailand and Singapore — all of which imposed severe travel restrictions for much of the pandemic — have also begun to open their borders.

China, by contrast, slashed the number of international passenger flights allowed into the country by 21% last month to 408 flights per week until late March, while increasing the number of cargo flights by 28%.

In Singapore, which started allowing quarantine-free entry to fully vaccinated travelers from certain countries, the number of new cases has jumped to thousands a day from less than 100 before. But most are not winding up in the hospital.

"It's just completely unrealistic to think that you can stay at zero," said Dale Fisher, a professor in the National University of Singapore's medical school.

But even if only a small percentage of infected people end up in hospitals, that could be a problem in China, with its huge population — and would be especially complicated for a government that has staked its reputation on keeping numbers very low.

"I think what the government leaders, and scholars and public health officials are worried about (is), even a small opening may lead to bigger outbreaks on a much larger scale," said Huang, of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Some of the most dramatic examples of China's policy come from Ruili, which is bordered on three sides by Myanmar and has struggled to keep the virus at bay.

Videos of a 21-month-old boy with round cheeks who has been tested 78 times have circulated widely online. The boy's father declined an interview but confirmed he shot the videos, which have inspired empathy, but have also been used by state media as propaganda to show how tough Chinese citizens are.

One Ruili resident, who gave only his last name Xu, said he's lost count of how many tests he's taken. At the height of one lockdown, community volunteers threatened to fine him when he went to throw out the trash.

To leave the city, he must pay for seven days of hotel quarantine — just go to a town 10 kilometers (6 miles) away. The restrictions have devastated his business, which sells jade from Myanmar.

The Ruili government announced in late October that it would give 1,000 yuan (about \$150) to residents who had experienced hardship, and that it would allow small- and medium-sized businesses to defer loan payments.

In the Xinjiang region in China's west, Li Hui has been sealed up for about a month in the city of Yili, where a few cases were discovered in early October.

His mother, who lives in a nearby village, twisted her wrist, but initially could not come into the city for treatment because of the restrictions. After much pleading, he got an ambulance to take her to a hospital a week after her injury. He still can't visit her.

"I don't know how long Yili's residents can endure," he said. "I really can't endure it anymore."

Associated Press researchers Chen Si in Shanghai and Yu Bing in Beijing contributed.

Astroworld emergency operational plan lacked surge protocol

By JUAN A. LOZANO and ROBERT BUMSTED Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Emergency plans for the Astroworld music festival did not include protocols for dangerous crowd surges like the one that unfolded during a rush to see headliner Travis Scott, which left eight

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 28 of 72

people dead and injured hundreds of others, including a 9-year-old boy whose family said was in a coma.

The concert area in Houston where a crush of fans had pressed forward during the rapper's Friday night performance remains largely in place as authorities continue a criminal investigation. More than 20 lawsuits have already been filed, accusing organizers of failing to take simple crowd-control steps or staff properly.

Houston police, along with the fire department, played a key role in safety measures at the sold-out show that drew 50,000 people. The union head of the Houston Fire Department pushed back Tuesday, saying firefighters did not have a presence inside the festival and were not given radios to communicate directly with organizers.

Hundreds of people were treated for injuries on-site and at least 13 were hospitalized. They included a 9-year-old boy who attended the festival with his father but became separated as the crowd became dangerously packed, according to family members.

Bernon Blount said his grandson, Ezra, was in a medically induced coma on Tuesday at a Houston hospital and that the boy's heart, lungs and brain were injured in the melee.

"My son, once he had passed out from the pressure being applied to him during the concert, he passed out and Ezra fell into the crowd," Blount told The Associated Press. "When my son awakened, Ezra wasn't there."

A 56-page event operations plan for the Astroworld music festival included protocols for dangerous scenarios including an active shooter, bomb or terrorist threats and severe weather. But it did not include information on what to do in the event of a crowd surge.

"In any situation where large groups of people are gathering, there is the potential for a civil disturbance/riot that can present a grave risk to the safety and security of employees and guests," the plan said. "The key in properly dealing with this type of scenario is proper management of the crowd from the minute the doors open. Crowd management techniques will be employed to identify potentially dangerous crowd behavior in its early stages in an effort to prevent a civil disturbance/riot."

Experts say crowd surge deaths happen because people are packed into a space so tightly that they are being squeezed and can't get oxygen. It's not usually because they're being trampled.

Authorities have said part of their investigation will include reviewing whether the concert promoter and others behind the festival adhered to the plans submitted.

Marty Lancton, president of the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association, said firefighters had asked festival organizers for a radio so they could be in direct contact with each other. Lancton said firefighters were given a list of cellphone numbers to call during an emergency.

"We don't use cellphones for emergencies. We use radios. We need direct contact because as situations unfold, seconds matter," Lancton said.

He said a group of four firefighters were stationed inside a mobile command van in a nearby parking lot starting at 7 a.m. on Friday. Without direct communication with the festival organizers, the firefighters inside the van monitored six different radio frequencies to keep tabs on what was going on, he said.

Festival organizers had contracted with New York-based ParaDocs to handle all medical services at the festival. A 22-page plan the company submitted to local officials ahead of the festival said it estimated 70,000 attendees — more than the actual number of concertgoers — and planned for a daily staff of more than 80 emergency medics, doctors, registered nurses and supervisors.

ParaDocs said in a statement Tuesday the company had been "prepared for the size of the venue and the expected audience with a trained team of medics and EMT" and that it was cooperating with investigators.

Houston police and fire department investigators have said they are reviewing surveillance video provided by concert promoter Live Nation, as well as dozens of clips from people at the show that were widely shared on social media.

Scott, who founded the Astroworld festival, said he would cover funeral costs for the victims. The dead ranged in age from 14 to 27 and came from Texas, Illinois and Washington state, according to Harris County authorities. They included high schoolers, an aspiring Border Patrol agent and a computer science student.

Astroworld's event operations and emergency medical response protocols filed with Harris County and

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 29 of 72

obtained by the AP states "the potential for multiple alcohol/drug related incidents, possible evacuation needs, and the ever-present threat of a mass casualty situation are identified as key concerns."

The festival was held on a parking lot that is part of NRG Park, a complex that consists of stadiums, an arena and a convention center.

Attorneys representing those injured or killed during the festival were granted access to the event's grounds on Tuesday to inspect and photograph the site. Ryan MacLeod, who is representing several people hurt during the concert, said the area around where Scott had his concert seemed to have no place for people to exit once they went in.

There is a long history of similar catastrophes at concerts, as well as sporting and religious events. In 1979, 11 people were killed as thousands of fans tried to get into Cincinnati's Riverfront Coliseum to see a concert by The Who. Other crowd catastrophes include the deaths of 97 people at a soccer match in Hillsborough Stadium in 1989 in Sheffield, England, and numerous disasters connected with the annual hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia.

Associated Press writer Paul J. Weber in Austin, Texas contributed to this report.

Biden to showcase Baltimore as fertile ground for his agenda

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — When he was in the White House, Donald Trump referred to Baltimore as a "disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess." But for President Joe Biden, the city is the first stop Wednesday in what probably will be a national tour to showcase his agenda.

At the Port of Baltimore, Biden plans to lay out the benefits of the \$1 trillion infrastructure package that Congress passed last week. The president intends to emphasize how the spending can strengthen global supply chains to help lower prices, reduce shortages and add union jobs, according to a White House official.

Biden plans to hold up Baltimore's port as a blueprint on how to reduce shipping bottlenecks that have held back the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. The infrastructure package includes \$17 billion for upgrading ports — an urgent need as a backlog of ships waiting to dock at major transit hubs has fueled inflation and damaged public perceptions of Biden's economic stewardship.

The port in Baltimore is adding container cranes as well as a 50-foot berth where ships can be unloaded. Baltimore's port is also benefiting from grants to upgrade the Howard Street Tunnel, a brick-lined underpass for trains that opened in 1895. The tunnel would be expanded so that shipping containers could be double-stacked on railcars, making it easier to move goods out of the port.

Biden, who consulted with the CEOs of Walmart, Target, FedEx and UPS on Tuesday, plans to emphasize that these investments are part of a national effort to relieve supply chain bottlenecks in ways that can aid broader growth.

His administration also announced new investments to reduce congestion at the Port of Savannah in Georgia, nearly a month after the administration helped broker a deal for the Port of Los Angeles to operate nonstop.

The president has been trying to explain that the port congestion shows just how strong the economic rebound from the pandemic has been. A forecast by the National Retail Federation suggests a record level of imports this year. Yet the solid demand has produced shortages that have contributed to inflation, with prices in September up 5.4% from a year ago.

Nearly 90% of voters in Baltimore, Maryland's largest city at 586,000 people, backed Biden in last year's election. The president last stopped in the city for a CNN town hall on Oct. 21.

Baltimore embodies the complexities of an increasingly diverse America at a time of heated national politics.

Many Americans have seen the poverty, crime, political corruption and vacant row houses on TV shows such as HBO's "The Wire." The unrest following the 2015 death of Freddie Gray from injuries in a police van helped to propel a national movement for respecting the rights and lives of Black Americans.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 30 of 72

But Baltimore also contains deep pockets of wealth and prosperity in what is a microcosm of the broader inequality confronting the nation. There are the mansions of the Guilford neighborhood, elite private schools, celebrated restaurants and the prestige of Johns Hopkins University.

As president, Trump slammed the majority Black city on Twitter frequently, calling it "the WORST IN NATION." But while Trump scorned Baltimore, Biden sees a test case for his agenda that goes beyond the ports. His child tax credits are sending thousands of dollars to families in a city with a child poverty rate north of 30%. Work has begun to renovate and modernize the historic Penn Station, possibly improving rail transit across the Northeast.

A big part of Biden's pitch is that he succeeded on a bipartisan infrastructure deal, whereas Trump failed. Biden said Tuesday a virtual event hosted by the Democratic National Committee that Trump never delivered for the country's cities and ports.

"So it was left to us," he said. "We got the job done."

Not a game show: Ex-TV star at center of Lebanon-Saudi row

By SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — George Kordahi was popular among TV viewers in the Middle East for his dapper charm. He schmoozed with beautiful women, dropped jokes and recited lines of Arabic poetry — all the while weighing in with his political opinions about the region's events.

Now the former host of the game show "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" is Lebanon's information minister, and those opinions have landed Kordahi at the center of his country's worst-ever crisis with Saudi Arabia.

Kordahi said he won't resign or apologize to the Saudis, for comments he made before he was minister even though Lebanon desperately needs Riyadh's financial backing. Instead, the former entertainer known for his smooth style is relying on the backing of Saudi Arabia's nemesis, Lebanon's powerful Iran-backed Hezbollah militia.

Kordahi became a politician only late in life, joining the Lebanese Cabinet in September at the age of 71. But he had plenty to say about politics in his years as an entertainer.

Appearing on a Lebanese talk show called Talk of the Town in 2017, he handed a red rose to each of the four women sharing the stage with him. The female host gushed that viewers can see for themselves how gallant he is.

Seated between the three daughters of Lebanon's president, Kordahi said it was his luck and privilege to be among such "glorious women."

Yet alongside the compliments, he expressed hardline views on limiting free expression. Commenting on domestic affairs, he said an information minister should regulate social media, rein in what he said were smear campaigns and act as a censor instead of the security agencies.

The current diplomatic crisis goes back to comments he made Aug. 5, a month before he became information minister. In the remarks, which were recorded and aired later, he defended Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels. This angered Saudi Arabia, which has been leading a military coalition fighting the Houthis in a brutal and deadlocked war in Yemen.

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries have withdrawn their ambassadors from Lebanon in protest over the comments. The diplomatic spat is putting hundreds of millions of dollars in trade and assistance from the oil-rich nations at risk at a time of dire need for Lebanon.

The tensions have exposed the depth of Lebanon's problem with its former ally Saudi Arabia. Hezbollah increasingly dominates national politics, moving Lebanon further into Iran's orbit, Riyadh's arch rival.

Kordahi's predicament also underscores the price of political aspirations in the Middle East's polarized atmosphere, particularly since the divisive 2011 Arab Spring uprisings.

As host of the "millionaire" show launched in 2000, Kordahi appealed to audiences from Morocco to Oman with his guttural voice and use of the Arabic language in a way that transcended local dialects.

He peppered his show with references to poetry, literature and the Quran — a sure way to the hearts of many young Muslims, especially coming from Kordahi, who is Christian.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 31 of 72

At the time, the second Palestinian uprising dominated the news. Kordahi's show took on the Palestinian cause, an issue that united Arabs. In one episode, the contestants were the mothers of three Palestinians killed in the violence. They ended up winning \$100,000.

In 2011, the anti-government protests of the Arab Spring spread across the region.

Kordahi chose to side with Syria's Bashar Assad and its Lebanese ally, Hezbollah, losing many fans and financial supporters in the process.

During a lecture in Damascus in 2011, Kordahi said the protests against Assad were "a foreign conspiracy" and praised the long-time ruler as a real reformer. At the time, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf nations were backing Assad's armed opposition.

The Saudi-owned MBC channel dismissed Kordahi as he was preparing a new show, posting on its website that it was out of respect for the Syrian people. Kordahi left the network for posts in Lebanese media, including a stint in one allied with Hezbollah.

Kordahi, who also has a perfume and clothing line in his name, began toying with a career in politics. In 2013, he was named for parliament on a list allied with Michel Aoun, the current Lebanese president and at the time the head of the largest Christian party. The elections never took place.

That year, Hezbollah sent troops to Syria to back Assad's embattled forces in the border province of Homs. In an interview on Syrian TV, Kordahi praised Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, saying "I take pride in him."

When he finally entered Lebanese politics, Marada, a Christian party allied with Syria and Hezbollah, named him to the post of information minister.

In his first comment as minister, he appealed to the Lebanese media to refrain from hosting analysts who warn of doomsday scenarios in Lebanon. Many perceived it as a call for censorship.

Attempts to reach Kordahi were unsuccessful.

When the crisis with Saudi Arabia erupted, he first tweeted that his comments intended no offense. Then he held a press conference. "Lebanon should not remain subject to extortion from anyone, any country or any ambassadors," he said.

To his backers, Kordahi is a symbol of national dignity, freedom of expression and resistance to Gulf interference in Lebanese affairs.

Posters of Kordahi have appeared in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen and in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, with the words: "Yes George, the war in Yemen is absurd."

Hassan Fadlallah, a Hezbollah lawmaker, said Kordahi did nothing wrong. "Some people with no dignity and no national honor are exaggerating, saying this will ruin the country."

To his critics, his comments and refusal to resign are reckless. "The public is paying the price of people who named themselves officials and show no responsibility," tweeted Lebanese singer Elissa.

Public figures from the Gulf called Kordahi ungrateful and even called for firing his daughter, who works at MBC.

Saudi officials said the problem is bigger than Kordahi's comments — rooted in a system that has allied itself with Iran. Mediators suggested his resignation is a first step toward reconciliation.

Salem Zahran, a political analyst, said Kordahi inadvertently stumbled into a fight not of his making. He suggested the Saudis were lashing out because they are frustrated over the stalled war in Yemen, particularly as Houthi rebels advance in the strategic province of Marib.

"It is not his fault. Destiny put him in this reality," Zahran said. "Every Lebanese is born a politician until proven otherwise."

Loss of glaciers will hurt tourism, power supplies and more

By VICTORIA MILKO AP Science Writer

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — From the southern border of Germany to the highest peaks in Africa, glaciers around the world have served as moneymaking tourist attractions, natural climate records for scientists and beacons of beliefs for indigenous groups.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 32 of 72

With many glaciers rapidly melting because of climate change, the disappearance of the ice sheets is sure to deal a blow to countries and communities that have relied on them for generations — to make electricity, to draw visitors and to uphold ancient spiritual traditions.

The ice masses that formed over millennia from compacted snow have been melting since around the time of the Industrial Revolution, a process that has accelerated in recent years.

The retreat can be seen in Africa, on the border of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the jagged peaks of the Rwenzori Mountains jut into the sky above a green jungle. The peaks once held more than 40 glaciers, but fewer than half of them remained by 2005, and the melting continues. Experts believe the last of the mountains' glaciers could disappear within 20 years.

The disappearance means trouble for land-locked Uganda, which gets nearly half of its power from hydroelectricity, including the power plants that rely on steady water flow from the Rwenzori glaciers.

"That hydroelectric power runs much better on more regular flows than it does peak and troughs," said Richard Taylor, a professor of hydrogeology at the University College in London.

A continent away, on the southern edge of Germany's border with Austria, only half a square kilometer (124 acres) of ice remains on five glaciers combined. Experts estimate that is 88% less than the amount of ice that existed around 1850, and that the remaining glaciers will melt in 10 to 15 years.

That spells bad news for the regional tourism industry that relies on the glaciers, said Christoph Mayer, a senior scientist in the geodesy and glaciology group at the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Munich.

"At the moment, tourist agencies can advertise, 'You can visit some kind of the highest mountains in Germany with glaciers. You can walk on the glaciers,'" Mayer said. "People living around these regions really live from tourism ... there will be an impact on them if they lose these glaciers."

The same issue faces Tanzania, where experts estimate that Mt. Kilimanjaro — the highest mountain in Africa and one of the country's main tourism attractions — has lost about 90% of its glacial ice to melting and to sublimation, a process in which solid ice transitions directly to vapor without becoming a liquid first. Travel and tourism accounted for 10.7% of the country's GDP in 2019.

There are intangible losses for many indigenous communities that reside within sight of glaciers as well, said Rainer Prinz, a glaciologist at the University of Innsbruck in Austria.

In the history of the local populations, "the ice in the mountains is the seat of god. It has a very spiritual meaning," he said, discussing communities near Mt. Kilimanjaro. "Losing the glaciers there would also impact spiritual life, I think."

The layers of ice that make up a glacier can be tens of thousands of years old and contain year-by-year information about past climate conditions, including atmospheric composition, temperature variations and types of vegetation that were present. Researchers take long tube-like ice cores from glaciers to "read" these layers.

During a 2010 research trip to the Carstensz glacier in Indonesia's western Papua province, oceanographer Dwi Raden Susanto was excited to be part of a team that took a core sample from the remote glaciers. But once the sample was taken, Susanto said, scientists quickly realized the rapid decline of the ice allowed them to get records dating back only to the 1960s.

"It is sad because it's not only a loss of local or national heritage for Indonesia, but this is also the loss of climate heritage for the world," Susanto said.

As glaciers vanish, experts say, local ecosystems will begin to change as well— something already being studied at the Humboldt Glacier in Venezuela, which could disappear within the next two decades.

Experts warn that the fate of smaller glaciers offers a warning for larger glaciers.

For example, while many of the world's smaller glaciers no longer serve as the main freshwater source for countries, some larger glaciers still do, including in Peru, which lost nearly 30% of its glacier mass between 2000 and 2016, said Lauren Vargo, a research fellow at the Antarctic Research Centre in Wellington, New Zealand.

"Those communities are much more dependent on glaciers for having water for their communities," she

said.

Increased melt will also lead to rising seas and changes in weather patterns — something that is bound to affect society on a global level, Mayer said.

“The disappearance of these small glaciers is really a warning sign of what is coming in the future,” he said. It “should make you aware that something is going on, which is not just peanuts.”

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Study: Fox viewers more likely to believe COVID falsehoods

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — People who trust Fox News Channel and other media outlets that appeal to conservatives are more likely to believe falsehoods about COVID-19 and vaccines than those who primarily go elsewhere for news, a study has found.

While the Kaiser Family Foundation study released this week found the clear ties between news outlets that people trusted and the amount of misinformation they believe, it took no stand on whether those attitudes specifically came from what they saw there.

“It may be because the people who are self-selecting these organizations believe (the misinformation) going in,” said Liz Hamel, vice president and director of public opinion and survey research at Kaiser.

Kaiser polled people on whether or not they believed seven widely-circulated untruths about the virus, among them that the government is exaggerating the number of deaths attributable to the coronavirus, hiding reports of deaths caused by vaccines or that the vaccines can cause infertility, contain a microchip or can change DNA.

For people who most trusted network or local television news, NPR, CNN or MSNBC, between 11% and 16% said they believed four or more of those untrue statements, or weren’t sure about what was true.

For Fox News viewers, 36% either believed in or were unsure about four or more false statements, Kaiser said. It was 46% for Newsmax viewers and 37% for those who said they trusted One America Network News.

The most widely-believed falsehood is about the government exaggerating COVID deaths. Kaiser said 60% of Americans either believe that or said they didn’t know whether or not it was true.

A sharp partisan divide on trust in news outlets has been evident for years, and Kaiser said this extends to COVID-19 news. Kaiser found, for example, that 65% of Democrats say they believe what they hear about COVID-19 on CNN, while only 17% of Republicans do. Roughly half of Republicans believe what they hear about the coronavirus on Fox, while only 18% of Democrats do.

The extent to which COVID-19 has become a political battleground is evident nearly every day. Most recently, some Republicans complained about “government propaganda” after the “Sesame Street” Muppet character Big Bird tweeted about getting vaccinated.

A Fox News spokeswoman would not comment directly on Kaiser’s findings on Tuesday, but pointed to several network personalities who have spoken out in favor of getting vaccinated. Most recently it was Neil Cavuto, a multiple sclerosis sufferer who came down with the disease but had a mild case because he was vaccinated. He pleaded with viewers to get the shot: “Life is too short to be an ass,” he said.

Yet vaccine and mandate skepticism has been a steady drumbeat on several Fox shows.

Newsmax issued a statement that the network “strongly supports the COVID vaccine, has encouraged its viewers to get the vaccine and has on air only medical experts that support the vaccine.”

The company last week took its White House correspondent, Emerald Robinson, off the air for an investigation after she tweeted: “Dear Christians: The vaccines contain a bioluminescent marker called Luciferase so that you can be tracked.” She remained grounded on Tuesday.

Hamel said Kaiser’s findings on attitudes of people who have not been vaccinated illustrate a real challenge faced by public health authorities. Their distrust of COVID-19 news ran wide and deep: the highest

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 34 of 72

percentage of unvaccinated people who said they trusted what an outlet said on the topic was the 30% who cited Fox.

"The one thing I did not realize going in was how little trust there was across news sources among unvaccinated people," she said.

Among social media outlets like Facebook and Twitter, the trust numbers were particularly small. But Hamel said that doesn't mean social media hasn't had a big impact in spreading stories that sow doubt about the vaccines.

Kaiser's study was conducted between Oct. 14-24 in a random telephone sample of 1,519 American adults.

US food banks struggle to feed hungry amid surging prices

By JANIE HAR Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — U.S. food banks already dealing with increased demand from families sidelined by the pandemic now face a new challenge — surging food prices and supply chain issues walloping the nation.

The higher costs and limited availability mean some families may get smaller servings or substitutions for staples such as peanut butter, which costs nearly double what it did a year ago. As holidays approach, some food banks worry they won't have enough stuffing and cranberry sauce for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

"What happens when food prices go up is food insecurity for those who are experiencing it just gets worse," said Katie Fitzgerald, chief operating officer of Feeding America, a nonprofit organization that coordinates the efforts of more than 200 food banks across the country.

Food banks that expanded to meet unprecedented demand brought on by the pandemic won't be able to absorb forever food costs that are two to three times what they used to be, she said,

Supply chain disruptions, lower inventory and labor shortages have all contributed to increased costs for charities on which tens of millions of people in the U.S. rely on for nutrition. Donated food is more expensive to move because transportation costs are up, and bottlenecks at factories and ports make it difficult to get goods of all kinds.

If a food bank has to swap out for smaller sizes of canned tuna or make substitutions in order to stretch their dollars, Fitzgerald said, it's like adding "insult to injury" to a family reeling from uncertainty.

In the prohibitively expensive San Francisco Bay Area, the Alameda County Community Food Bank in Oakland is spending an extra \$60,000 a month on food. Combined with increased demand, it is now shelling out \$1 million a month to distribute 4.5 million pounds (2 million kilograms) of food, said Michael Altfest, the Oakland food bank's director of community engagement.

Pre-pandemic, it was spending a quarter of the money for 2.5 million pounds (1.2 million kilograms) of food.

The cost of canned green beans and peaches is up nearly 9% for them, Altfest said; canned tuna and frozen tilapia up more than 6%; and a case of 5-pound frozen chickens for holiday tables is up 13%. The price for dry oatmeal has climbed 17%.

On Wednesdays, hundreds of people line up outside a church in east Oakland for its weekly food giveaway. Shiloh Mercy House feeds about 300 families on those days, far less than the 1,100 families it was nourishing at the height of the pandemic, said Jason Bautista, the charity's event manager. But he's still seeing new people every week.

"And a lot of people are just saying they can't afford food," he said. "I mean they have the money to buy certain things, but it's just not stretching."

Families can also use a community market Shiloh opened in May. Refrigerators contain cartons of milk and eggs while sacks of hamburger buns and crusty baguettes sit on shelves.

Oakland resident Sonia Lujan-Perez, 45, picked up chicken, celery, onions bread and and potatoes — enough to supplement a Thanksgiving meal for herself, 3-year-old daughter and 18-year-old son. The state of California pays her to care for daughter Melanie, who has special needs, but it's not enough with monthly rent at \$2,200 and the cost of milk, citrus, spinach and chicken so high.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 35 of 72

"That is wonderful for me because I will save a lot of money," she said, adding that the holiday season is rough with Christmas toys for the children.

It's unclear to what extent other concurrent government aid, including an expanded free school lunch program in California and an increase in benefits for people in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, will offset rising food prices. An analysis by the Urban Institute think tank in Washington, D.C. found that while most households are expected to receive sufficient maximum benefits for groceries, a gap still exists in 21 percent of U.S. rural and urban counties.

Bryan Nichols, vice president of sales for Transnational Foods Inc., which delivers to more than 100 food banks associated with Feeding America, said canned foods from Asia— such as fruit cocktail, pears and mandarin oranges— have been stuck overseas because of a lack of shipping container space.

Issues in supply seem to be improving and prices stabilizing, but he expects costs to stay high after so many people got out of the shipping business during the pandemic. "An average container coming from Asia prior to COVID would cost about \$4,000. Today, that same container is about \$18,000," he said.

At the Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado in Colorado Springs, CEO Lynne Telford says the cost for a truckload of peanut butter —40,000 pounds (18,100 kilograms)— has soared 80% from June 2019 to \$51,000 in August. Mac and cheese is up 19% from a year ago and the wholesale cost of ground beef has increased 5% in three months. They're spending more money to buy food to make up for waning donations and there's less to choose from.

The upcoming holidays worry her. For one thing, the donation cost to buy a frozen turkey has increased from \$10 to \$15 per bird.

"The other thing is that we're not getting enough holiday food, like stuffing and cranberry sauce. So we're having to supplement with other kinds of food, which you know, makes us sad," said Telford, whose food bank fed more than 200,000 people last year, distributing 25 million pounds (11.3 million kilograms) of food.

Alameda County Community Food Bank says it is set for Thanksgiving, with cases of canned cranberry and boxes of mashed potatoes among items stacked in its expanded warehouse. Food resourcing director Wilken Louie ordered eight truckloads of frozen 5-pound chickens—which translates into more than 60,000 birds—to give away free, as well as half-turkeys available at cost.

For that, Martha Hasal is grateful.

"It's going to be an expensive Thanksgiving, turkey is not going to cost like the way it was," said Hasal as she loaded up on cauliflower and onions on behalf of the Bay Area American Indian Council. "And they're not giving out turkey. So thank God they're giving out the chicken."

AP reporters Terence Chea in Oakland and Ashraf Khalil in Washington contributed to this story.

US-funded child care aid nearing reality with Biden bill

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Women — and some men — in Congress have been fighting for government child care assistance for almost 80 years. With President Joe Biden's \$1.85 trillion social services package, they are as close as they have ever been to winning.

And it's not just child care subsidies. Biden's bill making its way through Congress would put the U.S. on course to providing free prekindergarten, paid family leave to care for children or sick loved ones, and an enhanced child tax credit in a massive expansion of federal support to working families.

Taken together, it's Democrats' answer to President Richard Nixon's veto of a 1971 child care bill and the earlier scrapping of World War II-era child care centers, potentially providing families with more government help than ever as many struggle in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I think COVID really illustrated to people how broken our child care system is in a way that people finally understood," said Sen. Tammy Duckworth, an Illinois Democrat with two young children.

Biden's big bill combines a series of long-sought Democratic goals to shore up families that have been tried before only to run into resistance, as they have again today, with Republicans in lockstep against

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 36 of 72

the package.

The child care subsidies would attempt to guarantee that most Americans don't spend more than 7% of their income on child care.

And while Congress approved the Family and Medical Leave Act nearly 30 years ago to guarantee time off, the U.S. remains among a handful of wealthy countries that do not offer paid time off to care for children or sick loved ones. Biden's bill would change that.

All told, the federal government's new programs for paid parental leave, child care and an expanded child tax credit "would be pretty major, if not landmark, change for social policy and expanding its reach into the depths of how families cope in the modern economy," said Sarah Binder, a political science professor at George Washington University.

Long before child care started eating up a sizable share of a family's income and the COVID-19 crisis pushed women from the workforce to care for kids at home, Congress tried to lower the costs of child raising in the U.S.

Some 80 years ago, Rep. Mary Norton of New Jersey — she was known as "Battling Mary," the first female Democrat elected to the House — was instrumental in securing money for child care centers during World War II as mothers went off to work. But the program was terminated soon after the war ended and never resurrected.

A quarter of a century later, Nixon invoked both communism and traditional female roles when he vetoed bipartisan legislation to federally fund child care, saying it was "radical" and had "family-weakening implications."

"We're still fighting for it," says House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro, a Connecticut Democrat who has been pushing for child care subsidies and other programs to help families since she was a Senate aide in the 1980s. "You don't have a functioning economy without a strong childcare system. You can't do it, OK? Because women are the anchor in the economy."

With Republicans opposed, Democrats are trying to pass Biden's bill on their own in what has become a messy, grueling process. One conservative Democrat, Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, is not fully on board with parental leave and some other proposals, leaving their final inclusion uncertain.

Like Nixon 50 years ago, Republicans worry that providing an expanded federal safety net for American households with children is a slippery slope toward a socialist-style system.

Republicans say the programs' costs— almost \$400 billion for the child care and preschool piece alone — are far too high and would create more government intrusion into families' lives.

Echoing Nixon's words, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell called Biden's approach "radical" in a speech on the Senate floor last week. McConnell said Biden's administration "wants to insert itself into the most intimate family decisions and tell parents how to care for their toddlers."

But the women who have championed family-friendly federal policies, many of whom ran for office and were elected in part because of their experience as parents, say times have changed.

Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., who was first elected three decades ago and recalls voters asking her what she would do with her children if she won, says the country has evolved since Nixon suggested communal support would upend the traditional family structure.

"There's more women in Congress, there's more women at work, there's more families who have to have that income in order to be able to put food on the table, send their kids to college," Murray says.

The House bill would phase in the new child care entitlement program over three years, starting immediately for prekindergarten for families who earn their state's median income. Enrolled families would receive subsidies to use at participating facilities, which could range from child care centers to home day cares.

The program would eventually expand to families that earn 250% of that median income by 2025, giving the child care industry time to build up after the pandemic forced many layoffs and closures.

States would decide whether they want to participate in the program. Some advocates for the child care policy have concerns that Republican states will opt out of for political reasons, meaning fewer Americans will have access to it.

The child care provision is closely tied to the universal preschool option, and states would be encouraged to enroll in both.

Duckworth said it became clear to her that the debate has changed, especially post-pandemic, after her office was approached by restaurant owners and other businesses in her state — “not exactly a liberal group of folks” — who said childcare assistance was crucial to getting their employees to return to work.

“Child care is a central part of our economic infrastructure,” said Rep. Katherine Clark, D-Mass., the assistant speaker who helped broker the care provisions.

While the paid leave portion may not make it through a Senate evenly divided between the parties where every vote is needed, Democrats say all the elements together would be transformative not only for women, but for all families.

Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, says the United States has historically not been helpful to women, but has a chance to change course.

“There’s a lot of rhetoric about families and all, but it’s B.S.,” Hirono said. “So now, we’re finally at a precipice where we can provide this kind of support.”

Federal judge refuses Trump request to block Jan. 6 records

By NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge rejected former President Donald Trump’s request to block the release of documents to the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol riot.

In denying a preliminary injunction, U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan said Tuesday that Congress had a strong public interest in obtaining records that could shed light on a violent insurrection mounted by the former president’s supporters. She added that President Joe Biden had the authority to waive executive privilege over the documents despite Trump’s assertions otherwise.

Barring a court order, the National Archives plans to turn over Trump’s records to the committee by Friday. But Trump’s lawyers swiftly promised an appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The case will likely eventually head to the U.S. Supreme Court.

“At bottom, this is a dispute between a former and incumbent President,” Chutkan wrote. “And the Supreme Court has already made clear that in such circumstances, the incumbent’s view is accorded greater weight.”

Trump “does not acknowledge the deference owed” to Biden’s judgment as the current president, Chutkan said. She noted examples of past presidents declining to assert executive privilege and rejected what she said was Trump’s claim that executive privilege “exists in perpetuity.”

“Presidents are not kings, and Plaintiff is not President,” she said.

According to an earlier court filing from the archives, the records include call logs, drafts of remarks and speeches and handwritten notes from Trump’s then-chief of staff, Mark Meadows. There are also copies of talking points from then-press secretary Kayleigh McEnany and “a draft Executive Order on the topic of election integrity,” the National Archives has said.

Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., who chairs the House committee, said in a statement after the ruling that the records are crucial for understanding the attack and “in my view, there couldn’t be a more compelling public interest than getting answers about an attack on our democracy.”

On CNN, Thompson said Trump should stop behaving like a “spoiled brat.”

The nine-member House committee is investigating not just Trump’s conduct on Jan. 6 — when he told a rally to “fight like hell” shortly before rioters overran law enforcement — but his efforts in the months before the riot to challenge election results or obstruct a peaceful transfer of power. The committee has interviewed more than 150 witnesses and issued more than 30 subpoenas, including ones announced Tuesday to McEnany and former top adviser Stephen Miller. It is unclear, so far, whether the lawmakers will eventually call Trump to testify.

Trump has repeatedly attacked the committee’s work and continued to promote unfounded conspiracy theories about widespread fraud in the election, despite the fact that Biden’s win was certified by all 50

states and his claims have been rebuked by courts across the country.

In suing to block the National Archives from turning over documents, Trump called the House panel's request a "vexatious, illegal fishing expedition" that was "untethered from any legitimate legislative purpose." Allowing the House to get access to his records would also damage executive privilege for future presidents, Trump's lawyers argued.

But Chutkan said the "the public interest lies in permitting — not enjoining — the combined will of the legislative and executive branches to study the events that led to and occurred on January 6, and to consider legislation to prevent such events from ever occurring again."

Trump spokesperson Taylor Budowich tweeted late Tuesday that the case "was destined to be decided by the Appellate Courts." He added that "Trump remains committed to defending the Constitution & the Office of the Presidency, & will be seeing this process through."

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

House Jan. 6 panel subpoenas 10 former White House aides

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, ERIC TUCKER and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House investigators issued subpoenas to 10 former officials who worked for Donald Trump at the end of his presidency, an effort to find out more about what the president was doing and saying as his supporters violently stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 in a bid to overturn his defeat.

The subpoenas issued Tuesday, which included demands for documents and testimony from former senior adviser Stephen Miller and former press secretary Kayleigh McEnany, bring the House panel tasked with investigating the insurrection even closer inside Trump's inner circle — and closer to Trump himself. They come a day after the committee subpoenaed six other associates of the former president who spread mistruths about widespread fraud in the election and strategized about how to thwart President Joe Biden's victory.

"The Select Committee wants to learn every detail of what went on in the White House on January 6th and in the days beforehand," said Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson, the Democratic chairman of the panel. "We need to know precisely what role the former president and his aides played in efforts to stop the counting of the electoral votes and if they were in touch with anyone outside the White House attempting to overturn the outcome of the election."

Later Tuesday, a federal judge rejected Trump's request to block the National Archives from releasing White House documents concerning the Jan. 6 insurrection to the House committee. Trump has filed notice that he will appeal the ruling, and it is likely to eventually reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

It is so far unclear if the Jan. 6 panel will subpoena Trump, though the committee's leaders have said they haven't ruled anything out. The panel has now issued more than 30 subpoenas, including to White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, longtime ally Steve Bannon and others who were close to the former president.

The House later voted to hold Bannon in contempt after he said he would not comply, and the Justice Department is still deciding whether to prosecute the case. Meadows and others have "engaged" with the committee, according to lawmakers, but may still be held in contempt if they do not fully comply.

The panel has already interviewed more than 150 witnesses, and lawmakers have said they want to not only probe the attack itself but its origins — namely the lies that Trump spread about massive voter fraud even though all 50 states had certified Biden's win and courts across the country rejected his claims. The violent mob of Trump's supporters echoed those false claims as they pushed past police, broke through windows and doors and threatened lawmakers who were certifying the election that day.

Trump continued to push the false narrative in a statement responding to the subpoenas, saying the committee "is studying the PROTEST when it should be studying the Fraudulent Election that led to the protest."

The 10 former officials who were subpoenaed Tuesday either could not be reached or did not immedi-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 39 of 72

ately respond to requests for comment.

The panel said Tuesday that it had issued subpoenas for Miller, who Thompson said had "participated in efforts to spread false information about alleged voter fraud" and McEnany, who the committee said was present at times with Trump as he watched the insurrection and spoke at a rally that morning.

The panel is also demanding documents and testimony from Keith Kellogg, former Vice President Mike Pence's national security adviser, writing in the subpoena that it wants to hear from him because "you were with President Trump as the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol unfolded and have direct information about the former president's statements about, and reactions to, the Capitol insurrection." His subpoena says that according to several accounts, Kellogg urged Trump to send out a tweet aimed at helping to control the crowd.

Other former Trump White House aides subpoenaed Tuesday include personal assistant Nicholas Luna, who the panel said may have witnessed a phone call from Trump to Pence pressuring him not to certify Biden's win; special assistant Molly Michael, who the committee said sent information about election fraud to "various individuals at the direction of President Trump"; deputy assistant Ben Williamson, a senior adviser to Meadows; deputy chief of staff Christopher Liddell, who was in the White House on Jan. 6 and considered resigning, according to reports; and personnel director John McEntee and special assistant Cassidy Hutchinson, who the committee said were also in the White House that day and at the rally.

The panel also subpoenaed former Justice Department official Kenneth Klukowski, who Thompson said communicated with Jeffrey Clark, a former assistant attorney general, about a letter Clark had drafted urging officials in Georgia to delay certification of the voting results in that state because of purported fraud.

The letter said Clark and Klukowski spoke before a Jan. 3 meeting at the White House in which Trump openly contemplated replacing acting attorney general Jeffrey Rosen with Clark. Rosen and other leaders at the department had pushed back on the false fraud claims.

The committee has also subpoenaed Clark, who appeared for a deposition last week but declined to testify, partly based on Trump's claims that documents the committee is trying to obtain from the National Archives are privileged. Trump has sued to shield the documents from the panel but Biden has so far said he will allow the release of most of them.

On Monday, the panel issued subpoenas to Bill Stepien, manager of Trump's 2020 reelection campaign; Jason Miller, a senior adviser to the campaign; Angela McCallum, national executive assistant to the campaign; John Eastman, a lawyer who advised the former president; Michael Flynn, a former national security adviser to Trump who talked with Trump ahead of the insurrection; and Bernard Kerik, who the committee says paid for hotel rooms that served as command centers ahead of Jan. 6.

People magazine names Paul Rudd as 2021's Sexiest Man Alive

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr. AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Paul Rudd has been crowned as 2021's Sexiest Man Alive by People magazine.

Rudd, known for his starring roles in Marvel's "Ant-Man" films, "This is 40" and "Clueless," was revealed as this year's winner Tuesday night on CBS' "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert."

The actor tells the magazine in an issue out Friday that some will be surprised by him receiving the honor. "I do have an awareness, enough to know that when people hear that I'd be picked for this, they would say, 'What?'" he said. "This is not false humility. There are so many people that should get this before me."

But of course, Rudd won't turn down the honor. He jokingly hopes the new title will grant him an invitation to "those sexy dinners" with George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Michael B. Jordan — all recent winners.

Other past honorees include John Legend, Dwayne Johnson, Chris Hemsworth, Idris Elba, Adam Levine, Channing Tatum and David Beckham.

"I figure I'll be on a lot more yachts," Rudd said. "I'm excited to expand my yachting life. And I'll probably try to get better at brooding in really soft light. I like to ponder. I think this is going to help me become more inward and mysterious. And I'm looking forward to that."

Rudd's first major breakout performance came in the 1995's "Clueless," a cult classic starring Alicia Sil-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 40 of 72

verstone. He also made his mark in several comedies such as the "Anchorman" films, "The 40 Year Old Virgin" and "This is 40," a spin-off from the comedy "Knocked Up."

The actor reached superstar status in a slew of Marvel superhero films including "Ant-Man," "Ant-Man and the Wasp," "Captain America: Civil War" and "Avengers: Endgame." He'll star in the upcoming "Ghostbusters: Afterlife" and appear alongside Will Ferrell in the new Apple TV+ series "The Shrink Next Door," which premieres Nov. 12.

Rudd, 52, said his wife was initially "stupefied" after he told her the news. The couple has two kids, 17-year-old Jack and Darby, who is 12.

"But you know she was very sweet about it," he said of his wife, Julie, of 18 years. "After some giggling and shock, she said, 'Oh, they got it right.' And that was very sweet. She was probably not telling the truth, but what's she going to say?"

Rudd expects his circle of friends to give him "so much grief." He won't blame them, because he would do the same.

"I mean, I'm going to lean into it hard. I'm going to own this," he said. "I'm not going to try to be like 'Oh, I'm so modest.' I'm getting business cards made. But all of my friends will destroy me, and I expect them to, and that's why they're my friends."

Colombian leader sees opportunity in cannabis, but not coca

By JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Colombian President Iván Duque has high hopes for the medical marijuana industry in a country that has been waging a costly war against a different drug — cocaine — for decades.

But in an interview with The Associated Press during a visit to Israel, he said the promotion of cannabis for medical and other purposes is "a different story" than cocaine, which among other things is terrible for the environment.

"In order to plant one hectare of coca in Colombia, two hectares of tropical jungle are destroyed," he said. "The other thing is that to produce cocaine you have a very high carbon footprint. You use a lot of gasoline, a lot of cement," and processing chemicals get dumped in the forest.

There's also the murderous drug kingpins — one of whom was nabbed just last month on a U.S. warrant— cartel violence and the scattered remnants of the FARC rebel group who have fought on despite a landmark peace agreement reached five years ago.

But fresh from the U.N. climate summit, where Colombia pledged to be carbon-neutral by 2050, and the opening of a Colombian innovation center in Jerusalem, Duque was keen to discuss how Colombia and Israel — self-styled "start-up nations" — could collaborate to make the world a better place.

"Innovation is probably the solution to most of our problems. Even those created by innovation, they will still need to be solved by innovation," said Avi Hasson, the CEO of Start-Up Nation Central, which connects governments and international businesses to Israeli entrepreneurs, and which hosted Duque for a panel discussion on Tuesday.

One opportunity is cannabis.

In July, Colombia lifted an export ban on dried cannabis flower. Duque said his country is looking to harness derivatives for everything from medical treatments and food production to cosmetics. "We're seeing a lot of international investment coming to Colombia," said Duque, who will be replaced following a presidential election next year.

Israel might be able to lend a hand. Medical marijuana was legalized years ago, and more than 100,000 Israelis — out of a population of over 9 million — are licensed users. Israel approved marijuana exports in 2019, becoming only the third country to do so.

Israel boasts more than 110 cannabis tech companies, mostly in the health sector, that have attracted nearly \$350 million in investment since 2015, according to Start-Up Nation Central. Israel is also among the largest importers of medical cannabis flower.

Duque says there's a difference between harnessing beneficial components from drugs and lifting prohibition completely.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 41 of 72

"We're not using cannabis for recreational purposes. We're using it for medical purposes," he said.

For Duque, who fashions himself a law-and-order conservative, standing up for cannabis in a country that has been the linchpin of the U.S.-led drug war for decades is more than a little out of character. He took office decrying how drugs "destroy" families and as president signed a decree banning possession of drugs in public spaces, challenging a ruling by the nation's top court that allows Colombians to carry small amounts of marijuana, cocaine and other drugs.

He's also committed to resuming aerial eradication of coca crops that are behind a record surge in cocaine production, although legal challenges and protests by farmers in remote areas have prevented him from realizing that goal.

In the years since the peace deal, newly disarmed rebels have abandoned the remote areas where they sheltered for decades under the jungle canopy. Cattle ranchers, loggers, miners, subsistence farmers and criminal groups have moved into the void, according to a report earlier this month from the International Crisis Group.

Colombia lost 747,000 hectares (2,885 square miles) of forest during the four years that followed the 2016 peace deal — an area about 10 times the size of New York City, according to the National Institute for Environmental Studies. That compares to approximately 562,000 hectares (2,170 square miles) of forest loss in the four years leading up to 2016, when many parts of the country where the FARC was active were off limits.

Colombia is also among the most dangerous countries in the world for environment defenders. Some 65 were killed in 2020 alone, accounting for nearly a third of the global total of 227, according to Global Witness, a human rights group.

Duque defended his record on the environment, noting that he created the country's first national anti-deforestation council, supported a bill increasing sanctions for environmental crime and has committed to zero deforestation by 2030.

At the U.N. climate change summit in Glasgow, he promised to turn 30% of the country's land into protected areas by the end of his administration. National parks and government-run reserves currently make up around 15% of the country's territory.

He blamed the attacks on environmental defenders on the cartels, including the one led by Dairo Antonio Úsuga, a drug lord known as Otoniel whom Duque has likened to Pablo Escobar.

"One of the most dangerous criminals in the world, and especially in Colombia, who had ordered the killing of environmental leaders, was Otoniel, the kingpin we captured two weeks ago," he said.

Associated Press writers Joshua Goodman in Miami and Manuel Rueda in Bogota, Colombia contributed.

EXPLAINER: Does Kyle Rittenhouse need to testify?

By TODD RICHMOND Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Defense attorneys typically encourage their clients to testify in self-defense cases. But Kyle Rittenhouse's murder trial is anything but typical and it's still unclear whether the Illinois man will take the stand to explain to jurors what he was thinking when he shot three people during a protest in Wisconsin last year.

Rittenhouse's attorney, Mark Richards, told the jury during opening statements last week that they would hear from Rittenhouse himself about how protesters were carrying rocks. But the witnesses that prosecutors have called to the stand since then have frequently made Rittenhouse's case for him, testifying that the men he shot were the aggressors and that Rittenhouse told people in the immediate aftermath he had no choice but to pull the trigger.

Putting Rittenhouse on the stand now could risk hurting more than helping his case, legal experts say. "(The state's witnesses) enabled the defense to tell their story of self-defense more through cross-examination . . . and that may be enough to get the reasonable doubt or self-defense verdict," said Loyola Marymount University law professor Laurie Levenson. "I think that many lawyers would say that Rittenhouse could cause more problems for himself than advantages by taking the stand at this point."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 42 of 72

Rittenhouse brought a semi-automatic rifle to a protest against police brutality in downtown Kenosha in August 2020. The city was in the throes of several nights of chaotic demonstrations that began after a white Kenosha police officer shot Jacob Blake, who is Black, while responding to a domestic disturbance.

Rittenhouse ended up shooting and killing Joseph Rosenbaum and Anthony Huber and wounding Gaige Grosskreutz in the arm. Prosecutors have charged him with multiple counts, including first-degree intentional homicide, which carries a mandatory life sentence. Rittenhouse has argued he fired in self-defense after the men attacked him.

To win an acquittal on self-defense grounds, defendants must show that they reasonably believed their lives were in danger and that they used the appropriate amount of force. Kenosha-based defense attorney Michael Cicchini, who is not involved in Rittenhouse's case, said he always puts clients who argue self-defense on the stand to explain their mindset.

"That's your primary and best source for what the defendant was seeing, thinking and feeling at the time," Cicchini said. "(The testimony) is from the standpoint of the defendant at that time and place and (within those) circumstances. I've never had a self-defense case where a defendant hasn't testified."

But Rittenhouse has the momentum with the trial nearly over and may not need to take the stand, other experts said.

Some witnesses called by prosecutors have testified that Rosenbaum threatened to kill Rittenhouse and chased him down; that Huber rushed up to him and hit him with a skateboard; and that Grosskreutz pointed a gun at Rittenhouse while Rittenhouse was sitting in the street.

Bystander video corroborates much of those accounts. Other witnesses have testified that Rittenhouse told them in the immediate aftermath of the shootings that he "had to" pull the trigger.

Phil Turner, a former federal prosecutor turned defense attorney in Chicago, said if Rittenhouse was his client he would not put him on the stand.

"There's a possibility (he testifies) but I think it's not great that he will," Turner said. "He doesn't need to. I think his defense is already there with all the people who were shot or threatened or whatever that they were the aggressors. (Rittenhouse) can't add anything to it and the only thing he can do is hurt himself somehow. The prosecution has the burden of proof and in this case, from the sounds of it, they haven't even come close."

Follow Todd Richmond on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/trichmond1>

Find AP's full coverage on the trial of Kyle Rittenhouse at: <https://apnews.com/hub/kyle-rittenhouse>

Federal judge refuses Trump request to block Jan. 6 records

By NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge on Tuesday rejected former President Donald Trump's request to block the release of documents to the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol riot.

In denying a preliminary injunction, U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan said Congress had a strong public interest in obtaining records that could shed light on a violent insurrection mounted by the former president's supporters. She added that President Joe Biden had the authority to waive executive privilege over the documents despite Trump's assertions otherwise.

Barring a court order, the National Archives plans to turn over Trump's records to the committee by Friday. But Trump's lawyers swiftly promised an appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The case will likely eventually head to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"At bottom, this is a dispute between a former and incumbent President," Chutkan wrote. "And the Supreme Court has already made clear that in such circumstances, the incumbent's view is accorded greater weight."

Trump "does not acknowledge the deference owed" to Biden's judgment as the current president, Chutkan said. She noted examples of past presidents declining to assert executive privilege and rejected what

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 43 of 72

she said was Trump's claim that executive privilege "exists in perpetuity."

"Presidents are not kings, and Plaintiff is not President," she said.

According to an earlier court filing from the archives, the records include call logs, drafts of remarks and speeches and handwritten notes from Trump's then-chief of staff, Mark Meadows. There are also copies of talking points from then-press secretary Kayleigh McEnany and "a draft Executive Order on the topic of election integrity," the National Archives has said.

Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., who chairs the House committee, said in a statement after the ruling that the records are crucial for understanding the attack and "in my view, there couldn't be a more compelling public interest than getting answers about an attack on our democracy."

On CNN, Thompson said Trump should stop behaving like a "spoiled brat."

The nine-member House committee is investigating not just Trump's conduct on Jan. 6 — when he told a rally to "fight like hell" shortly before rioters overran law enforcement — but his efforts in the months before the riot to challenge election results or obstruct a peaceful transfer of power. The committee has interviewed more than 150 witnesses and issued more than 30 subpoenas, including ones announced Tuesday to McEnany and former top adviser Stephen Miller. It is unclear, so far, whether the lawmakers will eventually call Trump to testify.

Trump has repeatedly attacked the committee's work and continued to promote unfounded conspiracy theories about widespread fraud in the election, despite the fact that Biden's win was certified by all 50 states and his claims have been rebuked by courts across the country.

In suing to block the National Archives from turning over documents, Trump called the House panel's request a "vexatious, illegal fishing expedition" that was "untethered from any legitimate legislative purpose." Allowing the House to get access to his records would also damage executive privilege for future presidents, Trump's lawyers argued.

But Chutkan said the "the public interest lies in permitting — not enjoining — the combined will of the legislative and executive branches to study the events that led to and occurred on January 6, and to consider legislation to prevent such events from ever occurring again."

Trump spokesperson Taylor Budowich tweeted late Tuesday that the case "was destined to be decided by the Appellate Courts." He added that "Trump remains committed to defending the Constitution & the Office of the Presidency, & will be seeing this process through."

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

House Jan. 6 panel subpoenas 10 former White House aides

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, ERIC TUCKER and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House investigators issued subpoenas Tuesday to 10 former officials who worked for Donald Trump at the end of his presidency, an effort to find out more about what the president was doing and saying as his supporters violently stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 in a bid to overturn his defeat.

The subpoenas, including demands for documents and testimony from former senior adviser Stephen Miller and former press secretary Kayleigh McEnany, bring the House panel tasked with investigating the insurrection even closer inside Trump's inner circle — and closer to Trump himself. They come a day after the committee subpoenaed six other associates of the former president who spread mistruths about widespread fraud in the election and strategized about how to thwart President Joe Biden's victory.

"The Select Committee wants to learn every detail of what went on in the White House on January 6th and in the days beforehand," said Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson, the Democratic chairman of the panel. "We need to know precisely what role the former president and his aides played in efforts to stop the counting of the electoral votes and if they were in touch with anyone outside the White House attempting to overturn the outcome of the election."

Later Tuesday, a federal judge rejected Trump's request to block the National Archives from releasing

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 44 of 72

White House documents concerning the Jan. 6 insurrection to the House committee. Trump has filed notice that he will appeal the ruling, and it is likely to eventually reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

It is so far unclear if the Jan. 6 panel will subpoena Trump, though the committee's leaders have said they haven't ruled anything out. The panel has now issued more than 30 subpoenas, including to White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, longtime ally Steve Bannon and others who were close to the former president.

The House later voted to hold Bannon in contempt after he said he would not comply, and the Justice Department is still deciding whether to prosecute the case. Meadows and others have "engaged" with the committee, according to lawmakers, but may still be held in contempt if they do not fully comply.

The panel has already interviewed more than 150 witnesses, and lawmakers have said they want to not only probe the attack itself but its origins — namely the lies that Trump spread about massive voter fraud even though all 50 states had certified Biden's win and courts across the country rejected his claims. The violent mob of Trump's supporters echoed those false claims as they pushed past police, broke through windows and doors and threatened lawmakers who were certifying the election that day.

Trump continued to push the false narrative in a statement responding to the subpoenas, saying the committee "is studying the PROTEST when it should be studying the Fraudulent Election that led to the protest."

The 10 former officials who were subpoenaed Tuesday either could not be reached or did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The panel said Tuesday that it had issued subpoenas for Miller, who Thompson said had "participated in efforts to spread false information about alleged voter fraud" and McEnany, who the committee said was present at times with Trump as he watched the insurrection and spoke at a rally that morning.

The panel is also demanding documents and testimony from Keith Kellogg, former Vice President Mike Pence's national security adviser, writing in the subpoena that it wants to hear from him because "you were with President Trump as the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol unfolded and have direct information about the former president's statements about, and reactions to, the Capitol insurrection." His subpoena says that according to several accounts, Kellogg urged Trump to send out a tweet aimed at helping to control the crowd.

Other former Trump White House aides subpoenaed Tuesday include personal assistant Nicholas Luna, who the panel said may have witnessed a phone call from Trump to Pence pressuring him not to certify Biden's win; special assistant Molly Michael, who the committee said sent information about election fraud to "various individuals at the direction of President Trump"; deputy assistant Ben Williamson, a senior adviser to Meadows; deputy chief of staff Christopher Liddell, who was in the White House on Jan. 6 and considered resigning, according to reports; and personnel director John McEntee and special assistant Cassidy Hutchinson, who the committee said were also in the White House that day and at the rally.

The panel also subpoenaed former Justice Department official Kenneth Klukowski, who Thompson said communicated with Jeffrey Clark, a former assistant attorney general, about a letter Clark had drafted urging officials in Georgia to delay certification of the voting results in that state because of purported fraud.

The letter said Clark and Klukowski spoke before a Jan. 3 meeting at the White House in which Trump openly contemplated replacing acting attorney general Jeffrey Rosen with Clark. Rosen and other leaders at the department had pushed back on the false fraud claims.

The committee has also subpoenaed Clark, who appeared for a deposition last week but declined to testify, partly based on Trump's claims that documents the committee is trying to obtain from the National Archives are privileged. Trump has sued to shield the documents from the panel but Biden has so far said he will allow the release of most of them.

On Monday, the panel issued subpoenas to Bill Stepien, manager of Trump's 2020 reelection campaign; Jason Miller, a senior adviser to the campaign; Angela McCallum, national executive assistant to the campaign; John Eastman, a lawyer who advised the former president; Michael Flynn, a former national security adviser to Trump who talked with Trump ahead of the insurrection; and Bernard Kerik, who the

committee says paid for hotel rooms that served as command centers ahead of Jan. 6.

Brian Williams says he's leaving NBC News at end of year

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Brian Williams, who remade his career as an MSNBC host after losing his job as NBC "Nightly News" anchor for making false claims about a wartime story, is leaving the network after 28 years.

Williams said in a note to colleagues that "following much reflection," he had decided to exit when his contract ends in December.

"This is the end of a chapter and the beginning of another," Williams wrote. "There are many things I want to do, and I'll pop up again somewhere."

Williams, 62, said he will take a few months off to spend time with his family.

Williams was NBC News' top anchor from 2004 until 2015, when he was suspended for falsely claiming that he had been in a helicopter hit by enemy fire during the Iraq War. A subsequent investigation found that he had made other inaccurate statements about his experiences covering events, and he lost the job.

He was later given the 11 p.m. hour at MSNBC, which he turned into a fast-moving, entertaining news-cast summing up the day's news.

Testimony: Ahmaud Arbery slaying defendant changed his story

By RUSS BYNUM Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Ga. (AP) — The man who initiated the chase that ended in Ahmaud Arbery's death quickly changed his story about why he suspected the 25-year-old Black man running in his neighborhood was a criminal, two police officers testified Tuesday.

Glynn County police Officer Jeff Brandeberry told a jury that Greg McMichael — one of three white men on trial for murder in the case — at first told him that Arbery had been recorded by security cameras "breaking in all these houses out here."

"Well, he makes frequent trips to the neighborhood and gets caught on video cameras every third or fourth night breaking into places and no one's been able to catch him," McMichael told Brandeberry, who read in open court from a transcript of the conversation recorded by his body camera.

The officer said he spoke to McMichael at the scene of the shooting, with Arbery's body lying under a sheet in the road nearby, as police first responded on Feb. 23, 2020.

McMichael's account shifted when he spoke with a Glynn County detective at police headquarters late the same day. Whereas he'd first blamed the slain man for break ins at multiple houses, McMichael told Detective Parker Marcy the intruder had targeted a single home — one that was still under construction with no doors or windows.

Marcy testified that McMichael told him he had seen "two or three videos" that showed "this guy breaking into or being or wandering around into this house."

Greg McMichael; his adult son, Travis McMichael; and neighbor William "Roddie" Bryan are charged with murder and other crimes in the death of Arbery. Glynn County police never arrested them. Instead charges came more than two months when cellphone video of the shooting leaked online and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation took over the case. The video sparked an outcry amid a national reckoning over racial injustice.

Prosecutors say the men had no legal reason to pursue Arbery with guns, as there's no evidence Arbery committed any crimes in the Satilla Shores subdivision outside the port city of Brunswick.

Prosecutor Linda Dunikoski showed the jury security camera video from inside the house under construction recorded just before the deadly chase. Arbery can be seen wandering through the open-framed interior but doesn't seem to touch anything. He ran after a neighbor outside called police.

"Do you see him take anything or steal anything from this location?" Dunikoski asked Marcy.

The detective replied: "No ma'am."

Defense attorneys say the defendants had reason to suspect Arbery was a burglar.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 46 of 72

Franklin Hogue, Greg McMichael's attorney, noted that in the same interview in which his client told the detective about Arbery entering the house under construction, he also said there had been "numerous entering autos and break-ins" elsewhere in the neighborhood.

"Logic tells you this guy may be the one that's doing it," Greg McMichael said, according to the transcript.

Greg McMichael said the chase began when he saw Arbery "hauling ass" past his home on a Sunday afternoon. Saying he recognized Arbery from security camera videos shown to him by a neighbor who wasn't charged in the case, he ran inside and grabbed a .357 magnum handgun. Travis McMichael armed himself with a shotgun before they went after Arbery in a pickup truck.

Bryan joined the chase in his own truck and recorded the video of Travis McMichael shooting Arbery at close range.

Defense attorneys say Travis McMichael opened fire in self-defense. Brandeberry testified that Greg McMichael told him at the scene: "He attacked my son. He came at him. He tried to get the damn shotgun away."

Marcy testified that Greg McMichael said he armed himself because he suspected Arbery may have stolen a handgun from his son's truck several weeks earlier, though he acknowledged he had no proof. The detective said he asked whether the videos of Arbery inside the home under construction showed him picking up or taking anything.

"You know, not that I recall," Greg McMichael answered, according to the interview transcript that the detective read in court. "I don't think the guy has actually stolen anything out of there, or if he did it was early in the process. But he keeps going back over and over again to this damn house."

The jury on Tuesday saw several photos police took of Travis McMichael after the shooting, showing he had Arbery's blood on his hands, arms and spattered on his shirt, face and neck.

Brandeberry said Greg McMichael also had blood on his left hand, which he told police he had used to check Arbery for a weapon after the shooting when Arbery fell facedown in the street with one arm tucked beneath him.

Greg McMichael later told police he had shouted a warning to Arbery during the chase, when the running man ignored the demands of the men in the truck telling him to stop.

"I said, 'Stop,' you know, 'I'll blow your f---ing head off,' or something," he told Marcy. "I was trying to convey to this guy we're not playing, you know?"

Malala Yousafzai announces her marriage on Twitter

LONDON (AP) — Nobel Peace Prize laureate and education activist Malala Yousafzai has announced her marriage.

The 24-year-old Pakistani human rights campaigner who was shot by the Taliban for daring to want an education posted images on Twitter of her celebration on Tuesday with Asser Malik and her family.

"Today marks a precious day in my life," Yousafzai wrote. "Asser and I tied the knot to be partners for life. We celebrated a small nikkah ceremony at home in Birmingham with our families. Please send us your prayers. We are excited to walk together for the journey ahead."

Yousafzai was targeted by the Taliban for her relentless objections to the group's regressive interpretation of Islam that limits girls' access to education. She was shot while returning home from school in Pakistan's Swat Valley in 2012.

She traveled to the English city of Birmingham for medical treatment and her family eventually joined her. She went back to school as soon as she could but kept campaigning for the right to an education for others.

Yousafzai became the youngest Nobel laureate when she shared the 2014 Peace Prize with Indian children's rights activist Kailash Satyarthi for their work on behalf of children and education rights.

She graduated from Oxford University in 2020.

Malik is the general manager of high performance at the Pakistan Cricket Board.

Yousafzai's Twitter feed was flooded with expressions of goodwill for their marriage.

Belarus TV: American facing Jan. 6 riot charges seeks asylum

By YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — An American who faces criminal charges from the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol is seeking asylum in Belarus, the country's state TV reported, in a move that could further heighten tensions between the turbulent former Soviet nation and the United States.

Evan Neumann of Mill Valley, California, acknowledged in an interview with the Belarus 1 channel that he was at the Capitol that day but rejected the charges, which include assaulting police, obstruction and other offenses. The channel aired excerpts of the interview on Sunday and Monday, and promised to release the full version on Wednesday.

"I don't think I have committed some kind of a crime," said Neumann, 48, according to a Belarus 1 voiceover of his interview remarks. "One of the charges was very offensive; it alleges that I hit a police officer. It doesn't have any grounds to it." Neumann spoke in English but was barely audible under the dubbed Russian.

Both Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin have used the Jan. 6 riot as a way to accuse the U.S. of a double standard in criticizing other countries, including Russia and Belarus, for cracking down on antigovernment protests.

Belarus was rocked by months of protests after election officials gave Lukashenko a sixth term in the 2020 balloting that the opposition and the West have denounced as a sham. The government unleashed a violent crackdown on the protesters, arresting more than 35,000 people and badly beating thousands of them. The crackdown elicited widespread international outrage.

Putin likewise has come under criticism from the West over the imprisonment of opposition leader Alexei Navalny, the detention of thousands of demonstrators protesting his arrest, and the outlawing of Navalny's organizations as extremist. In an interview with NBC in June, Putin suggested that the hundreds of people arrested for rioting at the U.S. Capitol were being subjected to "persecution for political opinions."

U.S. court documents state that Neumann stood at the front of a police barricade wearing a red "Make America Great Again" hat as supporters of President Donald Trump tried to force past officers. Prosecutors say Neumann taunted and screamed at the police before putting a gas mask over his face and threatened one officer, saying police would be "overrun" by the crowd.

"I'm willing to die, are you?" prosecutors quoted Neumann saying to the officer.

Police body camera footage shows Neumann and others shoving a metal barricade into a line of officers who were trying to push the crowd back before he punched two officers with his fist and then hit them with the barricade, according to court papers.

Neumann was identified by investigators after someone who said they were a family friend called an FBI tip line with Neumann's name and hometown. He was charged in a U.S. federal criminal complaint, meaning a judge agreed that investigators presented sufficient probable cause that Neumann had committed the crimes.

Messages left for family members of Neumann in Northern California were not returned Tuesday.

Neumann is one of more than 650 people who have been charged for their actions on Jan. 6, when pro-Trump rioters attacked the Capitol building and delayed Congress' certification of Joe Biden's Electoral College victory.

Neumann told Belarus 1 that his photo had been added to the FBI's most wanted list, after which he left the country under the pretense of a business trip. Neuman, who owns a handbag manufacturing business, traveled to Italy in March, and then through Switzerland, Germany and Poland before arriving in Ukraine and spent several months there.

He said he decided to illegally cross into neighboring Belarus after he noticed surveillance by Ukraine's security forces. "It is awful. It is political persecution," Neumann told the TV channel.

Belarusian border guards detained him when he tried to cross into the country in mid-August, and he requested asylum in Belarus. Belarus doesn't have an extradition treaty with the U.S.

"We've seen Belarusian state media reporting about this individual Evan Newman," State Department spokesman Ned Price said in Washington.

"Due to U.S. privacy laws, we're limited in what we can say about individual U.S. citizens," he added, and referred questions to the Justice Department, which said it doesn't comment "on the existence or nonexistence of requests for apprehension to foreign governments."

The Belarus 1 anchors described Neumann as a "simple American, whose stores were burned down by members of the Black Lives Matter movement, who was seeking justice, asking inconvenient questions, but lost almost everything and is being persecuted by the U.S. government."

In a short preface to the interview, the Belarus 1 reporter also said that "something" made Neumann "flee from the country of fairytale freedoms and opportunities" — an apparent reference to the U.S., which has levied multiple sanctions against Belarus over human rights abuses and its violent crackdown on dissent.

Associated Press writer Mike Balsamo in Washington contributed.

Tensions rise in migrant standoff at Poland-Belarus border

By VANESSA GERA and MONIKA SCISLOWSKA Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Poland reinforced its border with Belarus with more riot police on Tuesday, a day after groups of migrants tried to storm through a razor-wire fence on the eastern frontier where thousands have camped on the Belarusian side in the tense standoff.

The European Union accuses Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko of using the migrants as pawns in a "hybrid attack" against the bloc in retaliation for imposing sanctions on the authoritarian government for a brutal internal crackdown on dissent. Thousands were jailed and beaten following months of protests after Lukashenko won a sixth term in a 2020 election that the opposition and the West saw as rigged.

Polish authorities said all was calm overnight on the border — which is also the eastern edge of the 27-nation EU — but they were bracing for any possibility. The Defense Ministry said a large group of Belarusian forces was moving toward the migrant encampments.

During a special session of parliament, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki described the situation at the border as part of an effort by Russia to disrupt a region that it controlled during the Soviet era that ended three decades ago.

"It must be strongly emphasized that the security of our eastern border is being brutally violated. This is the first such situation in 30 years when we can say that the integrity of our borders is being tested," Morawiecki said.

Speaking during a U.N. Security Council meeting, Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia rejected similar accusations, and noted that the migrants are not seeking to stay in Belarus but to get to Europe.

"So who is creating the crisis, building fences with barbed wire and concentrating troops at the border?" Nebenzia said, adding that the EU doesn't want to accept the migrants, and "it is time to stop playing the blame game."

Polish Maj. Katarzyna Zdanowicz estimated 3,000-4,000 migrants were along the border, including about 800 near the makeshift camps. Belarusian security services also were there to "control, steer and direct these people," she added.

She said Poland's assessment came from aerial observations, alleging that Belarus authorities were taking journalists to the area to promote their version of events.

Independent journalists have limited ability to operate in Belarus, and a state of emergency in Poland kept reporters and others away from its side of the border.

The scene was quiet as night fell, and migrants were seen getting water and other supplies on the Belarusian side, according to Zdanowicz, based on what observations from across the frontier. She said guards prevented some small groups from crossing, part of hundreds of such attempts Tuesday.

The Belarusian Defense Ministry summoned the Polish military attache to protest what it called "unfounded and unlawful Polish allegations" against the Belarusian military at the border. It also voiced concern

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 49 of 72

about the buildup of Polish troops there, saying Warsaw did not notify or invite Belarusian observers per international rules for activity involving more than 6,000 troops.

Speaking on Belarusian state television, Lukashenko threw the allegation of a "hybrid war" back at the EU, pointing at its sanctions against Belarus and adding: "And you, bastards, madmen want me to protect you from migrants."

"I am afraid that this confrontation at the border because of migrants might lead to an active phase. These are grounds for provocations. All provocations are possible," he said, accusing Poland's military of flying its helicopters low at the border, frightening the migrants.

In Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the West bore responsibility for triggering the flows of migrants through their "aggressive wars in the Middle East and North Africa." The migrants, he said, don't want to stay in Belarus and "want to get to Europe that has advertised its way of living for many years."

The crisis has simmered for months after Poland, Lithuania and Latvia accused neighboring Belarus of encouraging thousands of migrants, mostly from the Middle East, to illegally enter those nations. Many of the migrants often end up stuck in a forested area of swamps and bogs, pushed back and forth between Belarusian and Polish forces.

The Belarusian opposition urged the West to strengthen its sanctions on Minsk.

"It's necessary to introduce tough sanctions, trade embargo and a full stop of transit of goods between the EU and Belarus," Pavel Latushka, a leading opposition figure, said on a messaging app, urging Poland, Lithuania and Latvia, "as countries on the front line of a hybrid attack launched by the regime, to stop transit."

On Tuesday, the EU tightened visa rules for Belarus officials, saying it was "partially suspending" an agreement with Minsk. The move affects Belarusian government officials, lawmakers, diplomats and top court representatives by requiring them to provide additional documents and pay more for visas.

Lawmakers in Lithuania voted to declare a state of emergency for a month along the Belarus border, restricting the movement of vehicles and banning all entry, except for residents, in a zone reaching 5 kilometers (3 miles) inland. Guards can check vehicles and people, and gatherings also are banned. It also applies to migrant accommodations in the capital of Vilnius and elsewhere.

At least 170 migrants were stopped from entering Lithuania on Tuesday.

In videos posted on Twitter by Polish police, the migrants were seen in tents and cooking over campfires in near-freezing temperatures. The police blared announcements that border crossing is allowed only at official posts, with visas, and the nearest crossing point in Kuznica was closed early Tuesday.

Refugee agencies UNHCR and International Organization for Migration called the situation "alarming," and said they contacted governments in both Poland and Belarus to urge them to ensure that those in the makeshift camp get humanitarian assistance.

A man in the Polish village of Bialowieza told The Associated Press he has met many migrants who often are thirsty, hungry and in need of boots or medical care. He is among volunteers distributing food and other aid, and spoke on condition of anonymity because Polish authorities discourage such help.

"They are in really bad condition and the situation is getting worse" as temperatures drop, he said.

Some of the migrants believed they were in Germany and appeared to have been "very disinformed by Belarusian soldiers and guards," the man said.

At least eight migrant deaths have been recorded by Polish and Belarusian authorities, most of them in Poland.

Morawiecki went to the border Tuesday, accompanied by Defense Minister Mariusz Blaszczak, to meet with border guards and other security officials.

"We do not know what else Lukashenko's regime will come up with — this is the reality," Morawiecki said, praising the guards.

Poland has received strong signals of solidarity from the EU and Washington in the confrontation with Belarus.

Germany's outgoing interior minister, Horst Seehofer, said all EU countries "must stand together, because Lukashenko is using people's fates — with the support of Russian President Vladimir Putin — to destabilize the West."

Many migrants have flown to Minsk on tourist visas and travel by taxi to the border. The EU is seeking to pressure airlines not to facilitate such trips. Although direct flights from Iraq were suspended in August, migrants have been arriving in Belarus from Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and even Russia, according to recent internal EU reports seen by the AP. Smugglers use social media to advertise transportation from Belarus to Germany by car.

Pavel Usau, head of the Center for Political Analysis and Prognosis, said Lukashenko expects the West to make concessions.

"Lukashenko is provoking the West to take aggressive action, but, on the other hand, he expects that Western countries will yield to pressure and will be forced to engage in negotiations," Usau said in an interview from Warsaw.

Geir Moulson in Berlin, Lorne Cook and Samuel Petrequin in Brussels, Vladimir Isachenkov and Daria Litvinova in Moscow, Liudas Dapkus in Vilnius, Lithuania, Renata Brito in Barcelona, Spain, and Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed.

Follow all AP stories on global migration at <https://apnews.com/hub/migration>.

Pathologist: Rittenhouse shot first man at close range

By SCOTT BAUER, TAMMY WEBBER and AMY FORLITI Associated Press

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP) — The first man killed by Kyle Rittenhouse on the streets of Kenosha was shot at a range of just a few feet and had soot injuries that could indicate he had his hand over the barrel of Rittenhouse's rifle, a pathologist testified Tuesday.

But it was unclear from video footage whether Joseph Rosenbaum was grabbing for Rittenhouse's gun or trying to swat it away, said the witness, Dr. Doug Kelley, with the Milwaukee County medical examiner's office.

Kelley was one of the final witnesses for the state before prosecutors rested their murder case after 5 1/2 days of testimony that were aimed at portraying Rittenhouse as the aggressor but often bolstered the young man's claim of self-defense. His lawyers have suggested the 17-year-old was afraid his gun would be taken away and used against him.

The defense then began presenting its side, calling as its first witnesses people who were on the streets with Rittenhouse that night and described him as pale, shaking, sweating and stammering after the shootings.

"He repeats, 'I just shot someone' over and over, and I believe at some point he said he had to shoot someone," testified Nicholas Smith, who said he had gone to the protests that shook Kenosha that night at the request of the owners of a car dealership to protect the business.

"My god, my life might be over," another witness, JoAnn Fiedler, quoted Rittenhouse as saying. She said he didn't give any details about what happened but told her he "had to do it."

Rittenhouse, now 18, killed two men and wounded a third during a night of turbulent demonstrations against racial injustice in Kenosha in the summer of 2020.

The former police youth cadet from Antioch, Illinois, had gone to Kenosha with an AR-style semi-automatic rifle and a medical kit in what he said was an effort to protect property from the damaging protests that broke out over the shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man, by a white Kenosha police officer.

Rittenhouse could get life in prison if convicted of the most serious charge against him.

While Rittenhouse is white, as were those he shot, the case has stirred racially charged debate over vigilantism, the right to bear arms, and the unrest that erupted around the U.S. that summer over the killing of George Floyd and other police violence against Black people.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 51 of 72

On Tuesday, the jury watched drone video that was zoomed-in and slowed down to show Rosenbaum following Rittenhouse, and then Rittenhouse wheeling around and shooting Rosenbaum at close range.

Kelley, the pathologist, said Rosenbaum was shot four times by someone who was within 4 feet of him. He testified that Rosenbaum was first wounded in the groin and then in the hand and thigh as he faced Rittenhouse, and then was shot in the head and in the back.

Those final two shots were at a downward angle, the pathologist said. Prosecutors have said this indicates Rosenbaum was falling forward, while defense attorney Mark Richards said Rosenbaum was lunging.

Kelley said both scenarios were possible.

Kelley also said Rosenbaum's hand was "in close proximity or in contact with the end of that rifle."

Richards pointed out small injuries from soot on Rosenbaum's hand and said: "So that hand was over the barrel of Mr. Rittenhouse's gun when his hand was shot."

"That makes sense," Kelley said.

The drone footage was the clearest video yet of the shooting that set in motion the bloodshed that followed moments later: Rittenhouse killed Anthony Huber, a 26-year-old protester seen on video clubbing Rittenhouse with a skateboard. Rittenhouse then wounded Gaije Grosskreutz, a 27-year-old protester and volunteer medic who was shot after pointing his own gun at Rittenhouse.

Fiedler, the defense witness, was with Rittenhouse outside the car dealership just before the first shooting, and said they were being shouted at and taunted by protesters, including Rosenbaum. But Fiedler, who said she carried a pistol, testified she never saw Rittenhouse threaten or point his gun at anyone.

"The whole night was quite shocking, but we didn't really do anything," Fiedler said of the yelling directed at those guarding the store. "We just kind of stood there. You have to ignore that."

Fiedler said she later opened the door of the dealership for Rittenhouse after the shootings, and he appeared to be "totally in shock" and fell into her, telling her he had shot someone.

"He was pale, shaking, kind of stammering, slurring his words. He was sweating," she said.

Last week, witnesses testified that Rosenbaum, 36, was "hyperaggressive" and "acting belligerently" that night and threatened to kill Rittenhouse at one point. One witness said Rosenbaum was gunned down after chasing Rittenhouse and lunging for his rifle.

Wisconsin's self-defense law allows someone to use deadly force only if "necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm." The jury must decide whether Rittenhouse believed he was in such peril and whether that belief was reasonable under the circumstances.

On Tuesday, Rittenhouse turned his head and averted his eyes from a defense-table monitor as prosecutors displayed medical examiner photographs of Huber's body laid out on a gurney, a gunshot wound to his chest clearly visible. Rittenhouse breathed deeply as autopsy photos of Rosenbaum showing his injuries were displayed for the jury.

A few jurors also seemed to find it difficult to look for long at the images, one glancing up at a monitor over her shoulder, then looking straight ahead.

Bauer reported from Madison, Wisconsin; Forliti from Minneapolis; Webber from Fenton, Michigan. Associated Press writer Michael Tarm contributed from Kenosha.

Find AP's full coverage on the trial of Kyle Rittenhouse at: <https://apnews.com/hub/kyle-rittenhouse>

White House rushes with infrastructure fixes for US economy

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — The Biden administration is relying on infrastructure dollars to help fix the clogged ports and blanket the nation with internet access — but a series of initiatives rolled out on Tuesday show that the urgent pace might not be fast enough to address the immediate needs of an economy coping with a supply chain squeeze and a shift to remote work.

President Joe Biden spoke with the CEOs of Wal-Mart, Target, UPS and FedEx on Tuesday about how

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 52 of 72

to relieve the supply chain challenges as ships are still waiting to dock at some of the country's leading ports. The key problem is that these ports are experiencing record volumes of shipping containers as the economy has recovered from the pandemic.

Biden received updates from the CEOs on how deliveries are being sped up to ensure that store shelves will be well-stocked this holiday season, according to a White House official. Bloomberg News first reported Biden's conversations with the corporate leaders.

Yet the concrete policy steps being discussed by the administration show that there is no quick fix to supply chain issues that are still hurting smaller businesses and causing consumers to face higher prices. Nor can the administration build out a national broadband network fast enough as more Americans are pivoting toward remote work.

Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo highlighted at the White House briefing the \$65 billion for broadband access in the the \$1 trillion infrastructure package that cleared the House on Friday. She said that jobs would be created and poorer Americans would receive "affordable" internet service, though she did not spell out a precise dollar amount on what the monthly bills could be.

The plan involves careful logistics that would take time to implement. Each state would receive at least \$100 million to help lay fiberoptic cables and ensure its citizens can access the internet. This process would occur as jobseekers are increasingly requesting remote work where they can work from home on their computers.

"The president wants us to get it right," Raimondo said. "And if it takes a little longer to lay the groundwork for fiber and broadband, then we're going to do that."

Similarly, the administration announced plans on Tuesday to identify and pay for possible upgrades to U.S. ports within the next 90 days — hoping to ultimately tamp down the inflation being caused by ships waiting to dock and a shortage of truck drivers to haul goods.

As the U.S. emerges from the coronavirus pandemic, the economic recovery has been hampered by congested and aging ports. The mix of inflation and the potential for empty store shelves during holiday shopping has created a sense of frustration for many Americans and hurt President Joe Biden and Democrats politically.

Senior administration officials said Tuesday that the Transportation Department would allow port authorities to redirect any leftover money from grant projects to address the supply chain issues. For example, the Georgia Ports Authority will use \$8 million to convert its inland facilities for the port of Savannah into container yards, freeing up dock space and speeding the flow of goods to their final destinations.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the forthcoming plans, which come on the heels of the House backing the bipartisan infrastructure package late Friday. The package includes \$17 billion to improve coastal and land-based ports that can help to tackle the challenges in the longer term.

Biden's team is moving straight ahead in promoting the possible benefits from the broader infrastructure package, though they've largely shied away from claiming that Americans could see clear and demonstrable changes to their lives before the 2022 midterm elections. The focus, instead, has been on how the spending on roads, bridges and broadband will help the U.S. economy compete against the rest of the world.

The president in remarks to Democratic supporters on Tuesday signaled that he will look to remind voters in the months ahead of the infrastructure win. He noted "the last president" promised to pursue legislation but failed to deliver.

"So it was left to us," Biden said at the virtual event hosted by the Democratic National Committee. "We got the job done."

Administration officials said the ports initiatives being announced Tuesday would make the supply chain faster, more efficient and environmentally friendly in the medium to longer term.

Biden will highlight the administration's efforts by visiting Baltimore's port on Wednesday. It's part of a broader effort to show that the administration will tackle the inflation that has left Americans feeling more pessimistic about the economy. Updated figures for the consumer price index will be released Wednesday, with the previous report showing prices were 5.4% higher than a year ago.

The Baltimore trip is designed to highlight the types of investments that the administration believes will

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 53 of 72

help unclog the supply chain. The port in Baltimore is adding container cranes and adding a 50-foot berth where ships can be unloaded. The administration has also approved grants so that the Howard Street Tunnel — a train artery that opened in 1895 — can be expanded to ferry double-stacked containers on railcars.

The Biden administration earlier helped broker an agreement to increase the hours of operation at the Port of Los Angeles, but it's been difficult to immediately fix this challenge.

Additional steps include launching a \$240 million grant program in the next 45 days to modernize ports and marine highways. Within 60 days, the government wants to identify repair projects and opportunities to deepen harbors for larger ships that can be a guide for more than \$4 billion in construction by the Army Corps of Engineers.

The government will also look over the next 90 days at which ports of entry should be upgraded and expanded as part of a \$3.4 billion investment. It also plans within 90 days to open the first round of more than \$475 million in grants for ports made possible through the newly passed infrastructure package.

The Transportation Department intends to publish a playbook for states on freight movement and issue guidance on best practices, so that the value of the infrastructure investments can be maximized. There will also be a request for information by the Transportation Department to improve data collection and sharing to improve the efficiency and transparency of the supply chain.

Dean Stockwell of 'Quantum Leap,' 'Blue Velvet' dies at 85

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Dean Stockwell, a top Hollywood child actor who gained new success in middle age in the sci-fi series "Quantum Leap" and in a string of indelible performances in film, including David Lynch's "Blue Velvet," Wim Wenders' "Paris, Texas" and Jonathan Demme's "Married to the Mob," has died. He was 85.

Jay Schwartz, a family spokesperson, said Stockwell died of natural causes at home Sunday.

Stockwell was Oscar-nominated for his comic mafia kingpin in "Married to the Mob" and was four times an Emmy-nominee for "Quantum Leap." But in a career that spanned seven decades, Stockwell was a supreme character actor whose performances — lip-syncing Roy Orbison in a nightmarish party scene in "Blue Velvet," a desperate agent in Robert Altman's "The Player," Howard Hughes in Francis Ford Coppola's "Tucker: The Man and His Dream" — didn't have to be lengthy to be mesmerizing.

Stockwell's own relationship with acting, having started on Broadway at age 7, was complicated. In a peripatetic career, he quit show business several times, including at age 16 and again in the 1980s, when he moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, to sell real estate.

"Dean spent a lifetime yo-yoing back and forth between fame and anonymity," his family said in a statement. "Because of that, when he had a job, he was grateful. He never took the business for granted. He was a rebel, wildly talented and always a breath of fresh air."

The dark-haired Stockwell was a Hollywood veteran by the time he reached his teens. In his 20s, he starred on Broadway as a young killer in the play "Compulsion" and in prestigious films such as "Sons and Lovers." He was awarded best actor at the Cannes Film Festival twice, in 1959 for the big-screen version of "Compulsion" and in 1962 for Sidney Lumet's adaptation of Eugene O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey Into Night." While his career had some lean times, he reached his full stride in the 1980s.

"My way of working is still the same as it was in the beginning — totally intuitive and instinctive," he told The New York Times in 1987. "But as you live your life, you compile so many millions of experiences and bits of information that you become a richer vessel as a person. You draw on more experience."

His Oscar-nominated role as Tony "The Tiger" Russo, a flamboyant gangster, in the 1988 hit "Married to the Mob" led to his most notable TV role the following year, in NBC's science fiction series "Quantum Leap." Both roles had strong comic elements.

"It's the first time anyone's offered me a series and the first time I've ever wanted to do one," he said in 1989. "If people hadn't seen me in 'Married To the Mob' they wouldn't have realized I could do comedy."

Starring with Stockwell in "Quantum Leap" was Scott Bakula, playing a scientist who assumes different

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 54 of 72

identities in different eras after a time-travel experiment goes awry. As his colleague, "The Observer," Stockwell lends his help but is seen only on a holographic computer image. The show lasted from 1989 to 1993.

"The only time he ever complained was when we called him on the golf course and told him we were ready for him to come to work," recalled Bakula in a statement Tuesday. "He used to announce his presence on the sound stage (if we hadn't already caught a whiff of cigar smoke trailing in behind him), with a bellowed, 'The fun starts now!' Truer words were never spoken."

He continued playing roles, big and small, in films and TV, into the 21st century, including a regular role in another science fiction series, "Battlestar Galactica."

Stockwell became an actor at an early age. His father, Harry Stockwell, voiced the role of Prince Charming in Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and appeared in several Broadway musicals.

At age 7, Dean made his show business debut in the 1943 Broadway show "The Innocent Voyage," the story of orphaned children entangled with pirates. His older brother, Guy, also was in the cast.

A producer at MGM was impressed by Dean and persuaded the studio to sign him. His first significant role was as Kathryn Grayson's nephew in the 1945 musical "Anchors Aweigh," which starred Gene Kelly and Frank Sinatra.

In the next few years, Stockwell appeared in such films as the Oscar-winning anti-Semitism drama "Gentlemen's Agreement," with Gregory Peck, as well as "Song of the Thin Man," the last of the William Powell-Myrna Loy mystery series, with Stockwell playing their son.

He had the title roles in the 1948 anti-war film "The Boy With Green Hair," about a war orphan whose hair changes color, and "Kim," the 1950 version of the Rudyard Kipling tale, which starred Errol Flynn. Films in his youth also included "Down to the Sea in Ships," with Lionel Barrymore; "The Secret Garden," with Margaret O'Brien; and "Stars in My Crown" with Joel McCrea.

"I was very lucky to have a loving and caring and sympathetic mother and not a stage mother," he told The Associated Press in 1989. Still, he stressed, it wasn't always easy, and he dropped out of the business when he reached 16.

"I never really wanted to be an actor," he said. "I found acting very difficult from the beginning. I worked long hours, six days a week. It wasn't fun." It wasn't the only time he dropped out. But, he said, "I came back each time because I had no other training."

Reviving his career after five years, Stockwell returned to New York where he co-starred with Roddy McDowall on Broadway in "Compulsion," a 1957 drama based on the notorious Leopold-Loeb murder case in which two college students killed a 14-year-old boy for the thrill of it. The film version starred Orson Welles.

Stockwell had two more prestigious film roles in the early 1960s. He was the struggling son in D.H. Lawrence's "Sons and Lovers" — an Oscar nominee for best picture — and the sensitive younger brother in "Long Day's Journey Into Night" with Ralph Richardson and Katharine Hepburn.

He also tried his hand at theater directing, putting on a well-received program of Beckett and Ionesco plays in Los Angeles in 1961.

In 1960, Stockwell married Millie Perkins, best known for her starring turn as Anne in the 1959 film "The Diary of Anne Frank." The marriage ended in divorce after only two years.

In the mid-60s, Stockwell dropped out of Hollywood and became a regular presence at the hippie enclave of Topanga Canyon. After the encouragement of Dennis Hopper, Stockwell wrote a screenplay that never got produced but inspired Neil Young's 1970 album "After the Gold Rush," which took its name from Stockwell's script. Stockwell, longtime friends with Young, later co-directed and starred with Young on 1982's "Human Highway." Stockwell also designed the cover of Young's 1977 album "American Stars 'N Bars."

In 1981 he married Joy Marchenko, a textile expert. When his career hit a down period, Stockwell decided to take his family to New Mexico. As soon as he left Hollywood, filmmakers started calling again.

He was cast as Harry Dean Stanton's drifting brother in Wim Wenders' acclaimed 1984 film "Paris, Texas" and that same year as the evil Dr. Yueh in Lynch's "Dune."

He called his success from the 1980s onward his "third career." As for the Oscar nomination, he told the

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 55 of 72

AP in 1989 that it was "something I've dreamed about for years. ... It's just one of the best feelings I've ever had."

Like his longtime friend Hopper, a noted photographer as well as an actor, Stockwell was active in the visual arts. He made photo collages and what he called "diceworks," sculptures made of dice. He often used his full name, Robert Dean Stockwell, in his art projects.

His brother, Guy Stockwell, also became a prolific film and television actor, even doing guest shot on "Quantum Leap." He died in 2002 at age 68.

Stockwell is survived by his wife, Joy, and their two children, Austin Stockwell and Sophie Stockwell.

This story has been updated to correct the spelling of the film "Anchors Aweigh."

Late Associated Press writer Bob Thomas contributed biographical information to this report.

GE to end its run as a conglomerate, split into 3 companies

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN AP Business Writer

General Electric, the storied American manufacturer that struggled under its own weight after growing to become a sprawling conglomerate, will divide itself into three public companies focused on aviation, health care and energy.

The company's announcement Tuesday is the culmination of an arduous, yearslong reshaping of a symbol of American manufacturing might that could signal the end of conglomerates as a whole.

"It's over now," said Nick Heymann of William Blair, who has followed GE for years. "In a digital economy, there's no real room for it."

The company has already rid itself of the products most Americans know it for, including its appliances, and last year, the light bulbs that GE had been making since the late 19th century when the company was founded.

The breakup marks the apogee of those efforts, divvying up an empire created in the 1980s under Jack Welch, one of America's first CEO "superstars."

GE's stock became one of the most sought after on Wall Street under Welch, routinely outperforming peers and the broader market. Through the 1990s, it returned 1,120.6% on investments. GE's revenue grew nearly fivefold during Welch's tenure, and the company's value increased 30-fold.

Yet the stock began to lag in the summer of 2001, the waning days of Welch's rule. As the decade came to a close, GE was struck by near ruin with the arrival of the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. General Electric's vulnerabilities were laid bare and the epicenter was GE Capital, the company's financial wing.

Its shares lost 80% of their value from the start of 2008 into the first few months of 2009 and has only recently begun to recover as the company unwinds much of what Welch built. The stock is up almost 30% this year as the asset sales keep coming.

Shares in Boston-based General Electric Co. ended Tuesday up \$2.87, or 2.7%, to \$111.29, a new high for the year.

GE's aviation unit, its most profitable, will keep General Electric in the name. GE will spin off its health care business in early 2023 and its energy segment, including renewable energy, power and digital operations in early 2024.

The decision to split at GE was well received Tuesday, both in general markets and by those who had pushed for the change.

"The strategic rationale is clear: three well-capitalized, industry leading public companies, each with deeper operational focus and accountability, greater strategic flexibility and tailored capital allocation decisions," wrote Triun Fund Management, a large stakeholder whose founding partner serves on GE's board.

Heymann, of William Blair, said the conglomerate model no longer works in a marketplace in which only the quick and agile survive.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 56 of 72

GE Chairman and CEO Larry Culp will become nonexecutive chairman of the health care company, with GE maintaining a 19.9% stake in the unit. Peter Arduini will serve as president and CEO of GE Healthcare effective Jan. 1. Scott Strazik will become CEO of the combined renewable energy, power, and digital business. Culp will lead the aviation business along with John Slattery, who will remain its CEO.

Culp achieved a major milestone this year in reshaping General Electric with a \$30 billion deal to combine GE's aircraft leasing business with Ireland's AerCap Holdings. Because the arrangement pushed GE Capital Aviation Services into a separate business, Culp essentially closed the books on GE Capital, the financial division that nearly sank the entire company during the 2008 financial crisis.

GE said Tuesday that it expects operational costs of about \$2 billion related to the split, which will require board approval.

The company also announced Tuesday that it expects to lower its debt by more than \$75 billion by the end of the year.

The question now is whether other conglomerates will see their own company structure as a relic of the past.

The decision to break up General Electric, an industrial bellwether, could set into motion similar actions at other large conglomerates with the "urge to demerge," according to RBC Capital Markets.

"GE's announcement today could embolden the boards of several other Multi-Industry companies to move ahead on more aggressive portfolio simplification moves, including Emerson, Roper Technologies, and 3M," analysts with the firm wrote.

Unlike GE, which continued to shed assets this year, all three industrial conglomerates have underperformed the S&P 500 in 2021.

AP Business Writer Stan Choe contributed to this report from New York.

Pfizer asks FDA to OK COVID-19 booster shots for all adults

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

Pfizer asked U.S. regulators Tuesday to allow boosters of its COVID-19 vaccine for anyone 18 or older, a step that comes amid concern about increased spread of the coronavirus with holiday travel and gatherings.

Older Americans and other groups particularly vulnerable to the virus have had access to a third dose of the Pfizer and BioNTech vaccine since September. But the Food and Drug Administration has said it would move quickly to expand boosters to younger ages if warranted.

Pfizer is submitting early results of a booster study in 10,000 people to make its case that it's time to further expand the booster campaign.

While all three vaccines used in the U.S. continue to offer strong protection against severe COVID-19 illness and death, the shots' effectiveness against milder infection can wane over time.

Pfizer's new study concluded a booster could restore protection against symptomatic infection to about 95%, even as the extra-contagious delta variant was surging. Side effects were similar to those seen with the company's first two shots.

A median of 11 months after their last Pfizer vaccination, trial participants were given either a third dose or a dummy shot. Researchers tracked any infections that occurred at least a week later, and so far have counted five cases of symptomatic COVID-19 among booster recipients compared to 109 cases among people who got dummy shots.

The Biden administration had originally envisioned boosters for all adults, but faced a stinging setback in September when the FDA's scientific advisers rejected extra Pfizer doses for everyone. The panel wasn't convinced that young healthy people needed another dose, particularly when most of the world's population remains unvaccinated, and instead recommended boosters just for certain groups — one of a series of decisions about extra doses for all of the three vaccines used in the U.S.

The current rules: People who initially received Pfizer or Moderna vaccinations are eligible for a booster six months later if they're 65 or older, or are at high risk of COVID-19 because of health problems or their

job or living conditions. Because the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine hasn't proven as effective as its two-dose competitors, any J&J recipient can get a booster at least two months later.

Also, anyone eligible for a booster doesn't have to stick with their initial vaccination type and can get a different company's vaccine, what's called mixing and matching.

About 194 million Americans are fully vaccinated. Under today's policies, authorities already estimated about 2 of every 3 vaccinated adults could qualify for a booster within the next few months. Many who don't meet the criteria often score an extra shot because many vaccine providers don't check qualifications.

FDA spokeswoman Alison Hunt said the agency would review Pfizer's application "as expeditiously as possible," but would not set a timeline for a decision. She also said the FDA hasn't yet decided whether to convene its panel of outside experts to vet the data.

If the FDA authorizes Pfizer's request for expanded boosters, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention then will make recommendations for how to use them.

Globally, boosters also are a hodge-podge. Some countries restrict them to older or medically fragile people while others have few restrictions. Israel, for example, has allowed Pfizer boosters for anyone 12 and older. Canada's health regulator on Tuesday authorized Pfizer boosters for people 18 and older.

AP Health Writer Matthew Perrone contributed to this report.

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Probe finds Trump officials repeatedly violated Hatch Act

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — At least 13 former Trump administration officials violated the law by intermingling campaigning with their official government duties, according to a new federal investigation released Tuesday.

The report from the Office of Special Counsel says the officials broke the law without consequence and with the administration's approval as part of a "willfull disregard for the Hatch Act," which prohibits government officials from using their official roles to influence elections, including supporting candidates while acting in their official capacities.

"The cumulative effect of these repeated and public violations was to undermine public confidence in the nonpartisan operation of government," they wrote, adding that, "such flagrant and unpunished violations erode the principal foundation of our democratic system—the rule of law."

The office investigated officials' comments in the lead-up to the 2020 presidential election, including the Republican National Convention, which was held at the White House in a major break from historical norms.

While the Office of Special Counsel concluded that hosting the event at the White House did not itself violate the Hatch Act, it found plenty of other instances where Trump officials did, mostly by promoting the former president's reelection in media interviews in which they appeared in their official capacity.

Among the officials cited are former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, Jared Kushner, who served as senior adviser to the president, former White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany, Kellyanne Conway, then counselor to the president, Stephen Miller, who served as Trump's senior policy adviser, and Robert O'Brien, the former national security adviser. Conway had been repeatedly cited by the office, which at one point went so far as to call for her removal.

"In each case, the subject official was identified by their official title, discussed administration policies and priorities related to their official duties, and/or spoke from the White House grounds," the report reads.

The investigation also found that then-Secretary of State Michael Pompeo changed State Department policy to allow himself to speak at Trump's convention and then referenced official work in his speech. And it found then-acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf violated the Hatch Act by presiding over a naturalization ceremony that was orchestrated for convention programming.

"Both reflect the Trump administration's willingness to manipulate government business for partisan politi-

cal ends," the report reads, adding that, "The administration's willful disregard for the law was especially pernicious considering the timing of when many of these violations took place."

The report notes the office repeatedly warned Trump White House officials about their violations, but that the former president who is responsible for enforcing the law for high-ranking officials never bothered to do that.

Given the limited power the office has to enforce violations, the report suggested potential changes to the law, including a statutory amendment that would allow it to fine Senate-confirmed presidential appointees and commissioned officers, as well as greater investigative power. They also recommended an amendment to clarify which areas of the White House should be off-limits to political activity.

"(T)he 2020 election revealed that, at least with respect to an administration's senior most officials, the Hatch Act is only as effective as the White House decides it will be. Where, as happened here, the White House chooses to ignore the Hatch Act's requirements, then the American public is left with no protection against senior administration officials using their official authority for partisan political gain in violation of the law," it reads.

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), a nonprofit watchdog group, said the report underscored the need for better enforcement.

"This report confirms that there was nothing less than a systematic co-opting of the powers of the federal government to keep Donald Trump in office," said Noah Bookbinder, president of the group. "Congress must act now so that this never happens again."

Haiti priest recounts abduction by gang holding missionaries

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The Rev. Jean-Nicolas Milien felt the cool barrel of a gun against his right ear.

The Haitian priest and nine other people had just been kidnapped while driving through the outskirts of the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, in early April. It was around 7 a.m. and they were en route to celebrate the installation of a fellow pastor at a nearby parish when 15 to 20 gang members brandishing heavy weapons surrounded their car.

"Go here! Go here!" the gunmen commanded as they pulled over the car.

It was the 400 Mawozo gang, the same group that kidnapped 17 missionaries from a U.S. religious organization on Oct. 16 as they drove to an orphanage. That group, which includes five children, the youngest 8-months-old, is still being held for ransom amid death threats.

Milien spoke to The Associated Press Tuesday, describing the ordeal he and his nine companions — two nuns, four fellow priests and three relatives — endured at the hands of their captors.

After seizing them on April 11, the gunmen blindfolded him and the others, Milien said, and drove until they reached a dilapidated house where they slept on a dirt floor for days.

"We did our necessities on the ground," he recalled. "It was really difficult."

Milien and the others were kept blindfolded for two days and fed only rice and bread, washed down with Coca-Cola.

On the first day, gang members demanded the group hand over phone numbers of their relatives. The gunmen made calls demanding \$1 million per head — the same ransom they made for the missionaries kidnapped last month.

On the fourth day, the gang released one person and moved Milien and the others to a smaller house. After two weeks, they released three more, but not Milien. He and the remaining five captives were moved to yet another abandoned house.

"That last week, it was very difficult," he recalled, saying they received no food and barely any water.

On their way to the third location, the gang leader told them: "Here, we don't have any food, any hospital, any house. We don't have anything, but we have a cemetery."

Milien took that as a death threat and doubled down. "I told them, 'Continue to pray,'" he said he told

his fellow captives. "One day, we will be free."

Eventually Milien and the five others were released after an undisclosed ransom amount was paid.

Their freedom came via a knock on the door on the 20th day of their captivity. It was 11 p.m.

"Wake up! Wake up! Wake up! Let's go!" Milien recalled a gang member yelling.

The group, in its weakened state, walked several yards (meters) to a car that took them to their neighborhood. Milien spent almost a week in the hospital, receiving medication and vitamins as he tried to regain his strength.

Months later, Milien still receives psychological help.

"It is not easy. Every time we remember something. Every time we think about something. ... It is a part of my life," he said.

His advice to the families of the 16 Americans, one Canadian and their Haitian driver, who remain captive, is to never lose hope as he prays for their release.

"I know the experience is not easy," he said.

As he spoke, the rat-tat-tat of gunfire from a nearby community controlled by another gang rang out.

"We have to do something. The government has to do something because we cannot remain in this situation," Milien said.

AP photographer Matias Delacroix in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, contributed to this story.

Russia comes in from cold on climate, launches forest plan

By TANYA TITOVA and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian island north of Japan has become a testing ground for Moscow's efforts to reconcile its prized fossil fuel industry with the need to do something about climate change.

More than two-thirds of Sakhalin Island is forested. With the Kremlin's blessing, authorities there have set an ambitious goal of making the island — Russia's largest — carbon neutral by 2025.

Tree growth will absorb as much planet-warming carbon dioxide as the island's half-million residents and its businesses produce, an idea the Russian government 4,000 miles to the west in Moscow hopes to apply to the whole country, which has more forested area than any other nation.

"The economic structure of Sakhalin and the large share of forestland in the territory and carbon balance distribution reflect the general situation in Russia," said Dinara Gershinkova, an adviser to Sakhalin's governor on climate and sustainable development. "So the results of the experiment in Sakhalin will be representative and applicable to the whole Russian Federation."

The plan reflects a marked change of mood in Russia on climate change.

President Vladimir Putin once joked about global warming in 2003, saying that Russians would be able to "spend less on fur coats, and the grain harvest would increase." But last year, he acknowledged that climate change "requires real actions and way more attention," and he has sought to position one of the world's biggest fossil fuel exporter as a leader in the fight against global warming.

Russia's vast forests are key to this idea.

"By aiming to build a carbon-neutral economy by no later than 2060, Russia is relying, among other things, on the unique resource of forest ecosystems available to us, and their significant capacity to absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen," Putin said in a video address last week to the U.N. climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland. "After all, our country accounts for around 20% of the world's forestland."

Scientists say natural forms of removing carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, from the atmosphere will indeed play a key role in tackling global warming.

Many countries at the climate talks rely on some form of absorbing emissions to achieve their targets of being "net zero" by 2050 — that is, emitting only as much greenhouse gas as can be recaptured by natural or artificial means.

But experts say the math behind such calculations is notoriously fuzzy and prone to manipulation by governments, who have a vested interest in making their emissions look good.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 60 of 72

"Russia makes an enormous contribution in the absorption of global emissions — both its own and others' — by means of absorptive capacity of our ecosystems, firstly of forests, which is estimated at 2.5 billion (metric) tons of CO2 equivalent a year," said Viktoria Abramchenko, deputy prime minister for environmental issues, speaking at a conference in St. Petersburg.

The figure came as a surprise to scientists contacted by The Associated Press. It constitutes a fivefold increase on the 535 million metric tons of CO2 absorption that Russia reported to the U.N. climate office for 2019.

Natalia Lukina, the director of the Center of Ecology and Productivity of Forests, a government-funded research institute, said the estimates are actually assumptions because "there is no real accurate data."

"Unfortunately, our official information about forestland is 25 years old, then this data was updated somehow, but there were no direct measurements," she said.

One problem is that nobody knows how many trees are in Russia's forests. Last year, its forestry body finished an inventory that took 13 years and cost at least \$142 million, but it hasn't been made public.

Russia's network of emissions monitoring stations is likewise limited, Lukina said.

Vadim Mamkin, a scientist who maintains one of the country's 11 greenhouse gas measuring masts in the Tver region, said the carbon balance of such old forests is "usually about zero," although figures vary about 10% from year to year.

Wildfires that burn millions of hectares of forest are another, increasingly pressing problem. Forests that have stored carbon for decades suddenly become big emitters when they burn, undoing an absorption effect, said Sergey Bartalev, head of the boreal ecosystems monitoring lab at the Space Research Institute.

Such fires are becoming increasingly frequent in Russia, partly due to climate change.

This year saw a record 13.1 million hectares burned, leading to emissions of 970 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent, according to an estimate by the European Union's Copernicus Programme — almost twice as much as the last reported absorption.

Fire protection is now a priority in Moscow's new strategy of low-carbon development.

"We're focusing on improving our forest management practices, enhancing wildfire prevention response capabilities, increasing wilderness areas, introducing new farming practices, as well as engaging in transformation toward cleaner energy," Alexey Overchuk, a senior Russian government official, told negotiators at the Glasgow talks.

He reiterated Putin's pledge that Russia aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060 — a goal similar to those set by China and Saudi Arabia — but a decade behind the 2050 deadline the U.S. and EU are aiming for.

Scientists say stopping additional emissions of greenhouse gas into the atmosphere by 2050 is the only way to achieve the Paris accord's goal to keep the Earth's warming below catastrophic levels of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of the century.

Environmental advocates and other nations are wary of giving Moscow a free pass while they ramp up their own efforts to cut emissions.

Vasily Yablokov, the head of Energy and Climate Sector at Russian Greenpeace, said Russia's forest calculations will play a key role in its climate plan, and he fears that estimates would be made to "fit into the answer."

One reason why Russia has a vested interest in minimizing its reported emissions is the prospect of a carbon tariff being mulled by the EU on imports from countries that are deemed to be not doing enough on climate.

"The role of forest is overestimated, unfortunately," said Alexey Kokorin, the head of climate and energy program at WWF-Russia. "It would be good to trust that Russia will be able to increase the absorption as it is in the draft strategy, and all of us will do the best to achieve it, but it looks like it's too much."

Overchuk, meanwhile, made it clear that Moscow has no plans to turn off the flow of fossil fuels soon.

"Addressing global warming and climate change should not lead to further increase of poverty, not just in the developing world but in the developed world as well," he said. "Russia will remain a reliable supply of energy to international markets and consumers."

Jordans reported from Glasgow, Scotland.

Follow AP's coverage of the climate summit at <http://apnews.com/hub/climate>

Rittenhouse trial highlights rise of livestreamed video

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

When Andrew Mercado found himself in the middle of a protest following George Floyd's death in Minneapolis last year, he was just figuring out how to livestream on Facebook. A few months later, though, thousands watched as he streamed footage from the Wisconsin streets where Kyle Rittenhouse shot three people.

Mercado was just one of a number of people who caught snippets of Rittenhouse on that August 2020 night of turmoil and unrest in Kenosha when the 17-year-old from nearby Antioch, Illinois, shot three men, killing two of them.

Livestreamers such as Mercado have become ubiquitous at protests, seeking to provide an unedited view into movements that often reflect an angry and divided America. They are often near the heart of protests, adorned with "press" identification and protective equipment, holding glowing phones that offer a real-time view into some of the most dramatic and violent clashes.

Some say they are journalists who follow the same principles of objectivity as traditional news outlets. Others are activists seeking to amplify the impact of the protests. But nearly all say they are providing an alternative to mainstream newsrooms that they don't always trust.

Livestreaming "fits into a larger cultural moment that we're in, where people seem to want authenticity," said Seth Lewis, a journalism professor at the University of Oregon. "It seems raw and real."

Mercado, who lives in a Minneapolis suburb, said that when he started documenting protests last year, he was a "devout Republican." But amid mass protests over the killing of Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer, he wanted to examine the issue of police accountability for himself.

"Now I'm getting my own perspective on things," he said, adding that he does not support either major political party.

A friend had to show Mercado how to livestream from his Facebook account on his phone before he started documenting the protests. Soon, his video stream had more than 60,000 viewers.

As people sent him money through money transfer apps, he bought gear such as a protective vest and gas mask. He also set up accounts on YouTube and Facebook that paid him for his streams.

Less than three months after first pointing his phone at the Minneapolis protests, Mercado was traveling the country and trying to make a living out of covering protests. He was on his way to a protest in Washington when he heard that a white Kenosha police officer had shot Jacob Blake, a Black man. He immediately headed that way.

As some of the protests in the Wisconsin city turned violent, Mercado said he found it hard to stay in his preferred role of observer. At one point, a fire threatening a church compelled him to put down his phone and extinguish the flames.

As shots rang out from Rittenhouse's rifle that night, Mercado was on the street. He streamed video as Rittenhouse ran past between the first and second shootings.

"I jumped out of the objective observer mode and I grabbed people and tried to help them," Mercado said.

Mercado was not the only one to capture footage of Rittenhouse. Video streams have featured prominently at the trial so far, with several livestreamers and reporters taking the witness stand.

Kristan Harris, who hosts a web-based talk show "The Rundown Live," testified Monday after video footage he shot that night was shown earlier in the trial.

He told The Associated Press that he saw a livestream as "the most raw form of reporting" that would "allow people to make decisions for themselves."

But even with plentiful video footage from the scene of the shooting, Rittenhouse's case has been cast into a cultural wedge that has been used by powerful interest groups, extremists, politicians and others

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 62 of 72

to push their own agendas.

"They are capturing snippets and slices of larger things occurring," said Lewis, the journalism professor. "They still don't provide all the pieces of the puzzle."

However, Lewis pointed out that smartphones — and their ability to instantly capture video — have completely changed how instances of police brutality are documented, particularly for Black people.

"People would not believe us so we had to document it," said KingDemetrius Pendleton, a Minneapolis-based activist and citizen journalist who can frequently be found at protests with a regular camera in one hand and a phone in the other.

For Pendleton, the livestream doesn't just broadcast images to an audience, it also transports his audience to the scene of the protest. That's especially important to him because he says Black people from his community are not always able to take to the streets due to financial hardships or legal troubles.

"When I'm livestreaming, there are so many that can't go out," he said. "I'm showing them."

Associated Press writer Gillian Flaccus in Portland, Oregon, contributed to this report.

Find the AP's full coverage of the Rittenhouse trial at <https://apnews.com/hub/kyle-rittenhouse> and follow Stephen Groves on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/stephengroves>.

Despite reopening, the US is still closed to many in world

By TALI ARBEL and ANNE D'INNOCENZIO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. says that it's inviting the global community to visit now that the government has ended the ban on travelers from 33 countries.

In reality, however, it will still be difficult — if not impossible — for much of the globe to enter the country and experts say it will take years for travel to fully recover.

For starters, half the world isn't vaccinated and therefore doesn't meet the U.S. requirement for visiting foreigners. So while many Europeans may now be able to come in, people from poorer countries where vaccines are scarce remain cut off, with limited exceptions.

For some public health experts, that raises ethical questions about the policy.

"The concern is not limiting access based on vaccination status," said Nancy Kass, deputy director of public health in the Berman Institute of Bioethics at Johns Hopkins University. "It is that it's systemically making it impossible for people, generally from poor countries, whose governments have been unable to secure anything near the supply they need, to be able to come and see their loved ones."

Even if you've gotten the jab, that might not be good enough. Non-immigrant adults need to have received vaccines authorized by the Food and Drug Administration or which received an emergency use listing from the World Health Organization, otherwise they, too, are prohibited from entering the U.S. That sidelines anyone who's received Russia's Sputnik V or the China-produced CanSino jab.

Then there are the months-long delays in some places to get a visa. The U.S. Travel Association says that, on average, there's a six-month visitor visa appointment backlog as many U.S. consulates and embassies have yet to resume normal operations. Meanwhile, other countries have their own strict rules, which complicates foreign travel.

Experts do expect a wave of travelers at U.S. airports, which will go a long way to boost the overall industry. The 28 European countries that up until Monday were barred under the U.S. policy made up 37% of overseas visitors in 2019, the U.S. Travel Association says.

Travelport, which analyzes airline bookings data, says that by region, the greatest number of international travelers to the U.S. since mid-2020 has come from Latin America, but new travelers booking flights since late September, when the Biden administration said it would end the travel bans, are mainly European. The reopening of the land borders with Canada and Mexico should also help restore travel, since they are typically the top two sources of international visitors to the U.S.

But the U.S. Travel Association predicted in June that international travel would not return to 2019 levels

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 63 of 72

of nearly 80 million visitors until 2024. Foreign travelers dropped to 19 million in 2020 and is expected to rise a bit this year, to more than 26 million; it will more than double, to about 57 million, in 2022 but still fall far short of its pre-pandemic heights.

The U.S. isn't alone in trying to jump-start travel as more people get vaccinated. Some countries that closed their borders have begun easing back, like Australia, India and Thailand; Europe opened its doors to Americans months ago.

Others, like China and Japan, remain essentially closed, which makes it difficult for their own citizens to leave and come back because of mandatory quarantines. In 2019, the two countries were among the top five biggest sources of overseas visitors to the U.S., along with the U.K., South Korea and Brazil, according to U.S. government data.

Sylvia Li, who is from China and lives in the U.S., just married her partner in a small ceremony in New York a few weeks ago without her family there because she had no idea when they'd be able to come or when she'd be able to go to China.

"I was able to convince them, it's really nothing, it's just a party," Li said. But her mom didn't fall for it. "I think my mom felt she was missing out. She felt like she was actually missing something big."

Edgar Orozco, who owns two restaurants, both called Chelito's, in El Paso, Texas, was excited for the land border with Mexico to reopen on Monday, and he hopes that helps fill the streets of downtown El Paso with shoppers — and customers at his restaurants — this holiday season, unlike last year, when he said streets were empty.

"Now that non-essential travelers are going to be able to come back, we're looking forward to going back to those good old days," he said.

But he's heard of people who have visa issues, like a vendor in Mexico who he says can't renew his visa until 2023. The appointment wait time for a U.S. visitor visa in Ciudad Juarez, just across the border from El Paso, is 676 days, or nearly two years, according to the State Department.

In New York, the country's biggest tourist destination, businesses are gearing up for more international travelers. Hudson Yards, a shopping complex, is expanding its concierge services to include a wider array of foreign languages. City Experiences, a tour company that sends ferries to the Statue of Liberty and other sites, is increasing marketing abroad.

In the past two weeks, 75% of new bookings at three Moxy hotels in Manhattan have come from Europe, mostly the United Kingdom, Spain, France and Germany, said Mitchell Hochberg, president of the hotels' operator, Lightstone.

Still, Hochberg thinks it will take until at least spring for international bookings to be back to their pre-pandemic levels.

"Travel can be cumbersome," he said. "The flights are somewhat limited right now."

Worry about getting COVID-19 also continues to put a damper on travel plans for many, even if they're now allowed in.

Mehek Khera doesn't want her parents in India to visit her in Santa Clara, California, even though they could now — they're vaccinated and have visas. But the risk of getting sick is too high. Her father has a heart condition, and they don't have health insurance in the U.S.

"We don't feel comfortable adding on another risk on top of that," Khera said. "They don't feel very excited to travel."

Do look down: Scaling one of NYC's tallest skyscrapers

By DAVID R. MARTIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — As I climbed the narrow metal steps on the edge of the skyscraper, the safety harness that kept me attached to the building — nearly 1,300 feet up — kept clicking, like a roller-coaster heading toward its first drop.

Looking around on a recent fall day, I could see New York City spread out below me in the early morning light. To the south, One World Trade Center appeared at eye level in the distance. To the east, the needle spire of the Empire State Building. To the west, as our guide, Anissa Barbato, pointed out, even

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 64 of 72

New Jersey looked good.

This was City Climb, an attraction opening Tuesday at 30 Hudson Yards, one of the city's tallest buildings. It gives thrill-seekers a unique perspective on New York that no observation deck could hope to match: No walls, no glass windows, no railings. Just skyline.

The \$185-per-person experience starts with climbing groups of up to eight taken through a series of safety protocols, including a Breathalyzer test. They're then outfitted in bright blue full body suits meant to ensure that nothing can fall off their person to the streets below.

Climbers are equipped with specially designed safety harnesses that let them ascend an outdoor staircase, from the first lookout known as the Cliff, to the top platform called the Apex, located 1,271 feet (387 meters) above 10th Avenue.

There, they can lean out over the edge and look down at the Empire State Building. City Climb will operate rain, snow or shine, but will close if the temperature drops below 23 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 5 degrees Celsius) or if there is dangerous weather in the area.

Setting off on our climb, my stomach tightened as soon as the gate saying "Restricted Area" opened onto the Cliff. My hands, tingling with nervous anticipation the night before, were numb in the cold as I walked the 161 steps on the exterior edge of the building's distinctive triangle top.

I looked down on the Hudson Yards plaza and the streets next to it, where the cars looked like ants.

When I got to the Apex, Barbato, the attraction's manager, welcomed me: "We are at the top of the world."

Then, she leaned back, arms stretched out, hanging over the city as a tether kept her from falling to the streets below.

"Put your heels on the edge, bend your knees, and push out," one of the guides said, when it was my turn.

I did as instructed. And then, it was time to hold my arms out.

I wasn't sure I wanted to let go, but everyone's eyes were on me. My mind jumped back to a time I went bungee jumping in college nearly 20 years ago. I hesitated then, and always kind of regretted it.

So, I let go. It wasn't that bad, as long as I didn't think about the fact that nearly 1,300 feet below — a nine-second fall — was 30th Street and certain death.

Barbato said they expect a mix of thrill-seekers and people trying to prove to themselves that they can overcome their fear of heights.

"We're going to have those urban explorers who are really just looking for something wonderful to do in New York City," said Barbato. "We're also then going to have those people who really want to prove to themselves that they can overcome not only their fears but their hurdles. This is going to be a magnificent, life changing experience for some people."

After what seemed like minutes — 30 or 40 seconds, in reality — I grabbed the harness and pulled myself back in. I'm not afraid of heights, but I respect them: Once I was back firmly on the platform, it did feel like a bit of an accomplishment.

The AP Interview: Facebook whistleblower fears the metaverse

By RAF CASERT and KELVIN CHAN Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen warned Tuesday that the "metaverse," the all-encompassing virtual reality world at the heart of the social media giant's growth strategy, will be addictive and rob people of yet more personal information while giving the embattled company another monopoly online.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Haugen said her former employer rushed to trumpet the metaverse recently because of the intense pressure it is facing after she revealed deep-seated problems at the company, in disclosures that have energized legislative and regulatory efforts around the world to crack down on Big Tech.

"If you don't like the conversation, you try to change the conversation," the former product-manager-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 65 of 72

turned-whistleblower said. The documents she has turned over to authorities and her testimony to lawmakers have drawn global attention for providing insight into what Facebook may have known about the damage its social media platforms can cause. She is in the midst of a series of appearances before European lawmakers and regulators who are drawing up rules for social media companies.

Meta, the new name for the parent company of Facebook, denied it was trying to divert attention away from the troubles it faces by pushing the metaverse. "This is not true. We have been working on this for a long time internally," the company said in a statement.

It stressed that it's working to responsibly build the metaverse — essentially a series of interconnected virtual communities that will merge online life with real life. CEO Mark Zuckerberg has said that users will, for example, be able to attend virtual concerts or fence with holograms of Olympic athletes in the metaverse — and he refocused the entire company on creating it, including renaming the business Meta.

Launching that new brand, in fact, draws attention to the company, it said in a statement, adding that if it didn't want the scrutiny it would have delayed or scrapped the launch altogether.

But the new focus on the metaverse creates a whole new set of dangers, Haugen said. In "Snow Crash," the 1992 sci-fi novel that coined the phrase, "it was a thing that people used to numb themselves when their lives were horrible," she said.

"So beyond the fact that these immersive environments are extremely addictive and they encourage people to unplug from the reality we actually live," she said, "I'm also worried about it on the level of — the metaverse will require us to put many, many more sensors in our homes and our workplaces," forcing users to relinquish more of their data and their privacy.

In a presentation last month, Zuckerberg described how the metaverse would allow for mixed-reality business meetings where some participants are physically present while others beam in as avatars. The company has launched virtual meeting software called Horizon Workrooms for use with its virtual reality headsets, so co-workers can (hopefully) better communicate, brainstorm and socialize virtually, instead of, say, looking at one another on a Zoom call grid.

But Haugen said employees of companies that use the metaverse would have little option but to participate in the system or leave their jobs.

"If your employer decides they're now a metaverse company, you have to give out way more personal data to a company that's demonstrated that it lies whenever it is in its best interests," she said.

And she cautioned the public not to expect more transparency.

"They've demonstrated with regard to Facebook that they can hide behind a wall. They keep making unforced errors, they keep making things that prioritize their own profits over our safety," she said.

Haugen has said Facebook's systems amplify online hate and extremism, fail to protect young people from harmful content, and that the company lacks any incentive to fix the problems, in revelations that shed light on an internal crisis at the company that provides free services to 3 billion people.

To back up her allegations, she has made a series of disclosures to the Securities and Exchange Commission that were also provided to Congress in redacted form by her legal team. The redacted versions received by Congress were obtained by a consortium of news organizations, including the AP.

In Tuesday's interview, she expressed astonishment that the company would shift focus to a whole new realm while it is under such intense criticism about the areas where it is already working.

"They're going to hire 10,000 engineers to work on video games when they haven't actually gotten safety right on their main product," Haugen said.

For that, she faulted Zuckerberg personally, saying he has exhibited a pattern of prioritizing growth over making sure Facebook is good for users.

"I think that is a failure of leadership," she said. "Unless he wants to prioritize the safety of the platform, he should step aside and let someone else focus on that."

The company denied that it's putting profits over safety. "Yes, we're a business and we make profit, but the idea that we do so at the expense of people's safety or well-being misunderstands where our own commercial interests lie," it said, adding that it plans to spend more than \$5 billion in 2021 on safety and security and employs more than 40,000 people who work on keeping users safe.

Zuckerberg has previously dismissed Haugen's claims as a "coordinated effort" to paint a false picture of the company.

But officials in Washington and European capitals are taking her claims seriously. European Union lawmakers questioned her intensely Monday, before applauding her at the end of the 2 1/2 hour hearing.

The EU is drafting new digital rules for the 27-nation bloc that call for reining in big "digital gatekeepers," requiring them to be more transparent about algorithms that determine what people see on their feeds and making them more accountable for the content on their platforms.

Facebook has said it largely supports regulations, with legislative efforts in the EU and United Kingdom much further along than those in the U.S. New rules could squeeze advertising revenue, but Meta's stock price appears to have so far weathered the recent storm.

Haugen has made stops in London and Berlin to speak to officials and lawmakers and spoke at a tech conference in Lisbon. She also will address French lawmakers in Paris on Wednesday.

Chan reported from London.

Astroworld deaths spur calls for independent review

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN and JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — The deaths of eight people in a crush of fans at a music festival have led to calls for an independent, outside investigation instead of one by the Houston police, who along with the fire department played a key role in crowd control and other safety measures at the show.

Experts in crowd safety say an investigation by neutral outsiders into the tragedy during Friday night's performance by rapper Travis Scott could help the city avoid potential conflicts of interest and promote transparency.

Houston Police Department spokeswoman Jodi Silva declined to comment on whether the department's close involvement in the event created a conflict or if it was considering handing the probe off to an outside agency. Such decisions are often made in investigations like police shootings.

"All of the information we have available to put out at this time has been placed out on Twitter," Silva said.

The police department's probe would be separate from any independent investigation ordered by County Judge Lina Hidalgo, Harris County's top elected official, according to Rafael Lemaitre, a spokesman for the county judge's office. Hidalgo hasn't decided who would conduct such an independent review or how it would be done, Lemaitre said Monday.

"She wants to know if this could have been prevented in any way," Lemaitre said. "It's also entirely possible that it was not preventable for whatever reason, and that's something we would like to know, as well."

Key questions remain unanswered after the Astroworld festival at the Harris County-owned NRG Park. Some involve what the Houston police and fire departments did before, during and after a crowd surged toward the stage, killing eight people and injuring many more, with over 300 people treated on site and at least 13 others hospitalized. Other questions center on the actions of event organizers.

Officials with the Houston police and fire departments have said that part of their investigation will include reviewing whether the concert promoter and others behind the festival adhered to the plans that were submitted for the event.

Astroworld's organizers laid out security and emergency medical response protocols for the festival in plans filed with Harris County. The 56-page plan, obtained by The Associated Press, says any decision to evacuate the event would be made by the festival director after consultation with other individuals, including the security director. Such plans have to be reviewed by Houston police officials.

Christopher Slobogin, director of the criminal justice program at Vanderbilt University, said an independent criminal investigation could be beneficial to avoid any potential conflicts of interest, but acknowledged this case is different from typical situations where authorities are confronted with decisions over whether to step away from a case.

"The actual crime was probably not committed directly by the fire department or the police department,"

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 67 of 72

he said. "But at least for appearance purposes, if an independent body did the investigation I think that would be the better practice."

Officials have said a private company was primarily responsible for providing security at the festival, but Houston police were also assigned to the event. The plan says medical care at the festival was provided by ParaDocs, a private company based in New York.

Houston Fire Chief Samuel Peña said during a news conference Saturday that the injuries and size of the crowd "quickly overwhelmed" the private companies providing security and medical services. Peña said even though the medical operations plan did not require the fire department to have units pre-positioned around the festival, those units were in place "in case this incident escalated."

Houston Police Chief Troy Finner said in a statement on Monday that he had a "brief and respectful" meeting with Scott and the rapper's head of security on Friday before his performance. The chief said he asked them to work with the police department.

"I expressed my concerns regarding public safety and that in my 31 years in law enforcement experience I have never seen a time with more challenges facing citizens of all ages, to include a global pandemic and social tension throughout the nation," Finner said.

G. Keith Still, a visiting professor of crowd science at the United Kingdom's University of Suffolk, said his independent investigations of similar tragedies typically begin with evaluating an event's safety permit process, including how a permit was issued and whether the event organizer adhered to permit conditions.

"Police can sometimes get too caught up in trying to take eyewitness accounts," he said. "With 50,000 potential eyewitnesses, by the time they get through with all of that, they're left with a huge, confused mass."

Houston police and fire officials said their investigation will include reviewing video taken by concert promoter Live Nation, as well as dozens of clips from people at the show. Officials also planned to review the event's security plan and determine whether its organizers properly followed permit requirements.

Steven Adelman, vice president of the industry group Event Safety Alliance, said in an email that he sees no issue with public safety authorities authorizing an independent investigation of the Houston tragedy.

"I would hope and assume the investigation will be conducted by an outside person who is not subject to influence by the agencies that were involved with Astroworld. This is not an uncommon scenario in complex situations like this one," wrote Adelman, whose organization was formed after the collapse of a stage killed seven people at the Indiana State Fair in 2011.

Adelman said private forensic analysis experts independently investigated the Indiana stage collapse, examining the stage roof engineering and crowd management.

"A good example of what I hope we see here," Adelman said of the investigation in Houston.

Finner has defended how long it took for the concert to be called off after the first signs of trouble. The police chief said his department immediately notified concert organizers after noticing that attendees were "going down." The event was called off 40 minutes later after discussions that included the fire department and park officials.

"You cannot just close when you've got 50,000 — over 50,000 — individuals, OK?" Finner said. "We have to worry about rioting — riots — when you have a group that's that young."

Peña said city officials limited the attendance to 50,000 even though the venue could have held 200,000 based on fire codes.

"It was the crowd control at the point of the stage that was the issue, especially as the crowd began to surge toward the stage," Peña said.

Live Nation said in a statement that it is cooperating with local authorities "so that both the fans who attended and their families can get the answers they want and deserve, and we will address all legal matters at the appropriate time."

County Judge Hidalgo tweeted on Saturday that she was "calling for an objective and independent investigation into what happened." She also said her office was grateful for the work done by the police and fire departments.

"It may well be that this tragedy is the result of unpredictable events, of circumstances coming together that couldn't possibly have been avoided," Hidalgo said. "But until we determine that, I will ask the tough questions."

Hidalgo's office isn't a law-enforcement agency and doesn't have authority over criminal investigations.

Kunzelman reported from College Park, Maryland. Associated Press reporters Kimberlee Kruesi in Nashville and Jake Bleiberg in Dallas contributed to this report.

Are you vaxxed? Some families face fraught divide over jobs

By LEANNE ITALIE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Thanksgiving is Jonatan Mitchell's favorite holiday, usually spent with his wife co-hosting up to 20 loved ones. He'd been looking forward to the gathering this year after calling it off in 2020 due to the pandemic, but one of the most pressing issues of the times got in the way: Who's vaccinated and who's not?

Mitchell, 35, in Coon Rapids, Minnesota, has a rare neurological disorder called Kleine-Levin Syndrome and a smattering of related health issues that leave him at high risk should he contract COVID. Two relatives — his father-in-law and a brother-in-law — won't get vaccinated.

Rather than laying down an ultimatum doomed to fail, the Mitchells called off Thanksgiving, choosing instead to host a Friendsgiving the following day. Mitchell's vaccinated wife will catch up with her family on Thursday.

The situation, which Mitchell said is upsetting and frustrating, resonates with many families navigating the vaccination divide for the holidays. Thanksgiving is a bellwether for how the rest of the season will go among those facing family conflict over the shot.

"This is a line in the sand I'm willing to draw with others," Mitchell said of the choice not to confront his unvaccinated relatives. "I've cut off a handful of friends and acquaintances that are staunchly anti-vaccine, but you can't do that with family."

That sentiment, echoed by others, points to a transition in the pandemic from abject fear over public safety to a more long-term and intimate reshaping of social norms, said Karla Erickson, a professor of sociology at Grinnell College.

"Families often kind of mute conflicts and, because we paused in a way that's really rare for families, the restarting of ritual gives us a moment to reconsider things," she said. "There will be new hesitancy. A lot of people who are vaccinated might not be willing to go to an event where the host hasn't asked or doesn't know."

Carrie Verrocchio, 55, in Binghamton, New York, is a long-haul COVID survivor still struggling with a loss of taste and smell 10 months after testing positive. She's hosting about 11 for Thanksgiving. Five are unvaccinated. All have been informed, she said.

"You just want people to be happy and be together, and it feels like there is constant friction. No matter what we do, there's constant friction these days," said Verrocchio, who took the vaccination after contracting the virus. "We're handling it by letting everyone make their own decisions. It isn't ideal, but it is a plan."

Lizzie Post is the great-great-granddaughter of etiquette legend Emily Post. Her famous relative wrote her first book, "Etiquette," in 1922, not long after the Spanish flu took its deadly toll. Emily made no mention of how to navigate such a threat in that first edition, but the subject today is hard for her etiquette standard bearers to ignore.

"It's a really delicate subject, and it's not going to go well for everybody," said Post, who is co-president of the Emily Post Institute, host of the Awesome Etiquette podcast, and author and co-author of several books on etiquette.

"A lot of us have gotten used to general entertaining since vaccinations have been in play. That means we actually have experience with it and we know where our standards are for ourselves. But there are some really good reasons to back off and say, you know, maybe the big family thing isn't worth it if it's

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 69 of 72

going to be so fraught," she said.

The avoidance of fraught is exactly the approach Eva Keller and her husband are taking for Thanksgiving. He has been vaccinated. She has contracted COVID twice and has no plans to get the shot. There was no talk of Thanksgiving with her husband's kin.

"My husband's family has made it clear that I'm not allowed inside any of their homes until I'm fully vaccinated," said Keller, 27, in Anaheim, California. "My husband only got vaccinated because of his parents insisting. He was concerned his mother would worry herself to death if he didn't."

The two will spend Thanksgiving at home together.

Erickson sees other pandemic strands at play heading into the holiday season.

"There are also questions," she said, "like how did this person or this family navigate the pandemic more generally? Do we share values about what this last year has meant for our families? Did we stay in touch? Have we reconnected enough to share the holiday?"

August Abbott answers etiquette questions at JustAnswer.com, a help line that has just over 10 million unique monthly visitors. Of late, she has been responding to a barrage of questions about holiday gatherings and vaccinations. Among them: Is it rude to ask for a guest's vaccination status? Can I disinvite somebody who isn't vaccinated?

"It's kind of like Typhoid Mary. Do you invite her to dinner knowing she's Typhoid Mary, or do you explain to Mary, 'I'm sorry, we can't take a chance. We love you, but we can't take that chance.' That's what you've got to do with unvaccinated people when it comes to COVID, most especially if someone in your household is elderly or immunocompromised. This is just a matter of health and respecting each other, not political," she said.

Tone, Abbott said, is everything.

"So it's not unreasonable to say to Uncle Jack, you know, you haven't been vaccinated. That's your prerogative. I respect that. I love you. We can't take the chance. So, Uncle Jack, do you want to come to this dinner via video? There are options like that, but you can't jeopardize health to be polite," she said.

Frederick Brushaber, 36, in Cincinnati will be gathering for Thanksgiving with 13 family members at his mother's house in Knoxville, Tennessee. The group includes his husband and their 15-month-old son, Freddie, who has Down syndrome, which puts him at higher risk for complications should he catch COVID.

Brushaber's 88-year-old grandmother, who lost her husband this year, was supposed to be driving from Florida to Knoxville with an aunt and uncle. They're not vaccinated. They won't be coming after his mother had the Thanksgiving vaccination talk with them. That means grandma must board a plane alone for the first time without her husband.

"I'm not thrilled about that but I'm just happy I get to be the winner of this," he said. "I get to have grandma and Freddie be there and I won't have to worry about anything. The numbers for people with Down syndrome are really bad. I just wish people knew that like, yeah, you have a choice to do things, but some of the most vulnerable people don't have a choice."

Follow Leanne Italie on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/litalie>

In fast-changing Dubai, once-isolated village to be razed

By ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — From the front porch of their cinderblock home, Garry and Amanda James gaze over Dubai's soaring skyscrapers and massive malls.

It's a skyline that in their young days had seemed impossibly far off. Outside Amanda's childhood home in the same spot three decades ago were just miles of empty desert.

Throughout Dubai's meteoric rise from tiny pearling town to booming financial hub, Jebel Ali Village, a collection of cottages built in the late 1970s for European port workers, largely stayed the same.

It's a relic of another time. Expat residents still amble along quiet, windswept roads and play Christmas bingo at the clubhouse.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 70 of 72

But now, the bulldozers are coming.

Nakheel, the state-owned developer of Dubai's signature palm-shaped islands, unveiled plans to demolish the neighborhood to make way for a gated community of luxury two-story villas. Residents found 12-month eviction notices stuck to their doors.

"We're just gutted," said Amanda James, 53, whose British father first moved the family to the village in 1984. "I arrived here during the Iran-Iraq War. I stayed through both Gulf wars. ... We've had three generations. There's a history of people growing up, meeting each other, having their families right here."

In response to a request for comment, Nakheel said it informed residents of its plans and complied with legal requirements.

"We recognize Jebel Ali Village's importance to Dubai's history and its residents and, for this reason, have taken the decision to redevelop the community to preserve and enhance its longevity for many more generations to come," the company said, arguing that the planned pools, parks, sports courts and bike trails would bring residents together in new ways.

As oil boomed in the 1970s, American and European employees of international oil conglomerates, lured by generous cost-of-living allowances, descended on the dusty towns of the Persian Gulf. Expats settled with their families in well-guarded communities across the region, transforming outposts like Saudi Arabian Oil Co. compounds into meticulously landscaped replicas of California suburbia.

Dubai didn't have much oil, but used what it had to build Jebel Ali, the region's first major shipping hub and dry dock. Dutch and British port workers moved into houses made from concrete breeze blocks. As the neighborhood grew, a school sprouted up. So did horse stables, a pool and clubhouse where residents gathered to swap stories over brunches and beers.

"That sense of community is quite unique to this place," said Donna Dickinson, a 40-year-old from Norfolk, England, who spent her teenage years in the village and moved back with her family last year "to replicate for my children the childhood that I had."

Residents recalled the city's rapid changes that climaxed in 2002, when Dubai's ruler allowed foreigners to buy property in areas of the emirate. That unleashed a real estate frenzy fueled by speculators.

Extravagant housing developments, sprawling golf courses, luxury resorts, elaborate water parks and gigantic shopping malls crammed into the land around the James' home. Over time, the coral stone homes of the emirate's rulers along the Dubai Creek were gutted and leveled.

"A lot of the history was demolished and replaced," said Todd Reisz, the author of "Showpiece City: How Architecture Made Dubai," rattling off razed treasures. "Change is inevitable for a city always trying to meet market demands. But there are still places of culture and places where we understand our history."

Nakheel announced plans to revamp Jebel Ali village and evicted residents ahead of demolition. But the real estate bubble burst in 2008. The company, struggling with billions of dollars in debt, abandoned its vision for the site.

As Dubai's property prices plunged and oil-rich Abu Dhabi rescued the emirate from default, village homes sat empty. Years later as the economy perked up, Nakheel allowed residents old and new to trickle back, ready to spend to restore the scruffy community to its former glory.

"When you're an expat, having a sort of history to a place is quite a difficult thing," Dickinson said as her 7-year-old son bounced on a trampoline. Behind him loomed Dubai's mammoth aluminum smelter near the port.

In a transient city where foreigners on short-term visas with no route to citizenship far outnumber locals, the village "was always home, really, in my heart," she said.

Yet hints emerged that one of the last bastions of 1970s Dubai may soon be no more.

In 2017, Nakheel transformed the rustic clubhouse into a sleek pub with suede chairs and added a dine-in movie theater bearing the name of Food Network star Guy Fieri — in stark contrast to the dilapidated village homes. Even as kids on bikes returned to the winding roads, some houses remained abandoned, drawing raucous teenagers searching for secret party venues to residents' chagrin.

The village crackled with rumors about Nakheel's plans to tear it all down. But it wasn't until last week

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 71 of 72

that residents' worst fears were confirmed. Flyers declaring "the past has a new future" blanketed their cars and gates, advertising modern villas of glass and steel.

The remaining Jebel Ali residents won't be offered property in future villas, which many can't afford, and all will have to try to find homes elsewhere. Some said they'd consider leaving Dubai altogether.

Monique Buitendag, a 37-year-old South African who spent a fortune on renovations just months ago, is seething.

"They knew this was coming, and they still sold us the dream," she said. "It's just going to look like the rest of the swanky villas. ... You're losing that little bit of old Dubai."

Cory Rhodes, a 43-year-old from Oregon whose cozy cottage also functions as his studio and daughters' home school, is heartbroken.

"The emotional feeling you get from living here you're just not going to get it anywhere else," he said grimly.

Amanda James has felt the whiplash before. Reflecting on the stubborn allure of the old village, she wonders if Dubai may lose more than it gains.

"My hope is that young people today don't think Dubai is Disneyland — because it's not," she said, staring out across the city's tapering towers illuminated in the haze. "It had so much depth."

Follow Isabel DeBre on Twitter at www.twitter.com/isabeldebre.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 10, the 314th day of 2021. There are 51 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 10, 1951, customer-dialed long-distance telephone service began as Mayor M. Leslie Denning of Englewood, New Jersey, called Alameda, California, Mayor Frank Osborne without operator assistance.

On this date:

In 1775, the U.S. Marines were organized under authority of the Continental Congress.

In 1871, journalist-explorer Henry M. Stanley found Scottish missionary David Livingstone, who had not been heard from for years, near Lake Tanganyika in central Africa.

In 1919, the American Legion opened its first national convention in Minneapolis.

In 1928, Hirohito (hee-roh-hee-toh) was enthroned as Emperor of Japan.

In 1944, during World War II, the ammunition ship USS Mount Hood (AE-11) exploded while moored at the Manus Naval Base in the Admiralty Islands in the South Pacific, leaving 45 confirmed dead and 327 missing and presumed dead.

In 1969, the children's educational program "Sesame Street" made its debut on National Educational Television (later PBS).

In 1975, the U.N. General Assembly approved a resolution equating Zionism with racism (the world body repealed the resolution in Dec. 1991).

In 1982, the newly finished Vietnam Veterans Memorial was opened to its first visitors in Washington, D.C., three days before its dedication. Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev died at age 75.

In 2006, actor Jack Palance died in Montecito, California, at age 87.

In 2009, John Allen Muhammad, mastermind of the 2002 sniper attacks that killed 10 in the Washington, D.C. region, was executed. President Barack Obama visited Fort Hood, Texas, where he somberly saluted the 13 Americans killed in a shooting rampage, and pledged that the killer would be "met with justice — in this world, and the next."

In 2017, facing allegations of sexual misconduct, comedian Louis C.K. said the harassment claims by five women that were detailed in a New York Times report "are true," and he expressed remorse for using his influence "irresponsibly."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 126 ~ 72 of 72

In 2018, President Donald Trump, in France to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, canceled a visit to a cemetery east of Paris where Americans killed in that war are buried; rainy weather had grounded the presidential helicopter. Authorities in Northern California said 14 additional bodies had been found in the ruins from a fire that virtually destroyed the town of Paradise.

Ten years ago: The National Archives released a transcript of former President Richard Nixon's June 1975 grand jury testimony after a judge ordered the government to do so; in it, a feisty and cagey Nixon defended his legacy and Watergate-era actions.

Five years ago: President-elect Donald Trump took a triumphant tour of the nation's capital, where he held a cordial White House meeting with President Barack Obama, sketched out priorities with Republican congressional leaders and took in the majestic view from where he would be sworn in to office.

One year ago: Democrat Cal Cunningham conceded defeat to Republican Thom Tillis in their North Carolina Senate race; Democrats would now have to win both runoff races in Georgia in January in order to seize Senate control. (The Democrats would win both.) The U.S. hit a record number of coronavirus hospitalizations and surpassed 1 million new confirmed cases in just the first 10 days of November amid a nationwide surge of infections. A Vatican investigation found that bishops, cardinals and popes downplayed or dismissed reports of sexual misconduct by former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick; much of the blame went to Pope John Paul II, who appointed McCarrick archbishop of Washington, D.C. in 2000 despite an investigation that confirmed he had slept with seminarians. Tommy Heinsohn, who as a Boston Celtics player, coach and broadcaster over more than 60 years was with the team for all 17 of its NBA championships, died at 86.

Today's Birthdays: Blues singer Bobby Rush is 87. Actor Albert Hall is 84. Country singer Donna Fargo is 80. Former Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., is 78. Lyricist Tim Rice is 77. Actor Jack Scalia is 71. Movie director Roland Emmerich is 66. Actor Matt Craven is 65. Actor-comedian Sinbad is 65. Actor Mackenzie Phillips is 62. Author Neil Gaiman (GAY'-mihn) is 61. Actor Vanessa Angel is 58. Actor Hugh Bonneville is 58. Actor-comedian Tommy Davidson is 58. Actor Michael Jai (jy) White is 57. Country singer Chris Cagle is 53. Actor-comedian Tracy Morgan is 53. Actor Ellen Pompeo (pahm-PAY'-oh) is 52. Actor-comedian Orny Adams is 51. Rapper U-God is 51. Rapper-producer Warren G is 51. Actor Walton Goggins is 50. Comedian-actor Chris Lilley is 47. Contemporary Christian singer Matt Maher is 47. Rock singer-musician Jim Adkins (Jimmy Eat World) is 46. Rapper Eve is 43. Rock musician Chris Joannou (joh-AN'-yoo) (Silverchair) is 42. Actor Heather Matarazzo is 39. Country singer Miranda Lambert is 38. Actor Josh Peck is 35. Pop singer Vinz Dery (Nico & Vinz) is 31. Actor Genevieve Buechner is 30. Actor Zoey Deutch (DOYCH) is 27. Actor Kiernan Shipka is 22. Actor Mackenzie Foy is 21.