

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 1 of 84

## [1- Upcoming Events](#)

[1- Coloring at the Library](#)

[2- Wiseman helps fourth graders to succeed](#)

[3- Lee Raines on Veterans](#)

[6- ADT Security System Ad](#)

[7- Hale Groves Ad](#)

[8- Omaha Steaks Ad](#)

[9- Build Dakota Scholarship Opportunity](#)

[10- Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller](#)

[14- Hawaii/Alaskan Cruise Ad](#)

[15- 2021 River Otter Harvest Limit Met](#)

[15- Conde National League](#)

[15- Today on GDILIVE.COM](#)

[16- South Dakota Democratic Party Statement on New Legislative Map](#)

[17- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)

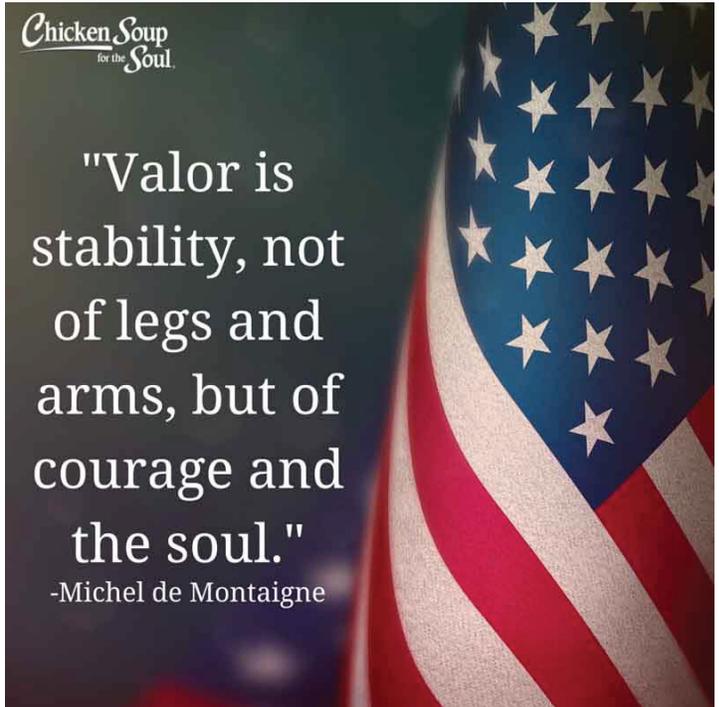
[18- Weather Pages](#)

[22- Daily Devotional](#)

[23- 2021 Community Events](#)

[24- Subscription Information](#)

[25- 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



## Coloring at the Library

Rose Mary Howard and her great-grandson, Finley Gauer, stopped at Wage Memorial Library on Wednesday to look at some books and to do some coloring. Rose Mary said that the new library is so bright and cheerful and they enjoy coming to the library to spend some time.

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

## **OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

© 2021 Groton Daily Independent

## Student Internship

### **Torrence Wiseman helps fourth graders to succeed**

**by Dorene Nelson**



Groton Area High School offers a variety of business classes. One of these classes, School Internships, offers seniors the opportunity to work in various local businesses of their choice.

The purpose of this internship is to teach students responsibility by working for someone other than their family. It helps them learn how to work with the public and with customers who might not be all that agreeable at times.

Internships could also help students decide on a part-time job while they are in college or maybe even to help them choose a future occupation.

The business teacher, Becky Hubsch, has set up this experience for the seventeen students enrolled in her School Internship class.

All students must be at their chosen place of work during their internship class. There are two separate sections of Internship classes this year. The student interns must contact the place they would like to work and have their own personal transportation.

Torrence Wiseman, daughter of Dustin and Kandi Wiseman, is interning in the fourth grade classroom at Groton Area Elementary School.

She has six sisters and one brother.

"I work part-time for Harbor Freight in Aberdeen," Wiseman said. "I divide my time between running the cash register and working in the warehouse."

"I decided to intern in the elementary school," she explained, "because I'd like to be a teacher someday. This hands-on experience is a good way to decide if that is really what I want to do."

"I enjoy working with the students and am finding that it is more fun than I'd expected," Wiseman admitted. "Everything is going well here, and I really enjoy working with small groups of students."

"Sometimes I work with just one student, but usually it is a group of three or four," she stated. "The best part of this job is helping those who struggle with their work and seeing their eventual success."

"The most difficult part of the job is having to repeatedly go over the same list of tasks every day," Wiseman smiled. "I actually prefer more variety in my daily work, but young kids need the repetition."

"Following high school graduation, I plan to attend Northern State University and major in elementary education," she said. "My experience here in the elementary has helped me realize that this will be a good job for me."



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 3 of 84

## Lee Raines on Veterans

For the past couple of years, I have been accumulating information about the veterans from the area around Groton, SD where I grew up. The study area expanded to include Andover, Columbia, Verdon, Ferney, Claremont, etc. If you are not familiar with this area, none of the towns are very big and most of the veterans that originated from those areas, came from the many farms that surrounded the little towns. The largest high school was Groton and the high school enrollment didn't get above 300 until the late sixties. It has since been substantially reduced and the other high schools in the area have closed. So you are talking about an area that is large (over 250 square miles) in area and very short of people. As the farms got bigger, the families got smaller and fewer and fewer kids need to be educated. Thus schools grew as the baby boomers needed to be educated and then schools got smaller, closed or consolidated.

I have completed a 80 page accumulation of veterans and when information is available, some of their "exploits". I have broken down the information as follows: 1940 to 1955 (WWII and the Korean Conflict); 1956 – 1961; Vietnam Era; and finally those who served in Vietnam. I would be happy to send a copy of it to you via email or a hard copy if you request it. The information came from the Aberdeen American News, the Groton Independent, and obituaries. Many of the individuals have passed away and took their stories with them. I wanted to celebrate this Veterans Day with a little of "did you know" about where I came from as it relates to these veterans who served their country. Please take the time to read this and let me know if you have information on a relative that I can add to this document.

Number of young men and ladies that served:

WWII and the Korean Conflict – 1940 through 1955: 466

1956 – 1961: 102

Vietnam Era (1962 – Mid 1975): 140

Vietnam: 51

Total: 759

Men that died from combat related injuries:

WWII and the Korean Conflict:

Clifford Hall – Columbia High School graduate.

Wallace Karnopp, US Navy – 1943 Groton High School graduate - lost at sea.

Donald Knapp, US Marines – son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Knapp of Groton.

Raymond Lilly, US Army – Native of Andover.

Marvin Schliebe, US Navy – died at sea - Aberdeen – Married to Goldie Bernice Meyer from Groton.

Henry Stange, US Army – Groton – son of Conrad Stange formerly of Groton.

Charles Fuller, US Navy – 1935 graduate of Groton High School.

Alfred Breitzkreutz, US Air Force – shot down by a MIG over Korea in 1952 – Native of Groton.

Vietnam:

William E. Pasch, US Army – Groton – 1968.

Roger Sletten Cameron, US Army – Pierpont – 1968.

Ronald Clifford Dexter, US Marines – Milbank – 1966.

Lanny Ray Krage, US Marines – Columbia – 1967.

Bernhardt W. (Pee Wee) Miller – Groton – 1967.

Donald Raymond Sandve, US Army – Langford – 1966.

Curtis Leland Williams, US Army – Webster – 1971.

Donald Protas – Groton – Cancer from Agent Orange.

Robert Sieber – Columbia – Cancer from Agent Orange.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 4 of 84

## Purple Heart Recipients:

LaVerne Deblizan – Vietnam.  
Larry Ragels – Vietnam.  
Henry Carlson – WWII.  
Maurice Hitchcock – WWII.  
Juel Kolbo – WWII.  
Emil Krage – WWII.  
Darwin R. Lovell – Korean Conflict.



Homer Mydland – WWII.  
Herman Nilsson - WWII  
Reuban Paul – WWII.  
DeWain Peterson – WWII.  
Lloyd Schlichting - WWII  
Robert Schuelke – WWII.  
Jay Swisher – WWII.  
Norman Thurston – WWII.

## Career Service Members:

Keith Baggett US Air Force.  
James Baldry US Army/US Navy - Groton.  
Robert Dauwen US Army 1963-1983 - Andover.  
Denny Davis US Navy/Army National Guard - Groton.  
Paul Karst US Army 1963-1997 - Groton.  
Chuck Lowary (Lieutenant Colonel Retired) US Air Force – Groton High School Class of 1965.  
Ron Mielke (Brigadier General Retired) South Dakota National Guard - Groton High School Class of 1960.  
Berwyn Place (Colonel) – US Army.  
Robert E. Rystrom (Lieutenant Colonel Retired) 1969-1990 - Graduated from Columbia High School.  
Freddie Robinson (Warrant Officer) US Army 1963-2002 - Stratford/Warner.  
Bruce T. Schoonover US Army - Barnard/Columbia.  
Alan E. Wockenfuss (Lieutenant Colonel Retired).  
Emil H. Dobberpfuhl US Air Force - Groton.  
Stephen Dresbach (Lieutenant Colonel Retired) – Groton High School Class of 1962.  
Dennis Furman, South Dakota National Guard.  
Donald Helmer (Colonel Retired) – Andover High School Class of 1949.  
Owen Jones (Lieutenant Colonel Retired) – Groton High School Class of 1971.  
Delton S. Feller, US Navy – Groton High School Class of 1927.  
Raymond H. Jones, US Army Air Corps and Air Force Reserve – Hecla High School Class of 1933.  
Kenneth V. Karnopp, US Navy - raised and attended two years of high school in Andover.  
Charles Lapham, US Air Force - Andover High School Class of 1949.  
Gerald Meister, US Army.  
Arthur E. Mills, US Army – Andover.  
J. F. Sherman, US Army - married to Jessie V. Rix in 1923.  
Orville Simonson, US Army – Groton High School Class of 1940.  
Marvin L. Tjosten – spouse Muriel Rasmussen of Putney.  
Bob Karlen (Colonel Retired), US Army National Guard – Columbia and Aberdeen.  
Brad Pigors, US Air Force – Groton High School Class of 1968.  
Greg Von Wald (Lieutenant Colonel Retired) US Marines – Groton High School Class of 1967.  
David Hosley (Major Retired) US Army – Groton High School Class of 1971.  
Charles Lavern Ahern, US Air Force – Groton High School Class of 1943.  
Norman Anderson, US Navy – Pierpont.  
James Baldry, US Army/US Navy – Groton High School Class of 1940.  
Charles Barthle (Colonel Retired), US Army – Groton High School Class of 1936.

A difficult issue associated with growing up in the small towns or farms in the Groton area related to opportunities for young people. If you did not have a large farm or a business to come home to, opportunities were very limited. To assume that so many men stayed in the military because of patriotic feelings is probably an over simplification. More likely that the best chance for success was staying in the military and making a career of it.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 5 of 84

## Women Who Served:

Kaye P. Gooding, US Army, Women's Army Corps – Andover.  
Lynette M. Olson, US Navy - Columbia.  
Jeannette Blader (Reid), US Navy – Groton High School Class of 1940  
Mercedes Kelly (Julson), US Navy – Andover and Groton school teacher for over 42 years.  
Lois Carson Knecht, US Navy Nurse Corps – native of Houghton.  
Marilyn Martin, US Air Force - Groton.  
Diana Morehouse, US Marines - Andover.  
Clara Ruden (Rix), US Army, Women's Army Corps - Groton.  
Kathy Shore, US Navy Waves - Columbia 1948 High School Graduate.  
Joyce Elizabeth Sundling, US Navy - Groton.  
Nancy Pulfrey, US Navy – Hecla.

I was amazed at the number of women that served their country especially before the Vietnam Era. Military service was difficult and especially for the women. The military was run by old white guys who most of the time didn't know what to do with a women.

## Doug Hegdahl: "The incredibly Stupid One"

Hegdahl is from Clark and was a POW in the Hanoi Hilton in North Vietnam. Using "Old McDonald Had a Farm" as a mnemonic device he memorized over 250 names of Hanoi Hilton captives. When released after 852 days, he was able to assist the US Government in identifying which veterans were being held. His testimony also enabled the US to put pressure on the North Vietnamese leaders into releasing the captives.

## Battle of the Bulge: The following local veterans were involved in the Battle of the Bulge:

Thomas (Chick) Blair  
Don Bowles  
Donald "Bud" Craig  
Morris Spencer  
Jay Swisher

Martin Weismantel, Columbia, entered the US Air Force in 1951. Clerk typist during induction processing misspelled his last name "Weismantle". Martin's name for the entire tour of duty was Weismantle.

Jean P. Ries left Hawaii seven days before Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese.

Donald E. Dombrowe was a Pearl Harbor survivor.

Lloyd Schlichting, served as a combat infantryman in the European Theater of Operations and was wounded in action April 1945. Along with being awarded the Purple Heart, he also earned the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star, and Good Conduct Medal as well as the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with two stars. He was discharged in 1946. After being discharged, Schlichting returned to Groton High School and graduated in 1947.

There are so many names and so many stories, I only hope I have most of them correct. If you see any mistakes, please let me know. I am also looking for missing names of local veterans. Please email me the names and stories. Do not want them to die without being documented.

Lee Raines  
512 644 6061

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 6 of 84

## Call to get an ADT Security System + Get a \$100 ADT Visa Reward Card FREE\*

ADT's 24/7 monitoring plus top of the line security cameras help ensure your loved ones are safe – whether you're out and about or in the next room.



\$100 ADT Visa  
Reward Card  
**FREE\***



\$100 value  
**BONUS<sup>†</sup>**  
ADT Visa Reward Card

\*With 36-month monitoring contract. Early termination and installation fees apply. Reward card issued by MetaBank®, N.A., Member FDIC. Card terms and expiration apply. For full terms, see below.



**Choose ADT today**  
and receive a \$100 Visa Reward Card  
to spend on anything you want!



**Customize your system**  
Get protection tailored to your  
needs.

Call today to speak with a home security expert

**1-866-798-0193**



\*\$100 ADT Visa Reward Card: Requires 36-month monitoring contract starting at \$28.99/mo. (24-month monitoring contract in California, total fees from \$695.76), and enrollment in ADT EasyPay. Requires minimum purchase price of \$449. One (1) Visa Reward Card valued at \$100 is redeemable seven (7) days after system is installed, wherein an email is sent to the customer's email address associated with their account with a promo code. The customer must validate the promo code on the website provided in the email and a physical card will be sent in the mail. Installation must occur within 60 days of offer expiration date to receive card. Applicable to new and resale sale types only. Card is issued by MetaBank®, N.A., Member FDIC, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. No cash access or recurring payments. Can be used everywhere Visa debit cards are accepted. Card valid for up to 6 months; unused funds will forfeit after the valid thru date. Card terms and conditions apply. Interactive Services: ADT Command Interactive Solutions Services ("ADT Command") helps you manage your home environment and family lifestyle. Requires purchase of an ADT alarm system with 36-month monitoring contract ranging from \$45.99-\$59.99/mo. with GSP (24-month monitoring contract in California, total fees ranging \$1,103.76-\$1,439.76), enrollment in ADT EasyPay, and a compatible device with Internet and email access. These interactive services do not cover the operation or maintenance of any household equipment/systems that are connected to the ADT Command equipment. All ADT Command services are not available with all interactive service levels. All ADT Command services may not be available in all geographic areas. You may be required to pay additional charges to purchase equipment required to utilize the interactive service features you desire.

General: Additional charges may apply in areas that require guard response service for municipal alarm verification. System remains property of ADT. Local permit fees may be required. Prices and offers subject to change and may vary by market. Additional taxes and fees may apply. Satisfactory credit required. A security deposit may be required. Simulated screen images and photos are for illustrative purposes only.

©2021 ADT LLC dba ADT Security Services. All rights reserved. ADT, the ADT logo, 800.ADT.ASAP and the product/service names listed in this document are marks and/or registered marks. Unauthorized use is strictly prohibited. Third-party marks are the property of their respective owners. License information available at [www.ADT.com/legal](http://www.ADT.com/legal) or by calling 800.ADT.ASAP. Licenses: AL 233, 234, 458, 506, 1519, CA ACO7155, 974443, PPO120288; FL EF0001121; LA F1639, F1640, F1643, F1654; MA 172C; NC Licensed by the Alarm Systems Licensing Board of the State of North Carolina; 2736-CSA, 2397-CSA, 2381-CSA; NJ Burg & Fire Business Lic. #34BF00048300, 200 East Park, Ste. 200, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054; NY 12000305615; PA 090797; MS 1501951. DF-CD-NP-Q421

## Click on Ad to go to website

### Fruit Favorites Gift Box

**ONLY**  
**\$23.99\***

Special, limited-time offer!

**SAVE \$15!**  
Reg. Price ~~\$37.99~~

**Call 1-888-925-2495 to order item 296X  
or Visit [HaleGroves.com/H2YH39](https://www.HaleGroves.com/H2YH39)**

\* **Only \$23.99** (reg. \$37.99) plus \$5.99 shipping and handling per pack to 48 contiguous states. Some restrictions may apply. **IC: H2YH39**

**Hale**  
GROVES

## Click on Ad to go to website

# THE BEST STEAKS TASTE BETTER



### The Delightful Gift

- 4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)
- 4 Filet Mignon Burgers (5.3 oz.)
- 4 Boneless Chicken Breasts (1 lb. pkg.)
- 4 Gourmet Jumbo Franks (3 oz.)
- 4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
- 1 jar Signature Seasoning (3.1 oz. jar)
- 8 **FREE** Filet Mignon Burgers (5.3 oz.)

65658TLN separately \$223.93\* **\$99<sup>99</sup>**  
**SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE**



**GET 8 FREE FILET MIGNON BURGERS**

Shop online or call now to order »

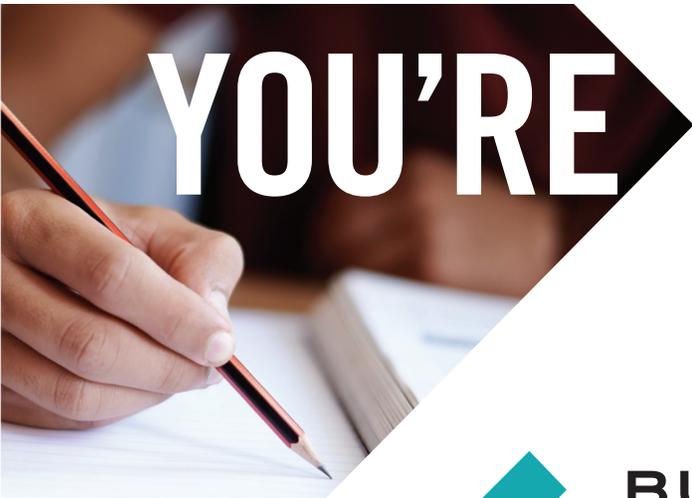
**OmahaSteaks.com/TheGift1413 | 1.866.889.0631**

Ask for free burgers with offer 65658TLN

\*Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Limit 2. 8 free (5.3 oz.) Filet Mignon Burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes (65658). Free product(s) may be substituted. Standard S&H added per address. Offer available while supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Cannot be combined with other offers. Other restrictions may apply. All purchases acknowledge acceptance of Terms of Use. Visit omahasteaks.com/terms-of-useOSI or call 1-800-228-9872 for a copy. Expires 12/31/21. ©2021 OCG | Omaha Steaks, Inc.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 9 of 84



# YOU'RE INVITED!



## BUILD DAKOTA

ROADSHOW

Please join us to learn about strategies to build your workforce and your future with this full-ride scholarship opportunity.

### EVENT DETAILS

DATE: Tuesday, November 30, 2021

TIME: 10:30-11:10am CST

LOCATION: Groton School District  
502 N 2nd Street  
Groton, SD 57445

CONTACT: Becky Hubsch- 605.397.8381 or [Becky.Hubsch@k12.sd.us](mailto:Becky.Hubsch@k12.sd.us)

### CALLING ALL

STUDENTS | PARENTS | INDUSTRY CEOs/HUMAN RESOURCES |  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS | NEWSPAPERS |  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS | HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

For more information about the Build Dakota Scholarship Fund and additional partner programs, visit [builddakotascholarships.com](http://builddakotascholarships.com).



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 10 of 84

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

At midday today, we have a troubling trend that seems to be developing: an increase in our daily case rate. It's small and only a few days old, but given we've been talking about the possibility of just such a thing happening just about now, we can't really dismiss the potential for trouble here. We're up just a couple of thousand to a seven-day new-case average of 74,834. We've reported 46,659,443 cases in the US. Worldwide, we reached a quarter billion cases of Covid-19 this week. Mind-boggling. Hospitalizations are pretty steady at 46,033, but average daily deaths have ticked slightly upward to 1251. Total deaths in the pandemic in the US are now up to 756,951.

One metric for assessing transmission level is test positivity rate—the percentage of tests done that return a positive result. High positivity suggests high transmission; it tells you there are likely to be more cases in the community you're missing with your testing. So positivity rate lets you know how hard you have to look to find a case in your community: how widespread infection is in the area and whether you're doing enough testing. When it's high, you should be testing more and imposing more restrictions. Lower is better, and getting below three percent is generally considered a good indication you're identifying the bulk of cases. By this metric, the states with the highest transmission levels at this point are South Dakota, Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah. South Dakota's positivity rate falls into the 15-19.9 percent range, and the other four are all between 10 and 14.9 percent. We have six other states between 10 and 14.9: Nevada, Idaho, Arizona, Nebraska, Iowa, and Michigan. Other states with high or substantial transmission rates according to other CDC criteria are Hawaii, Louisiana, Illinois, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. If you're thinking of traveling for Thanksgiving, consider transmission rates at both your origin and your destination; if you're traveling by car, take a look at states in between the two as well.

Looks like we might not have to wait for the winter holidays to find trouble: St. Michael's College in Vermont reports 77 campus cases in a student body of only 1700 after "numerous Halloween parties where students were unmasked and in close contact," according to a statement by the college president. Vermont as a whole is experiencing a surge as the weather cools off, but that's a Vermont-sized surge. While they are experiencing their highest case numbers of this pandemic right now, they're still well behind most other states; the state is #49 in cases per capita for the pandemic. I hope they get this under control quickly.

I have a zoo animal update, this one from the Denver zoo. This is a zoo which has been giving close attention to Covid-19 risks, having had 11 lions and two tigers test positive during the pandemic; they're all in good shape, either recovered or getting better. Now they report the first known cases in the world seen in hyenas: Two of their spotted hyenas have been diagnosed. The animals are older adults at 22 and 23 years old and are showing only mild symptoms like coughing, sneezing, runny noses, and lethargy; they're looking like they'll be fine. The risk of spread from the hyenas to humans is considered to be small. This zoo has begun vaccinating primates and great apes and has more vaccine doses on order. Many zoos are working to get their animals vaccinated, but supply is still something of a limiting factor. I will remind us that these animals are not receiving vaccines suitable for humans; they are receiving veterinary vaccines developed especially for use only in animals.

I've read a Kaiser Health News analysis of deaths in patients who appear to have acquired Covid-19 while hospitalized since the beginning of this pandemic. While there are some constraints imposed on the interpretation of these data by the fact that, for most of the pandemic, testing and contact tracing have been minimal or worse, the results are what I'd call troubling. More than 10,000 hospitalized patients were diagnosed with Covid-19 in 2020 after they were admitted for another cause. The records examined only cover people who are 65 and older or in California and Florida; that leaves out a whole lot of

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 11 of 84

patients. They also cover a time period in which testing was wildly inadequate, so who knows how many cases were missed? What is disturbing about these data is that, while around eight percent of Medicare patients overall died in the hospital between April and September, 2020, about 21 percent of people who acquired Covid-19 in the hospital in this period died. The potential sources of these infections would be other patients, either through patient-to-patient transmission or from health care workers who spread either community-acquired infections or those from other patients. Either way, we had a problem that makes hospital personnel an important potential source of infection.

This is why I support so strongly the vaccination mandates for hospital workers. We know that vaccinated people are far less likely to become infected and, even if infected, are far less likely to transmit the infection: They carry lower viral loads and shed virus for shorter periods of time. Unvaccinated people are more likely to be infected and more likely to transmit. It's that simple. Since patient is more likely to be vulnerable to getting infected and to severe consequences if they do, this places some onus on health care workers not to be a source of those infections.

So here's how I see things: If I experience a health crisis sufficiently serious to require hospitalization, I'm going to be more susceptible to both infection and severe disease, even if I'm vaccinated. It's not like I have a choice about going to the hospital. If I need groceries, I can choose to have a shopper get them or at least to make my trip to the store as brief and as safe as I can make it, minimizing my risk; but I can't hire someone to go to the hospital for me. If I'm sick, I'm going to have more than one health care worker up close and personal for extended periods of time, frequently in small windowless rooms (or ones where the windows don't open). Further, if those workers are going to be peering into my throat or my nose, I'm going to be unprotected by a mask for some of that time. If health care workers are permitted to exercise their "personal choice" to remain unvaccinated, it could very well be at the expense of my "personal choice" to remain uninfected and safe. Because I don't have a choice about needing health care, right? Unless, of course, you argue that I should quietly have my heart attack or stroke or ruptured appendix at home.

I've been hearing from a number of health care workers that their vaccination status is none of my business. I'm not seeing things that way. They get to choose (1) whether to be vaccinated and (2) whether to show up at work whereas, if I'm having a stroke, my choices are considerably more limited. I'm thinking a patient should be able to request—and have the request honored—that only vaccinated workers have contact with them. There are plenty of unvaccinated patients who can be tended by the refuseniks, aren't there?

I'm running out of patience with folks who declare, "I'm not an anti-vaxxer; I just have questions" or "I'm not anti-vaxxer, but freedom!" Your freedom ends where it imposes risks to my life and health. If you don't want to be vaccinated, then maybe don't go to work at the hospital anymore.

Regeneron has announced further data in its phase 3 trial of its monoclonal antibody "cocktail" called REGEN-COV. You may recall from our earlier discussions that monoclonal antibodies are made in what are called trans-genic humanized mice in the lab. The basic principle is that the mice have human genes engineered into them so that their immune systems are genetically human, rather than mouse immune systems. This is helpful for the use I'm about to describe because human antibodies, even those not in the original owner, are less foreign than mouse antibodies, so they're going to be destroyed more slowly in the recipient. The following leaves out a lot of complicated details, but here's the general principle. Antigens from the coronavirus are introduced into the mice and useful antibodies are identified. Then individual antigenically-stimulated cells producing a target antibody are retrieved and cultivated in tissue culture. Each individual cell reproduces to form a culture of identical (because they're all from the same

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 12 of 84

parent) cells called a clone. The antibodies produced by this clone are called monoclonal because they're from a single clone of genetically-identical cells, and they are all therefore identical too—very pure, very concentrated. This is in contrast to the antibodies you'd get by just harvesting serum from an individual because that serum's going to contain tens of thousands of different antibodies to all kinds of things—everything the individual's been exposed to—all mingled together.

REGEN-COV consists of two different virus-neutralizing monoclonal antibodies called casirivimab and imdevimab—the “-mab” word ending stands for monoclonal antibody—that bind to the receptor-binding domain (RBD) of the virus. That's the part that attaches to our cells so it can get inside and make trouble; antibody binding to the RBD clogs it up so that it can no longer attach to our cells and infect them. The drug currently has emergency use authorization (EUA) for post-exposure prophylaxis (prevention) in high-risk exposed people and for high-risk people who are already infected, but not hospitalized. It is not authorized for use in hospitalized or severely ill people requiring oxygen because there is evidence it makes such people worse instead of better. So that's where we are right now.

This trial they're reporting on now goes beyond the original EUA. It is a phase 3 randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial that enrolled people, ages 12 to 92, living in a household with an individual who had a positive Covid-19 test within the 4 prior days. They were all tested at the beginning to confirm they were not already infected and did not have any antibodies from a possible prior infection. The drug or placebo was administered as a single dose consisting of 4 subcutaneous injections. There were 841 in the experimental group (receiving the drug) and 842 in the control (placebo) group. They were tested for the virus weekly for the primary phase of the study, which lasted through the first month. As reported at the time, in the first month, the group receiving REGEN-COV had a reduction in infection risk of 81.4 percent as compared with the placebo group. This covered the high-risk household transmission setting. This makes the drug most useful in preventing infection for a solid month; we knew that.

These new data reported this week—and these have been neither published nor peer-reviewed yet—cover months 2 through 8 when the risk from that initial household contact has dissipated and new infections would presumably be acquired in the broader community setting. During this period, people were tested only if they showed symptoms, so we're not going to be picking up asymptomatic infection at this point. Participants were permitted to be vaccinated after the first month, and many did; but these were balanced between the groups with 34.5 percent of the treatment group and 35.2 percent of the control group receiving at least one dose of vaccine. That means vaccination isn't going to be a factor when we compare the groups. Of the 45 additional symptomatic infections seen in this period, 38 of those were in the placebo group. Five of the control group were hospitalized; none of the treatment group were. That means the risk reduction for these seven months is 81.6 percent and the overall risk reduction for the entire eight months is 81.5 percent. I'll add that none of the treatment group was hospitalized at any point in the eight months while six of the control group were. No additional safety signals were noted in the last seven months.

The bottom line is this stuff is safe and is effective for at least eight months. I have not seen a description of what they did or how they did it to prolong the duration of protection from these monoclonal antibodies, but the antibodies will have been modified in some way that sort of hides them from our immune response. This is important because, these antibodies are proteins and your immune system doesn't much like foreign proteins wandering around, so it destroys them—in fact, this is pretty much your immune system's entire job: destroying foreign proteins. So as I say, I don't know how they've accomplished this, but I'm thinking the modifications are going to have something to do with a part of the antibody called the Fc receptor. This is on the opposite end of the protein from the business end (the one that binds virus), what's called the Fab segment. If you modify Fc, it wouldn't necessarily interfere with the antibodies'

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 13 of 84

ability to neutralize virus, but could make it hard for your immune system to identify them as foreign or to activate a chemical called complement which helps antibodies destroy things. I'll keep looking for the details, but this is my best guess at the moment.

However that is accomplished, this is likely really good news for immunocompromised people who aren't able to respond well to vaccine to generate their own immunity to Covid-19. A monoclonal with this kind of durability becomes feasible for use in protecting those folks because it wouldn't need to be given all that frequently; with something this expensive, a durable monoclonal could make the difference between possible and impossible.

Pfizer and BioNTech have applied to the FDA to extend their vaccine's EUA to offering boosters to everyone 18 and over, not just those at high risk for severe disease or exposure. You may recall that, just over a month ago, booster doses were approved for those 65 and over and those 18 and over with health conditions or occupational/institutional situations that place them at risk; this authorization would make everyone 18 and over eligible with no conditions. The application is based on the findings from a phase 3 trial with over 10,000 volunteers that shows boosters are safe and have 95 percent efficacy against symptomatic disease when compared with the first two doses. As we discussed several days ago in a study from Israel, this is efficacy over and above what was seen in fully vaccinated people six months after that second dose—not compared with the unvaccinated state. These are strong results.

Even though overall case numbers are considerably below where they were before we had vaccines, there are a number of pretty good reasons to extend the EUA to more boosters: (1) We're at a high (and maybe growing) level of transmission going into winter and the holidays. (2) Further evidence has accumulated to show that the immunity afforded by the initial two-dose series is not as durable as we would like. (3) There has also been something of a shift from accepting that it's good enough to prevent hospitalization and death to thinking we should be preventing more symptomatic disease and its attendant suffering and economic loss plus the risks for long Covid. (4) The current rules have proved to be somewhat confusing to people, and frankly, folks have been getting boosters by pretending they're immunocompromised or work in hospitals or whatever. To some degree, this would sort of acknowledge this is going on anyway. (5) Evidence is accumulating that the decreases in severe disease after a booster are quite large. (6) Millions of boosters that have been administered at this point demonstrate their safety. There's been no real sign of serious adverse effects at all. The only significant safety signal for this vaccine after any of the doses is that rare, mild, and self-limiting myocarditis, and the very low risk for that is mostly in those under 18, a group not being considered for booster doses at this time. (7) We're acknowledging that it is not at all uncommon for vaccines to require boosting; many of the vaccines in current use for many diseases require multiple doses.

Word on the street is that the FDA will probably not take this application to its Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) for discussion. Given that group has very recently held extensive discussions of boosters, the decision may well be made to simply act on the application directly. It's difficult to say whether the CDC would make a similar decision to skip over its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) as well. I guess we'll see what happens once the application comes in.

I read a report published by the Texas Department of State Health Services on their website on Monday. It covers cases from September 4 through October 1, 2021 (which means Delta is fully a factor) and found "[u]nvaccinated people were 13 times more likely to become infected with COVID-19 than fully vaccinated people," and "[u]nvaccinated people were 20 times more likely to experience COVID-19-associated death than fully vaccinated people." This effect varied with age; the most startling finding I saw is that "unvaccinated people in their 40s were 55 times more likely to die from COVID-19 compared with fully vaccinated people of the same age." For all the folks thinking their youth is a good reason not to bother with vac-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 14 of 84

ination, I read this as evidence supporting the importance of bothering; turns out, the younger you are, the greater the improvement in your risk profile from vaccination. Additionally, 92 percent of deaths were in people who were not fully vaccinated. Unvaccinated were 45 times more likely to be infected, and on the year, unvaccinated people were 40 times more likely to die. Now this is Texas which may or may not be representative of the rest of the US population, but these numbers are hollering pretty loudly. I cannot think of a reason not to be vaccinated. Of course you already knew that.

With that, I'll close for the night. Things are getting scary again, so do take care. We'll talk again.

## FREE DATE CHANGES



FROM  
\$2,549\*  
**\$2,299\***

### BEST OF HAWAII FOUR-ISLAND TOUR

12 days, departs year-round

**Oahu • Hawaii Island • Kauai • Maui**  
— Enjoy a fully guided 4-island Hawaiian vacation with centrally located lodging in Waikiki on Oahu, and beachfront lodging on the “Big Island” of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui. Guided throughout by our friendly Tour Directors—your local experts. Includes 3 inter-island flights.



FROM  
\$1,949\*  
**\$1,699\***

FREE ONBOARD CREDIT

### GRAND ALASKAN CRUISE & TOUR

12 days, departs May - Sep 2022

**Seattle • Vancouver • Ketchikan • Juneau • Skagway • Glacier Bay • Anchorage • Denali • and more**  
Visit Denali and Glacier Bay on the same incredible trip! Cruise through the Gulf of Alaska and the Inside Passage as you discover the best of the Frontier State by land and by sea.



promo code  
**N7017**

**CALL 1-833-581-1380**

\*Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus up to \$299 in taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add-on airfare available. Free date changes prior to final payment. Deposits and final payments are non-refundable. Onboard Credit requires purchase of Ocean View or Balcony Cabin. Offers apply to new bookings only, made by 12/31/21. Other terms & conditions may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 15 of 84

## 2021 River Otter Harvest Limit Met

PIERRE, S.D.-The 2021 river otter season harvest limit of 20 was reached on November 10 at 6 p.m. central time and the season is now closed. River otters captured in existing traps in the next 24 hours are legal catches. It is illegal to harvest river otters by hunting now that the harvest limit has been reached.

Furbearer license holders now have until November 11 at 6 p.m. central time (24 hours since the season closed) to report any trapped river otters to GFP by calling 605.353.7319.

After this time, any trapped river otter is considered incidental take and must be turned in to GFP.

If the incidentally trapped river otter is alive, the trapper must release the river otter right away. Trappers who release river otters are encouraged to notify a GFP representative.

If the incidentally captured river otter is found dead in a trap, it must be left undisturbed and the trapper must contact a GFP representative within 12 hours.

All river otter pelts are required to be tagged through the eyeholes with a CITES tag provided by GFP within five days of harvest, and the carcass must be turned in to GFP.

A person may only possess, purchase, or sell raw river otter pelts that are tagged by GFP. If taken from another jurisdiction, river otters must be properly and securely tagged with a tag supplied by the governmental entity issuing the license. If the governmental entity issuing the license does not issue a tag, other proof that the river otter has been lawfully taken is required.

South Dakota's river otter trapping season began at sunrise on November 1 and marked the second-ever season in the state. This trapping season began in 2020 and created a new and exciting opportunity for South Dakota trappers during the fall. For more information about the river otter trapping season, please visit [gfp.sd.gov/river-otter](http://gfp.sd.gov/river-otter).

## Conde National League

**Nov. 8 Team Standings:** Mets 25, Pirates 18, Tigers 18, Braves 16, Cubs 16, Giants 15

**Men's High Games:** Ryan Bethke 203, 163; Brody Somke 174; Chad Furney 161.

**Men's High Series:** Ryan Bethke 523, Butch Farmen 459, Austin Schulke 450.

**Women's High Games:** Michelle Johnson 184, Joyce Walter 163, Vickie Kramp 156, Nancy Radke 156.

**Women's High Series:** Nancy Radke 450, Michelle Johnson 439, Vickie Kramp 427.

## Today on GDILIVE.COM

Groton Area's Veteran's Day Program, 2 p.m.

Ticket or GDI Subscription required to watch

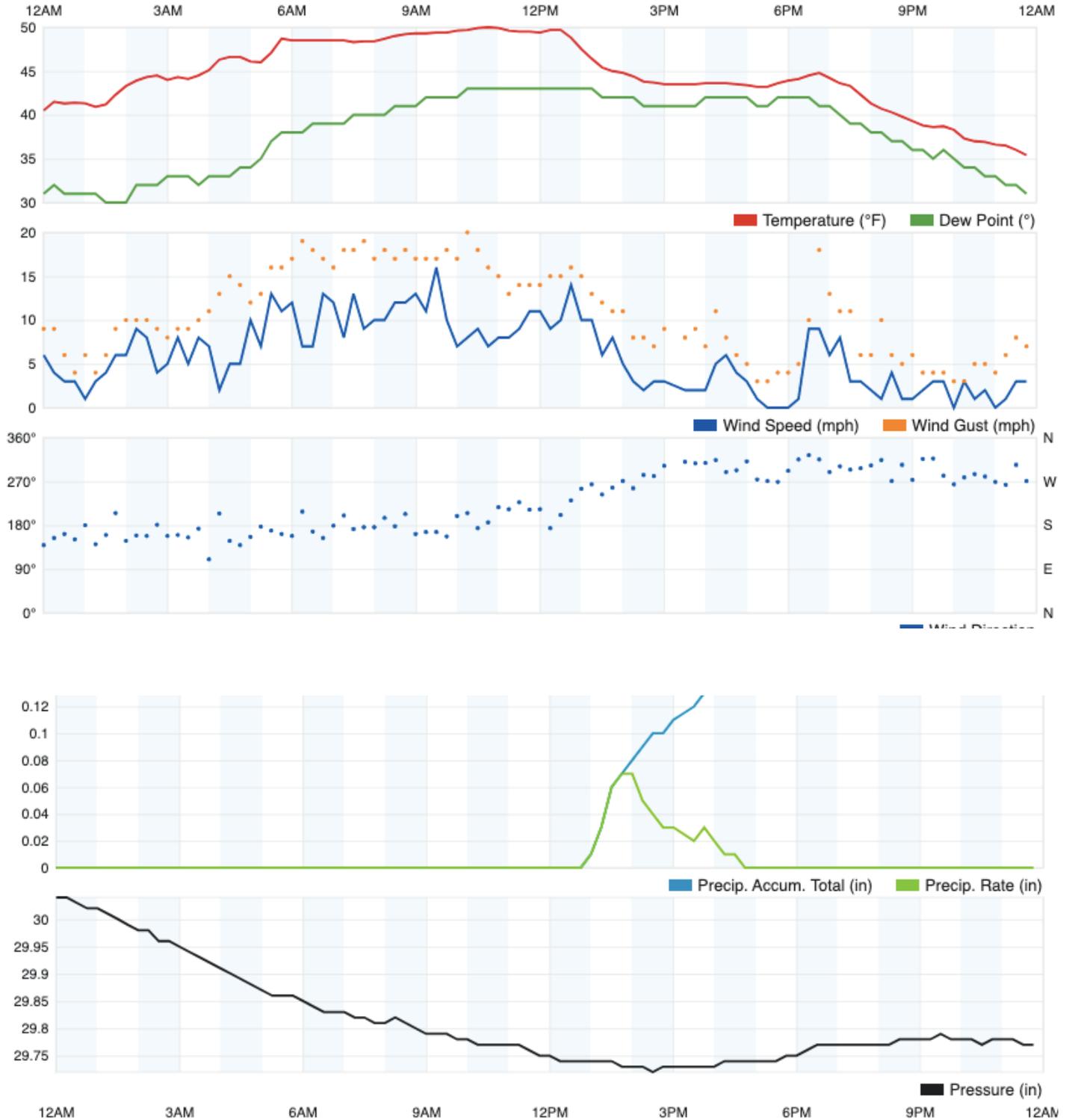




# Groton Daily Independent

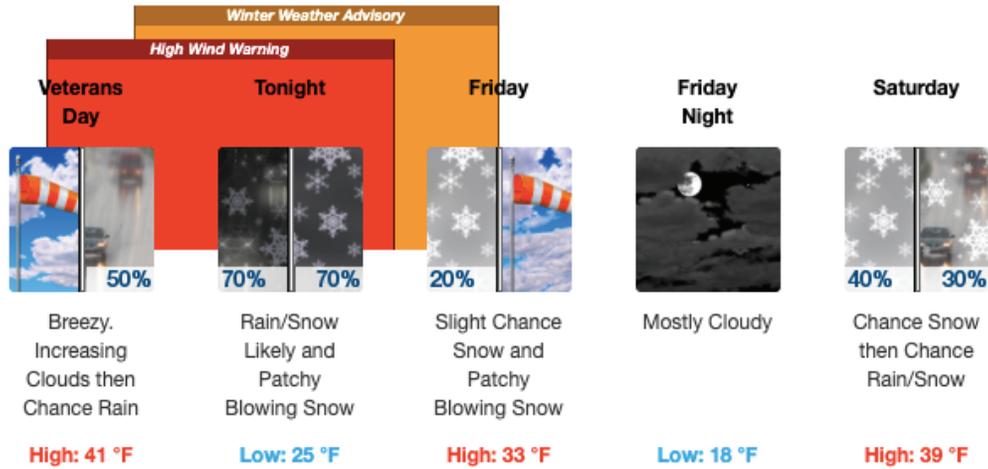
Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 17 of 84

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Broton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 18 of 84



## Winter Weather And High Winds Expected

3+ Inches Of Snow Possible Over The Prairie Coteau / Strong Winds Thursday Into Friday Morning

November 10, 2021  
2:54 PM

### Key Messages

- 2 to 5 inches possible over the Prairie Coteau over into western Minnesota
- 25 to 40 mph northwest winds with gusts of 60 mph or more expected across central South Dakota Thursday!
- Significant visibility reduction possible Thursday night into Friday where strong winds and falling snow combine

Travel could be difficult Friday morning in northeastern South Dakota and western Minnesota.

Weather Forecast Office Aberdeen, SD  
Valid Wed 6:00PM through Sat 6:00AM CST  
Issued Nov 10, 2021 2:23 PM CST

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

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Light rain will push east into Minnesota this evening, leaving behind a period of dry conditions overnight into Thursday morning. Winds will turn windy Thursday evening, with gusts of 60 mph expected over central and north-central South Dakota. Snow should begin falling in northeastern South Dakota and western Minnesota later Thursday afternoon. Snowfall amount of 2 to 5 inches will be possible over the Prairie Coteau and into western Minnesota. Northwest winds of 20 to 35 mph with higher gusts could bring blizzard conditions to northeastern South Dakota Thursday night into Friday.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 19 of 84



## Winter Weather And High Winds Expected

November 10, 2021  
8:30 PM

### Graphical Hazards Matrix For Snow Timing

	Thu 12 PM	Thu 6 PM	Fri 12 AM	Fri 6 AM	Fri 12 PM	Fri 6 PM
Mobridge	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
Pierre	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green
Aberdeen	Green	Yellow	Elevated	Yellow	Green	Green
Watertown	Green	Yellow	Snow/Wind Together		Yellow	Green
Sisseton	Green	Yellow	Snow/Wind Together		Yellow	Green

#### - About This Graphic -

The hazard matrix depicts timing and magnitude of potential impacts to local travel and infrastructure from snowfall rates and/or amounts, blowing snow, ice, and cold temperatures.

Potential aggravating factors such as time of day, pre-existing conditions, and holiday travel periods are also taken into consideration.

Impact Level	Little/None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
--------------	-------------	---------	----------	-------------	---------



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

**On Thursday, northwesterly winds will increase throughout the day, with the gusty winds continuing into Friday afternoon before slowly diminishing. Snow should begin moving into the area during the late afternoon hours on Thursday, with snow continuing through Friday. Conditions should improve Friday evening from west to east.**

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 20 of 84

## Today in Weather History

November 11th, 1982: Wet snow and winds gusting to over 50 mph snapped almost a thousand power lines and poles. Snowfall amounts were 4 to 6 inches but ranged to nearly a foot or more in Brookings County. A wind gust of 75 mph was recorded in McCook County. Several semi-trucks jackknifed on ice-covered roads, and numerous other automobile accidents were reported due to the snow and strong winds.

November 11th, 2000: Heavy snow of 6 to 14 inches fell across central and northeast South Dakota and west-central Minnesota on November 11th and 12th, causing driving difficulties throughout the region. Many vehicles became stuck in the snow or slid into ditches. There were also several accidents, and many events were canceled. Some snowfall amounts include 14.0 inches in Miller; 13.8 inches near Mellette; 12.5 inches in Highmore; 11.5 inches near Iona; 11 inches in Wilmot; 10 inches in Aberdeen, near Bryant, and Artichoke Lake MN; 9.5 inches in Clark; and 9.0 inches in Clear Lake, near Onida, and Webster.

1911: A powerful cold front, known as the Great Blue Norther of 1911, produced some of the most extreme temperature changes to the Nation's midsection. Ahead of the cold front, a warm and moist environment caused a severe weather outbreak with several strong tornadoes reported in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Michigan. An estimated F4 tornado occurred from Janesville to Milton, Wisconsin, and caused extensive damage to several farms and killed nine people. The citizens of Janesville, Wisconsin, reported blizzard conditions with a temperature near zero within an hour of the tornado.

1940: An Armistice Day storm raged across the Great Lakes Region and the Upper Midwest. A blizzard left 49 dead in Minnesota, and gales on Lake Michigan caused shipwrecks resulting in 59 deaths. Up to seventeen inches of snow fell in Iowa, and at Duluth MN, the barometric pressure reached 28.66 inches. The blizzard claimed a total of 154 lives and killed thousands of cattle in Iowa. Huge snowdrifts isolated whole towns.

1955 - An early arctic outbreak set many November temperature records across Oregon and Washington. The severe cold damaged shrubs and fruit trees. Readings plunged to near zero in western Washington, and dipped to 19 degrees below zero in the eastern part of the state. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A deepening low pressure system brought heavy snow to the east central U.S. The Veteran's Day storm produced up to 17 inches of snow in the Washington D.C. area snarling traffic and closing schools and airports. Afternoon thunderstorms produced five inches of snow in three hours. Gale force winds lashed the Middle and Northern Atlantic Coast. Norfolk VA reported their earliest measurable snow in 99 years of records. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Low pressure brought snow to parts of the Rocky Mountain Region. Totals in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado ranged up to 10 inches at Summitville. Evening thunderstorms produced large hail in central Oklahoma and north central Texas. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Veteran's Day was an unseasonably warm one across much of the nation east of the Rockies. Temperatures warmed into the 70s and 80s from the Southern and Central Plains to the southern half of the Atlantic coast. Thirty-four cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Saint Louis MO with a reading of 85 degrees. Calico AR and Gilbert AR reported record highs of 87 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

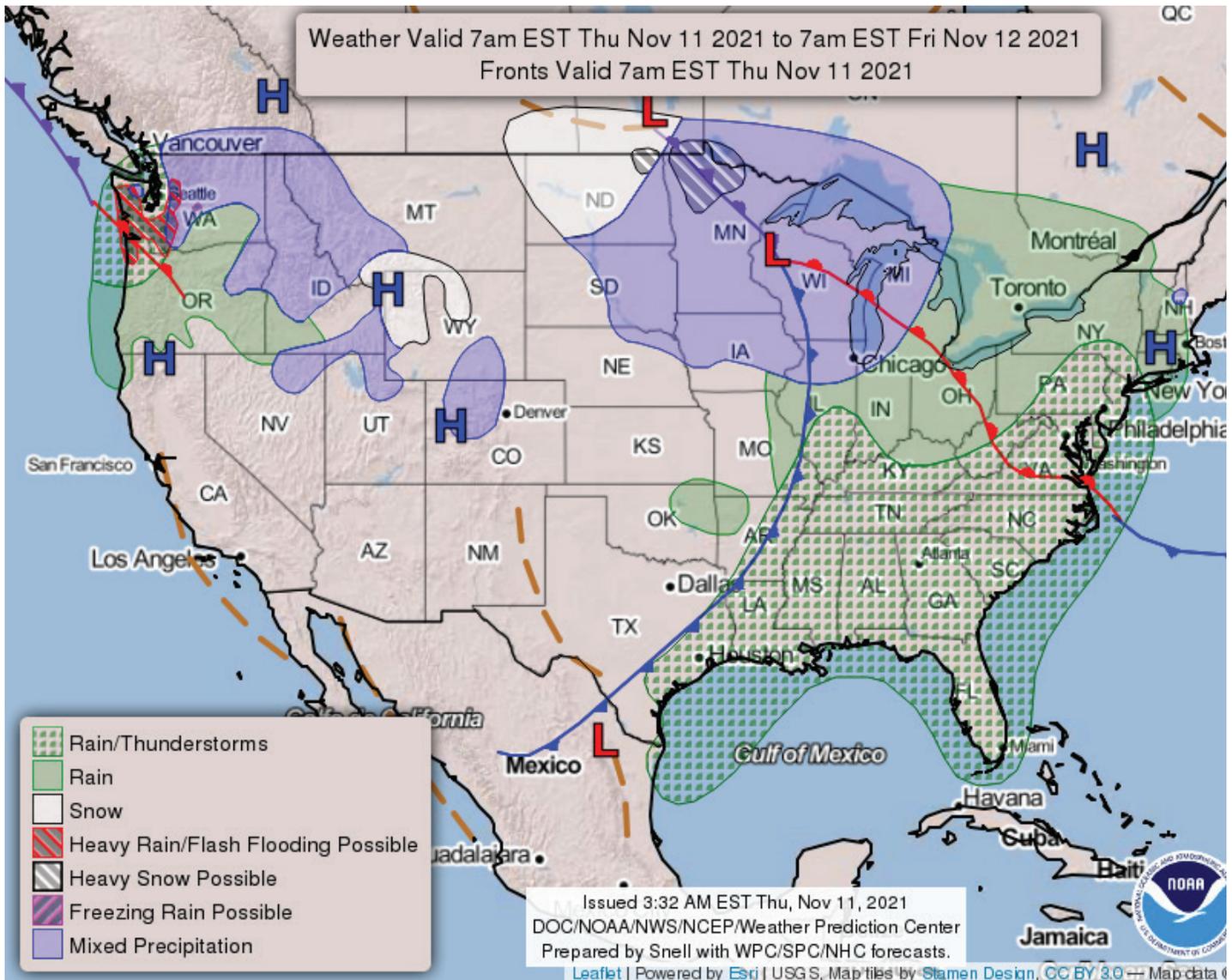
# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 21 of 84

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 50.0 °F at 10:45 AM**  
**Low Temp: 35.4 °F at 11:45 PM**  
**Wind: 20 mph at 10:15 AM**  
**Precip: 0.13**

**Record High: 70° in 1912**  
**Record Low: -8° in 1966**  
**Average High: 45°F**  
**Average Low: 21°F**  
**Average Precip in Nov.: 0.33**  
**Precip to date in Nov.: 0.13**  
**Average Precip to date: 20.80**  
**Precip Year to Date: 19.85**  
**Sunset Tonight: 5:09:14 PM**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:24:52 AM**



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 22 of 84



## **PROMISES? NO! PROMISES!**

Years ago, a firm handshake and a sincere look in the eye meant that "my word is my bond as long as I live." No more questions were required, and no exceptions were included. "If I said it, I meant it, and I will do it. I will not deny what I said nor offer any excuses if I fail!"

How different it is today. Contracts, warranties, and agreements are written with clauses that are vague, difficult to understand, and often need the interpretation of an attorney. Word of mouth promises rarely last longer than the time it takes to speak them.

How different it is with God. In Psalm 105 we are reminded of His faithfulness to Israel. If He said it, He did it. If He promised something, there is proof in His Word that He made it happen. All the promises He made have been fulfilled and provide proof that "God is a Man of His Word." This should give us courage for today and hope for the future.

Some Biblical scholars who have carefully researched His word have identified 3,000 promises in the Bible! Furthermore, all of them, except one – Christ's second coming - have been fulfilled. And, we can be confident that He will fulfill that promise at the appointed time. If He said it, He did it – or, we know, will certainly do it!

So, here are two great promises we can claim right now: "The Lord is a stronghold in the day of trouble!" Whenever we can't handle "things," we have His unfailing word that He certainly can! We can claim this promise!

"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in My name." What a wonderful, never-ending, open-ended promise if we call on Him in faith and trust.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to take You at Your Word: To realize that you have never failed and never will, and To claim Your promises and know that You will fulfill them. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: He remembers his covenant forever. Psalm 105:8a

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 23 of 84

## 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

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 24 of 84

## The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition Subscription Form

- All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax
- Black & White..... \$41.54/year
  - Colored ..... \$74.55/year
  - Colored ..... \$42.60/6 months
  - E-Weekly\* ..... \$21.30/year

\* The E-Weekly is a PDF file emailed to you each week. It does not grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to [paperpaul@grotonsd.net](mailto:paperpaul@grotonsd.net)

## Groton Daily Independent [www.397news.com](http://www.397news.com) Subscription Form

This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

- 1 Month .....\$15.98
- 3 Months..... \$21.30
- 6 Months..... \$26.63
- 9 Months.....\$31.95
- 12 Months ..... \$42.60

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

The following will be used for your log-in information.

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Password \_\_\_\_\_

Pay with Paypal. Type the following into your browser window:

[paypal.me/paperpaul](https://paypal.me/paperpaul)



## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

04-13-24-27-32

(four, thirteen, twenty-four, twenty-seven, thirty-two)

Estimated jackpot: \$204,000

Lotto America

12-20-32-39-49, Star Ball: 10, ASB: 4

(twelve, twenty, thirty-two, thirty-nine, forty-nine; Star Ball: ten; ASB: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$3.95 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$53 million

Powerball

19-25-43-46-48, Powerball: 14, Power Play: 2

(nineteen, twenty-five, forty-three, forty-six, forty-eight; Powerball: fourteen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$160 million

### States challenge Biden's vaccine mandate for health workers

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — A coalition of 10 states sued the federal government on Wednesday to try to block a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for health care workers, marking a new front in the resistance by Republican-led states to the pandemic policies of President Joe Biden's administration.

The lawsuit filed in a federal court in Missouri contends that the vaccine requirement threatens the jobs of millions of health care workers and could "exacerbate an alarming shortage" in health care fields, particularly in rural areas where some health workers have been hesitant to get the shots.

The suit follows similar ones by Republican-led states challenging new Biden administration rules that will require federal contractors to ensure their workers are vaccinated and that businesses with more than 100 employees require their workers to get vaccinated or wear masks and get tested weekly for the coronavirus. All of the mandates are scheduled to take effect Jan. 4.

Biden's administration contends that the federal rules supersede state policies prohibiting vaccine mandates and are essential to slowing the pandemic, which has killed more than 755,000 people in the U.S. But the New Orleans-based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals already has temporarily blocked the business vaccine rule, saying it raises "grave statutory and constitutional issues."

A separate rule issued last week by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services requires COVID-19 vaccinations for more than 17 million workers in about 76,000 health care facilities and home health care providers that get funding from the government health programs.

The new lawsuit contends that the CMS vaccine requirement is unprecedented and unreasonably broad, affecting even volunteers and staff who don't typically work with patients.

"The mandate is a blatant attempt to federalize public health issues involving vaccination that belong within the States' police power," said the suit filed by Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt, a Republican who is running for U.S. Senate.

Joining the lawsuit were the attorneys general of Alaska, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. All are Republicans except for Democratic Attorney General Tom Miller of Iowa, whose state is led by Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds.

A CMS spokesperson declined to comment about the lawsuit.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 26 of 84

As the payer for Medicare and Medicaid programs, the federal government already requires providers to comply with an array of quality, health and safety requirements.

"It seems fairly easy to me for a vaccination requirement to fit in with very garden variety conditions of participation," said Sidney Watson, director of the Center for Health Law Studies at Saint Louis University.

While announcing the rule, CMS said that COVID-19 vaccine requirements by private health systems and previous vaccine mandates by states for other diseases have not led to widespread resignations of health care workers.

But the lawsuit contends that numerous health workers are likely to be fired, retire or quit rather than get vaccinated for COVID-19, which it said "jeopardizes the healthcare interests of rural Americans."

The lawsuit points to concerns from rural hospital administrators in Missouri and Nebraska. For example, it says that Great Plains Health in North Platte, Nebraska, is able to staff only about 70 of its 116 beds because of workforce shortages and has received notice from a majority of personnel in its behavioral health unit that they would resign rather than be vaccinated.

The Arkansas Department of Human Services has more than 1,000 unfilled positions at its health care facilities, and a vaccine mandate would worsen the worker shortage, said Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge.

Workplace vaccine mandates have become more common recently and generally have resulted in significant compliance.

In New York City, more than 90% of city employees had received the vaccine before a Nov. 1 mandate began. But The New York Times reported that about 9,000 were placed on paid leave for not complying and thousands of others sought religious or medical exemptions.

In the private sector, United Airlines recently required 67,000 U.S. employees to get vaccinated or face termination. Only a couple hundred refused to do so, although about 2,000 sought exemptions. In August, Tyson Foods told its 120,000 U.S. workers that they must be vaccinated by Nov. 1. As of last week, the company said more than 96% of its workforce was vaccinated, including 60,500 people who got their shots after the August announcement.

---

Associated Press writer Geoff Mulvihill contributed from Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

## South Dakota lawmakers pass new, shaken-up legislative map

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Legislature Wednesday approved new political boundaries that are likely to shake up the Statehouse after moderate Senate Republicans championed the proposal.

The state's population has shifted towards urban areas in the last decade, and the map's proponents argued that new legislative districts had to reflect that change. House lawmakers unsuccessfully pushed a map that would have kept legislative lines similar to their current positions.

The proposal cleared the House by a handful of votes with a conservative group of Republicans opposing the redistricting proposal. It easily passed the Senate.

Under the new boundaries, legislators said they would be working to win votes in unfamiliar territory, and several could be pitted against each other in next year's primaries.

With the new political map in the hands of lawmakers, the once-in-a-decade process is inherently laden with self-interest. In previous years, the Republican-dominated House and Senate have moved as one to quickly approve new districts, but the process this year was marked by GOP infighting, laying bare a rift between moderate Republicans and their more conservative colleagues.

A process that was first scheduled for a single day dragged into three days. Negotiations, which happened behind closed doors, left lawmakers fuming in the halls of the Capitol.

"We have been bullied by the other chamber the entire time," said Republican Rep. Taffy Howard, who was part of the right-wing group that opposed the map.

Republican Rep. Chris Johnson likened the new map to "a political meteor" hitting his hometown of Rapid

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 27 of 84

City and causing a shake-up.

Senators who pushed the map described it as a compromise that had to be made to reflect shifts in the state's population over the last ten years. Lawmakers also had to ensure that the voting rights of Native American voters were protected to keep with federal law.

"I would hope as legislators we would work hard to do what is right for all of South Dakota," said Republican Sen. Mary Duvall, who chaired the Senate's redistricting committee.

In a crucial win for Native American representation, the northern area of Rapid City — which contains much of the Native American community — was included in a single legislative district with the eastern part of the city.

Democratic Sen. Red Dawn Foster said that move could give the community "the chance to have a voice and to have collective representation."

Other districts that covered American Indian reservations were improved to ensure voting rights, said Brett Healy, who was lobbying for Four Directions Vote, a voting rights advocacy group.

Democrats predicted the new map would make legislative races more competitive. Their ranks in the Statehouse have shrunk to the smallest in over 60 years.

But Democratic Rep. Ryan Cwach said the closed-door negotiating process showed lawmakers should not be drawing their own political districts.

"The whole fact that politicians are involved in this process of redistricting brings transparency questions," he said. "My only conclusion from this whole thing, besides I'm thankful we got to a pretty competitive map, is that this should be the last time politicians draw the lines."

## South Dakota House hiring lawyer to guide AG impeachment

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers weighing impeachment of the state's attorney general will start their investigation by hiring legal counsel to guide their probe.

The House's investigative committee met for the first time Wednesday as they delve into Attorney General Jason Ravensborg's conduct surrounding a fatal car crash last year.

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

The House's investigation is expected to take months as they look into the crash investigation. During their first meeting, lawmakers reviewed state law on impeachment, but held off on any further action until they could hire an attorney.

"We are looking for somebody that's very educated in the constitution and in state law," said House Speaker Spencer Gosch, the Republican who is overseeing the committee.

Gosch said he wants to hire an attorney quickly, but did not give a timeline for when that would happen.

## Editorial Roundup: South Dakota

By The Associated Press undefined

Yankton Press & Dakotan. November 9, 2021.

Editorial: Yankton And Norfolk: Building A Relationship

During Monday night's Yankton City Commission meeting, City Manager Amy Leon mentioned a handful of ideas that had been proposed to her for possible study at some point. Just doing this was a good idea, for it injected fresh topics into the city conversation and opened the door for commissioners to explore new, unanticipated territories.

One idea Leon mentioned Monday night was considering an outreach to neighboring Norfolk, Nebraska, which is 60 miles south of Yankton but, sometimes, seems like it could be located on another planet.

That's an exaggeration, obviously, but it points to the fact that the state boundary that separates these two communities sometimes seems to put us in two different realities. One example mentioned Monday

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 28 of 84

night by City Commissioner Nathan Johnson noted that Yankton focuses its state attentions on Pierre while Norfolk looks south to Lincoln for its state business.

Nevertheless, there are similarities, the foremost being that they share a trade area and are both regional centers.

On the other hand, there has always been a disconnect between the two communities, at least in the last several decades. As with their state capitals, Yankton, located at the southern end of South Dakota, is always looking north and also east to Interstate 29; meanwhile, Norfolk, situated in the northern part of Nebraska, seems concentrated on the south as well as west toward the panhandle area. State borders can make for formidable barriers sometimes.

Through a quirk in geography and settlement patterns, the two communities are 60 miles apart on Highway 81 — basically a straight shot — with only one town between them. That would be South Yankton, Nebraska, which is literally within walking distance of Yankton's downtown Meridian District.

While Yankton and Norfolk have their differences, their similarities are compelling. Instantly, Highway 81 is a connection. So, too, is their agricultural economic base. They also share some of the same struggles, such as with their employment pools. The two towns are reliant (at various levels) on immigrant workers needed to make their industrial sectors thrive; Norfolk is several years ahead of Yankton on this front, but the Yankton area is making gains as its needs grow.

Johnson said he began thinking about building more cooperation between the two communities at a 2019 National League of Cities conference when he spoke with the mayor of Norfolk.

"We were talking about how close we are but we don't have any knowledge of each other really because of the state border," Johnson said. "... We just thought we have a lot in common being the largest cities in the region and wanted to exchange ideas and build the relationship and see how we can, perhaps, help each other achieve what we want to for our communities."

Developing such a relationship can open some constructive possibilities. It would seem wise for both communities to pursue those avenues.

END

## **1 arrested in SD shooting that left 3 dead, 2 injured**

SCOTLAND, S.D. (AP) — A third person has died in a shooting in southeastern South Dakota that left two others injured, according to state investigators.

Bon Homme County sheriff's deputies responded to a report of shots fired at a residence in Scotland Tuesday evening, according to the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation.

When law enforcement officers arrived, they found two people dead and three others who had suffered gunshot wounds. DCI says one of the three who were injured later died.

DCI special agents arrested one man without incident on possible charges of first-degree murder, attempted murder and aggravated assault.

Investigators say the shooting was the result of a domestic-related altercation. They believe there is no further threat to the public following the arrest of a suspect.

Scotland is a city of about 800 residents located northwest of Yankton.

No further details were released.

## **South Africa's last apartheid president F. W. de Klerk dies**

By ANDREW MELDRUM and CARA ANNA Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — F.W. de Klerk, who shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Nelson Mandela and as South Africa's last apartheid president oversaw the end of the country's white minority rule, has died at the age of 85.

De Klerk died after a battle against cancer at his home in the Fresnaye area of Cape Town, a spokesman for the F.W. de Klerk Foundation confirmed on Thursday.

De Klerk was a controversial figure in South Africa where many blamed him for violence against Black

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 29 of 84

South Africans and anti-apartheid activists during his time in power, while some white South Africans saw his efforts to end apartheid as a betrayal.

It was de Klerk who in a speech to South Africa's parliament on Feb. 2, 1990, announced that Mandela would be released from prison after 27 years. The announcement electrified a country that for decades had been scorned and sanctioned by much of the world for its brutal system of racial discrimination known as apartheid.

With South Africa's isolation deepening and its once-solid economy deteriorating, de Klerk, who had been elected president just five months earlier, also announced in the same speech the lifting of a ban on the African National Congress and other anti-apartheid political groups.

Amid gasps, several members of parliament members left the chamber as he spoke.

Nine days later, Mandela walked free.

Four years after that, Mandela was elected the country's first Black president as Black South Africans voted for the first time.

By then, de Klerk and Mandela had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 for their often-tense cooperation in moving South Africa away from institutionalized racism and toward democracy.

The country would be, de Klerk told the media after his fateful speech, "a new South Africa." But Mandela's release was just the beginning of intense political negotiations on the way forward. Power would shift. A new constitution would be written. Ways of life would be upended.

"There is an element of uncertainty, obviously, with regard to everything which lies in the future," de Klerk calmly told reporters on Feb. 10, 1990, after announcing that Mandela would be released the following day.

The toll of the transition was high. As de Klerk said in his Nobel lecture in December 1993, more than 3,000 died in political violence in South Africa that year alone. As he reminded his Nobel audience, he and fellow laureate Mandela remained political opponents, with strong disagreements. But they would move forward "because there is no other road to peace and prosperity for the people of our country."

After Mandela became president, de Klerk served as deputy president until 1996, when his party withdrew from the Cabinet. In making history, de Klerk acknowledged that Mandela's release was the culmination of what his predecessor, former President P.W. Botha, had begun by meeting secretly with Mandela shortly before leaving office. In the late 1980s, as protests inside and outside the country continued, the ruling party had begun making some reforms, getting rid of some apartheid laws.

De Klerk also met secretly with Mandela before his release. He later said of their first meeting that Mandela was taller than expected, and he was impressed by his posture and dignity. De Klerk would say he knew he could "do business with this man." But not easily. They argued bitterly. Mandela accused de Klerk of allowing the killings of Black South Africans during the political transition. De Klerk said Mandela could be extremely stubborn and unreasonable.

Later in life, after South Africa's wrenching political transition, de Klerk said there was no longer any animosity between him and Mandela and that they were friends, having visited each other's homes. De Klerk did not seem to fit easily into the role of a Nobel laureate. He remained a target of anger for some white South Africans who saw his actions as a betrayal. Though he publicly apologized for the pain and humiliation that apartheid caused, he was never cheered and embraced as an icon, as Mandela was.

"Sometimes, Mr. de Klerk does not get the credit that he deserves," Nobel laureate and former archbishop Desmond Tutu told David Frost in an interview in 2012.

Despite his role in South Africa's transformation, de Klerk would continue to defend what his National Party decades ago had declared as the goal of apartheid, the separate development of white and Black South Africans. In practice, however, apartheid forced millions of the country's Black majority into nominally independent "homelands" where poverty was widespread, while the white minority held most of South Africa's land. Apartheid starved the Black South African education system of resources, criminalized interracial relations, created black slums on the edges of white cities and tore apart families.

De Klerk late in life would acknowledge that "separate but equal failed."

F.W. de Klerk was born in Johannesburg in 1936. He earned a law degree and practiced law before

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 30 of 84

turning to politics and being elected to parliament. In 1978, he was appointed to the first of a series of ministerial posts, including Internal Affairs. In the late 1970s and 1980s, South Africa faced violent unrest as the government tried modest reforms to cultivate a Black South African middle class and allow limited political power to the country's other marginalized groups, mixed race people classified as "coloreds" and those of Asian and Indian backgrounds.

The moves only increased bitterness over apartheid, while international pressure for more fundamental changes increased. In February 1989, de Klerk was elected the National Party leader and in his first speech called for "a South Africa free of domination or oppression in whatever form." He was elected president in September of that year.

After leaving office, de Klerk ran a foundation that promoted his presidential heritage, and he spoke out in concern about white Afrikaaner culture and language as English became dominant among the new South Africa's 11 official languages. He also criticized South Africa's current ruling party, the African National Congress, telling the Guardian newspaper in a 2010 interview that the ANC, once the champion for racial equality, "has regressed into dividing South Africa again along the basis of race and class."

In a speech in Cape Town in early 2016, de Klerk warned that many white South Africans were "oblivious of the plight of less advantaged communities" and that "the attitude of many Blacks toward white South Africans is becoming harsher and more uncompromising." South Africans once again were seeing people as racial stereotypes instead of human beings, de Klerk said, adding: "We need to hear Nelson Mandela's call for reconciliation and nation-building again."

His leadership of the apartheid regime dogged de Klerk throughout his life, even though he helped negotiate its end.

His assertion in 2020 that apartheid was not a crime against humanity stirred up a furor in South Africa. When de Klerk attended President Cyril Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address in the South African Parliament that year, opposition members shouted at him and demanded that he leave.

"We have a murderer in the House," declared Julius Malema, firebrand leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters party, denouncing de Klerk as an "apartheid apologist ... with blood on his hands."

Later de Klerk said that he accepted that apartheid was a crime against humanity and apologized, but the damage had been done. He was viewed by many in South Africa as the last apartheid ruler and not the man who helped steer the country away from violent racial oppression.

## Saudi Arabia denies playing climate saboteur at Glasgow

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and HELENA ALVES Associated Press

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — The tightest of smiles on his face and the fabric of his traditional thobe swirling about him as he strides through a hallway at U.N. climate talks, Saudi Arabia's energy minister expresses shock at repeated complaints that the world's largest oil producer is working behind the scenes to sabotage negotiations.

"What you have been hearing is a false allegation and a cheat and a lie," Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman al Saud said this week at the talks in Glasgow, Scotland. He was responding to journalists pressing for a response to claims that Saudi Arabia's negotiators have been working to block climate measures that would threaten demand for oil.

"We have been working well" with the head of the U.N. climate talks and others, Prince Abdulaziz said. Negotiators from about 200 countries are coming up against a weekend deadline to find consensus on next steps to cut the world's fossil fuel emissions and otherwise combat climate change.

Saudi Arabia's participation in climate talks itself can seem incongruous — a kingdom that has become wealthy and powerful because of oil involved in negotiations where a core issue is reducing consumption of oil and other fossil fuels. While pledging to join emission-cutting efforts at home, Saudi leaders have made clear they intend to pump and sell their oil as long as demand lasts.

Saudi Arabia's team in Glasgow has introduced proposals ranging from a call to quit negotiations — they often stretch into early morning hours — at 6 p.m. every day to what climate negotiation veterans allege

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 31 of 84

are complex efforts to play country factions against one another with the aim of blocking agreement on tough steps to wrench the world away from coal, gas and oil.

That is the "Saudis' proposal, by the way. They're like, 'Let's just not work at nights and just accept that this is not going to be ambitious'" when it comes to fast cuts in fossil fuel pollution that is wrecking the climate, said Jennifer Tollmann, an analyst at E3G, a European climate think tank.

And then "if other countries want to agree with Saudi, they can blame Saudi Arabia," Tollmann said.

Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and head of a group of senior political leaders on climate, choked up as she told Sky News that Saudi Arabia was playing "dirty games" and seeking to gut crucial, consensus-building parts of draft agreements out of the talks.

Saudi Arabia long has been accused of playing a spoiler in the climate talks, and this year it is the main country singled out so far by negotiators, speaking privately, and observers, speaking publicly. Russia and Australia are also lumped in with Saudi Arabia at the talks as countries that see their futures as dependent on coal, natural gas or oil and as working for a Glasgow climate deal that doesn't threaten that.

Despite efforts to diversify the economy, oil accounts for more than half of Saudi Arabia's revenue, keeping the kingdom and royal family afloat and stable. About half of Saudi employees still work for the public sector, their salary paid in large part by oil.

And there's China, whose dependence on coal makes it the world's current biggest climate polluter. It argues it can't switch to cleaner energy as fast as the West says it must, although the United States and China did jointly pledge to speed up their efforts to cut emissions.

A core issue in the talks: Scientists and the United Nations say the world has less than a decade to cut its fossil fuel and agricultural emissions roughly in half if it wants to avoid more catastrophic scenarios of global warming.

Not surprisingly, island nations that would disappear under the rising oceans at a higher level of warming are the bloc at Glasgow pushing hardest for the most stringent deal out of this summit.

Meanwhile, climate advocates accuse the United States and European Union of so far failing to throw their weight behind the demands of the island nations, although the U.S. and the E.U. often wait until the last few days of climate talks to take hard stands on debated points.

The United States — the world's worst climate polluter historically and a major oil and gas producer — gets plenty of criticism in its own right. The Climate Action Network dishonored the Biden administration with its "Fossil of the Day" award to President Joe Biden for coming to Glasgow last week with ambitious climate talk but failing to join a pledge to wean his nation off coal or to rein in U.S. oil production.

Jennifer Morgan, executive director of the Greenpeace environmental group, said other governments need "to isolate the Saudi delegation" if they want the climate conference to succeed..

Saudi Arabia was fine with joining in governments' climate-pledge fever before the talks. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced in the runup to Glasgow that the kingdom would zero out its carbon emissions by 2060.

But Saudi leaders for years have vowed to pump the last molecule of oil from their kingdom before world demand ends — an objective that a fast global switch from fossil fuels would frustrate.

"Naked and cynical," says Alden Meyer, a senior associate at the E3G climate research group, of Saudi Arabia's role in global climate discussions.

Associated Press writers Frank Jordans and Annirudha Ghosal contributed to this report.

## **Biden announces effort to ID toxic air issues in veterans**

By COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden, the father of an Iraq war veteran, is using his first Veterans Day in office to announce an effort to better understand, treat and identify medical conditions suffered by troops deployed to toxic environments.

It centers on lung problems suffered by troops who breathe in toxins and the potential connection

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 32 of 84

between rare respiratory cancers and time spent overseas breathing poor air, according to senior White House officials. Federal officials plan to start by examining lung and breathing problems but said they will expand the effort as science identifies potential new connections.

Biden planned to travel to Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on Thursday to participate in a wreath-laying ceremony and deliver remarks.

The new federal effort is also designed to make it easier for veterans to make claims based on their symptoms, to collect more data from troops who are suffering and to give veterans more time to make medical claims after symptoms such as asthma and sinus problems develop.

"We're discovering there is a whole host of lung conditions related to deployment," said Dr. Richard Meehan, an immunologist and rheumatologist. The retired U.S. Naval Reserve officer, who served in the Mideast during the 1990s and again in 2008, is co-director of the Denver-based National Jewish Hospital Center for Excellence on Deployment-Related Lung Disease.

Biden has hypothesized about a potential link between his son Beau's death from an aggressive brain cancer after returning from Iraq and his exposure to toxins in the air, particularly around massive pits where the military disposes of waste by burning. There's no scientific evidence to suggest that link.

Beau Biden's death was a defining moment for Joe Biden, one he said affected his decision to sit out the 2016 presidential race. The younger Biden deployed from October 2008 until September 2009 as a captain in the Delaware Army National Guard. In 2013, he was diagnosed with a tumor, and he died two years later at age 46.

Meehan, who is investigating the role of inhalation exposures among military personnel who were deployed to Southwest Asia, said it isn't only burn pits that are the issue — the air quality in some countries is so poor that troops would not be allowed to work there under civilian federal workplace guidelines. The center receives funding from the Department of Defense, along with private donors.

Meehan has worried that troops who came back with breathing problems were being compared with regular Americans to determine whether there was a higher rate of lung illness. But those deployed with the U.S. military are in peak physical condition and can generally run faster and are stronger and more fit than average Americans. To come back unable to make it up stairs without getting winded or unable to lift anything without breathing heavily is highly unusual.

"When you compare them to another group, you have to compare them to another healthy, fit group," Meehan said. "That's one of the problems overlooked in surveys that have shown no higher incidence of cancer."

The new rules will allow veterans to make claims within 10 years of service, and the government has changed how it determines what symptoms count and why.

The U.S. military has been aware for years of the health risks associated with open-air burn pits. In 2013, federal investigators found a military camp in Afghanistan was operating a pit for more than five years, nearly four times longer than Pentagon rules allowed. The Defense Department has said burn pits should only be used as a temporary last resort when no other alternative trash disposal method is feasible, still they persisted for years.

## **EXPLAINER: Why US inflation is so high, and when it may ease**

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Inflation is starting to look like that unexpected — and unwanted — houseguest who just won't leave.

For months, many economists had sounded a reassuring message that a spike in consumer prices, something that had been missing in action in the U.S. for a generation, wouldn't stay long. It would prove "transitory," in the soothing words of Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell and White House officials, as the economy shifted from virus-related chaos to something closer to normalcy.

Yet as any American who has bought a carton of milk, a gallon of gas or a used car could tell you, inflation has settled in. And economists are now voicing a more discouraging message: Higher prices will likely

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 33 of 84

last well into next year, if not beyond.

On Wednesday, the government said its consumer price index soared 6.2% from a year ago — the biggest 12-month jump since 1990.

“It’s a large blow against the transitory narrative,” said Jason Furman, who served as the top economic adviser in the Obama administration. “Inflation is not slowing. It’s maintaining a red-hot pace.”

And the sticker shock is hitting where families tend to feel it most. At the breakfast table, for instance: Bacon prices are up 20% over the past year, egg prices nearly 12%. Gasoline has surged 50%. Buying a washing machine or a dryer will set you back 15% more than it would have a year ago. Used cars? 26% more.

Although pay is up sharply for many workers, it isn’t nearly enough to keep up with prices. Last month, average hourly wages in the United States, after accounting for inflation, actually fell 1.2% compared with October 2020.

Economists at Wells Fargo joke grimly that the Labor Department’s CPI — the Consumer Price Index — should stand for “Consumer Pain Index.” Unfortunately for consumers, especially lower-wage households, it’s all coinciding with their higher spending needs right before the holiday season.

The price squeeze is escalating pressure on the Fed to shift more quickly away from years of easy-money policies. And it poses a threat to President Joe Biden, congressional Democrats and their ambitious spending plans.

## WHAT CAUSED THE PRICE SPIKES?

Much of it is the flipside of very good news. Slammed by COVID-19, the U.S. economy collapsed in the spring of 2020 as lockdowns took effect, businesses closed or cut hours and consumers stayed home as a health precaution. Employers slashed 22 million jobs. Economic output plunged at a record-shattering 31% annual rate in last year’s April-June quarter.

Everyone braced for more misery. Companies cut investment. Restocking was put off. And a brutal recession ensued.

Yet instead of sinking into a prolonged downturn, the economy staged an unexpectedly rousing recovery, fueled by massive government spending and a bevy of emergency moves by the Fed. By spring, the rollout of vaccines had emboldened consumers to return to restaurants, bars and shops.

Suddenly, businesses had to scramble to meet demand. They couldn’t hire fast enough to plug job openings — a near record 10.4 million in August — or buy enough supplies to fill customer orders. As business roared back, ports and freight yards couldn’t handle the traffic. Global supply chains became snarled.

Costs rose. And companies found that they could pass along those higher costs in the form of higher prices to consumers, many of whom had managed to sock away a ton of savings during the pandemic.

“A sizeable chunk of the inflation we’re seeing is the inevitable result of coming out of the pandemic,” said Furman, now an economist at the Harvard Kennedy School.

Furman suggested, though, that misguided policy played a role, too. Policymakers were so intent on staving off an economic collapse that they “systematically underestimated inflation,” he said.

“They poured kerosene on the fire.”

A flood of government spending — including President Joe Biden’s \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, with its \$1,400 checks to most households in March — overstimulated the economy, Furman said.

“Inflation is a lot higher in the United States than it is in Europe,” he noted. “Europe is going through the same supply shocks as the United States is, the same supply chain issues. But they didn’t do nearly as much stimulus.”

In a statement Wednesday, Biden acknowledged that “inflation hurts Americans’ pocketbooks, and reversing this trend is a top priority for me.” But he said his \$1 trillion infrastructure package, including spending on roads, bridges and ports, would help ease supply bottlenecks.

## HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 34 of 84

Consumer price inflation will likely endure as long as companies struggle to keep up with consumers' prodigious demand for goods and services. A resurgent job market — employers have added 5.8 million jobs this year — means that Americans can continue to splurge on everything from lawn furniture to new cars. And the supply chain bottlenecks show no sign of clearing.

"The demand side of the U.S. economy will continue to be something to behold," says Rick Rieder, chief investment officer for global fixed income at Blackrock, "and companies will continue to have the luxury of passing through prices."

Megan Greene, chief economist at the Kroll Institute, suggested that inflation and the overall economy will eventually return to something closer to normal.

"I think it will be 'transitory,'" she said of inflation. "But economists have to be very honest about defining transitory, and I think this could last another year easily."

"We need a lot of humility talking about how long this lasts," Furman said. "I think it's with us for a while. The inflation rate is going to come down from this year's blistering pace, but it's still going to be very, very high compared to the historical norms we have been used to."

## WILL WE SUFFER A RETURN OF 1970'S-STYLE 'STAGFLATION'?

The run-up in consumer prices has raised the specter of a return to the "stagflation" of the 1970s. That was when higher prices coincided with high unemployment in defiance of what conventional economists thought was possible.

Yet today's situation looks very different. Unemployment is relatively low, and households overall are in good shape financially. The Conference Board, a business research group, found that consumers' inflation expectations last month were the highest they'd been since July 2008. But consumers didn't seem all that worried: The board's confidence index rose anyway, on optimism about the job market.

"For the time being, at least, they feel that the benefits are outweighing the negatives," said Lynn Franco, the Conference Board's senior director of economic indicators.

Economic growth, after slowing from July through September in response to the highly contagious delta variant, is thought to be bouncing back in the final quarter of 2021.

"Most economists are expecting growth to accelerate in the fourth quarter," Greene said. "So it doesn't suggest that we're facing both a tanking of growth and higher inflation. We're just facing higher inflation."

## WHAT SHOULD POLICYMAKERS DO?

The pressure is on the Fed, which is charged with keeping a lid on inflation, to control prices.

"They need to stop telling us that inflation is transitory, start becoming more worried about inflation, then act in a manner consistent with being worried," Furman said. "We've seen a little bit of that, but only a little bit."

Powell has announced that the Fed will start reducing the monthly bond purchases it began last year as an emergency measure to try to boost the economy. In September, Fed officials also forecast that they would raise the Fed's benchmark interest rate from its record low near zero by the end of 2022 — much earlier than they had predicted a few months earlier.

But sharply higher inflation, should it persist, might compel the Fed to accelerate that timetable; investors expect at least two Fed rate hikes next year.

"We've been fighting non-existent inflation since the 1990s," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at the accounting and consulting firm Grant Thornton, "and now we're talking about fighting an inflation that is real."

AP Economics Writer Christopher Rugaber contributed to this report.

## Chinese leaders issue official history to elevate Xi

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 35 of 84

BEIJING (AP) — Leaders of the ruling Communist Party on Thursday set the stage for President Xi Jinping to extend his rule next year, praising his role in China's rise as an economic and strategic power and approving a political history that gives him status alongside the most important party figures.

Central Committee members declared Xi's ideology the "essence of Chinese culture" as they wrapped up a leadership meeting. In unusually effusive language even for a Chinese leader, a party statement said it was "of decisive significance" for "the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation."

Xi, who has amassed more personal authority than any leader since at least Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s, has widely been expected to pursue a third five-year term as party general secretary. That would break with a two-decade-old party tradition that would require the 68-year-old leader to step down next year.

The party leadership's resolution on its history is only the third since its founding 100 years ago, following one under Mao Zedong, first leader of the communist government, and another under Deng, who launched reforms that turned China into an economic powerhouse. The decision to issue one under Xi was widely seen as symbolically raising him to their status.

The party removed term limits on Xi's post as president in 2018, indicating his intention to stay in power. Then, officials told reporters Xi might need more time to make sure economic and other reforms were carried out.

Xi, the son of one of Mao's generals, faces no obvious rivals, but a bid to stay in power longer has the potential to alienate younger party figures who might see their chances for promotion diminished.

Also, political scientists point to the experience of other countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America and warn long periods of one-person rule lead to worse official decisions and economic performance.

Thursday's party statement emphasized its successes in overseeing China's emergence as the world's second-biggest economy, glossing over deadly political violence in its early decades in power and growing complaints about human rights abuses.

Xi has used his control of the party's vast propaganda apparatus to promote his image.

State media associate him with national successes including fighting the coronavirus, China's rise as a technology creator and last year's successful lunar mission to bring back moon rocks.

The 1981 assessment under Deng distanced the party from the violent upheaval of the ultra-radical 1966-76 Cultural Revolution.

By contrast, Xi has promoted a positive image of the party's early decades in power and called for it to revive its "original mission" as China's leading economic, political and cultural force.

## Democrats sell infrastructure bill, push for Biden backup

By WILL WEISSERT, THOMAS BEAUMONT and HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH Associated Press  
STILWELL, Kan. (AP) — Traffic whizzing behind her, Rep. Sharice Davids gathered reporters at a transportation facility along U.S. 69 in eastern Kansas this week to celebrate the surge of federal money headed in her state's direction.

The massive infrastructure package passed last week means \$2.6 billion for Kansas roads — some of the largest investments in them since President Dwight D. Eisenhower, once a Kansan himself, supported the construction of the national highway system in the 1950s.

"I think that a lot of us recognize, just like President Eisenhower did, that infrastructure is a key to long-term economic growth," said Davids, who proudly declared herself a "born-again transportation enthusiast."

Davids is hardly the only member of her party celebrating. With their narrow control of Congress at stake in 2022, Democrats across the country are donning hard hats and staging photo ops near bridges to highlight long-neglected public works projects set to spring to life thanks to the more than \$1 trillion plan.

It's an attempt to move past months of infighting between progressives and moderates and unite around a shovel-ready approach to kicking the post-coronavirus pandemic economy into high gear.

For Democrats like Davids, facing tough reelection fights, the public works bonanza may be their ticket out of political peril — a potential boon with moderate and independent voters who turned against the party in last week's elections in New Jersey and Virginia and who will decide races in most swing districts

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 36 of 84

next year.

"Now is the time to turn the corner," said New York Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, Democratic Congressional Committee chairman. "There's enough blame to go around, but we have achieved a huge win for working and middle-class people."

Among those Maloney blames for the current climate is President Joe Biden, who Maloney says has failed to properly promote what's already been achieved.

"I think my colleagues on Capitol Hill are desperate to follow the president, but we need him to lead and he needs to use that extraordinary voice that he has," Maloney said, recalling Biden channeling his working-class Pennsylvania roots on his way to winning that state and the presidency last year. "We want Scranton Joe out there explaining this blue-collar blueprint to grow the American economy and we will follow him."

The White House says Biden will aggressively sell his party's legislative accomplishment. The president traveled to the Port of Baltimore on Wednesday to tout the package, though he acknowledged it would not quickly ease the rising inflation or supply chain issues weighing on the economy: "We still face challenges and we have to tackle them," he said.

Maloney said he wants more. He called for Biden to use a nationally televised address to cheer the measure, coupled with 25 visits around the country for himself and an equal number for Vice President Kamala Harris to promote popular public works projects it will fund. Maloney also wants to see House Democrats stage more than 1,000 of their own events to do the same, backed by a \$10 million Democratic National Committee advertising buy to explain the plan to the public.

The goal isn't just detailing the package, but wielding it as a cudgel over congressional Republicans — all but 13 of whom voted against it. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee says it plans to "weaponize" the infrastructure plan — praising it while attacking Republicans facing their own close reelection fights next year for opposing it.

Infrastructure spending has broad bipartisan support in polling, but House Republicans argued the bill was packed with Democratic priorities beyond road repairs and bridges.

Still, former President Donald Trump seemed to acknowledge the political potential for Democrats this week when he blamed Republicans who backed the measure for voting "for Democrat longevity." Many who did have faced sharp criticism from constituents; Michigan Rep. Fred Upton said he and his family had received death threats.

Democrats report that the reaction back home has been the opposite. In New Jersey, Rep. Josh Gottheimer said he received a high-five when he walked into a diner Monday.

Gottheimer, a top GOP target next year, led an effort by House moderates to ensure the infrastructure bill passed even as his progressive colleagues pushed for more immediate action on a separate, larger social spending plan dubbed "Build Back Better." Now he's pushing colleagues to promote the pieces voters can relate to — expanding a tunnel known as Gateway, a commuter rail line under the Hudson River that links his state and New York City, or fixing the state's roads.

"You actually have to explain it to people. It can't be a number. It has to be about how it affects their lives," he said. He added with a laugh, "If you talk to anyone who's from Jersey, you get the tire insurance because you're always getting flat tires from hitting potholes."

Rep. Jennifer Wexton, D-Va., said the legislation "is going to be huge" for "the daily commutes and the daily lives" of her constituents, noting that the package could help further expand Metro train service in her exurban territory west of Washington. It could also bolster internet service in areas where families sometimes had to drive to libraries to access broadband — despite being only around 50 miles from the nation's capital.

Republican Glenn Youngkin won Virginia's governorship in an upset last week, and his party took control of the state House. Youngkin's Democratic opponent, Terry McAuliffe, had suggested in vain that Democrats should act more quickly to pass the infrastructure bill.

"I don't know what it would have done," Wexton said of whether that would have changed the results.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 37 of 84

“Obviously, it was not ideal not to have it passed.”

Now at home on recess, vulnerable Democrats are emphasizing the local projects that could mean improved quality of life — and jobs. In Michigan, Democratic Rep. Elissa Slotkin praised the plan alongside labor union members this week, noting that \$1.3 billion can be used to replace pipes in a state that has seen communities struggle with lead in tap water.

Even as they sell the bill, some Democrats remain focused on the next priority. They want approval of Biden’s even bigger \$1.85 trillion measure, which is designed to dramatically expand federal spending for social programs, child care and climate change mitigation — but has yet to clear Congress.

That was part of Rep. Cindy Axne’s message to renewable fuel advocates at a western Iowa ethanol plant this week. The Democratic congresswoman has secured funding for renewable fuels, a major industry in her district, in the second spending package.

“If we do not support the human infrastructure, which is truly what’s driving this country, we aren’t supporting infrastructure,” she said.

In Minnesota, Rep. Angie Craig, a Democrat representing swing suburbs outside the Twin Cities, described the infrastructure plan as equally a jobs and public projects plan. But she, like Axne, noted that Biden’s broader proposal might register more with voters.

“There is so much in Build Back Better that people are going to actually feel in their daily lives,” Craig said. “Build Back Better is going to change the way people can function in their daily lives, and that it’s at least as important as infrastructure.”

Weissert reported from Washington, Beaumont from Atlantic, Iowa. Associated Press writer Steve Karnowski in St. Paul, Minnesota, contributed to this report.

## **EXPLAINER: What’s behind the crisis at Belarus-Poland border**

By YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

Thousands of migrants and refugees have flocked to Belarus’ border with Poland, hoping to get to Western Europe. Many of them are now stranded at the frontier, setting up makeshift camps as Polish security forces watch them from behind a razor-wire fence and try to prevent them from entering the country. The European Union has accused the president of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, of aiding illegal border crossings in retaliation for EU sanctions. Lukashenko denies encouraging migration to Europe.

A look at what led to the standoff:

WHAT IS BEHIND THE CRISIS?

Belarus was rocked by months of massive protests following the August 2020 election that gave authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko a sixth term in office. The opposition and the West rejected the result as a sham.

Belarusian authorities responded to the demonstrations with a fierce crackdown that saw more than 35,000 people arrested and thousands beaten by police.

The European Union and the U.S. reacted by imposing sanctions on Lukashenko’s government.

Those restrictions were toughened after an incident in May when a passenger jet flying from Greece to Lithuania was diverted by Belarus to Minsk, where authorities arrested dissident journalist Raman Pratasevich. The EU called it air piracy and barred Belarusian carriers from its skies and cut imports of the country’s top commodities, including petroleum products and potash, an ingredient in fertilizer.

A furious Lukashenko shot back by saying he would no longer abide by an agreement to stem illegal migration, arguing that the EU sanctions deprived his government of funds needed to contain flows of migrants. Planes carrying migrants from Iraq, Syria and other countries began arriving in Belarus, and they soon headed for the borders with Poland, Lithuania and Latvia.

Pavel Latushka, a member of the Belarusian opposition, charged that state-controlled tourist agencies were involved in offering visa support to migrants and helping them drive to the border.

The EU accused Lukashenko of using the migrants as pawns in a “hybrid attack” against the 27-nation

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 38 of 84

bloc in retaliation for the sanctions. Lukashenko denies encouraging the flow of migrants and said the EU is violating migrants' rights by denying them safe passage.

## WHAT HAS BEEN THE RESPONSE BY EU COUNTRIES?

During the summer, Lithuania introduced a state of emergency to deal with an influx of migrants and strengthen its border with Belarus. It set up tent camps to accommodate the growing number of migrants.

In previous months, small groups of asylum-seekers tried to sneak into Lithuania, Poland and Latvia at night, using forest paths away from populated areas. This week, much larger groups gathered openly at the Polish border, and some people used shovels and wire cutters to try to break through a razor-wire fence at Poland's border.

Authorities in Warsaw estimated the crowds at about 3,000-4,000 and said they prevented hundreds of people from entering the country. Poland deployed riot police and other forces to bolster the border guards. Eight deaths have been confirmed at the Belarus-Poland border,, and temperatures have fallen below freezing at night.

The EU has made a strong show of solidarity with Poland, Lithuania and Latvia. EU officials are expected to discuss another round of sanctions against Belarus, and European Council President Charles Michel said for the first time that the bloc would consider the possibility of financing "physical infrastructure" such as barriers or fences on the border.

Analysts say Lukashenko's heavy-handed approach would likely backfire.

"Such brutal tactics would make Belarus toxic and delay the prospect of talks with the EU," said Artyom Shraybman, a Belarusian political analyst who was forced to leave the country under pressure from authorities. "European politicians won't engage in talks under pressure."

Pavel Usau, head of the Center for Political Analysis and Prognosis based in Poland, also said Lukashenko is mistaken if he thinks he can force the EU into concessions.

"Lukashenko expects the EU to give in to pressure and ask Poland to let migrants cross into Germany," Usau said. "But the EU realizes that doing so would allow Lukashenko to emerge as the winner and encourage him to continue to take further such steps, raising the number of migrants to tens of thousands."

The Belarusian opposition has urged the EU to take even tougher measures, including a trade embargo and a ban on transit of cargo via Belarus.

## WHAT IS RUSSIA'S ROLE?

Belarus has received strong support from its main ally, Russia, which has helped buttress Lukashenko's government with loans and political support.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the migrants flows resulted from the U.S.-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and Western-backed Arab Spring uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa. He challenged the EU to offer financial assistance to Belarus to deal with the influx.

At the same time, the Kremlin angrily rejected Poland's claim that Russia bears responsibility for the crisis.

Usau said Russia could step in as a mediator in the hope of improving ties with Germany and other EU nations.

## WHAT COMES NEXT?

Belarus is estimated to host between 5,000 and 20,000 migrants and refugees from the Middle East and Africa. Many have run out of money and grown increasingly desperate as the winter approaches. Belarusian residents are uneasy about their presence, raising pressure on the authorities to act.

Some observers expect Lukashenko to escalate the crisis and pressure the EU to ease sanctions.

"As a minimum, Lukashenko wants to take revenge against the EU, and as a maximum he aims to soften the European sanctions that have dealt a painful blow to key Belarusian industries," said independent analyst Valery Karbalevich. "Belarusian authorities have tried unsuccessfully to persuade the EU to engage in talks and bargaining, and migrants are just an instrument in a hybrid attack by Minsk."

"Lukashenko has nothing to lose," he added. "He's no longer worried about his reputation."

---

Associated Press writer Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow contributed.

---

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

## UN chief says global warming goal on 'life support'

By FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 F) is "on life support" with climate talks in Glasgow so far not reaching any of the U.N.'s three goals, but he added that "until the last moment, hope should be maintained."

In an exclusive interview Thursday with The Associated Press, Guterres said the U.N. climate talks in Glasgow, Scotland "are in a crucial moment" and need to accomplish more than securing a weak deal that participating nations agree to support.

"The worst thing would be to reach an agreement at all costs by a minimum common denominator that would not respond to the huge challenges we face," Guterres said.

That's because the overarching goal of limiting warming since pre-industrial times to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 F) by the end of the century "is still on reach but on life support," Guterres said. The world has already warmed 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit), leaving less than a degree before the threshold is hit.

"It is the moment to reach agreement by increasing ambition in all areas: mitigation, adaptation and finance in a balanced way," Guterres said in the 25-minute AP interview.

A U.S.-China agreement announced Wednesday provided some hope of the negotiations yielding significant progress.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. AP's earlier story follows below.

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — Officials from almost 200 nations worked through the night at the U.N. climate talks in Glasgow, trying to hammer out agreements on a range of tricky topics in time for a Friday deadline.

Among the outstanding issues was international carbon trading, a subject that has nagged at negotiators since the landmark Paris climate accord was sealed in 2015.

"We're still at the stage of options," a European negotiator told The Associated Press on Thursday. "But it's moving forward. We still need that push though."

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to be quoted.

Fresh drafts of the documents on regulating international cooperation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including the carbon markets section, were released overnight, as were new proposals containing various options for assessing and tracking financial aid for developing countries.

Poor nations have insisted they will not back any deal that fails to address their need for funds to help cut emissions and adapt to the consequences of global warming, a problem they have contributed least to.

Negotiators were hoping that a bilateral agreement Wednesday between the United States and China to cooperate in tackling climate change would provide a boost during the final hours of the talks.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday urged fellow world leaders to call their negotiating teams in Glasgow and give them the political backing to clinch an ambitious deal.

Officials and observers have said the bar for success must be a strong affirmation of the Paris goal of keeping global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) — ideally no more than 1.5 C (2.7 F) — backed by credible policies from all nations to get there. So far, scientists say the world is not on track for that.

## Germany mulls new COVID-19 measures as infections spike

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Germany reported a record-high number of more than 50,000 daily coronavirus cases on Thursday as lawmakers mulled legislation that would pave the way for new coronavirus measures.

The Robert Koch Institute, Germany's national disease control center, registered 50,196 new cases, up

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 40 of 84

from 33,949 daily cases a week earlier. Infections have multiplied so quickly in recent days that hospitals in the hardest-hit regions canceled scheduled surgeries to allow medical personnel to focus on COVID-19 patients.

The institute also reported 237 daily COVID-19 deaths, bringing Germany's pandemic death toll to 97,198. One of the country's top virologists, Christian Drosten, warned on Wednesday that another 100,000 people could die in the coming months if the country's vaccination rate didn't accelerate quickly.

Unlike some other European countries, Germany has balked at making vaccinations mandatory for certain categories of workers and has struggled to persuade more people to voluntarily get shots.

At least 67% of the population of 83 million is fully vaccinated, according to official figures.

"In Germany, I must say, unfortunately, that our vaccination rate isn't high enough to prevent the fast spread of the virus," Chancellor Angela Merkel said late Wednesday.

Vice Chancellor Olaf Scholz who is likely to take over as chancellor echoed Merkel, telling lawmakers that everything must be done to get more people vaccinated.

"The virus is still among us and threatening our health," said Scholz. "We must make sure that vaccinations are conducted and that they are conducted at high speed."

A caretaker national government has governed Germany since a September parliamentary election. The three parties that are expected to form the new government are looking to replace a March, 2020 "national epidemic" declaration at the end of the month with new legislation for enacting COVID-19 measures.

Scholz announced that the three parties - his own Social Democrats, the Greens and the pro-business Free Democrats - plan to re-open vaccination centers across the country so that people can receive booster shots swiftly.

Other virus measures include free tests, daily or frequent testing at nursing homes and schools and tougher enforcement of measures.

Germany has had a patchwork of regional rules throughout the pandemic. Most places permit access to many indoor facilities and events only to those people who have been vaccinated, have recovered from COVID-19 or had a recent negative test.

Scholz said both he and Merkel agreed that the federal government and all 16 states need to meet again next week to find common solutions on how to counter the infection spike.

"That is what we need now: for the country to stick together and pull in one direction so that we can get through this winter," said Scholz.

Follow AP's pandemic coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-pandemic>

## Polish forces securing border and cities on Independence Day

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Security forces in Poland were tasked Thursday with securing the nation's eastern border amid a migration fight with Belarus while also protecting the capital and other cities during Independence Day marches organized by far-right groups that turned violent in the past.

Poland has objected since the summer to the increasing number of refugees and migrants trying to enter the country from Belarus. The Poland-Belarus border is also part of the European Union's eastern border, and the EU accuses the regime in Belarus of encouraging illegal migration to create instability in the West.

The political standoff took on a larger scope this week as a large group of asylum-seekers, most of them from the Middle East, arrived at the border. Some tried to force their way across, and hundreds, possibly thousands, remain in makeshift camps in freezing temperatures, deepening humanitarian concerns.

Bartosz Grodecki, a deputy interior minister, said in an interview with the Polsat broadcaster on Thursday morning that there were more attempted crossings overnight, including one involving a group of 150 migrants.

Grodecki said Polish authorities think there could be another forceful attempt to enter the country on Thursday night. A large number of the police officers assigned to guard the Independence March in Warsaw will be deployed to the border directly afterward, he said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 41 of 84

The West has accused Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko of encouraging migrants from the Middle East to travel to his country and sending them toward EU members Poland, Lithuania and Latvia as a way to retaliate against the bloc for the sanctions. The sanctions were imposed on the authoritarian regime for Lukashenko's crackdown on internal dissent since his disputed reelection in 2020.

The EU is now looking at the role some airlines have played in transporting migrants and refugees to the bloc's doorstep. The Polish government has pointed the finger at what it believes is a Turkish role — something Ankara denies.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu discussed the crisis on the Belarus-Polish border in a late night telephone call with his Polish counterpart on Wednesday. He rejected "baseless allegations" that Turkey and its national carrier, Turkish Airlines, were flying migrants to Belarus, Turkish officials said.

"Minister Cavusoglu expressed regret at attempts to show Turkey as being part of the problem despite the fact that it is not a party to the problem, and at the baseless allegations against Turkey and Turkish Airlines," according to a statement from Cavusoglu's office.

Cavusoglu also told Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau that the Polish public should be "properly informed" about allegations being made against Turkey and suggested that a Polish technical team visit Turkey.

Meanwhile, there are reports that Iraq will help return its citizens stuck in Belarus.

Iraqi Deputy Migration Minister Karim al-Nuri told Sputnik, a Russian state news agency, that Iraq will facilitate the return of its citizens from Belarus if they wish via the embassy in Russia.

"We will transport those who want to return. We will facilitate this through the Iraqi embassy in Russia, since Iraq does not have an embassy in Belarus," the official said.

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

## China's leader Xi warns against 'Cold War' in Asia-Pacific

By NICK PERRY and JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Chinese President Xi Jinping warned Thursday against letting tensions in the Asia-Pacific region cause a relapse into a Cold War mentality.

His remarks on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum came weeks after the U.S., Britain and Australia announced a new security alliance in the region which would see Australia build nuclear submarines. China has harshly criticized the deal.

And in a separate illustration of strains within APEC, one Southeast Asian delegate told The Associated Press that the group had so far failed to reach agreement on a U.S. bid to host the 2023 summit due to unmet demands from Russia.

Xi spoke in a pre-recorded video to a CEO Summit at APEC, which is being hosted by New Zealand in a virtual format. Xi is scheduled to participate in an online meeting with other Pacific Rim leaders including U.S. President Joe Biden on Saturday.

In his speech, Xi said attempts to draw boundaries in the region along ideological or geopolitical lines would fail. His reference to the Cold War echoes Beijing's oft-stated position that the U.S. should abandon that way of thinking in dealing with China.

"The Asia-Pacific region cannot and should not relapse into the confrontation and division of the Cold War era," Xi said.

Xi also said the region should make sure to keep supply lines functioning and to continue liberalizing trade and investment.

"China will remain firm in advancing reform and opening up so as to add impetus to economic development," he said.

The most pressing task in the region is to make an all-out effort to fight the pandemic and to emerge from its shadow as soon as possible, he said.

Meanwhile, the Southeast Asian delegate, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to publicly discuss the issue, said Russia had refused to support the U.S. bid unless some of

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 42 of 84

its diplomats were removed from a U.S. blacklist or allowed to enter the U.S. to participate in the APEC meetings.

The delegate said the U.S. is unlikely to agree to Russia's demands because issues involving America's security are considered "non-negotiable." The delegate added that China had stayed silent on the U.S. offer.

If the 21 APEC leaders fail to reach a consensus on the U.S. bid by Friday, the delegate said, a paragraph in a draft of the summit communique welcoming the U.S. offer would have to be deleted.

New Zealand's Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta said earlier this week that APEC was founded on consensus and that there was not yet a confirmed host for 2023.

Human rights lawyer Amal Clooney also spoke at the CEO summit, saying she believed that liberal democracies could improve global human rights by pressuring autocratic nations. She said businesses also needed to play a role.

"If you can't battle evil, you can at least try to tackle apathy," Clooney said. "And if you can't rely on liberal governments to solve global issues, you have to try and inspire the private sector to step in."

In all, APEC members account for nearly 3 billion people and about 60% of the world's GDP. But deep tensions run through the unlikely group of 21 nations and territories that include the U.S., China, Taiwan, Russia, and Australia.

Many of the countries in Asia endeavor to balance Chinese and U.S. influences on the economic and geopolitical fronts.

China claims vast parts of the South China Sea and other areas and has moved to establish a military presence, building islands in some disputed areas as it asserts its historic claims.

Both Taiwan and China have applied to join a Pacific Rim trade pact, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, with Beijing saying it will block Taiwan's bid on the basis that the democratically governed island refuses to accept that it's part of communist-ruled China.

Officials say they have made significant progress during some 340 preliminary meetings leading up to this week's leaders' meeting. APEC members have agreed to reduce or eliminate many tariffs and border holdups on vaccines, masks and other medical products important to fighting the pandemic.

Gomez reported from Manila, Philippines

## Now silent under Taliban, a Kabul cinema awaits its fate

By LEE KEATH and BRAM JANSSEN Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The cool 1960s-style lines of the Ariana Cinema's marquee stand out over a traffic-clogged roundabout in downtown Kabul. For decades, the historic cinema has entertained Afghans and borne witness to Afghanistan's wars, hopes and cultural shifts.

Now the marquee is stripped of the posters of Bollywood movies and American action flicks that used to adorn it. The gates are closed.

After recapturing power three months ago, the Taliban ordered the Ariana and other cinemas to stop operating. The Islamic militant guerrillas-turned-rulers say they have yet to decide whether they will allow movies in Afghanistan.

Like the rest of the country, the Ariana is in a strange limbo, waiting to see how the Taliban will rule.

The cinema's nearly 20 employees, all men, still show up at work, logging in their attendance in hopes they will eventually get paid. The landmark Ariana, one of only four cinemas in the capital, is owned by the Kabul municipality, so its employees are government workers and remain on the payroll.

The men while away the hours. They hang out in the abandoned ticket booth or stroll the Ariana's curving corridors. Rows of plush red seats sit in silent darkness.

The Ariana's director, Asita Ferdous, the first woman in the post, is not even allowed to enter the cinema. The Taliban ordered female government employees to stay away from their workplaces so they don't mix with men, until they determine whether they will be allowed to work.

The 26-year-old Ferdous is part of a post-2001 generation of young Afghans determined to carve out

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 43 of 84

a greater space for women's rights. The Taliban takeover has wrecked their hopes. Also a painter and sculptor, she now stays at home.

"I spend time doing sketches, drawing, just to keep practicing," she said. "I can't do exhibitions anymore."

During their previous time in power from 1996-2001, the Taliban imposed a radical interpretation of Islamic law forbidding women from working or going to school — or even leaving home in many cases — and forcing men to grow beards and attend prayers. They banned music and other art, including movies and cinema.

Under international pressure, the Taliban now say they have changed. But they have been vague about what they will or won't allow. That has put many Afghans' lives — and livelihoods — on hold.

For the Ariana, it is another chapter in a tumultuous six-decade history.

The Ariana opened in 1963. Its sleek architecture mirrored the modernizing spirit that the then-ruling monarchy was trying to bring to the deeply traditional nation.

Kabul resident Ziba Niazai recalled going to the Ariana in the late 1980s, during the rule of Soviet-backed President Najibullah, when there were more than 30 cinemas around the country.

For her, it was an entry to a different world. She had just married, and her new husband brought her from their home village in the mountains to Kabul, where he had a job in the Finance Ministry. She was alone in the house all day while he was at the office.

But when he got off work, they often went together to the Ariana for a Bollywood movie.

After years of communist rule, it was a more secular era than recent decades, at least for a narrow urban elite.

"We had no hijab at that time," said Niazai, now in her late 50s, referring to the headscarf. Many couples went to the cinema, and "there wasn't even a separate section, you could sit wherever you wanted."

At the time, war raged across the country as Najibullah's government battled an American-backed coalition of warlords and Islamic militants. The mujahedeen toppled him in 1992. Then they turned on each other in a fight for power that demolished Kabul and killed thousands of people caught in the crossfire.

The Ariana was heavily damaged, along with most of the surrounding neighborhood, in the frequent bombardments and gunbattles.

It lay abandoned in ruins for years, as the Taliban drove out the mujahedeen and took over Kabul in 1996. Whatever cinemas survived around Kabul were shuttered.

The Ariana's revival came after the Taliban's ouster in the 2001 U.S.-led invasion. The French government helped rebuild the cinema in 2004, part of the flood of billions of dollars of international aid that attempted to reshape Afghanistan over the next 20 years.

With the Taliban gone, cinema saw a new burst of popularity.

Indian movies were always the biggest draw at the Ariana, as were action movies, particularly those featuring Jean-Claude Van Damme, said Abdul Malik Wahidi, in charge of tickets. As Afghanistan's domestic film industry revived, the Ariana played the handful of Afghan movies produced each year.

They had three showings a day, ending in the mid-afternoon, at 50 afghanis a ticket — about 50 cents. Audiences were overwhelmingly men. In Afghanistan's conservative society, cinemas were seen as a male space, and few women attended.

Wahidi recalled how he and other staffers had to preview all foreign films to weed out those with scenes considered too racy — with couples kissing or women showing too much skin, for example.

Letting something slip through could bring the wrath of some movie-goers. Offended audiences were known to hurl objects at the screen, though it didn't happen at the Ariana, Wahidi said. He remembered one patron at the Ariana, outraged by a scene, storming out and shouting at him, "How can you show pornography?"

Ferdous was appointed as the Ariana's director just over a year ago. She previously led the Kabul municipality's Gender Equality division, where she had worked to gain equal pay for women employees and install women as senior officers in the capital's district police departments.

When she came to the Ariana, the male staff were surprised, "but they have been very cooperative and

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 44 of 84

have worked well with me.”

She focused on making the cinema more welcoming to women. They dedicated one side of the auditorium for couples and families where women could sit. Those entering the cinema had to be patted down by guards as a security measure, and Ferdous brought in a female guard so women patrons would feel more comfortable.

Couples began coming regularly, she said. In March 2021, the cinema hosted a festival of Afghan films that proved very popular, attended by Afghan actors who held talks with the audiences.

Now it has all been brought to a halt, and the Ariana’s staff is left not knowing their fate. The male employees have received part of their salaries since the Taliban takeover. Ferdous said she has received no salary at all.

“It is women who suffer the most. Women are just asking for their right to work,” she said. “If they are not allowed, their economic situation will only get worse.”

Inanullah Amany, the general director of the Kabul Municipality’s cultural department, said that if the Taliban do ban movies, the Ariana’s employees could be transferred to other municipal jobs. Or they could be dismissed.

The staff said they couldn’t even guess what the Taliban will decide, but none held out much hope they would allow movies.

That would be a loss, said Rahmatullah Ezati, the Ariana’s chief projectionist.

“If a country doesn’t have cinema, then there’s no culture. Through cinema, we’ve seen other countries like Europe, U.S. and India.”

## **EU values, laws under threat amid standoff at Belarus border**

By LORNE COOK Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Fears that the authoritarian leader of Belarus is using migrants and refugees as a “hybrid warfare” tactic to undermine the security of the European Union are putting new strains on some of the values and laws in the 27-nation bloc.

The crisis at the eastern frontiers of Poland, Lithuania and Latvia is fueling calls for the EU to finance the construction of something it never wanted to build: fences and walls at the border.

And this idea was voiced this week at a ceremony commemorating the fall of one of Europe’s most notorious and historic barriers, the Berlin Wall.

The border crisis with Belarus has been simmering for months. Top EU officials say the longtime authoritarian leader of Belarus, President Alexander Lukashenko, is luring thousands of migrants and refugees to Minsk with the promise of help to get to western Europe.

Belarus denies it is using them as pawns, but the EU maintains Lukashenko is retaliating for sanctions it imposed on his regime after the president’s disputed election to a sixth term last year led to anti-government protests and a crackdown on internal dissent.

The crisis came to a head after large groups of asylum-seekers recently gathered at a border crossing with Belarus near the village of Kuznica, Poland. Warsaw bolstered security there, sending in riot police to turn back those who tried to cut through a razor-wire fence.

Polish lawmakers introduced a state of emergency and changed the country’s asylum laws. Only troops have access to the area, to the dismay of refugee agencies and Poland’s EU partners. Lithuania is taking similar measures and has begun extending its border fence.

The EU’s executive branch, the European Commission, believes walls and barriers are ineffective, and has so far resisted calls to fund them, although it will pay for infrastructure like surveillance cameras and equipment.

In the heightened security climate, that attitude may be changing.

“We are facing a brutal, hybrid attack on our EU borders. Belarus is weaponizing migrants’ distress in a cynical and shocking way,” European Council President Charles Michel said at an event in Germany on Tuesday, the 32nd anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 45 of 84

"We have opened the debate on the EU financing of physical border infrastructure. This must be settled rapidly because Polish and Baltic borders are EU borders. One for all and all for one," Michel said.

That approach, and other border tactics, are sowing dismay. Addressing EU lawmakers Wednesday, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi called for European leadership and appealed to the bloc to avoid "a race to the bottom" on migration policy.

"These challenges simply do not justify the knee-jerk reaction we have seen in some places: the irresponsible xenophobic discourse; the walls and barbed wire; the violent pushbacks that include the beating of refugees and migrants, sometimes stripping them naked and dumping them in rivers, or leaving them to drown in seas; the attempts to evade asylum obligations by paying other states to take on one's own responsibilities," Grandi said.

"The European Union, a union based on rule of law, should and can do better," he said.

About 8,000 migrants have entered from Belarus this year, and border guards have prevented about 28,000 attempted crossings, according to European Commission figures.

Monique Pariat, a senior commission home affairs official, said most are Iraqis or Syrians, flying to Minsk from Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Syria and the United Arab Emirates. They pay a lot of money to a state-owned tourist company, which goes "into Lukashenko's pockets," she said.

It's the last thing Europeans want to see. The entry in 2015 of well over 1 million people, most fleeing conflict in the Middle East, sparked the EU's most intractable political crisis. They are unable to agree on who should take responsibility for refugees and migrants and whether other EU countries should be obliged to help.

Greece and Italy were on the front line six years ago. Spain has received thousands of asylum-seekers in recent years. Now, it's the turn of Poland, Lithuania and Latvia.

Many in the West believe that Russian President Vladimir Putin supports Lukashenko in targeting Europe.

"They know very well that this is a subject that divides European Union member states. We must be very aware that it would be playing their game to bicker among ourselves," Isabel Wiseler-Lima, a conservative EU lawmaker from Luxembourg, said.

At a summit late last month, leaders of the bloc ordered the commission "to propose any necessary changes to the EU's legal framework and concrete measures underpinned by adequate financial support to ensure an immediate and appropriate response."

A few weeks earlier, 12 member countries — Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia — had demanded that the European Commission bolster the rules governing Europe's passport-free travel zone, known as the Schengen area.

They want "stronger border protection" and new tools to avoid the "grave consequences of overburdened migration and asylum systems and exhausted accommodation capacities" that might hurt public trust in the EU's ability to act decisively.

The question is whether these tools would constitute "pushbacks" — the denial of entry to people, often by force, without affording them any opportunity to apply for asylum — which are illegal under international refugee treaties and EU law.

EU officials and U.N. agencies already worry that Poland is denying access to its border area near Belarus, where thousands have been refused entry in circumstances that cannot be independently verified. Eight people have died in the border no man's land.

The commission is also examining recent changes to Polish law on the right to asylum, "which seems in this case not to be assured," spokesman Adalbert Jahnz said.

As tensions mount, security is tightening and old methods are again gaining favor.

Europe must protect its external borders, and time has proven that the only effective solution is physical barriers to secure European citizens against the mass arrival of illegal migrants," Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban wrote in a letter to the commission last week, seeking reimbursement for funds his government spent on its own border fences.

---

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

## Frustration, defiance in village to be abandoned to the sea

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

FAIRBOURNE, Wales (AP) — Like many others who came to Fairbourne, Stuart Eves decided the coastal village in northern Wales would be home for life when he moved here 26 years ago. He fell in love with the peaceful, slow pace of small village life in this community of about 700 residents nestled between the rugged mountains and the Irish Sea.

"I wanted somewhere my children can have the same upbringing as I had, so they can run free," said Eves, 72, who built a caravan park in the village that he still runs with his son. "You've got the sea, you've got the mountains. It's just a stunning place to live."

That changed suddenly in 2014, when authorities identified Fairbourne as the first coastal community in the U.K. to be at high risk of flooding due to climate change.

Predicting faster sea level rises and more frequent and extreme storms due to global warming, the government said it could only afford to keep defending the village for another 40 years. Officials said that by 2054, it would no longer be safe or sustainable to live in Fairbourne.

Authorities therefore have been working with villagers on the process of so-called "managed realignment" -- essentially, to move them away and abandon the village to the encroaching sea.

Overnight, house prices in Fairbourne nosedived. Residents were dubbed the U.K.'s first "climate refugees." Many were left shocked and angry by national headlines declaring their whole village would be "decommissioned." Seven years on, most of their questions about their future remain unanswered.

"They've doomed the village, and now they've got to try to rehome the people. That's 450 houses," said Eves, who serves as chair of the local community council. "If they want us out by 2054, then they've got to have the accommodation to put us in."

No one here wants to leave. While many are retirees, there are also young families raising a next generation. Locals speak proudly of their tight-knit community. And although the village center only consists of a grocer's, a fish and chip shop and a couple of restaurants, residents say the pebbly beach and a small steam train draw bustling crowds in the summer.

Natural Resources Wales, the government-sponsored organization responsible for the sea defenses in Fairbourne, said the village is particularly vulnerable because it faces multiple flooding risks. Built in the 1850s on a low-lying saltmarsh, Fairbourne already lies beneath sea level at high spring tide. During storms, the tidal level is more than 1.5 meters (5 feet) above the level of the village.

Scientists say U.K. sea levels have risen about 10 centimeters (4 inches) in the past century. Depending on greenhouse gas emissions and actions that governments take, the predicted rise is 70 centimeters to 1 meter by 2100.

Fairbourne is also at the mouth of an estuary, with additional risks of flash floods from the river running behind it. Officials have spent millions of pounds in strengthening a sea wall and almost 2 miles of tidal defenses.

While there are flood risks in many other villages along the Welsh coast, decisions on which areas to protect ultimately boil down to cost. Officials say that in the case of Fairbourne, the cost of maintaining flood defenses will become higher than "the value of what we're protecting."

The effects of climate change that negotiators at the United Nations climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, are working to mitigate already are a reality here.

Catrin Wager, a cabinet member of Gwynedd Council, the local authority overseeing Fairbourne, stressed that while Fairbourne may be the first Welsh coastal village to be designated unviable due to climate change, it certainly won't be the only one. There's no precedent for how to develop policies for helping the villagers adapt, she said.

"We need more answers from the Welsh and U.K. governments, that's my message going into this (U.N. summit)," Wager said. "We really need to get some guidance on not only mitigating the effects of climate change, but about how we adapt for things that are already happening."

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 47 of 84

Across the U.K., half a million properties are at risk of coastal flooding -- and that risk figure will jump to 1.5 million by the end of the 2080s, according to the Climate Change Committee, an independent advisory body set up under climate change laws.

Britain's government, which is hosting the U.N. climate summit, needs to be much more upfront about such risks, said Richard Dawson, a member of the committee and professor of engineering at Newcastle University.

Ultimately, "difficult decisions" need to be made about many coastal settlements with disproportionately high numbers of older and poorer residents, he said, and officials need to prepare people for moving inland.

"Whatever happens at COP the sea level will continue to rise around the U.K., that's something we absolutely need to prepare for," Dawson said. "We have to be realistic. We can't afford to protect everywhere. The challenge for government is that the problem is not being confronted with the urgency or openness that we need."

In Fairbourne, a continuing standoff between villagers and officials underlines that challenge. Residents feel they have been unfairly singled out and aren't convinced there is a clear timeframe on how quickly sea levels will rise enough to threaten their homes. When and how will evacuation take place? Will they be compensated, and if so how much should it be?

There are no answers. The village vicar, Ruth Hansford, said many residents suffered "emotional fatigue" from years of uncertainty and negativity. Others simply decided to carry on with their lives.

Becky Offland and her husband recently took on the lease of the Glan Y Mor Hotel, going against the grain and investing in the village's future. They're hopeful their business will bring more visitors and financial support to Fairbourne.

"It's like a big family, this place. It's not a village, it's a family," said Offland, 36. "We'll all fight to keep it where it is."

Down the street, Fairbourne Chippy owner Alan Jones, 64, also said he has no plans to go anywhere.

"Until water actually comes in here, 'til we physically can't work, we'll carry on," he said.

Eves said he and his son believe that "what will be, will be." But he will mourn the inevitable disintegration of the village he loves.

"You can't sort of take this village here, and put it over there and expect it to work again," he said. "What you have here is a human catastrophe, albeit on a small scale."

Read stories on climate issues by The Associated Press at <https://apnews.com/hub/climate>

## China, US pledge to increase cooperation at UN climate talks

By SETH BORENSTEIN, ELLEN KNICKMEYER and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — The world's top carbon polluters, China and the United States, agreed Wednesday to increase their cooperation and speed up action to rein in climate-damaging emissions, signaling a mutual effort on global warming at a time of tension over their other disputes.

In back-to-back news conferences at U.N. climate talks in Glasgow, Chinese climate envoy Xie Zhenhua and U.S. counterpart John Kerry said the two countries would work together to accelerate the emissions reductions required to meet the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change.

"It's beneficial not only to our two countries but the world as a whole that two major powers in the world, China and the U.S., shoulder special international responsibilities and obligations," Xie told reporters. "We need to think big and be responsible."

"The steps we're taking ... can answer questions people have about the pace at which China is going, and help China and us to be able to accelerate our efforts," Kerry said.

China also agreed for the first time to crack down on methane leaks, following the lead of the Biden administration's efforts to curb the potent greenhouse gas. Beijing and Washington agreed to share technology to reduce emissions.

Governments agreed in Paris to jointly cut greenhouse gas emissions enough to keep the global tem-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 48 of 84

perature rise “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.

Both sides recognize that there is a gap between efforts taken globally to reduce climate pollution and the goals of the Paris deal, Xie said.

“So we will jointly strengthen climate action and cooperation with respect to our respective national situations,” he said.

A U.S.-China bilateral agreement in 2014 gave a huge push to the creation of the historic Paris accord the following year, but that cooperation stopped with the Trump administration, which pulled the U.S. out of the pact. The Biden administration brought the U.S. back in to that deal, but has clashed with China on other issues such as cybersecurity, human rights and Chinese territorial claims.

“While this is not a gamechanger in the way the 2014 US-China climate deal was, in many ways it’s just as much of a step forward given the geopolitical state of the relationship,” said Thom Woodroffe, an expert in U.S.-China climate talks. “It means the intense level of US-China dialogue on climate can now begin to translate into cooperation.”

The gesture of goodwill comes just days after President Joe Biden blamed Chinese President Xi Jinping’s and Russian President Vladimir Putin’s failure to attend talks in person for the lack of more progress in climate negotiations.

The U.S. and China will also revive a working group that will “meet regularly to address the climate crisis and advance the multilateral process, focusing on enhancing concrete actions in this decade,” the declaration said.

Both Washington and Beijing intend to update the world on their new national targets for 2035 in 2025 — a move that is particularly significant for China. The declaration also said China will “make best efforts to accelerate” its plans to reduce coal consumption in the second half of this decade.

The announcement came as governments from around the world were negotiating in Glasgow about how to build on the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect vulnerable countries from the impacts of global warming.

U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres called the move “an important step in the right direction.”

Some experts noted the deal was short on commitments that would significantly reduce heat-trapping gases.

“It’s a good sign that the world’s two biggest emitters can actually work together to face the biggest crisis of humanity but there’s not a lot of meat there after the methane stuff,” said Byford Tsang a China policy analyst for the European think tank E3G.

Earlier Wednesday, a draft of a larger deal being negotiated by almost 200 countries in Glasgow called for accelerating the phasing out of coal — the single biggest source of man-made emissions — although it set no timeline.

Setting deadlines for phasing out fossil fuels is highly sensitive to countries that still depend on them for economic growth, including China and India, and to major exporters of coal such as Australia. The future of coal is also a hot-button issue in the U.S., where a spat among Democrats has held up one of President Joe Biden’s signature climate bills.

Greenpeace International director Jennifer Morgan, a long-time climate talks observer, said that the call in the draft to phase out coal would be a first in a U.N. climate deal, but the lack of a timeline would limit the pledge’s effectiveness.

“This isn’t the plan to solve the climate emergency. This won’t give the kids on the streets the confidence that they’ll need,” Morgan said.

The draft also expresses “alarm and concern” about how much Earth has already warmed and urges countries to cut carbon dioxide emissions by about half by 2030. Pledges so far from governments don’t add up to that frequently stated goal.

The draft is likely to change, but it doesn’t yet include full agreements on the three major goals that the U.N. set going into the negotiations: for rich nations to give poorer ones \$100 billion a year in climate aid, to ensure that half of that money goes to adapting to worsening global warming, and the pledge to slash

global carbon emissions by 2030.

It acknowledges "with regret" that rich nations have failed to live up to the climate finance pledge. Currently they are providing around \$80 billion a year, which poorer nations that need financial help both in developing green energy systems and adapting to the worst of climate change say isn't enough.

Papua New Guinea Environment Minister Wera Mori said that given the lack of financial aid his country may "rethink" efforts to cut logging, coal mining and even coming to the U.N. talks.

The draft says the world should try to achieve "net-zero (emissions) around mid-century," a target that was endorsed by leaders of the Group of 20 biggest economies in a summit just before the Glasgow talks. That means requiring countries to pump only as much greenhouse gas into the atmosphere as can be absorbed again through natural or artificial means.

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. But there are no concrete financial commitments.

Britain's Alok Sharma, who is chairing the negotiations, acknowledged that "significant issues remain unresolved."

"My big, big ask of all of you is to please come armed with the currency of compromise," he told negotiators. "What we agree in Glasgow will set the future for our children and grandchildren, and I know that we will not want to fail them."

---

Associated Press journalist Helena Alves contributed to this report.

---

Follow AP's climate coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/climate>. Follow Borenstein, Jordans and Ghosal on Twitter.

## After Twitter poll, CEO Musk sells off \$5B in Tesla shares

By TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — After making a promise on Twitter, Tesla CEO Elon Musk has sold about 4.5 million shares of the electric car maker's stock, raising over \$5 billion.

The sales, disclosed in 10 regulatory filings late Wednesday, amount to about 3% of Musk's stake in the company.

About \$1.1 billion will go toward paying tax obligations for stock options granted to Musk in September.

Last weekend, Musk said he would sell 10% of his holdings in the company, worth more than \$20 billion, based on the results of a poll he conducted on Twitter. The sale tweets caused a sell off of the stock Monday and Tuesday, but it recovered some on Wednesday. The shares were up 2.6% to \$1,096 in extended trading Wednesday, and they have risen more than 50% this year.

The filings also disclosed that Musk exercised options to buy just over 2.1 million shares for \$6.24 each. The company's stock closed Wednesday at \$1,067.95 per share.

The tax transactions were "automatically effected" as part of a trading plan adopted on Sept. 14 to sell options that expire next year, according to forms filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. That was nearly two months before he floated the idea of the sale on Twitter.

After the transactions, Musk still owns about 167 million Tesla shares.

Musk was Tesla's largest shareholder as of June, owning about 17% of the company, according to data provider FactSet. He's the wealthiest person in the world, according to Forbes, with a net worth of around \$282 billion, most of it in Tesla stock.

Wedbush Analyst Daniel Ives calculated that Musk has about \$10 billion in taxes coming due on stock options that vest next summer.

The sometimes abrasive and unpredictable Musk said he proposed selling the stock as some Democrats have been pushing for billionaires to pay taxes when the price of the stocks they hold goes up, even if they don't sell any shares. However, the wording on unrealized gains, also called a "billionaires tax," was removed from President Joe Biden's budget, which is still being negotiated.

"Much is made lately of unrealized gains being a means of tax avoidance, so I propose selling 10% of my Tesla stock," he tweeted Saturday afternoon. "Do you support this?"

Tesla does not pay Musk a cash salary, but has received huge stock options. "I only have stock, thus the only way for me to pay taxes personally is to sell stock," Musk tweeted.

Tesla Inc. is based in Palo Alto, California, although Musk has announced it will move its headquarters to Texas.

## SpaceX crew launch marks 600 space travelers in 60 years

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A SpaceX rocket carried four astronauts into orbit Wednesday night, including the 600th person to reach space in 60 years.

The repeatedly delayed flight occurred just two days after SpaceX brought four other astronauts home from the International Space Station. They should have been up there to welcome the newcomers, but NASA and SpaceX decided to switch the order based on Monday's ideal recovery weather in the Gulf of Mexico and pulled it off.

"It was a great ride, better than we imagined," mission commander Raja Chari said shortly after the spacecraft reached orbit.

The launch was just as riveting for spectators at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, as well as along the East Coast, as the Falcon rocket thundered through clouds on its way to space, turning night into day.

Germany's Matthias Maurer claimed the No. 600 position, according to NASA, based on his mission assignment. He and his three NASA crewmates should arrive at the space station in under 24 hours, well over a week late.

One of the astronauts — NASA isn't saying which one — was sidelined last week by an undisclosed medical issue. The crew member is fully recovered, according to NASA. Officials won't say whether it was an illness or injury, but noted it wasn't COVID-19.

Bad weather also contributed to their flight delays. Chari said trying to launch on Halloween left them with "a trick instead of a treat." It was also drizzling Wednesday night when the four astronauts said goodbye to their families for six months — with everyone huddling under umbrellas — but it cleared up by launch time.

"Enjoy your holidays among the stars. We'll be waving as you fly by," SpaceX launch director Mark Soltys radioed to the crew.

The list of 600 travelers ranges from those who have barely scratched space — like actor William Shatner last month — to U.S. and Russian astronauts who have spent a year or more in orbit. This year's surge in space tourists helped push the tally over the 600 mark.

That averages out to 10 people per year since Yuri Gagarin's pioneering flight in 1961, Maurer noted.

"But I think in a very few years, we will see an exponential rise of that one because now we're entering the era of commercial spaceflight," he said after arriving at Kennedy Space Center two weeks ago.

The crew launch marked SpaceX's fourth for NASA and the company's fifth passenger flight overall — including a September charter flight for four that skipped the space station. The Dragon capsule's toilet leaked during their three days in orbit, necessitating a quick redesign of the flushing system in the newest capsule, named Endurance by its crew.

A balky parachute during Monday's descent had SpaceX engineers poring over the data, before giving the go-ahead for Wednesday's launch. One of the four chutes opened more than a minute late, a problem seen in testing and well within safety limits, but still being examined, officials said.

As of Wednesday, Elon Musk's company has launched 18 people in 18 months.

"Human spaceflight was the reason we were founded, so it's incredibly meaningful for the whole team," said Sarah Walker, a SpaceX manager.

The European Space Agency's Mauer is one of three newbies on the crew. The 51-year-old was a finalist when he first applied to be an astronaut. Encouraged, he left his research job at a medical company and

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 51 of 84

joined the space agency as an engineer, and made the astronaut cut in 2015.

Chari, 44, is an Air Force colonel and the first space rookie in decades to lead a mission to orbit for NASA. A test pilot from Cedar Falls, Iowa, Chari accumulated more than 2,500 hours in fighter jets, including combat missions in Iraq.

Also on board:

— Dr. Thomas Marshburn, 61, will be the oldest person to live aboard the space station and perform a spacewalk. Born in Statesville, North Carolina, he pursued a career in emergency medicine, then joined NASA in 1994 as a flight surgeon. This is his third trip to the space station.

— Kayla Barron, 34, a Navy lieutenant commander from Richland, Washington. She was among the first women to serve as submarine warfare officers. Added to the flight in May, she's No. 601 in space.

During their station stay, they will welcome two groups of tourists. A Russian film crew recently spent two weeks at the station, making a movie.

The new crew will be joining three station residents — two Russians and NASA's Mark Vande Hei, who celebrated his 55th birthday on Wednesday.

"NASA and @SpaceX are lighting a big candle in the sky for you tonight," NASA tweeted before the launch. That candle — the first-stage booster — landed upright on an ocean barge.

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

## Chris Stapleton takes 6 at CMA Awards, Combs wins top prize

By ANDREW DALTON and KRISTIN M. HALL AP Entertainment Writers

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Chris Stapleton was the big winner with six trophies including song and album of the year and Luke Combs claimed the biggest prize with entertainer of the year at the Country Music Association Awards on Wednesday night.

Stapleton won song and single of the year for "Starting Over" and album of the year for his record of the same name. He walked away with two more trophies as a producer on the single and album.

He then won male vocalist of the year for the fifth time and it appeared he would sweep the night before Combs swooped in and kept it from becoming a coronation.

"I don't deserve to win it," an emotional Combs said as he accepted the entertainer of the year trophy from Alan Jackson, "but I'm sure as hell glad that I did."

At times it seemed Stapleton, who also performed twice, was on the stage all night.

"Man, amazing," the soft-spoken singer with the long beard, never one for speeches, said after he won his last award. "I'm running out of words."

He came into the night the top nominee along with Eric Church, who was shut out.

Along with Stapleton and Church, Combs beat out Carrie Underwood and Miranda Lambert, who opened the ABC telecast with a medley of her hits, including "Kerosene," "Mama's Broken Heart" and "Gunpowder & Lead."

It was a night of big emotions for many winners.

The Brothers Osborne won vocal duo of the year for the fourth time. Lead singer T.J. Osborne, who came out as gay this year, appeared to be holding back tears as he accepted.

"It's been a roller coaster of a year, especially for me emotionally, and for you all to support me, it's been incredible," he said from the stage.

Allen was openly tearful as he became the second Black performer to win new artist of the year.

"I want to thank my father who's no longer with us for introducing me to country music," Allen said.

He recalled spending the last of his money to be able to see pioneering Black country artist Charley Pride at the CMAs in 2016, then getting to perform with Pride on last year's show. Pride died of COVID-19 a month later.

Darius Rucker in 2009 was the first Black artist to win the award.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 52 of 84

Old Dominion won vocal group of the year for the fourth-straight time.

Carly Pearce wept as she won female vocalist of the year for the first time.

Pearce, competing in an all-female category, was the only woman to take the stage and claim an award during the ceremony, now in its 55th year.

Gabby Barrett was the night's most nominated woman with four nods, but the "American Idol" alum was shut out.

The ceremony represented a return to normal for the show. It was back in front of an audience at its usual home, the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee, after last year's ceremony was held at a crowd-free Music City Center because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"We're following all the health protocols to keep everyone safe," host Luke Bryan said during his opening monologue. "And we're all vaccinated," he said, "or not," asking the awkwardly laughing audience, "anyone?"

Moments later he was joined on stage by his "American Idol" co-hosts Lionel Richie and Katy Perry, who sneaked up on him from behind.

"I have hosted other awards shows," Bryan told his "Idol" co-hosts, pretending to be surprised. "I can handle this myself."

Perry answered, "Yeah, we've seen them, that's why we're here."

They then helped him present the first award to Stapleton.

The CMAs are always heavy on performances and this year was no exception, with more songs than awards.

Church was surrounded by flames on the stage as he belted out "Heart on Fire." Pearce and Ashley McBryde then took the stage for a duet of "Never Wanted to Be That Girl."

Underwood and Jason Aldean dueted on their current hit "If I Didn't Love You" and real-life friends Kane Brown and Chris Young will sang their hit duet "Famous Friends," which was nominated in three categories but failed to take an award.

In winning album of the year, Stapleton beat nominees including Morgan Wallen, who was caught earlier this year yelling a racial slur. The CMA Board of Directors disqualified Wallen from individual awards, but he could still win for his work.

Wallen, who was not in attendance, got the biggest cheer by far of all the album nominees from the arena crowd.

Had he won, it would have come during a show that featured diversity and inclusiveness in country music.

In addition to the speeches by Allen and Osborne, who also brought up his sexuality during the duo's performance, Stapleton joined Jennifer Hudson to pay tribute to Aretha Franklin and the country songs she recorded with a rousing, gospel-style rendition of Willie Nelson's "Night Life."

And Mickey Guyton was joined by Brittney Spencer and Madeline Edwards for her anthem of Black self-acceptance, "Love My Hair."

---

Dalton reported from Los Angeles.

## Legislation targets historic GI Bill racial inequities

By AARON MORRISON and KAT STAFFORD Associated Press

For Veterans Day, a group of Democratic lawmakers is reviving an effort to pay the families of Black service members who fought on behalf of the nation during World War II for benefits they were denied or prevented from taking full advantage of when they returned home from war.

The new legislative effort would benefit surviving spouses and all living descendants of Black WWII veterans whose families were denied the opportunity to build wealth with housing and educational benefits through the GI Bill.

Since 1944, those benefits have been offered to millions of veterans transitioning to civilian life. But due to racism and discrimination in how they were granted through local Veterans Affairs offices, many Black WWII veterans received substantially less money toward purchasing a home or continuing their education.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 53 of 84

The Senate bill was to be introduced Thursday by Sen. Rev. Raphael Warnock of Georgia, the son of a WWII veteran.

"We've all seen how these inequities have trickled down over time," Warnock said, adding that the bill "represents a major step toward righting this injustice."

A House version was introduced last week by Rep. Jim Clyburn of South Carolina, the Democratic majority whip, and Rep. Seth Moulton of Massachusetts.

"This is an opportunity for America to repair an egregious fault," said Clyburn. "Hopefully it can also begin to lay a foundation that will help break the cycle of poverty among those people who are the descendants of those who made sacrifices to preserve this democracy."

Moulton, a Marine veteran who served four tours during the Iraq War, said: "There are a lot of Black Americans who are feeling the effects of this injustice today, even though it was originally perpetrated 70 years ago."

"I think that restoring GI Bill benefits is one of the greatest racial justice issues of our time," he said.

The legislation would extend the VA Loan Guaranty Program and GI Bill educational assistance to Black WWII veterans and their descendants who are alive at the time of the bill's enactment. It would also create a panel of independent experts to study inequities in how benefits are administered to women and people of color.

Lawrence Brooks, who at 112 years old is the oldest living U.S. veteran, was drafted to serve during WWII and assigned to the mostly-Black 91st Engineer General Service Regiment.

The Louisiana native, who has 12 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren, always believed that serving his country was the only way he could leave behind his life as the son of sharecroppers, said his daughter, Vanessa Brooks.

But after he was discharged in August 1945 as a private first class, he did not realize his dream of going to college, working instead as a forklift driver before retiring in his 60s. "He always wanted to go to school," his daughter said.

And when he bought his home, he used his retirement fund, not GI Bill benefits, she said.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act into law in 1944, making generous financial subsidies available to 16 million WWII veterans pursuing higher education and buying their first homes. Irrespective of race, veterans who served more than 90 days during the war and had been honorably discharged were entitled to the benefits.

But after returning from the war, Black and white veterans faced two very different realities.

Because the GI Bill benefits had to be approved by local VA officers, few of whom were Black, the process created problems for veterans. This was particularly acute in the Deep South where Jim Crow segregation imposed racist barriers to homeownership and education.

Local VA officers there either made it difficult for Black veterans to access their benefits or lessened their value by steering them away from predominantly white four-year colleges and toward vocational and other non-degree programs. Meanwhile, the nation's historically Black colleges and universities saw such a significant increase of enrollment among Black veterans that the schools were forced to turn away tens of thousands of prospective students.

Sgt. Joseph Maddox, one of two WWII veterans Moulton and Clyburn named their bill after, was denied tuition assistance by his local VA office despite being accepted into a master's degree program at Harvard University.

"When it came time to pay the bill, the government just said no," said Moulton, who himself attended Harvard on the GI Bill. "It actually is pretty emotional for vets who have gone through this themselves and, like myself, know what a difference the GI Bill made in our lives."

The bill is also named for Sgt. Isaac Woodard, Jr., a WWII veteran from Winnsboro, South Carolina, who was brutally beaten and blinded by a small-town police chief in 1946 after returning home from the war. The acquittal of his attacker by an all-white jury helped spur the integration of the U.S. armed services in 1948.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 54 of 84

In contrast to the treatment of Black veterans, the GI Bill helped home ownership rates soar among white veterans in a post-war housing boom that created a ripple effect their children and grandchildren continue to benefit from today.

Of the more than 3,000 VA home loans that had been issued to veterans in Mississippi in the summer of 1947, only two went to Black veterans, according to an Ebony magazine survey at the time.

The Federal Housing Administration's racist housing policies also impacted Black WWII veterans, undoubtedly fueling today's racial wealth gap. Typically referred to as redlining, realtors and banks would refuse to show homes or offer mortgages to qualified homebuyers in certain neighborhoods because of their race or ethnicity.

Preliminary analysis of historical data suggests Black and white veterans accessed their benefits at similar rates, according to Maria Madison, director of the Institute for Economic and Racial Equity at Brandeis University, who has researched the impact of racial inequities in the administration of GI Bill benefits.

However, because of institutional racism and other barriers, Black veterans were more limited in the ways in which they could use their benefits. As a result, the cash equivalent of their benefits was only 40% of what white veterans received.

After adjusting for inflation and for market returns, that amounts to a difference in value of \$170,000 per veteran, according to Madison. Her ongoing research seeks to put a dollar amount on the wealth loss to Black families caused by racism and GI Bill inequities.

Black WWII veterans who were lucky enough to have gained full access to GI Bill benefits succeeded at building good lives for themselves and their families, said Matthew Delmont, a history professor at Dartmouth College. It's a clear argument, he said, for why the new legislation is necessary.

"Because the GI benefits weren't distributed more evenly among Black veterans, we lost an entire generation of Black wealth builders," Delmont said. "After the war, we could have had even more doctors, lawyers, teachers and architects."

Dovey Johnson Roundtree, a Black woman who was a WWII veteran, attended Howard University's law school with GI Bill benefits. She then became a nationally known Washington criminal defense attorney who played a pivotal role in the desegregation of bus travel.

And WWII veteran Robert Madison, who served as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, credited his GI benefits for his success as a renowned architect.

---

Morrison reported from New York City. Stafford reported from Detroit. Both are members of the AP's Race and Ethnicity team. Follow Morrison on Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/aaronlmorison>. Follow Stafford on Twitter: [https://www.twitter.com/@kat\\_\\_stafford](https://www.twitter.com/@kat__stafford).

## Rittenhouse gives account of shootings: 'I defended myself'

By MICHAEL TARM, SCOTT BAUER and KATHLEEN FOODY Associated Press

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP) — Kyle Rittenhouse told jurors at his murder trial that he tried to get away from his pursuers the night he shot three men during street unrest in Kenosha, saying he never wanted to kill anyone: "I didn't do anything wrong. I defended myself."

The 18-year-old spent most of Wednesday giving his account of what happened in just a few frenzied minutes on Aug. 25, 2020, sobbing so hard at one point that the judge called a recess.

In an account largely corroborated by video and the prosecution's own witnesses, Rittenhouse said that the first man cornered him and put his hand on the barrel of Rittenhouse's rifle, the second man hit him with a skateboard, and the third man came at him with a gun of his own.

Rittenhouse fatally shot the first two men and wounded the third.

His nearly daylong testimony was interrupted by an angry exchange in which his lawyers demanded a mistrial over what they argued were out-of-bounds questions asked of him by the chief prosecutor.

The judge, though plainly mad at the prosecutor, did not immediately rule on the request. And later in the day, he instructed the jury to expect closing arguments early next week.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 55 of 84

Rittenhouse is on trial over the shootings he committed during unrest that erupted in Kenosha over the wounding of Jacob Blake, a Black man, by a white Kenosha police officer. He could get life in prison on the charges.

Rittenhouse, who was 17 at the time, went to Kenosha with an AR-style semi-automatic weapon and a medic bag in what the former police and fire youth cadet said was an effort to protect property after rioters had set fires and ransacked businesses on previous nights.

The case has divided Americans over whether Rittenhouse was a patriot taking a stand against lawlessness or a vigilante.

As he began crying on the stand and appeared unable to speak, his mother, Wendy Rittenhouse, seated on a bench across the courtroom, sobbed loudly. Someone put an arm around her. After the judge called a recess, jurors walked by Rittenhouse and looked on as he continued to cry.

After the morning outburst, he was largely composed the rest of the day, though his voice seemed to break at times as he came under tough cross-examination.

Prosecutor Thomas Binger went hard at Rittenhouse all afternoon during cross-examination, walking him through each of the shootings. Rittenhouse continually pushed back, saying he had no choice but to fire.

Rittenhouse said he "didn't want to have to shoot" Joseph Rosenbaum, the first man to fall that night, but he said Rosenbaum was chasing him and had threatened to kill him earlier.

"If I would have let Mr. Rosenbaum take my firearm from me, he would have used it and killed me with it," he said, "and probably killed more people."

But Rittenhouse also acknowledged that the strap holding his gun was in place and that he had both hands on the weapon. And Binger suggested that Rosenbaum might have been trying to bat the rifle away.

The prosecutor sought to drive home the state's contention that Rittenhouse created the dangerous situation in the first place.

"You understand that when you point your AR-15 at someone, it may make them feel like you're going to kill them, correct?" Binger asked.

Rittenhouse testified that he then shot and killed protester Anthony Huber after Huber struck him in the neck with his skateboard and grabbed his gun. Then he wounded Gaige Grosskreutz, saying the protester had lunged at him "with his pistol pointed directly at my head."

Much of the testimony Wednesday was centered on the shooting of Rosenbaum, since that set in motion the bloodshed that followed.

Rittenhouse said that earlier that night, Rosenbaum was holding a chain and twice threatened his life. Apologizing to the court for his language, Rittenhouse quoted Rosenbaum as saying: "I'm going to cut your (expletive) hearts out!"

Later that night, Rittenhouse said, he was walking toward a car dealer's lot with a fire extinguisher to put out a blaze when he heard somebody scream, "Burn in hell!" He said he responded by saying, "Friendly, friendly, friendly!"

He said Rosenbaum was running at him from one side and another protester with a gun was in front of him, and he was cornered. He said he began to run, and he heard a protester tell Rosenbaum, "Get him and kill him!"

Rittenhouse said he heard a gunshot directly behind him, and as he turned around, Rosenbaum was coming at him with his arms out in front. "I remember his hand on the barrel of my gun," Rittenhouse said.

That was when he fired, he said.

Asked by his lawyer why he didn't keep running away from Rosenbaum, Rittenhouse said: "There was no space for me to continue to run to."

During cross-examination, Binger asked Rittenhouse about whether it was appropriate to use deadly force to protect property, and also posed questions about the defendant's silence after his arrest.

At that, the jury was ushered out of the room, and Circuit Judge Bruce Schroeder loudly and angrily accused Binger of pursuing an improper line of questioning and trying to introduce testimony that the judge earlier said he was inclined to prohibit — video made some 15 days before the shootings, in which

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 56 of 84

Rittenhouse watches men leave a CVS Pharmacy and is heard commenting that he wished he had his rifle so he could shoot them because he thought they were shoplifters.

Rittenhouse lawyer Corey Chirafisi all but suggested prosecutors were deliberately trying to cause a mistrial because the case is "going badly" for them and they want a do-over. The defense asked for a mistrial with prejudice, meaning that if one is granted, Rittenhouse cannot be retried.

When Binger said he had been acting in good faith, the judge replied: "I don't believe that."

As he first took the stand, Rittenhouse was asked by his attorney whether he came to Kenosha looking for trouble, and he responded no.

He testified that he saw videos of violence in downtown Kenosha on the day before the shootings, including a brick being thrown at a police officer's head and cars burning in a Car Source dealership lot.

Rittenhouse said the Car Source owner "was happy we were there" that night.

Bauer reported from Madison, Wisconsin; Foody from Chicago. Associated Press writer Tammy Webber contributed from Fenton, Michigan.

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

## **Biden: Infrastructure bill will ease economy woes, just wait**

By JOSH BOAK and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — President Joe Biden touted his \$1 trillion infrastructure plan Wednesday as an eventual fix for the nation's inflation and supply chain woes — if Americans just have the patience to wait for the construction to begin.

The president toured the Port of Baltimore at the start of what is likely to be a national tour to showcase his signature legislation that cleared Congress last week and that he intends to sign on Monday. He declared that the spending would improve transportation of products and supplies from overseas and within the U.S. to help lower prices, reduce shortages and add union jobs.

That message is becoming more critical as the government reported Wednesday that consumer prices in October climbed 6.2% from a year ago. Inflation has intensified instead of fading as the economy reopened after the coronavirus pandemic, creating a major challenge for Biden whose administration repeatedly said that the price increases were temporary. During remarks at the port, he acknowledged that consumer prices remained "too high."

"Everything from a gallon of gas to a loaf of bread costs more," he said. "We still face challenges and we have to tackle them ... we have to tackle them head on."

Higher prices have eaten into wages and turned public sentiment on the economy against Biden in polls. One of the obstacles for reducing inflation has been backlogged ports with ships waiting to dock at major transit hubs, causing shortages and leaving some store shelves depleted ahead of the holiday shopping season.

"Many people remain unsettled about the economy and we all know why," Biden said.

He offered his infrastructure plan as the solution, albeit one that will take time to manifest. Better infrastructure — whether roads, bridges, ports or whatever — would give more capacity and resiliency for the supply chain. There would be more capacity to unload ships and move goods, which in turn would reduce price pressures and shortages.

Biden said the infrastructure spending would create jobs paying \$45 an hour, nearly 50% above the current national average. It would create a wealth of jobs to fix aging pipes, bridges and roads, and boost clean energy and cybersecurity. And most wouldn't require college degrees.

"This is a once in a generation investment," he said.

The president pointed to Baltimore's port as a blueprint on how to reduce shipping bottlenecks that have held back the economic recovery. The facility 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 Tun-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 57 of 84

nel, 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.

The president, who consulted with the CEOs of Walmart, Target, FedEx and UPS on Tuesday, emphasized 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.

The inflation phenomenon is also global in nature, with Germany and China recently reporting high levels.

The president made his case Wednesday in a city of nearly 600,000 people that supports him. Nearly 90% of voters in Baltimore backed Biden in last year's election. The president also 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 a TV version of the city's poverty, crime, political corruption and vacant row houses on shows such as HBO's "The Wire." 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.

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, Donald 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.

## **EXPLAINER: Prosecutor's questions to Rittenhouse anger judge**

By TODD RICHMOND and COREY WILLIAMS Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — The murder case against Kyle Rittenhouse flirted with a mistrial Wednesday after the lead prosecutor angered the judge with his questioning of the defendant.

Rittenhouse's attorneys called him to testify about his actions on Aug. 25, 2020, when he shot three men, killing two and wounding a third, during protests on the streets of Kenosha that followed a white police officer shooting Jacob Blake, a Black man, while responding to a domestic disturbance.

Legal experts said doing so risked exposing Rittenhouse to harsh cross-examination, and lead prosecutor Thomas Binger did so — with a line of questioning that prompted Judge Bruce Schroeder to shout at him and say, "I don't believe you," at one point when Binger argued he had been acting in good faith.

Rittenhouse's attorneys said they would seek a mistrial with prejudice — meaning the case could not be re-filed — and Schroeder said he would consider their motion later.

So what got the judge so angry?

Prosecutors earlier this year sought permission to introduce into evidence a brief video taken 15 days before the protest shootings, in which Rittenhouse is heard watching some men exit a CVS pharmacy and commenting that he wished he had his rifle so he could shoot them because he thought they were shoplifters.

Binger argued at a pretrial hearing that it showed Rittenhouse's mindset as "a teenage vigilante, involving himself in things that don't concern him." But Schroeder questioned its relevance and said at a pretrial hearing that he was inclined not to allow it — but suggested he might reassess that at trial.

Binger peppered Rittenhouse with question after question asking him whether it was acceptable to use

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 58 of 84

deadly force to protect people. The defense eventually objected and Schroeder angrily sent the jury out.

When Binger told the judge he had left the door open in his early ruling, Schroeder yelled: "For me! Not for you!"

Rittenhouse's attorney also accused Binger of commenting on his client's right to remain silent about the case, to which Binger responded that the defendant was tailoring his testimony to details already introduced in court.

That also angered Schroeder, who called it a "grave constitutional violation" to talk about the defendant's silence and warning him that he "better stop."

"That's basically, it's been basic law in this country for 40 years, 50 years," Schroeder said. "I have no idea why you would do something like that."

Phil Turner, a Chicago-based defense attorney and former federal prosecutor, agreed.

"You can never, never comment on the fact that the defendant did not say something," Turner told The Associated Press. "He or she has a Fifth Amendment right not to incriminate themselves. You don't go near it as a prosecutor. Never."

Though Schroeder took the mistrial request under advisement, it seemed unlikely he would grant it. Near the end of the court day Wednesday, he told the jury he expected the case to wrap up early next week.

"What Binger did was deliberate," Daniel Adams, a defense attorney and former Milwaukee County assistant prosecutor, told The Associated Press Wednesday. "He didn't ask for permission. He thought he could slip it in and ask for forgiveness. He knew better. He tried to pull a fast one and he was called on it. In a case where you've been preparing for months, it's of national importance, this wasn't an accident."

But Adams said the judge would have to find Binger's actions egregious for him to declare a mistrial with prejudice. He said he couldn't remember when a judge has ever granted such a motion.

It's not unusual once testimony concludes for criminal defense attorneys to ask a judge to dismiss charges — or in a civil case, issue what's known as a directed verdict — if there's insufficient evidence to support a conviction before a case goes to a jury.

---

Williams reported from West Bloomfield, Michigan.

---

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

## **Rittenhouse: 'I didn't do anything wrong. I defended myself'**

By MICHAEL TARM, SCOTT BAUER and KATHLEEN FOODY Associated Press

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP) — Kyle Rittenhouse testified Wednesday he was under attack when he killed two men and wounded a third with his rifle during a chaotic night of protests in Kenosha, saying: "I didn't do anything wrong. I defended myself."

In a high-stakes gamble, the 18-year-old took the stand at his murder trial to tell his side of what happened on the streets that day in the summer of 2020, sobbing so hard at one point that the judge called a break.

In an account largely corroborated by video and the prosecution's own witnesses, Rittenhouse said that the first man cornered him and put his hand on the barrel of Rittenhouse's rifle, the second man hit him with a skateboard, and the third man came at him with a gun of his own.

His nearly all-day testimony was interrupted by an angry exchange in which his lawyers demanded a mistrial over what they argued were out-of-bounds questions asked of him by the chief prosecutor.

The judge, though plainly mad at the prosecutor, did not immediately rule on the request. And later in the day, he instructed the jury to expect closing arguments early next week.

Rittenhouse is on trial over the shootings he committed during unrest that erupted in Kenosha over the wounding of Jacob Blake, a Black man, by a white Kenosha police officer. He could get life in prison on the charges.

Rittenhouse, who was 17 at the time, went to Kenosha with an AR-style semi-automatic weapon and a

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 59 of 84

medic bag in what the former police youth cadet said was an effort to protect property after rioters had set fires and ransacked businesses on previous nights.

The case has divided Americans over whether Rittenhouse was a patriot taking a stand against lawlessness or a vigilante.

As he began crying on the stand and appeared unable to speak, his mother, Wendy Rittenhouse, seated on a bench across the courtroom, sobbed loudly. Someone put an arm around her. After the judge called a recess, jurors walked by Rittenhouse and looked on as he continued to cry.

After the morning outburst, he was largely composed the rest of the day, though his voice seemed to break at times as he came under tough cross-examination.

Prosecutor Thomas Binger went hard at Rittenhouse all afternoon during cross-examination, walking him through each of the shootings. Rittenhouse continually pushed back, saying he had no choice but to fire.

Rittenhouse said he "didn't want to have to shoot" Joseph Rosenbaum, the first man to fall that night, but he said Rosenbaum was chasing him and had threatened to kill him earlier.

"If I would have let Mr. Rosenbaum take my firearm from me, he would have used it and killed me with it," he said, "and probably killed more people."

But Rittenhouse also acknowledged that the strap holding his gun was in place and that he had both hands on the weapon. And Binger suggested that Rosenbaum might have been trying to bat the rifle away.

The prosecutor sought to drive home the state's contention that Rittenhouse created the dangerous situation in the first place.

"You understand that when you point your AR-15 at someone, it may make them feel like you're going to kill them, correct?" Binger asked.

Rittenhouse testified that he then shot and killed protester Anthony Huber after Huber struck him in the neck with his skateboard and grabbed his gun. Then he wounded Gaige Grosskreutz, saying the protester had lunged at him "with his pistol pointed directly at my head."

Rittenhouse's decision to testify carried risks, including the possibility of fierce cross-examination. And some legal experts expressed doubt about the need to put him on the stand, given that some of the prosecution's own witnesses have already bolstered his claim of self-defense.

Much of the testimony Wednesday was centered on the shooting of Rosenbaum, since that set in motion that bloodshed that followed.

Rittenhouse said that earlier that night, Rosenbaum was holding a chain and twice threatened his life. Apologizing to the court for his language, Rittenhouse quoted Rosenbaum as saying: "I'm going to cut your (expletive) hearts out!"

Later that night, Rittenhouse said, he was walking toward a car dealer's lot with a fire extinguisher to put out a blaze when he heard somebody scream, "Burn in hell!" He said he responded by saying, "Friendly, friendly, friendly!"

He said Rosenbaum was running at him from one side and another protester with a gun was in front of him, and he was cornered. He said he began to run, and he heard a protester tell Rosenbaum, "Get him and kill him!"

Rittenhouse said he heard a gunshot directly behind him, and as he turned around, Rosenbaum was coming at him with his arms out in front. "I remember his hand on the barrel of my gun," Rittenhouse said.

That was when he fired, he said.

He also said he thought the object Rosenbaum threw during the chase — a plastic hospital bag — was the chain he had seen earlier.

Asked by his lawyer why he didn't keep running away from Rosenbaum, Rittenhouse said: "There was no space for me to continue to run to."

During cross-examination, Binger asked Rittenhouse about whether it was appropriate to use deadly force to protect property, and also posed questions about the defendant's silence after his arrest.

At that, the jury was ushered out of the room, and Circuit Judge Bruce Schroeder loudly and angrily accused Binger of pursuing an improper line of questioning and trying to introduce testimony that the

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 60 of 84

judge earlier said he was inclined to prohibit — video made some 15 days before the shootings, in which Rittenhouse watches men leave a CVS Pharmacy and is heard commenting that he wished he had his rifle so he could shoot them because he thought they were shoplifters..

Rittenhouse lawyer Corey Chirafisi all but suggested prosecutors were deliberately trying to cause a mistrial because the case is “going badly” for them and they want a do-over. The defense asked for a mistrial with prejudice, meaning that if one is granted, Rittenhouse cannot be retried.

When Binger said he had been acting in good faith, the judge replied: “I don’t believe that.”

As he first took the stand, Rittenhouse was asked by his attorney whether he came to Kenosha looking for trouble, and he responded no.

He testified that he saw videos of violence in downtown Kenosha on the day before the shootings, including a brick being thrown at a police officer’s head and cars burning in a Car Source dealership lot.

Rittenhouse said the Car Source owner “was happy we were there” that night.

This story has been corrected to show that it was the defense attorney, not the judge, who suggested the prosecutor was trying to cause a mistrial, and to fix the spelling of Chirafisi’s last name.

Bauer reported from Madison, Wisconsin; Foody from Chicago. Associated Press writer Tammy Webber contributed from Fenton, Michigan.

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

## Crew member sues Alec Baldwin, others over ‘Rust’ shooting

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The head of lighting on the film “Rust” filed a lawsuit Wednesday over Alec Baldwin’s fatal shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the New Mexico set of the Western, alleging negligence that caused him “severe emotional distress” that will haunt him forever.

Serge Svetnoy said in the suit that the bullet that killed his close friend Hutchins, narrowly missed him, and he held her head as she died.

“They should never, ever, have had live rounds on this set,” Svetnoy’s attorney Gary A. Dordick said at a news conference Wednesday.

The lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court names nearly two dozen defendants associated with the film including Baldwin, who was both star and a producer; David Halls, the assistant director who handed Baldwin the gun; and Hannah Gutierrez Reed, who was in charge of weapons on the set.

It is the first known lawsuit of what could be many stemming from the Oct. 21 shooting, which also injured “Rust” director Joel Souza.

It was the ninth film that Svetnoy and Hutchins had worked on together, and he had taken the job at low pay because she asked him to.

“She was my friend,” Svetnoy said at the news conference.

He said he had seen guns sitting unattended in the dirt a few days earlier in the shoot, and had warned the people responsible about them.

On the day of the shooting, he was setting up lighting within 6 or 7 feet (2 meters) of Baldwin, the suit says.

“What happened next will haunt Plaintiff forever,” the suit says. “He felt a strange and terrifying whoosh of what felt like pressurized air from his right. He felt what he believed was gunpowder and other residual materials directly strike the right side of his face.”

Then, with his glasses scratched and his hearing muffled, he knelt to help Hutchins, the suit said.

The lawsuit seeks both compensatory and punitive damages to be determined later. It was filed in Los Angeles County because the plaintiff and most of the defendants are based there.

Attorneys and representatives for the defendants did not immediately respond to email and phone mes-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 61 of 84

sages seeking comment on the suit.

Gutierrez Reed's lawyer Jason Bowles said in a statement Wednesday that "we are convinced this was sabotage and Hannah is being framed. We believe that the scene was tampered with as well before the police arrived."

Bowles said his client has provided authorities with a full interview and continues to assist them. The statement did not address the lawsuit.

"We are asking for a full and complete investigation of all of the facts, including the live rounds themselves, how they ended up in the 'dummies' box, and who put them in there," the statement said.

Gutierrez Reed said last week that she had inspected the gun Baldwin shot but doesn't know how a live bullet ended up inside.

Santa Fe-area District Attorney Mary Carmack-Altwies said investigators have encountered no proof of sabotage. Her comments, first made on "Good Morning America," were confirmed Wednesday by agency spokeswoman Sascha Guinn Anderson.

Carmack-Altwies says that investigators know who loaded the gun, though it remains unclear how the deadly round of ammunition got on the movie set. The district attorney said she is concerned that there were so many levels of safety failures.

Dordick said at the news conference that it was "far-fetched" to suggest there was sabotage, but that Gutierrez Reed still had the same responsibility to know what was in the gun and who had handled it.

Authorities have said that Halls, the assistant director, handed the weapon to Baldwin and announced "cold gun," indicating that the weapon was safe to use.

Halls said last week that he hoped the tragedy prompted the film industry to "reevaluate its values and practices" to ensure no one is harmed again, but did not provide details.

Baldwin said on video on Oct. 30 that the shooting was a "one-in-a-trillion event" saying, "We were a very, very well-oiled crew shooting a film together and then this horrible event happened."

The director Souza told detectives that Baldwin was rehearsing a scene in which he drew a revolver from his holster and pointed it toward the camera, which Hutchins and Souza were behind, according to court records in New Mexico.

Souza said the scene did not call for the use of live rounds, and Gutierrez Reed said real ammo should never have been present, according to the court records.

The Los Angeles lawsuit alleges that the scene did not call for Baldwin to fire the gun at all, only to point it.

Hollywood professionals have been baffled by the circumstances of the movie-set shooting. It already has led to other production crews stepping up safety measures.

---

Associated Press Writers Morgan Lee and Susan Montoya Bryan in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and AP Film Writer Jake Coyle in Los Angeles contributed.

---

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton>

## Judge OKs \$626 million settlement in Flint water litigation

By ED WHITE Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — A judge on Wednesday approved a \$626 million deal to settle lawsuits filed by Flint residents who found their tap water contaminated by lead following disastrous decisions to switch the city's water source and a failure to swiftly acknowledge the problem.

Most of the money — \$600 million — is coming from the state of Michigan, which was accused of repeatedly overlooking the risks of using the Flint River without properly treating the water.

"The settlement reached here is a remarkable achievement for many reasons, not the least of which is that it sets forth a comprehensive compensation program and timeline that is consistent for every qualifying participant," U.S. District Judge Judith Levy said in a 178-page opinion.

Attorneys are seeking as much as \$200 million in legal fees from the overall settlement. Levy left that issue for another day.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 62 of 84

The deal makes money available to Flint children who were exposed to the water, adults who can show an injury, certain business owners and anyone who paid water bills. About 80% of what's left after legal fees is earmarked for children.

"This is a historic and momentous day for the residents of Flint, who will finally begin to see justice served," said Ted Leopold, one of the lead attorneys in the litigation.

Corey Stern, another key lawyer in the case, said he represented "many brave kids who did not deserve the tragedy put on them."

In a money-saving move, Flint managers appointed by then-Gov. Rick Snyder and regulators in his administration allowed the city to use the Flint River in 2014-15 while another pipeline was being built from Lake Huron. But the river water wasn't treated to reduce corrosion. Lead in old pipes broke off and flowed to homes as a result.

There is no safe level of lead. It can harm a child's brain development and cause attention and behavior problems.

Flint switched back to a Detroit regional water agency in fall 2015 after Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha publicly reported elevated lead levels in children.

Some critics said the disaster in the predominantly Black city was an example of environmental racism. Flint is paying \$20 million toward the settlement, while McLaren Health is paying \$5 million and an engineering firm, Rowe Professional Services, is paying \$1.25 million. Lawsuits still are pending against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, McLaren and other engineering firms.

The deal was announced in August 2020 by Attorney General Dana Nessel and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, both Democrats, who were elected in 2018 while the litigation was in state and federal courts.

The judge said it was "remarkable" that more than half of Flint's 81,000 residents have signed up for a share of the settlement. It's not clear just how much each child will receive. A claims process is next with families required to show records, such as blood tests or neurological results, and other evidence of injury.

Flint resident Melissa Mays, a 43-year-old social worker, said her three sons have had medical problems and learning challenges due to lead.

"Hopefully it'll be enough to help kids with tutors and getting the medical care they need to help them recover from this," Mays said. "A lot of this isn't covered by insurance. These additional needs, they cost money."

She considers the settlement a "win."

"We've made history," Mays said, "and hopefully it sets a precedent to maybe don't poison people. It costs more in the long run."

The Flint saga isn't over. Nine people, including Snyder, have been charged with crimes. They've pleaded not guilty and their cases are pending.

The state last week agreed to pay \$300,000 to the former head of the drinking water division. An arbitrator said Liane Shekter Smith was wrongly fired for what happened in Flint.

---

AP reporter David Eggert in Lansing, Michigan, contributed to this story.

---

Follow Ed White at <http://twitter.com/edwritez>

## AG releases interview transcripts in Cuomo harassment probe

By MICHAEL HILL, JENNIFER PELTZ and MICHAEL R. SISA Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Over an 11-hour interview with investigators last July, former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo defiantly denied allegations he sexually harassed women and sparred with the lawyers questioning him, accusing one of being out to get him, according to a transcript released on Wednesday.

New York Attorney General Letitia James made public hundreds of pages of transcripts of interviews conducted by two independent lawyers, hired by her office, during their monthslong probe of sexual harassment allegations against Cuomo.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 63 of 84

In their interviews with investigators, conducted over several months, the women accusing Cuomo of misconduct laid out their horror stories of working for a boss who made comments about women's looks, asked questions about sex and gave inappropriate touches and kisses.

The transcripts covered interviews done with 10 of the women who accused Cuomo of misconduct, plus the interview that Cuomo himself gave on July 17.

Most of the allegations, and Cuomo's defenses, have been aired publicly before in interviews, news conferences and a report published by James' office in August that sparked public outrage and pushed Cuomo to resign from office. But the transcripts offer a new level of detail on the allegations against the Democrat and Cuomo's confrontational interview.

During the interrogation, Cuomo insisted he was careful in how he behaved around women and said several of his accusers had misrepresented what happened. He also bristled at a groping allegation by an aide, Brittany Commisso, who said Cuomo had pulled her toward him and grabbed her breast in the governor's mansion.

Cuomo, 63, said it would be "not even feasible" for him to have done that, especially since he believed his conduct was constantly under scrutiny by enemies, including one of the lawyers then investigating him, former acting U.S. Attorney Joon Kim.

"You've investigated me for six years," Cuomo told Kim, referring to corruption investigations conducted by federal prosecutors during Kim's tenure, including one that sent one of Cuomo's close friends to prison. "I would have to lose my mind to do some — such a thing. It would be an act of insanity to touch a woman's breast and make myself vulnerable to a woman for such an accusation."

"Numerous people have tried to set me up," Cuomo said. "I'm always wary of people. I have phenomenal precautions. It would be an act of insanity."

The Albany County sheriff's office filed a criminal complaint against Cuomo over Commisso's groping allegation late last month.

In her interview with investigators, Commisso said Cuomo made comments about her appearance, called her "honey" and asked her about her sex life. She said when she wore a dress rather than pants to work, the governor said it was "about time that you showed some leg."

She also described the alleged assault at the governor's mansion, saying that even as she pushed Cuomo away, she worried she would be the one who got in trouble if she slapped him or made a scene.

"I would be taken away by the state police officers and I would be the one that would get in trouble and I would be the one to lose my job, not him," she said.

In her interview with investigators, Lindsey Boylan, a former economic development official who was the first woman to publicly accuse Cuomo of harassment, called his famously caustic administration "a terrible environment for everyone, whether they were sexually harassed or not." But she told the investigators harassment was what spurred her to come forward. "If this was just a toxic work environment, we wouldn't be sitting here."

Boylan said Cuomo regularly commented on her appearance, "constantly" looked at her legs and once kissed her on the lips without her consent.

When the governor's dog climbed on her, Cuomo said, "Well, if I was the dog, I'd mount you, too."

Asked by investigators whether any sexual harassment training was done while she was working in the Executive Chamber, Boylan said no, adding: "The whole building is sexual harassment."

She and other women described Cuomo as, at turns intensely demanding, furious or egregiously inappropriate.

Cuomo asked Boylan to sing him "Happy Birthday" over the phone and former aide Charlotte Bennett to sing "Danny Boy" as a hazing ritual. The governor pounded his fist into a door in frustration once and on another occasion told a top aide he was lucky he didn't throw him out the window, according to testimony.

Bennett, who has alleged Cuomo quizzed her about her sex life in a manner that made her think he was hitting on her, said staffers called to meet with Cuomo came in with dread and distress and would sometimes be in tears afterward.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 64 of 84

Cuomo announced his resignation on Aug. 10, a week after James released a report concluding that Cuomo had sexually harassed at least 11 women.

Cuomo's attorneys have previously called for the release of transcripts from the investigation. But Cuomo attorney Rita Glavin criticized the attorney general for the partial release while the criminal charge is pending.

"The Attorney General deliberately harms a pending case by broadcasting to each witness what other witnesses have testified to, and spreading false and salacious hearsay and rumors," Glavin said in a statement.

The state Assembly had been considering impeaching Cuomo when he resigned. A legal team hired by the Assembly's judiciary committee has continued to work on a report on Cuomo's conduct in office. The committee's chair said Wednesday that committee members had been invited to review the report in Albany on Nov. 18 and 19 ahead of its planned public release.

In his interview with investigators, Cuomo portrayed many of the women accusing him as having misrepresented their interactions. Asked repeatedly about allegations of harassment, he started answers with the word "no," more than 350 times and uttering the words "never happened" eight times.

During one lengthy exchange, he refused to offer a simple answer to a question about whether a woman mentioned in one bit of testimony was his girlfriend.

"How do you want to define 'girlfriend?'" Cuomo asked.

"Did you date her?" Kim asked.

"How do you want to define 'date?'" Cuomo countered.

Cuomo suggested Kim was a puppet doing the bidding of his predecessor in the U.S. attorney's office, Preet Bharara, and "his rabbi," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer.

"You know that I said that Preet and you were unethical and should not be considered for attorney general," Cuomo told Kim. "Preet Bharara has political aspirations, may have political aspirations against me. His rabbi, your rabbi, Senator Schumer called for my resignation."

Kim told Cuomo he wasn't "engaging" with him on those types of statements, but said "I wouldn't want the silence to go as some kind of acceptance of it."

Cuomo closed the deposition with another jab at Kim: "I would like to say it was a pleasure, Mr. Kim. But I'm under oath."

Peltz and Sisak reported from New York. Contributing were Thalia Beaty, David B. Caruso and Michelle L. Price in New York, Marina Villeneuve in Albany and Carolyn Thompson in Buffalo.

## **Defendant: Ahmaud Arbery 'trapped like a rat' before slaying**

By RUSS BYNUM Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Ga. (AP) — One of the three white men standing trial for the death of Ahmaud Arbery said they had the 25-year-old Black man "trapped like a rat" before he was fatally shot, a police investigator testified Wednesday.

Father and son Greg and Travis McMichael armed themselves and chased Arbery in a pickup truck after they spotted him running in their coastal Georgia neighborhood on Feb. 23, 2020. A neighbor, William "Roddie" Bryan, joined the pursuit in his own truck and took cellphone video of Travis McMichael shooting Arbery three times at close range with a shotgun.

More than two months passed before the three men were arrested on charges of murder and other crimes, after the graphic video leaked online and deepened a national reckoning over racial injustice.

Glynn County police Sgt. Roderic Nohilly told the jury Wednesday he spoke with Greg McMichael at police headquarters a few hours after the shooting. He said Greg McMichael, 65, told him Arbery "wasn't out for no Sunday jog. He was getting the hell out of there."

The father told Nohilly he recognized Arbery because he had been recorded by security cameras a few times inside a neighboring home under construction. Greg McMichael said they gave chase to try to stop Arbery from escaping the subdivision.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 65 of 84

"He was trapped like a rat," Greg McMichael said, according to a transcript of their recorded interview Nohilly read in court. "I think he was wanting to flee and he realized that something, you know, he was not going to get away."

Defense attorneys say the McMichaels and Bryan were legally justified in chasing and trying to detain Arbery because they reasonably thought he was a burglar. Greg McMichael told police Travis McMichael, 35, fired in self-defense as Arbery attacked with his fists and tried to grab his son's shotgun.

"He had an opportunity to flee further, you know," Greg McMichael told Nohilly. "We had chased him around the neighborhood a bit, but he wasn't winded at all. I mean this guy was, he was in good shape."

Prosecutors say the McMichaels and Bryan chased Arbery for five minutes before he was shot in the street after running past the McMichaels' idling truck. Prosecutor Linda Dunikoski has described him as an "avid runner" who lived about 2 miles (3 kilometers) from the Satilla Shores neighborhood where he was slain.

Bryan, 52, was on his front porch when he saw Arbery run past with the McMichaels' truck close behind. He told police he didn't recognize any of them, or know what prompted the chase, but still joined in after calling out: "Y'all got him?"

Bryan said he used his truck several times to cut off Arbery and edge him off the road, testified Stephan Lowrey, the lead Glynn County police investigator on the case. He said police found Arbery's fingerprints by the truck's driver-side door, next to a dent in the body. Bryan said Arbery had tried to open the door, but he denied striking the running man.

"I didn't hit him," Bryan said, according to an interview transcript Lowrey read in court. "Wish I would have. Might have took him out and not get him shot."

Bryan's attorney, Kevin Gough, asked the investigator if he thought Bryan committed aggravated assault or any other "serious violent felony" with his truck.

"No, that wasn't the way I interpreted it at the time," said Lowrey, who agreed that local police considered Bryan a witness to the shooting.

Glynn County police made no arrests in Arbery's shooting. But Lowrey said he hadn't closed the case when the Georgia Bureau of Investigation took it over in May.

"It was still open but not getting much traction," Lowrey said. He added: "I think inactive was a fair summary."

The Rev. Al Sharpton spoke with reporters Wednesday outside the Glynn County courthouse, where he held the hands of Arbery's parents while leading a prayer for justice. Sharpton criticized the disproportionately white makeup of the jury.

Superior Court Judge Timothy Walmsley allowed the jury to be sworn in last week after prosecutors objected, saying several Black potential jurors were excluded because of their race, leaving only one Black juror on the panel of 12. The county where the trial is being held is nearly 27% Black.

"It's an insult to the intelligence of the American people," Sharpton said. "If you can count to 12 and only get to one that's Black, you know something's wrong."

In court, another neighbor, Matthew Albenze, testified he was splitting logs in his front yard on the day of the shooting when he saw Arbery enter the home under construction across the street.

Albenze testified Wednesday that he went inside his house and put a handgun in his pocket before he called police from behind a tree at the curb. Arbery left the house running toward the McMichaels' home while Albenze was on the phone.

Albenze told the jury he called the police nonemergency number. Dunikoski asked him: Why not 911?

He replied: "I did not see an emergency."

On the witness stand Wednesday, Nohilly pushed back as one of Greg McMichael's attorneys asked if raising a gun would be an appropriate response to a fleeing suspect who refused verbal commands to stop.

"You'll sometimes draw your weapon, won't you?" attorney Franklin Hogue asked.

Nohilly replied: "I don't just pull my gun."

Hogue then asked: "At some point, if the person is going to attack you, you'll go ahead and use your weapon."

"It depends on how he's attacking me," Nohilly said.

Hogue then asked him what if the attacker is trying to take his gun away.

"At that point it might meet the threshold, yes," the police sergeant said.

## 'Strong' start to kids vaccine campaign, but challenges loom

By ZEKE MILLER and MIKE STOBBE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The campaign to vaccinate elementary school age children in the U.S. is off to a strong start, health officials said Wednesday, but experts say there are signs that it will be difficult to sustain the initial momentum.

About 900,000 kids aged 5 to 11 will have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in their first week of eligibility, the White House said, providing the first glimpse at the pace of the school-aged vaccination campaign.

"We're off to a very strong start," said White House COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients, during a briefing with reporters.

Final clearance for the shots was granted by federal regulators on Nov. 2, with the first doses to kids beginning in some locations the following day.

The estimated increase in vaccinations in elementary school age children appears similar to a jump seen in May, when adolescents ages 12 to 15 became eligible for shots.

Now nearly 20,000 pharmacies, clinics and physicians' offices are offering the doses to younger kids, and the Biden administration estimates that by the end of Wednesday more than 900,000 of the kid doses will have been given. On top of that, about 700,000 first-shot appointments are scheduled for the coming days.

About 28 million 5 to 11 year-olds are now eligible for the low-dose Pfizer vaccine. Kids who get their first of two shots by the end of next week will be fully vaccinated by Christmas.

The administration is encouraging schools to host vaccine clinics on site to make it even easier for kids to get shots. The White House is also asking schools to share information from "trusted messengers" like doctors and public health officials to combat misinformation around the vaccines.

A initial surge in demand for vaccinations was expected from parents who have been waiting for the chance to protect their younger kids, especially before the holidays.

About 3% of newly eligible children in the U.S. got first shots in the first week, but the rate of vaccinations in varied widely around the country, as it has for adult vaccines.

California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly said Wednesday that more than 110,000 Californians ages 5 to 11 have received their first coronavirus shot — 9% of kids that age in the state.

"We are starting to see this pick up and I'm really encouraged about what this means for our state," Ghaly said.

On the other ends of the spectrum, Idaho reported just 2,257 first shots, or 1.3% of the newly eligible kids there.

In West Virginia's Cabell County, high demand led local health officials to start setting up vaccination clinics in all the county's public middle schools. A spokeswoman for the county health department said there were some lines for vaccines in the first few days after the doses were approved for kids ages 5 to 11, but that things have slowed since then.

Some experts say that nationally, demand could also begin to recede soon. They note polling data suggests only a fraction of parents have planned to get their kids shots immediately, and they suspect the trend will play out like it did earlier this year when kids ages 12 to 15 were first able to get shots.

In the first week after vaccines for that age group were authorized in May, the number of adolescents getting a first shot jumped by roughly 900,000, according to an American Academy of Pediatrics review of federal data. The next week, it rose even further, to 1.6 million.

"There was an initial burst," said Shannon Stokley of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But then the number dropped steadily for months, interrupted only briefly in early August as the delta variant surged and parents prepared to send children back to school.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 67 of 84

Adolescent vaccinations have since flagged considerably, to just 32,000 getting their first shots last week. Only about half of adolescents ages 12 to 17 are fully vaccinated, compared to 70% of adults.

It's unlikely that vaccination rates in young kids will be as high as what's seen in adults — or even in adolescents, some experts said, unless they are required for school.

Part of the reason is that adults are far more likely than children to suffer serious illness or die from COVID-19, they noted. "Parents may have the perception it may not be as serious in young children or they don't transmit it," said Stokley, the acting deputy director of the CDC's Immunization Services Division.

But more than 2 million COVID cases have been reported in U.S. children ages 5 to 11 since the pandemic started, including 66 deaths over the past year, according to CDC data. "We're going to have a lot of work to do to communicate to parents about why it's important to get children vaccinated," she said.

Zients said the effort to vaccinate younger kids is still ramping up, with new clinics coming on line. Government officials expect the number of children who are vaccinated to keep rising in the days and weeks ahead, he said.

"We are just getting started," he said.

Earlier this year the White House set — and missed — a July 4 goal to have at least certain percentage of U.S. adults vaccinated. Officials have not announced a similar target for kids.

Dr. Lee Savio Beers, president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, called the new numbers reassuring and said the rollout appears to be going smoothly for the most part. She noted however that with a lower dose and different vials than for older kids, the rollout requires more steps and that some states have been slower in getting vaccine to providers.

Initial data from some areas show Black children lagging behind whites in getting their first doses, which Beers said raises concerns.

"It's really important to make sure the vaccine is easily accessible in a wide variety of places," Beers said.

Stobbe reported from New York. Anthony Izaguirre in Tallahassee, Fla., Becky Boone in Boise, Idaho, Don Thompson in Sacramento and Lindsey Tanner in Three Oaks, Mich., contributed to this report.

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

## **Aid official: Thousands of Afghan refugees fleeing to Iran**

By AMIR VAHDAT Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Thousands of Afghan refugees are fleeing the Taliban into neighboring Iran every day and the trend could eventually become a crisis for Europe, a top aid official said Wednesday.

Jan Egeland, secretary-general of the Norwegian Refugee Council, visited refugees this week around Kerman province in eastern Iran close to the Afghanistan border. He warned that Europe could be affected if the influx into Iran continues.

Speaking to The Associated Press in the capital Tehran at the end of his trip, Egeland said more needs to be done to provide hope, food and care for Afghans fleeing the Taliban.

"Many Afghan refugees called their relatives telling them they are on their way to Iran and many want to go on to Europe, so Europe should be less occupied with a few thousand (refugees) sitting on the Polish-Belorussian border."

"More people came today to Iran than are now on that border," he added.

More than 120,000 Americans, Afghans and others were flown out of Afghanistan during a massive airlift operation in the days after the capital of Kabul fell to the Taliban on Aug. 15. But thousands more were left behind, with many fleeing to the borders and seeking help from aid agencies.

An estimated 300,000 have fled Afghanistan into Iran since the Taliban takeover, according to the NRC.

"There is no economy, there is very little assistance, and there is too little shelter and food for millions and millions in need," Egeland said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 68 of 84

He said that as the Afghan winter arrives and there are not enough shelters for refugees in Afghanistan, more refugees will enter Iran.

"We expect this to become even more acute as hundreds of thousands are coming to the border between Afghanistan and Iran. Winter will be horrific in Afghanistan," he said.

The secretary-general urged wealthy countries to immediately scale up their aid contributions, both inside Afghanistan and in neighboring countries such as Iran, before the deadly winter cold.

According to the NRC, between 4,000 and 5,000 Afghans are fleeing into Iran each day through informal border crossings. It said Iran has supported those Afghans, in addition to hundreds of thousands of others who have been sheltering in the country for much longer — some for decades.

During his trip to Kerman province, Egeland met with some of the refugees and he said that the 3.5 million Afghan migrants already in Iran are struggling as a result of U.S. sanctions on Iran.

Iran's interior minister, Ahmad Vahidi, on Tuesday said Iran has several thousand people at its border with Afghanistan every day. He, too, warned that a fresh wave of Afghan refugees might attempt to go to Europe if help is not delivered.

The influx into Iran of millions of Afghan refugees began in 1979, when forces of the former Soviet Union occupied Afghanistan. The occupation ended in 1989, giving way to years of civil war and ultimately a Taliban-controlled government. Then came the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks on New York and Washington, and the subsequent U.S.-led invasion targeting al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, who was harbored by the Taliban.

Iran and Afghanistan have three border crossings along a common border some 945 kilometers (580 miles) long. Reportedly, Iran hosts some 800,000 registered Afghan refugees and more than 3 million undocumented Afghans.

In the years since the U.S. pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers and re-imposed sanctions that sent the country's economy into free fall, however, some Afghans in Iran have left the country.

Egeland praised Iran for hosting millions of Afghans for the past four decades and said the international community must now step up and show support. "How can you expect Iran to shoulder this responsibility on their own?" he said.

"What Europe should do is invest in hope, possibility, opportunity inside Afghanistan and in the neighboring countries if they want to avoid people wandering towards Europe."

Associated Press TV producer Mehdi Fattahi in Tehran contributed.

## **EXPLAINER: Why Rodgers and Packers were handed COVID fines**

By BARRY WILNER AP Pro Football Writer

The Green Bay Packers were fined \$300,000 and quarterback Aaron Rodgers and receiver Allen Lazard were fined \$14,650 by the NFL for violating the league's COVID-19 protocols.

Here's an explanation of the NFL's disciplinary procedures and guidelines in the COVID-19 protocols.

**HOW IS THE PUNISHMENT FOR BREAKING COVID-19 PROTOCOLS DETERMINED?**

The NFL, the NFL Players Association and their medical directors and independent infectious disease experts put together the protocols. The discipline for violating them was negotiated, with the league and union reaching agreement on specific fines for players. The NFL determines fines for franchises in violation of the protocols.

**WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS FOR DISCIPLINING PLAYERS?**

They are broken down in several categories.

For any player who fails or refuses to fully cooperate with an investigation led by the NFL and/or NFLPA regarding compliance: one week's salary up to \$50,000. And for refusal to submit to required virus testing: \$50,000.

For refusal to wear a tracking device when required: \$14,650.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 69 of 84

An unvaccinated player gathering in any number for any reason with other players and/or members of the club's staff at a time when the team is "shut down" due to a COVID-19 outbreak is a \$50,000 fine.

For any player who is not fully vaccinated, the \$14,650 fine applies to:

— Gathering outside of the club facility or team travel in groups of more than three players or other individuals.

— Engaging in in-person meetings, practices and/or training activities outside of club facilities with other players and/or staff.

— Attending an indoor nightclub (unless the player is wearing personal protective equipment and there are no more than 10 people in the club). Or attending an indoor bar (other than to pick up food, or unless the player is wearing PPE and there are no more than 10 people in the bar).

— House gatherings of more than 15 people without the player and all guests wearing masks or PPE, or where social distancing for the more than fifteen people is impossible.

— Attending an indoor music concert/entertainment event. And attending a professional sporting event (other than applicable NFL games or events; or unless the player is seated in a separate section, such as a suite or owner's box, is wearing PPE and there are no more than 10 people in that separate section).

— Attending an event that is prohibited by state and/or local regulation or other executive orders or laws implemented due to COVID-19.

— Refusal to wear a mask or PPE; and/or maintain physical distancing in club facilities or during travel.

WHICH OF THESE DID RODGERS AND LAZARD VIOLATE?

The NFL was not specific on that, but Rodgers had been seen without a mask at the Packers' facility, particularly during news conferences.

Rodgers, who in August said he was "immunized" against COVID-19, said Tuesday: "I made some comments that people might have felt were misleading. To anybody who felt misled by those comments, I take full responsibility for those comments."

Rodgers said Friday that he sought alternative treatments rather than the NFL-endorsed vaccinations because he is allergic to an ingredient in the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines. He didn't specify the ingredient.

WHAT IF A PLAYER DOESN'T COOPERATE WITH A LEAGUE OR TEAM INVESTIGATION?

The NFL may impose discipline on such players or ones who knowingly provide misleading or incomplete information during a contact tracing interview. The maximum fine amount is for one week's game check up to \$50,000 for a first offense. But there could be subsequent discipline for further offenses.

CAN A PLAYER APPEAL ANY DISCIPLINARY ACTION?

Yes — based upon the absence of just cause; whether the player actually was engaged in such conduct; whether the punishment imposed by the NFL was warranted for that conduct; and a variety of other allowable bases.

Rodgers appealed the decision to not accept his treatments as equal to a vaccination but lost the appeal. He has not yet appealed Tuesday's fine and has not indicated he will do so.

WHAT WOULD BE THE DISCIPLINE FOR REPEAT OFFENDERS?

Repeat violations would subject players to increased discipline, including for conduct detrimental to the game. A maximum fine of one week's salary and/or suspension without pay for four weeks or less would be imposed.

WHY ARE TEAMS PUNISHED?

All 32 NFL teams are required to ensure a safe environment not only at their facilities but at stadiums and during travel. They also are required to monitor the actions of players and staff, which includes taking around-the-clock videos at their facilities.

Players also must inform the team if they are vaccinated, and those who are not must adhere to specific protocols for them. The NFL found that the Packers did not handle these situations properly.

COULD GREEN BAY LOSE DRAFT CHOICES FOR THESE VIOLATIONS?

Yes, but it is unlikely. After several teams were discovered to have violated protocols in 2020 — leading to COVID-19 outbreaks and, at times, schedule adjustments — only one, New Orleans, was stripped of a 2022 sixth-round pick. The Saints were sanctioned by the league for inconsistent cooperation. The Pack-

ers have not been cited for that.

More AP NFL coverage: <https://apnews.com/hub/nfl> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Mandates drive up vaccinations at colleges, despite leniency

By JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

Universities that adopted COVID-19 vaccine mandates this fall have seen widespread compliance even though many schools made it easy to get out of the shots by granting exemptions to nearly any student who requested one.

Facing pockets of resistance and scattered lawsuits, colleges have tread carefully because forcing students to get the vaccine when they have a religious or medical objection could put schools into tricky legal territory. For some, there are added concerns that taking a hard line could lead to a drop in enrollment.

Still, universities with mandates report much higher vaccination rates than communities around them, even in places with high vaccine hesitancy. Some universities have seen nearly complete compliance, including at state flagship schools in Maryland, Illinois and Washington, helping them avoid large outbreaks like those that disrupted classes a year ago.

Since announcing its mandate two months ago, Ohio University students and employees who reported being vaccinated at its Athens campus shot up from 69% to almost 85%.

"Educating and encouraging was only getting us so far," said Gillian Ice, a professor of social medicine who is overseeing the school's pandemic response. "We had a lot who were on the fence. They weren't necessarily anti-vaccine. They didn't think they were high risk."

School administrators are watching closely to see how the mandate affects enrollment, she said. Some students are likely to transfer, but there's also a less vocal group who support the requirement and would not have come to campus without it, Ice said.

At least 1,100 colleges and universities now require proof of COVID-19 vaccines, according to tracking by The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Some schools told students last spring they would need to be vaccinated before returning to campus this fall. Others held off on making the shots a requirement until the Food and Drug Administration gave full approval to Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine in August.

Many other universities don't have vaccine requirements for anyone on campus. In some cases, political leaders have blocked universities from issuing mandates.

Just about every university with a vaccine requirement allows students and employees to ask for a medical or religious exemption. A smaller number of schools allow students to refuse the shots over philosophical reasons.

Most of the nation's largest public universities aren't seeing large numbers of student exemption requests, according to an analysis by The Associated Press. At the same time, those colleges have approved the vast majority — in some cases all — of the requests.

At many colleges, the requests are evaluated by committees that include medical experts, faculty members and student life administrators. Some schools ask students for notes signed by doctors or detailed statements explaining the principles of their religious beliefs.

At Virginia Tech University, where 95% of students are now vaccinated, the school granted all of the 1,600 exemption requests from students as long as they agreed to weekly testing.

"It's a balance. How hard you want to come down on people? Do you say you can't be on campus if you're not vaccinated?" Virginia Tech President Tim Sands said. "We didn't want to go that far."

School leaders decided not to second-guess doctors or question someone's religious beliefs, he said.

"That's just not a conversation we want to get into," Sands said about the religious exemptions. "Everybody has their own approach to their faith."

Virginia Tech, which posted a record enrollment of more than 37,000 this fall, also sent away 134 students who failed to show they had been vaccinated or received an exemption.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 71 of 84

Jake Yetzke, a junior at Oakland University in Michigan, thought about transferring, but he didn't want to give up his full scholarship after the school announced a vaccine mandate for the fall.

He received a religious exemption for reasons he didn't want to share. Getting the shot should be a personal choice, he said.

But even with the exemption, he feels ostracized because he's no longer allowed to be a part of the university choir or its vocal jazz ensemble, he said. During voice classes, he has to sing behind a plexiglass wall while wearing a mask and he's treated differently by teachers now, he said.

"It's a lot of that kind of stuff," said Yetzke, a music technology major. "I'm barred from doing a lot. That's really frustrating because I came here to sing."

Amanda Born, who attends Grand Valley State in western Michigan, also received a religious exemption. She said she knows at least 10 students who didn't want the vaccine but went ahead with it anyway.

"It was a scare tactic, and it worked," she said. "They want to continue living their life, going to the school they chose and continuing with their career path."

The nine-campus University of Louisiana System told students immediately after the FDA approval that they would need to be vaccinated or receive a medical, religious or philosophical exemption before signing up for classes next semester. State law there provides for broad exemptions to vaccine mandates.

The results have been mixed: A third of the students at McNeese State University have applied for an exemption, while at the University of New Orleans just 6% have asked to skip the shot. Overall, inoculation rates have increased.

Jim Henderson, who's president of the system, said there likely would have been twice as many exemption requests if they had required the vaccine before FDA approval.

"Every step chips away at hesitancy," he said. "If we approach this in an instructional and educational way, students are going to be receptive to that for the most part."

---

Associated Press Writer Kathleen Foody in Chicago contributed to this report.

## Gerrymandering surges as states redraw maps for House seats

By DAVID A. LIEB and NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

North Carolina Republicans are well positioned to pick up at least two House seats in next year's election — but it's not because the state is getting redder.

The state remains a perennial battleground, closely split between Democrats and Republicans in elections. In the last presidential race, Republican Donald Trump won by just over 1 percentage point — the narrowest margin since Barack Obama barely won the state in 2008.

But, last week, the GOP-controlled legislature finalized maps that redraw congressional district boundaries, dividing up Democratic voters in cities to dilute their votes. The new plan took the number of GOP-leaning districts from eight to 10 in the state. Republicans even have a shot at winning an eleventh.

North Carolina's plan drew instant criticism for its aggressive approach, but it's hardly alone. Experts and lawmakers tracking the once-a-decade redistricting process see a cycle of supercharged gerrymandering. With fewer legal restraints and amped up political stakes, both Democrats and Republicans are pushing the bounds of the tactic long used to draw districts for maximum partisan advantage, often at the expense of community unity or racial representation.

"In the absence of reforms, the gerrymandering in general has gotten even worse than 2010, than in the last round" of redistricting, said Chris Warshaw, a political scientist at George Washington University who has analyzed decades of redistricting maps in U.S. states.

Republicans dominated redistricting last decade, helping them build a greater political advantage in more states than either party had in the past 50 years.

Just three months into the map-making process, it's too early to know which party will come out on top. Republicans need a net gain of just five seats to take control of the U.S. House and effectively freeze President Joe Biden's agenda on climate change, the economy and other issues.

But Republicans' potential net gain of three seats in North Carolina could be fully canceled out in Illinois.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 72 of 84

Democrats who control the legislature have adopted a map with lines that squiggle snake-like across the state to swoop up Democratic voters and relegate Republicans to a few districts.

In the 14 states that have passed new congressional maps so far, the cumulative effect is essentially a wash for Republicans and Democrats, leaving just a few toss-up districts. That could change in the coming weeks, as Republican-controlled legislatures consider proposed maps in Georgia, New Hampshire and Ohio that target Democratic-held seats.

Ohio Republicans have taken an especially ambitious approach, proposing one map that could leave Democrats with just two seats out of 15 in a state that Trump won by 8 percentage points.

Gerrymandering is a practice almost as old as the country, in which politicians draw district lines to "crack" opposing voters among several districts or "pack" them in a single one to limit competition elsewhere. At its extreme, gerrymandering can deprive communities of representatives reflecting their interests and lead to elections that reward candidates who appeal to the far left or right — making compromise difficult in Congress.

While both parties have gerrymandered, these days Republicans have more opportunities. The GOP controls the line-drawing process in states representing 187 House seats compared with 75 for Democrats. The rest of the states use either independent commissions, have split government control or only one congressional seat.

"Across the board you are seeing Republicans gerrymander," said Kelly Ward Burton, executive director of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, which oversees redistricting for the Democratic Party. Burton didn't concede that Illinois' map was a gerrymander but argued that a single state shouldn't suggest equivalency between the parties.

"They're on a power grab for Congress for the entire decade," Burton said of the GOP.

Former Attorney General Eric Holder, who leads the Democrats' effort, has called for more states to use redistricting commissions, and a Democratic election bill stalled in the Senate would mandate them nationwide. Democratic-controlled states such as Colorado and Virginia recently adopted commissions, leading some in the party to worry it is giving up its ability to counter Republicans.

Still, Democrats have shown themselves happy to gerrymander when they can. After a power-sharing agreement with Republicans in Oregon stalled, Democrats quickly redrew the state's congressional map so all but one of its six districts leaned their way. In Illinois, Democrats could net three seats out of a map that has drawn widespread criticism for being a gerrymander.

In Maryland, Democrats are considering a proposal that would make it easier for a Democrat to oust the state's only Republican congressman, Rep. Andy Harris.

The legal landscape has changed since 2010 to make it harder to challenge gerrymanders. Though using maps to diminish the power of specific racial or ethnic groups remains illegal, the conservative majority on the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that several states no longer have to run maps by the U.S. Department of Justice to confirm they're not unfair to minority populations as required by Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. The high court also ruled that partisan gerrymanders couldn't be overturned by federal courts.

"Between the loss of Section 5 and the marked free-for-all on partisan gerrymandering in the federal courts, it's much more challenging," said Allison Riggs, chief counsel for voting rights at the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, which is suing North Carolina to block its new maps.

Newly passed congressional maps in Indiana, Arkansas and Alabama all maintain an existing Republican advantage. Of the combined 17 U.S. House seats from those states, just three are held by Democrats, and that seems unlikely to change. In Indiana, the new map concentrates Democrats in an Indianapolis district. In Arkansas, a GOP plan that divides Black Democratic voters in Little Rock unnerved even the Republican governor, who let it become official without his signature. In Alabama, a lawsuit from a Democratic group contends the map "strategically cracks and packs Alabama's Black communities, diluting Black voting strength."

On Wednesday in Utah, the Republican-controlled state legislature approved maps that convert a swing district largely in suburban Salt Lake City into a safe GOP seat, sending it Gov. Spencer J. Cox for his signature.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 73 of 84

Though gerrymanders may not always be checked by the courts, they are limited by demographics. In Texas, for example, the U.S. Census Bureau found the state grew so much it earned two new House seats. Roughly 95% of the growth came from Black, Latino and Asian residents who tend to vote Democratic. The GOP-controlled Legislature drew a map that, while creating no new districts dominated by these voters, maintained Republican advantages. Civil rights groups have sued to block it.

North Carolina Republicans took a different approach, much as they did a decade ago. Last cycle, courts first found that Republican lawmakers packed too many Black voters into two congressional districts, then ruled that they illegally manipulated the lines on the replacement map for partisan gain.

The new North Carolina map, which adds a 14th district to the state due to its population growth, already faces a lawsuit. Experts say it's unlikely it would have been approved by the Department of Justice if the old rules were in place, especially because it jeopardizes a seat held by a Black congressman, Democratic Rep. G.K. Butterfield.

"It raises a boatload of red flags," said Michael Li, an attorney at the Brennan Center for Justice.

North Carolina House Speaker Tim Moore, a Republican, says he's confident the maps "are constitutional in every respect."

Lieb reported from Jefferson City, Missouri, and Riccardi reported from Denver. Associated Press writer Bryan Anderson in Raleigh contributed to this report.

## Heavy burden for consumers as holidays near: Soaring prices

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A worsening surge of inflation for such bedrock necessities as food, rent, autos and heating oil is setting Americans up for a financially difficult Thanksgiving and holiday shopping season.

Prices for U.S. consumers jumped 6.2% in October compared with a year earlier, leaving families facing their highest inflation rate since 1990, the Labor Department said Wednesday. From September to October, prices jumped 0.9%.

Inflation is eroding the strong gains in wages and salaries that have flowed to America's workers in recent months, creating a political threat to the Biden administration and congressional Democrats and intensifying pressure on the Federal Reserve as it considers how fast to withdraw its efforts to boost the economy.

Fueling the spike in prices has been robust consumer demand, which has run into persistent supply shortages from COVID-related factory shutdowns in China, Vietnam and other overseas manufacturers. America's employers, facing worker shortages, have also been handing out sizable pay raises, and many of them have raised prices to offset those higher labor costs.

The accelerating price increases have fallen disproportionately on lower-earning households, which spend a significant portion of their incomes on food, rent, and gas. Food banks are struggling to assist the needy, with beef, egg and peanut butter prices jumping. Millions of households that are planning year-end travel, Thanksgiving dinners and holiday gift-giving will be forced to pay much more this year.

The jump in inflation is hardly confined to the U.S. Prices have been accelerating in Europe and elsewhere, too, with annual inflation in the 19 countries that use the euro currency exceeding 4% in October, the most in 13 years, and energy prices spiking 23%. In Brazil, inflation soared more than 10% in the 12 months through October, according to data released this week. Higher prices for electricity, cooking gas, meat and other staples have plunged many Brazilians further into financial instability.

Americans are now spending 15% more on goods than before the pandemic. Ports, trucking companies and railroads can't keep up, and the resulting bottlenecks are swelling prices. Surging inflation has broadened beyond pandemic-disrupted industries into the many services that Americans spend money on, notably for restaurant meals, rental apartments and medical services, which jumped 0.5% in October.

At the same time, the economy is managing to sustain its recovery from the pandemic recession, and consumers, on average, have plenty of money to spend. That is in contrast to the "stagflation" of the

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 74 of 84

1970s, when households endured the double hardship of high unemployment and high inflation.

Many Americans are also receiving healthy pay raises, especially workers at restaurants, hotels and entertainment venues, where hourly wages are up more than 10% from a year ago. And families, on average, have built up substantial savings from stimulus checks and enhanced unemployment benefits.

"We're still looking at an economy in a strong position," said Sarah House, a senior economist at Wells Fargo. "The consumer is still going out and spending, which is why we are seeing the price gains we're seeing."

Used car prices have rocketed more than 25% from a year ago. With automakers sharply slowing production because of parts shortages, prices for new cars have also risen for seven straight months. Furniture is more expensive. Grocery prices have climbed 5.4% in the past year, with the price of beef roasts leaping 25%. Bacon is up 20% from a year ago.

The Biden administration has attributed higher meat prices to consolidation in the meat-packing industry, with lack of competition enabling big processors like Tyson's to raise prices. Meat-packing companies have countered that COVID-related shutdowns of plants, and the difficulty in finding workers to staff the factories when they reopened, are the culprit.

Republicans in Congress have blamed President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion financial aid package, approved in March, for intensifying inflation. The additional stimulus checks and enhanced unemployment aid, they argue, drove demand beyond what the economy could produce.

On Wednesday, Biden visited the port of Baltimore to highlight parts of the recently passed infrastructure package that will upgrade capacity at ports and, the administration says, help unclog bottlenecks and ultimately reduce inflation.

"Inflation hurts Americans' pocketbooks, and reversing this trend is a top priority for me," Biden said.

Energy costs soared 4.8% just from September to October, with gasoline, natural gas and heating oil surging for the same reason that many other commodities have grown more expensive: Demand has risen as Americans drive and fly more, but supplies haven't kept up. A gallon of gas, on average, was \$3.42 nationwide Tuesday, according to AAA, up from just \$2.11 a year ago. The Energy Information Administration has forecast that Americans will spend 30% more this winter on natural gas and 43% more on heating oil.

Job gains and pay raises have been much larger during the pandemic recovery than they were after the Great Recession roughly a decade ago. But in contrast to the years that followed that downturn, when inflation was low, rising prices are diminishing Americans' confidence in the economy, surveys have found.

Economists still expect inflation to slow once supply bottlenecks are cleared and Americans shift more of their consumption back to pre-pandemic norms. Consumers should then spend more on travel, entertainment and other services and less on goods such as cars, furniture, and appliances. This would reduce pressure on supply chains.

But no one knows how long that might take. Higher inflation has persisted much longer than most economists had expected.

"The inflation overshoot will likely get worse before it gets better," said Goldman Sachs economists in a research note Sunday.

For months, Fed Chair Jerome Powell had described inflation as "transitory," a short-term phenomenon linked to labor and supply shortages resulting from the speed with which the economy rebounded from the pandemic recession. But last week, Powell acknowledged that higher prices could last well into next summer.

The Fed chair also announced that the central bank will start reducing the monthly bond purchases it began last year as an emergency measure to boost the economy. In September, Fed officials also forecast that they would raise the Fed's benchmark interest rate from its record-low level near zero by the end of 2022 — much earlier than they had predicted a few months ago. Sharply higher inflation might accelerate that timetable; investors expect at least two Fed rate hikes next year.

Many large companies are passing on the cost of higher pay to their customers, and in some cases, consumers are paying up rather than cutting back.

Fast food prices soared 7.1% in October from a year earlier, the government said Wednesday. That was

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 75 of 84

the largest such increase on record, reflecting higher costs for beef and other foods as well as rapidly rising labor costs.

McDonald's boosted hourly pay 10% to 15% over the past year and is paying more for food and paper. The company said last month that it raised prices 6% in the July-September quarter from a year earlier. Yet company sales leapt 14% as virus restrictions eased.

AP writers Josh Boak in Baltimore, Dee-Ann Durbin in Detroit, David McHugh in Frankfurt, Germany, and Diane Jeantet in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, contributed to this report.

## 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 some food banks are buying for nearly double what it cost two years 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

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 76 of 84

monthly rent at \$2,200 and the cost of milk, citrus, spinach and chicken so high.

"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.

Many people also rely on other government aid, including the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

Kate Waters, a spokeswoman for the USDA, which administers the SNAP program, said there were no immediate plans for an emergency boost in SNAP benefits to compensate for the rising food costs. But she said that previous moves by the Biden administration such as the permanent increase in SNAP benefits earlier this year and a fresh wave of funding for food banks should help ease the burden. In addition, Waters said the fact that schools are open and offering free lunches and, in some cases, free breakfast, should also help.

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.

## French ex-president testifies: "I owe it" to attack victims

By LORI HINNANT Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — When Islamic State attackers struck Paris in 2015, France's president at the time was within earshot of the first suicide bombing.

By the time the bloodshed finally ended hours later, 130 people were dead and François Hollande watched from the street as bloodied survivors staggered out of the Bataclan concert hall.

Surrounded by a squad of security guards, the former French president entered a specially designed courtroom Wednesday to testify in the trial of 14 men over the Nov. 13, 2015, Islamic State attacks on Paris. He also defended his government's policies in Iraq and Syria — cited by both the dead attackers and the cell's lone survivor as the reason innocent French people were targeted that night.

Hollande was at France's national soccer stadium when a suicide bomber blew himself up outside the

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 77 of 84

gates that night, the first in a series of attacks across Paris that would last for three more hours.

French officials had known for months that the country could be a target, Hollande testified. He said it was even known that Islamic State extremists were entering disguised as refugees. "But we did not know where, when, or how they would strike us," he said.

After the suicide attack at the stadium, gunmen opened fire at cafes and bars in the city center, and the night culminated with a bloody siege at the Bataclan concert hall. Hollande ordered the final assault on the three remaining attackers inside the Bataclan and shortly afterwards asked to go to the site himself, watching survivors walk out.

"I see people leaving the Bataclan, even then, holding on to each other. They see me and cannot say a single word," he testified. "This will remain with me forever."

All nine attackers died. Salah Abdeslam, the chief defendant in the trial, discarded a malfunctioning explosives vest and fled home to Belgium. His brother died in Paris trying to detonate his vest at a café.

Except for Abdeslam, most of the 14 men in the courtroom are accused of helping with logistics or transportation. Six others are being tried in absentia.

Hollande was pressed repeatedly on whether government policy and intelligence failures led to the attacks. He insisted that there was no specific intelligence of an attack planned that night, although concerts and sports events were always thought to be possible targets of an extremist group bent on mass casualties.

"If you wanted to avoid all risk of attack you would have had to close every site, cancel every show. Is that what's expected of the president?" he asked.

Hollande said he first learned there was an Islamic State cell dedicated to plotting attacks in Europe in June 2014, and first heard the name of Abdelhamid Abaaoud as its French-speaking operational leader in August 2015. He said authorities believed Abaaoud, a Belgian who spearheaded the Paris attacks and died in a police raid days later in the suburb of Saint Denis, was in Syria heading up a Raqqa-based Islamic State cell to attack Europe.

On Sept. 27, 2015, Hollande said, French airstrikes hit Raqqa for the first time, in large part to try and disrupt any plot. But by then Abaaoud was already on the way to Paris along with other Europeans in the cell.

With the attack still ongoing, Hollande declared a national state of emergency and attempted to close France's borders. But Abdeslam slipped out with the help of friends from Brussels, who drove through the night to fetch him and are now among those charged in Paris.

The same loose circle of Islamic State fighters later attacked the airport and metro in Brussels, days after Abdeslam was found at a hideout in Molenbeek, the neighborhood of the Belgian capital where he, Abaaoud and many of the other defendants grew up together.

As he promised in his opening statement, Hollande answered every question put to him by victims' lawyers, even when the presiding judge grew testy at times with their repetition.

It was, he said, his responsibility: "I owe it to those who survived and who live every day in their flesh and in their minds the memory of this evening and who seek and demand explanations."

Defense lawyers questioned French policy in Syria and Iraq. Hollande and the French government's airstrikes in Iraq and Syria were cited by name by the three French attackers inside the Bataclan, who killed 90 people. Civilian deaths were also cited by Abdeslam when he first spoke at the trial.

"The questions that I ask are not intended to legitimize the attacks," Abdeslam's lawyer, Olivia Ronen, said after a particularly tense exchange with the former president.

"This pseudo-state declared war with the weapons of war," Hollande said, when asked for the legal basis for carrying out airstrikes. As for the French and Belgian attackers who struck back against their homelands, Hollande said:

"Theirs was the school of barbarism. Happily, French schools aren't responsible and teach against such things. This wasn't religion but fanaticism and barbarism."

**Capitol rioter who hit officer gets over 3 years in prison**

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 78 of 84

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN and JACQUES BILLEAUD Associated Press

A New Jersey gym owner who punched a police officer during the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol was sentenced Wednesday to more than three years in prison, a likely benchmark for dozens of other rioters who engaged in violence that day.

Scott Fairlamb, 44, was the first person to be sentenced for assaulting a law enforcement officer during the Capitol riot. His 41-month prison term is the longest among 32 riot-related sentences handed down so far.

Fairlamb's punishment likely will guide other judges who sentence rioters who clashed with police at the Capitol. U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth said it was significant that his sentencing of Fairlamb was the first for assaulting an officer, with more guilty pleas likely in the coming months.

Lamberth said Fairlamb's actions struck at "the heart of our democracy." He had pleaded guilty, avoiding a trial.

"Had you gone to trial, I don't think there's any jury that could have acquitted you or would have acquitted you," the judge said.

Fairlamb, a boxing coach and former mixed martial arts fighter, apologized and expressed remorse for actions that he described as irresponsible and reckless.

"I take full responsibility for what I did that day," Fairlamb said. "That's not who I am. That's not who I was raised to be."

Justice Department prosecutors recommended a prison sentence of three years and eight months for Fairlamb, saying he was among the first rioters to breach the Capitol and incited others to be violent.

Other defendants are soon to face sentencing, including the shirtless rioter who called himself the "QAnon Shaman." Jacob Chansley, who wore face paint and a furry hat with horns when he stormed the Capitol, became "the public face of the Capitol riot," prosecutors said in a court filing late Tuesday. They recommended a longer prison sentence, four years and three months, when the Arizona man is sentenced next Wednesday.

Prosecutors argue Chansley armed himself with a six-foot spear, used his bullhorn to rile up other rioters, spewed threats in the Senate gallery and left a threatening note for then-Vice President Mike Pence, they noted. Unlike Fairlamb, Chansley isn't accused of physically assaulting anyone.

Fairlamb joined a group of rioters who pushed through a line of police officers and metal barricades on the Capitol's West Terrace. He recorded a video of himself shouting, "What (do) patriots do? We f—— disarm them and then we storm the f—— Capitol!"

Fairlamb carried a police baton into the Capitol, then left the building and approached several Metropolitan Police Department officers, screaming as he followed them. Fairlamb shoved one of the officers and punched his face shield.

The officer wasn't injured but described Jan. 6 as the scariest day of his career, Assistant U.S. Attorney Leslie Goemaat told the judge.

Two days after the riot, Fairlamb said on a video that "they pulled the pin on the grenade, and the blackout is coming. What a time to be a patriot," according to prosecutors.

Fairlamb pleaded guilty to obstruction of an official proceeding and assaulting the police officer. Sentencing guidelines calculated by the court's probation department recommend a term of imprisonment ranging from 41 to 51 months.

Defense attorney Harley Breite asked for Fairlamb to be sentenced to 11 months imprisonment, about how long he has been jailed since his Jan. 22 arrest at his home in Stockholm, New Jersey.

Fairlamb owned Fairlamb Fit gym in Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, but it closed after his arrest. He is the brother of a Secret Service agent who was assigned to protect former first lady Michelle Obama, according to Breite.

Fairlamb's social media posts indicate that he subscribed to the QAnon conspiracy theory and promoted a bogus claim that former President Donald Trump would become the first president of "the new Republic" on March 4, prosecutors said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 79 of 84

Fairlamb feels that he was “duped by social media,” his lawyer said in a court filing.

“Epiphanies are rare but it certainly didn’t take Mr. Fairlamb long to realize that his previous line of thinking was incorrect,” Breite wrote.

More than 100 law enforcement officers were injured during the riot, according to prosecutors. Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick collapsed and died after rioters sprayed him with a chemical irritant.

Over 650 people have been charged with federal crimes related to the Jan. 6 riot, including more than 100 accused of assaulting law enforcement officers. More than 120 defendants have pleaded guilty, mostly to misdemeanors that carry a maximum of six months imprisonment.

Before Fairlamb’s sentencing, the longest sentence for a Capitol rioter was eight months, for a Florida man who breached the Senate chamber carrying a Trump campaign flag. A Texas man who posted threats connected to Jan. 6 but didn’t storm the Capitol was sentenced to 14 months in prison.

Chansley, who pleaded guilty in September to felony obstruction of an official proceeding, has spent more than 300 days in jail. He is seeking a time-served sentence.

His lawyer compared Chansley to Forrest Gump, the movie character played by Tom Hanks, and claimed he was oblivious to much of what transpired at the Capitol. His attorney also said Chansley has longstanding mental health problems and suffered from being held in solitary confinement due to COVID-19 protocols.

Kunzelman reported from College Park, Maryland, and Billeaud reported from Phoenix.

## Kishida reelected Japan’s PM in parliamentary vote

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Fumio Kishida, reelected as Japan’s prime minister on Wednesday after his governing party scored a major victory in key parliamentary elections, said the coronavirus remains the country’s most urgent issue and pledged to take steps to mend the pandemic-battered economy.

Kishida, who briefly met with U.S. President Joe Biden at the U.N. climate summit last week, said he hopes to visit Washington by the end of the year to deepen the bilateral alliance amid growing concerns about China’s rise in the Indo-Pacific.

Following his reelection by parliament on Wednesday, Kishida formed his second Cabinet by keeping all but one of the ministers he appointed when he took office on Oct. 4.

He said the pandemic, the economy and national security are his top priorities.

“Coronavirus remains the most urgent issue,” Kishida said at a late-night news conference, promising to outline new measures later this week to prepare for any surge in cases.

They will include a significant increase in capacity at hospitals so patients can find beds if infections increase considerably from an earlier wave in the summer, he said. In mid-August, when new daily cases surged to about 25,000 and health care systems virtually collapsed, many patients were unable to find hospital beds and some died at home.

The government will distribute 600,000 doses of COVID-19 oral medicines to medical facilities by the end of December, and eventually secure 1 million more doses, he said. Japan will also begin booster shots next month for anyone 18 or older who received their second dose around eight months earlier, Kishida said.

As Japan tries to gradually expand social and economic activities, Kishida said his government will gradually determine whether it is safe to allow the return of foreign tourists by experimenting with small-scale package tours. “The infections have slowed but we shouldn’t be too optimistic,” he said.

Kishida’s immediate tasks also include compiling a major economic stimulus package of about 30 trillion yen (\$265 billion) that will provide cash payouts and coupons for low-income households and those with children, to be announced next week — measures some criticize as pork barrel spending. He also aims to pass an extra budget by the end of this year to fund the projects.

Kishida reiterated his pledge to create a self-reinforcing cycle of growth and economic distribution under his “new capitalism” economic policy by promoting salary increases. He plans to negotiate with labor and company management to promote pay hikes and to raise government-set salaries for jobs such as caregiv-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 80 of 84

ers, kindergarten teachers and nurses.

"I want everyone to actually feel the fruits of growth," he said.

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.

Elected just over a month ago by parliament, Kishida called a quick national election in which his Liberal Democratic Party secured 261 seats in the 465-member lower house, 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. Kishida said he saw the results as a signal that voters chose stability over change.

Kishida was picked 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, experts say.

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, was appointed as the new foreign minister, while former Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi was shifted to the governing party's No. 2 post.

Motegi replaced party heavyweight Akira Amari, who resigned from the post over his unimpressive election performance following a bribery scandal.

Kishida also appointed former Defense Minister Gen Nakatani to the newly created post of special adviser on international human rights issues, focusing on Chinese actions in its western Xinjiang region and in Hong Kong.

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

He also vowed to step up efforts to achieve his conservative party's long-cherished goal of revising the U.S.-drafted pacifist Constitution.

## **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 men 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

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 81 of 84

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 Rittenhouse 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.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 82 of 84

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>

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

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Prince Harry has sharply attacked the failure of social media companies to challenge hate online, revealing that he warned the chief executive of Twitter ahead of the Jan. 6 Capitol riots that the site was being used to stage political unrest.

Harry made the comments Tuesday 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 in Washington.

"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 has come under fire for not doing enough to halt the spread of misinformation and content inciting political violence. The storming of the U.S. Capitol by supporters of Donald Trump is often cited as an example of the consequences of allowing online hate to fester.

The role of social media platforms in amplifying extremist views has come into sharp focus after revelations by Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen, who has told lawmakers in the U.S. and Europe that the company's algorithmic systems spread online hate and that it has no incentive to change behavior because it puts profits over safety.

Harry 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 has become something of a champion against the onslaught of false information online. Earlier this year he joined the U.S. think tank the Aspen Institute as a commissioner looking into misinformation and disinformation in the media.

The royal and his wife, the Duchess of Sussex, have also spoken out frequently about the media intrusion and racist attitudes that they say forced them to quit royal duties in 2020 and move to North America.

"Misinformation is a global humanitarian crisis," Harry said. "I felt it personally over the years and I am now watching it happen globally."

In his remarks on Tuesday, Harry cited a report which concluded that more than 70% of the hate speech directed at his wife, Meghan, could be traced to fewer than 50 accounts. He said misinformation is causing lives to be ruined.

"A small group of accounts are allowed to create a huge amount of chaos online, and destruction," he said. "And without any consequence whatsoever."

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 83 of 84

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Nov. 11, the 315th day of 2021. There are 50 days left in the year. Today is Veterans Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 11, 1620, 41 Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower, anchored off Massachusetts, signed a compact calling for a "body politick."

On this date:

In 1831, former slave Nat Turner, who'd led a slave uprising, was executed in Jerusalem, Virginia.

In 1918, fighting in World War I ended as the Allies and Germany signed an armistice in the Forest of Compiègne (kohm-PYEHN'-yeh).

In 1921, the remains of an unidentified American service member were interred in a Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in a ceremony presided over by President Warren G. Harding.

In 1938, Irish-born cook Mary Mallon, who'd gained notoriety as the disease-carrying "Typhoid Mary" blamed for the deaths of three people, died on North Brother Island in New York's East River at age 69 after 23 years of mandatory quarantine.

In 1942, during World War II, Germany completed its occupation of France.

In 1966, Gemini 12 blasted off on a four-day mission with astronauts James A. Lovell and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. aboard; it was the tenth and final flight of NASA's Gemini program.

In 1972, the U.S. Army turned over its base at Long Binh to the South Vietnamese, symbolizing the end of direct U.S. military involvement in the Vietnam War.

In 1987, following the failure of two Supreme Court nominations, President Ronald Reagan announced his choice of Judge Anthony M. Kennedy, who went on to win confirmation.

In 1992, the Church of England voted to ordain women as priests.

In 1998, President Clinton ordered warships, planes and troops to the Persian Gulf as he laid out his case for a possible attack on Iraq. Iraq, meanwhile, showed no sign of backing down from its refusal to deal with U.N. weapons inspectors.

In 2003, in Galveston, Texas, millionaire Robert Durst was found not guilty of murdering Morris Black, an elderly neighbor who Durst said he'd killed accidentally.

In 2004, Palestinians at home and abroad wept, waved flags and burned tires in an eruption of grief at news of the death of Yasser Arafat in Paris at age 75.

Ten years ago: Heralding the end of one war and the drawdown of another, President Barack Obama observed Veterans Day at Arlington National Cemetery by urging Americans to hire the thousands of servicemen and women coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan. A gunman armed with an assault rifle fired a series of shots at the White House from long range (Oscar Ramiro Ortega-Hernandez was sentenced to 25 years in prison under a plea bargain with prosecutors.)

Five years ago: President-elect Donald Trump shook up his transition team as he plunged into the work of setting up his administration, elevating Vice President-elect Mike Pence to head the operations. Three days after Election Day, President Barack Obama used his last Veterans Day speech to urge Americans to learn from the example of veterans as a divided nation sought to "forge unity" after the bitter 2016 campaign. Actor Robert Vaughn, 83, died in Connecticut.

One year ago: Georgia's secretary of state announced an audit of presidential election results that he said would be done with a full hand tally of ballots because the margin was so tight; President-elect Joe Biden led President Donald Trump by about 14,000 votes out of nearly 5 million votes counted in the state. Texas became the first state with more than 1 million confirmed COVID-19 cases. The U.S. marked Veterans Day with virtual gatherings and spectator-free parades; many of the traditional ceremonies were canceled because of the surging coronavirus that had killed thousands of veterans. Cleveland Indians ace Shane Bieber was the unanimous winner of the American League Cy Young Award; in the National League, Trevor Bauer became the first Cincinnati Reds pitcher to win the award.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Narvel Felts is 83. Former Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., is 81. Americana roots singer/songwriter Chris Smither is 77. Rock singer-musician Vince Martell (Vanilla Fudge) is 76.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 127 ~ 84 of 84**

The president of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, is 76. Rock singer Jim Peterik (PEE'-ter-ihk) (Ides of March, Survivor) is 71. Golfer Fuzzy Zoeller is 70. Pop singer-musician Paul Cowsill (The Cowsills) is 70. Rock singer-musician Andy Partridge (XTC) is 68. Singer Marshall Crenshaw is 68. Rock singer Dave Alvin is 66. Rock musician Ian Craig Marsh (Human League; Heaven 17) is 65. Actor Stanley Tucci is 61. Actor Demi Moore is 59. Actor Calista Flockhart is 57. Actor Frank John Hughes is 54. TV personality Carson Kressley is 52. Actor David DeLuise is 50. Actor Adam Beach is 49. Actor Tyler Christopher is 49. Actor Leonardo DiCaprio is 47. Actor Scoot McNairy is 44. Rock musician Jonathan Pretus (formerly with Cowboy Mouth) is 40. Actor Frankie Shaw is 40. Musician Jon Batiste is 35. Actor Christa B. Allen is 30. Actor Tye Sheridan is 25. Actor Ian Patrick is 19.