

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 1 of 87

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- Weekly Church Calendar](#)
- [3- Six wrestlers place at Kingsbury County Invitational](#)
- [5- Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller](#)
- [12- Northern State Men Drop Saturday Contest to Winona State](#)
- [13- Northern State Falls at Home to Winona State](#)
- [65-55](#)
- [14- Lana's Annals by Lana Greenfield](#)
- [15- Sunday Extras](#)
- [34- Rep. Johnson's Weekly Column](#)
- [35- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)
- [36- Rep. Thune's Weekly Column](#)
- [37- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
- [39- Groton Robotics Pancake Feed Ad](#)
- [40- EarthTalk -Shower Heads](#)
- [41- COVID-19 Reports](#)
- [45- Weather Pages](#)
- [49- Daily Devotional](#)
- [50- 2022 Community Events](#)
- [51- Subscription Form](#)
- [52- News from the Associated Press](#)

"Miracles happen to those who believe. If you believe in something with all your heart and mind, you bring it to life."

- Leon Brown



## UpComing Events

### Monday, Jan. 24

JH Boys basketball at Northwestern. 7th grade game at 6 p.m. followed by 8th grade game.

**Postponed:** Boys Basketball (C, JV, V) at Northwestern.

Wrestling at Ipswich, 6 p.m.

### Thursday, Jan. 27

Girls Basketball at Northwestern. JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity.

### Saturday, Jan. 29

Groton Area Wrestling Tournament, 10 a.m.

Boys Basketball at NEC-DAK12 Clash in Madison

### Monday, Jan. 31

Junior High Boys Basketball with Redfield at Groton. 7th at 4 p.m. followed by 8th grade game

### Tuesday, Feb. 1

Boys Basketball hosts Langford Area with JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity

**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.

© 2022 Groton Daily Independent

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 2 of 87

## United Methodist Church

Groton and Conde

### Sunday, January 23, 2022

Conde Worship 9:00 AM  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Groton Worship 11:00 AM  
Hospitality Committee Meeting 12:00 PM

### Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Community Coffee Hour 9:30 AM  
Confirmation Snack Time 3:30 PM  
Confirmation 4:00 PM  
UMYF 7:00 PM

### Sunday, January 30, 2022

Conde Worship 9:00 AM  
Sunday School 10:00 AM  
Groton Worship 11:00 AM

## Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Groton

### Sunday, Jan. 23

9am Sunday School  
10:15am Worship/ Milestones 6th gr.  
Annual Meeting  
Spaghetti Dinner to follow meeting  
7pm Choir practice

### Monday, Jan. 24

6:30am Bible Study

### Wednesday, Jan. 26

6pm Confirmation  
6:30 p.m.: Luther League

### Thursday, Jan. 27

6:30pm Grace Alone

### Sunday, Jan. 30

9am Worship / Communion  
10:15am Sunday School  
10:15 Grace Alone  
7pm Choir practice

## St. Elizabeth Ann Seton &

## St. Joseph Catholic

Groton and Turton

### Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:30pm Groton  
Sunday 8:30am Groton & 11:00am Turton

### Weekday

Tues 5:00pm Turton, W-F 8:30am Groton  
Sat 10am Newman Center

### Confessions:

Sat. 3:45-4:15pm & Sun. 7:45am to 8:15am (G)  
Sun. 10:30-10:45am (T)

### Weekday

Tues 5:00pm Turton, W-F 8:30am Groton

## St. John's Lutheran Church

Groton

### Sunday, Jan. 23

8 a.m.: Bible Study  
9 a.m.: St. John's Worship  
10 a.m.: Sunday School  
11 a.m.: Zion Lutheran Worship

### Wednesday, Jan. 26

3:45 p.m.: Confirmation

### Sunday, Jan. 30

8 a.m.: Bible Study  
9 a.m.: St. John's Worship  
10 a.m.: Sunday School  
11 a.m.: Zion Lutheran Worship

To submit your monthly or  
weekly church calendar, email  
to  
[news@grotonsd.net](mailto:news@grotonsd.net)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 3 of 87

## Six wrestlers place at Kingsbury County Invitational

Six Groton Area grapplers placed at the Kingsbury County Invitational held Saturday in Arlington. Liza Kruger and Lane Krueger placed second, Christian Ehresmann placed third, Pierce Kettering and Korbin Kucker placed fourth and Brevin Fliehs placed sixth.

### **106: Walker Zoellner (8-12)**

Champ. Round 1 - Blake Steiner (Sisseton) 9-7 won by decision over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 8-12 (Dec 9-3)

Cons. Round 1 - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 8-12 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Lane Albrecht (Kingsbury County) 11-9 won by fall over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 8-12 (Fall 2:00)

### **113: Porter Johnson (12-17) scored 4.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 12-17 won by forfeit over Forfeit Forfeit (Hamlin) 13-8 (For.)

Quarterfinal - Holden Hawkins (Sisseton) 18-3 won by fall over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 12-17 (Fall 1:52)

Cons. Round 2 - Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 12-17 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Conner Zens (Redfield Area) 18-8 won by major decision over Porter Johnson (Groton Area) 12-17 (MD 9-0)

### **113-G: Liza Krueger (3-3) placed 2nd.**

Round 1 - Ava Stanley (Brookings) 6-1 won by fall over Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 3-3 (Fall 1:08)

Round 2 - Ava Stanley (Brookings) 6-1 won by fall over Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 3-3 (Fall 0:39)

### **120: Isaiah Scepaniak (3-17)**

Champ. Round 1 - Carter Schulte (Faulkton Area) 11-17 won by fall over Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 3-17 (Fall 0:30)

Cons. Round 1 - Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 3-17 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Blake Jennings (Kingsbury County) 5-8 won by fall over Isaiah Scepaniak (Groton Area) 3-17 (Fall 0:09)

### **132: Pierce Kettering (24-14) placed 4th and scored 16.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 24-14 won by forfeit over Forfeit Forfeit (Sioux Falls Washington) 5-15 (For.)

Quarterfinal - Tanner Frickson (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 22-6 won by major decision over Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 24-14 (MD 15-6)

Cons. Round 2 - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 24-14 won by forfeit over Forfeit Forfeit (Faulkton Area) 9-16 (For.)

Cons. Round 3 - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 24-14 won by decision over Brodyrck Gravdal (Canby) 4-10 (Dec 5-0)

Cons. Semi - Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 24-14 won by decision over Boe Iverson (Sisseton) 17-8 (Dec 7-2)

3rd Place Match - Tanner Frickson (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 22-6 won by decision over Pierce Kettering (Groton Area) 24-14 (Dec 5-2)

### **132: Cameron Johnson (0-5)**

Champ. Round 1 - Mason Mathis (Brookings) 5-11 won by fall over Cameron Johnson (Groton Area) 0-5 (Fall 1:09)

Cons. Round 1 - Cameron Johnson (Groton Area) 0-5 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Brodyrck Gravdal (Canby) 4-10 won by decision over Cameron Johnson (Groton Area) 0-5 (Dec 2-0)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 4 of 87

## **138: Nick Morris (1-7)**

Champ. Round 1 - Luke Steffensen (Kingsbury County) 13-11 won by fall over Nick Morris (Groton Area) 1-7 (Fall 2:47)

Cons. Round 1 - Nick Morris (Groton Area) 1-7 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Brevin Fliehs (Groton Area) 18-12 won by fall over Nick Morris (Groton Area) 1-7 (Fall 1:55)

## **138: Brevin Fliehs (18-12) placed 6th and scored 11.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Brevin Fliehs (Groton Area) 18-12 won by fall over Justin Klein (Flandreau) 11-17 (Fall 4:27)

Quarterfinal - Clayton Dulany (Warner/Northwestern) 20-10 won by decision over Brevin Fliehs (Groton Area) 18-12 (Dec 7-1)

Cons. Round 2 - Brevin Fliehs (Groton Area) 18-12 won by fall over Nick Morris (Groton Area) 1-7 (Fall 1:55)

Cons. Round 3 - Brevin Fliehs (Groton Area) 18-12 won by decision over Brock Gisselbeck (Hamlin) 15-11 (Dec 9-8)

Cons. Semi - Blessing Taniah (Sioux Falls Washington) 20-7 won by major decision over Brevin Fliehs (Groton Area) 18-12 (MD 14-4)

5th Place Match - Clayton Dulany (Warner/Northwestern) 20-10 won by fall over Brevin Fliehs (Groton Area) 18-12 (Fall 4:23)

## **145: Christian Ehresmann (23-6) placed 3rd and scored 19.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 23-6 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 23-6 won by fall over Tristan Penny (Lyman County) 26-15 (Fall 5:33)

Semifinal - Mason Whitley (Redfield Area) 22-7 won by decision over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 23-6 (Dec 3-0)

Cons. Semi - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 23-6 won by fall over Garrett Cramer (Faulkton Area) 23-14 (Fall 0:23)

3rd Place Match - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 23-6 won by major decision over Chase Chambers (Hamlin) 22-9 (MD 11-0)

## **152: Korbin Kucker (18-16) placed 4th and scored 18.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 18-16 won by fall over Braydon Pueppke (Sioux Falls Washington) 1-4 (Fall 1:29)

Quarterfinal - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 18-16 won by fall over Lincoln Fortin (Warner/Northwestern) 14-8 (Fall 5:33)

Semifinal - Tance Wagner (Lyman County) 36-3 won by fall over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 18-16 (Fall 1:38)

Cons. Semi - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 18-16 won by fall over Dylan Murray (Redfield Area) 15-12 (Fall 4:43)

3rd Place Match - Joey Firzpatrick (Brookings) 13-8 won by fall over Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 18-16 (Fall 3:54)

## **220: Lane Krueger (19-7) placed 2nd and scored 20.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 19-7 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 19-7 won by decision over Gavin Noyes (Canby) 15-14 (Dec 8-7)

Semifinal - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 19-7 won by fall over Preston Cavalier (Warner/Northwestern) 16-9 (Fall 5:36)

1st Place Match - Luke Rasmussen (Brookings) 22-0 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 19-7 (Fall 3:02)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 5 of 87

**#508 in a series**

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

It's been a couple of days since we last talked, but because we're earlier in the day than we were at that time, I have only one additional day's data to look at. The seven-day new-case average had been declining all week and has dropped by almost nine percent since the slide started last Friday to our current number of 735,652. I do really hope this is a real trend. That said our new case count today was still 748,484, which is three-quarters of a million, nothing to sneeze at. And of course, with numbers like those, we've notched another million in our total case count which stands as of midday at 69,305,598. Here's that 69th million in context:

- January 2 – 55 million – 3 days
- January 3 – 56 million – 1 day
- January 4 – 57 million – 1 day
- January 6 – 58 million – 2 days
- January 7 – 59 million – 1 day
- January 9 – 60 million – 2 days
- January 10 – 61 million – 1 day
- January 11 – 62 million – 1 day
- January 12 – 63 million – 1 day
- January 13 – 64 million – 1 day
- January 14 – 65 million – 1 day
- January 17 – 66 million – 3 days
- January 18 – 67 million – 1 day
- January 19 – 68 million – 1 day
- January 20 – 69 million – 1 day

Two years ago yesterday, the first case of Covid-19 occurred in the US; the report was in Washington. More than one-fourth of all the Covid-19 cases we've recorded in the US have occurred in the past month—18 million out of 69 million. Mind-boggling.

Hospitalizations continue to climb with today's average at 159,341, but that's a smaller increase than we've been seeing, another maybe-trend we see developing. It looks as though they're beginning to level off. Don't misunderstand: We're still at record levels; but it appears the rate of increase nationally has slowed. Regions that came later to this surge—most of the West, the Midwest, and rural America—are still increasing; the more urban areas in the Northeast and the South where this surge began are beginning to show signs of a turnaround, posting slight decreases over seven days. To put this in perspective, every state is still at higher numbers than they were two weeks ago; 12 states are still above last winter's levels. So this surge is not over, but maybe we can see it from here.

Deaths are still climbing. Even if we're slowing down overall, it's going to be a while before deaths follow; we've talked often about the fact that they lag new cases by around three weeks. Today's average is 2029. Our total is up to 860,316.

Nebraska Medicine, one of the big health care providers in the state, posted data on Wednesday from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. They pointed out that these data showed that "people who were fully vaccinated (but not yet boosted) were 11X less likely to be hospitalized for Covid-19. People who were boosted were 46X less likely to be hospitalized for Covid-19 than people who were not fully vaccinated." It is important to note that these are hospitalizations because of Covid-19, not just folks who happened to test positive when they were hospitalized for another cause. I quite like those odds.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 6 of 87

Further, their estimate is that “vaccines prevented 3,200 hospitalizations and 700 deaths in Nebraska in December of 2021.” That’s in just one month. I looked, and the data do, indeed, support these claims; the accompanying graphs were quite startling. I’m pretty sure Nebraska is not unique in any way that would make these numbers an outlier. There’s really only one way to interpret this, and the news for vaccine skeptics doesn’t look all that great.

Then last night, the CDC posted new data that bear this out. They show that in December, people over 50 who’ve been fully vaccinated have a 17-fold reduction in the probability of hospitalization for Covid-19. That’s a huge effect. But, as they say in the informercials: Wait; there’s more! If we look at the population 50 to 64, unvaccinated people are 44 times more likely to be hospitalized for Covid-19 than those who’ve been vaccinated and boosted. For those over 65, the multiplier is 49. It’s pretty tough to argue with numbers like these.

But there’s even more: I have three additional studies for you, all of which dropped today. The first was conducted by CDC scientists and published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA). Here, the purpose was to estimate vaccine effectiveness (VE) against symptomatic disease caused by Omicron. Looking at 13,098 Omicron cases, findings were that mRNA vaccines had an estimated relative effectiveness of 66.3 percent against symptoms. We will want to remember that this is any kind or degree of symptoms, so the range here would include what looks like a mild cold as well as more severe disease.

They also found, using cycle threshold values from PCR tests, that there was less genetic material detected in specimens from cases who had received three doses and those who were unvaccinated. (If you don’t recall our earlier conversation about cycle thresholds, check out my Update #188 posted August 29, 2020, at <https://www.facebook.com/marie.schwabmiller/posts/3918473181502392>.) The differences here, with the exception of the N gene for Omicron, were statistically significant. While cycle threshold values are not a direct measure of viral load, they have been used as an estimate of transmission potential. When these assays are performed by the same method at the same lab, you can use them to make rough comparisons among specimens tested. Higher values would indicate decreased infectiousness. This finding would seem to indicate that vaccinated-and-boosted people who do develop symptoms are less likely to transmit the virus to others. It would be nice to nail this down.

Then, there was a CDC-sponsored study reported in this week’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly. This was the work of a team from various institutions across the country and looks like an extension of earlier work done by what’s called the VISION-COVID Network. This is a group of seven organizations—Regenstrief Institute, Columbia University Irving Medical Center, HealthPartners, Intermountain Healthcare, Kaiser Permanente Northern California, Kaiser Permanente Northwest, and University of Colorado—that contributes and analyzes data from health care systems to contribute to our understanding of Covid-19. They looked at “VE by analyzing 222,772 encounters from 383 emergency departments (Eds) and urgent care (UC) clinics and 87,904 hospitalizations from 259 hospitals.” They focused on adults across 10 states from late August, 2021, through January 5. They separated periods before and after Omicron was the dominant variant in the US. This enabled comparisons of VE against Delta and Omicron.

What they found was that VE against ED and UC encounters due to Delta were 86 percent up to six months after a second dose, 76 percent after 180 days, and 94 percent more than two weeks after a booster dose. These numbers with respect to Omicron were 52 percent, 38 percent, and 82 percent respectively. For hospitalization and Delta, VE estimates were 90 percent, 81 percent, and 94 percent, respectively; for Omicron, VEs against hospitalization were 81 percent, 57 percent, and 90 percent, respectively. Makes it hard to argue against a third dose.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 7 of 87

The third study, also published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly and also associated with the VISION-COVID Network, aimed to assess vaccine protection against infection and death as new variants emerged. They looked at and compared case and death rates among unvaccinated and fully vaccinated adults by receipt of booster doses from 25 state and local health departments through December 25, 2021. We're going to focus here on the period when Omicron emerged. Here's what they found: Rates of Covid-19 cases before December, 2021, were 25.0 per 100,000 population in vaccinated-and-boosted persons, 87.7 per 100,000 in fully-vaccinated without a booster, and 347.8 per 100,000 in the unvaccinated. In December, as Omicron emerged, these numbers were 148.6, 254.8, and 725.6 per 100,000, respectively. This illustrates the extreme infectiousness of this variant; the huge increase in case rates is evident. It also bolsters the arguments for vaccination and for boosting. Against deaths, they computed VE of 98 percent for vaccinated-and-boosted before Omicron and 92 percent after, and these are the important numbers, strong evidence that vaccines provide important protection, even against this new variant. This work provides further evidence that boosters are the key to preventing the worst outcomes from this variant. Unsurprisingly, they too found the greatest benefit of boosters was seen in older age groups.

We have yet another report from the UK Health Security Agency, this one addressing duration of immunity against the Omicron variant resulting from vaccination. We have really two different things here, VE against symptomatic disease and VE against hospitalization. Not surprisingly, the VE is far better against hospitalization than against symptoms, much as we saw above in the US studies. Here are the findings:

With respect to developing symptomatic infection, two doses of an mRNA vaccine dropped from VE of 65 to 70 percent at two to four weeks after the second dose to around 10 percent VE at 20 weeks. The booster dose changed things, showing 65 to 70 percent VE at two to four weeks after the third dose and dropping to 45 to 50 percent VE from 10+ weeks on. Now, considering we'd have been thrilled a year ago at 50 percent and remembering this is against any symptoms at all, even very minor ones, this is pretty good. You will want to keep in mind that protection against any infection at all relies largely on antibody titers since antibodies constitute our rapid-response system; when those levels fall, we are less protected against the initial infection.

Against hospitalization, things are different, something we could have anticipated in light of the T-cell findings from the study we discussed last time we talked and knowing how well T cells protect against more severe disease. What we expect to see here is that folks who become infected due to antibody titer declines will still be protected against more severe disease by their cell-mediated responses. That's what it looks like. Two doses resulted in VE of 64 percent against hospitalization two to 24 weeks after the second dose and 40 percent at six months, while the third dose gives us 89 percent VE 2+ weeks after the booster dose which drops to 83 percent at 10+ weeks, still holding at 80 percent after four months. Antibodies lose something against Omicron because they're targeted more specifically at a part of the virus that is highly mutated in this variant; T cells are targeted at viral elements that are conserved even after all the mutating is done. Even weeks out from the booster, we're seeing real benefit in keeping folks out of coffins; that seems worth it to me.

I suspect we're on our way to a future in which we're all going to have to come in annually for a Covid shot. That should cover waning immunity as well as any new variants that manage to emerge. Since this virus looks seasonal, it may be that we can manage this the way we do influenza, bringing folks in for vaccination in advance of the season for a new burst of immunity that can carry them through. That seems doable.

I get a lot of questions about testing, so I thought I'd address them here. Basically there are two kinds of diagnostic tests for Covid-19, but first if you're offered an antibody test, just walk away: They are not

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 8 of 87

diagnostic tests, and they're not much help in determining whether you're protected against Covid-19 either. Waste of money in most cases: Let your doctor order one if there's a specific reason for it (that way, your insurance will pay for it); otherwise, skip it. The diagnostic tests come in two kinds: (1) the PCR test which first amplifies the amount of viral RNA found in your specimen and then detects it and (2) the antigen test which detects other components of the virus.

PCR tests are able to detect minute amounts of viral RNA, so when we're looking to catch an infection early, they're best. You can shed virus that infects others for two days before your symptoms develop, and your most infectious period is from two days before until a day or two after symptoms first appear. When you've had a suspected exposure and need to know whether you pose a risk to others or might need prophylactic therapy if you're an at-risk person, this is the test to choose. Even when you don't have symptoms, this test is likely to pick up on your infection by the third to the fifth day after exposure. Thing is, that ability to detect minute amounts of viral RNA is also a drawback for figuring out when you're no longer infectious because fragments of viral RNA can linger three or four weeks after you recover; so PCR may show positive when you're not shedding virus anymore. It is really not the appropriate test after the first five to 10 days of infection, and I wouldn't recommend getting it after that point. I understand some employers are requiring a negative PCR test for return to work; that is problematic. Not only do we have the over-detection problem, but they're expensive and most insurance won't pay for a test that isn't medically necessary. So you might need to spend \$100 or more for a test that will not reliably say whether you're safe to return to work. Maybe the new CDC guidelines that say you can stop isolating after 5 days as long as you wear a mask will help to reassure employers the PCR is not necessary and, in fact, is a bad idea for this purpose.

Antigen tests—most of the rapid tests and most of the home tests available—detect other parts of the virus, usually the spike. There are no fancy amplification steps here, so these cannot detect as low levels of the virus. That means you don't get as early detection and you don't get that prolonged positive testing after you're better either. Antigen tests are generally less sensitive, that is, less able to pick up on an infection, in asymptomatic people; so early in the course of the infection, they're more likely to show a false negative. Once symptoms appear, they're quite useful. They're also generally far less expensive, so they're more suitable for frequent testing, the sort of thing you do with the whole family before going to visit Grandpa. This is also the test to choose after you've been sick for several days to confirm you're probably done shedding virus. There is general agreement among experts that two negative antigen tests on consecutive days is a pretty good sign you're no longer infectious.

Speaking of testing, the federal government now has a hotline for those without Internet access or computer skills to request their free home tests. I'm going to assume those conditions do not apply to anyone reading this, but if you have friends or neighbors who are not going to be able to go to a website to order their tests, please pass along this phone number: 800-232-0233. I have not heard anything about wait times and such on this line, but that's the number to call. For the record, apparently tests started shipping on Friday. If so, they're going out a whole lot faster than promised or expected. That's a good thing; sooner is better.

I mentioned that I had found the online ordering process very easy and fast, but I've read there have been issues for some folks with the website informing them an order had already been placed for their address—often those in apartment buildings and such—or for those who run businesses out of their homes, they were being excluded because tests don't ship to businesses. I suppose some of this sort of thing is unavoidable when you set up a system designed to serve every single household in the country, especially when you set it up in a hurry. The US Postal Service, which is managing this project advises those who experience difficulties to file a service request (at <https://email.usps.com/s/the-postal-store->



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 9 of 87

inquiry) or call the Postal Service help desk at 800-ASK-USPS (800-275-8777).

We have a disquieting new clinical case study from the University of Pretoria in South Africa which looks at infections in big cats in zoos and wildlife parks in the country. Researchers documented the course of infection in several big cats and traced their transmission route by contact tracing and genomic analysis of virus recovered from each contact. The concern it raises is that lions at a zoo tested positive for up to seven weeks. We don't know, of course, whether they had active virus in them for the entire period, but it raises the specter that the virus will persist in a replicating state in these animals long enough to promote the development of new variants. Prolonged periods of infection in animals will increase that risk just as they do in humans. And if there's an escape to a wild population, the virus could become enzootic (say EN-zoh-AH-tic: same thing as endemic, only in animals). Worst case, a long-term infection that spilled over to animals from humans spreads unchecked, mutates in the wild animal population, and then provides the opportunity for new variants to emerge. If these then jump back to humans in what's called a spillback infection, we could be in some trouble. The researchers monitored zoo animals and sanctuaries with an eye to discovering what the risks are. The problem, as in humans, is whether the animals carry active virus for weeks or are testing positive due to viral fragments. While it is possible to quarantine infected animals in zoos, this becomes far more difficult in wildlife parks, many of which are placed throughout the country. Because these cats are typically fed by humans, their opportunities for exposure are great. There's a lot of speculation—could and might—here; but we really cannot afford to get this one wrong. We've had enough bad luck and bad practice already.

I read a paper posted just yesterday as an preview of an accepted manuscript for the American Journal of Epidemiology from a group of researchers at the Boston University School of Public Health and a group of other institutions across the country. The team examined male and female fertility following vaccination for and infection with SARS-CoV-2. They looked at 2126 women enrolled in the study from December, 2020, through September, 2021, with follow-up two months later. The study included voluntary participation from the women's male partners as well. Findings were that neither vaccination nor infection had any effect on women's fertility, probability of achieving a pregnancy, or probability of achieving a live birth. While there was no effect from vaccination, they did see a small (18 percent) short-term (60-day) decline in fertility in the men after SARS-CoV-2 infection. This decline is suspected to be due to the fever which typically accompanies this infection since fever has a known short-term effect of suppressing sperm count. Here's a rebuttal to those claims that arise from time to time about the terrible risks to fertility from vaccination; there is simply no evidence at all to support them and more and more to refute them.

And I read one more paper this afternoon which raises interesting possibilities. This is not yet peer-reviewed, but it is on NIH's preprint website, so it's not likely to be garbage either. A research team at the University of Chicago looked at the potential that cannabidiol (CBD) metabolite cannabinoids have activity against SARS-CoV-2 in human cells and followed up with some epidemiologic work as well. They were looking for small molecules that target host stress response pathways because regulating the stress response may be useful in responding to the virus and controlling antiviral inflammatory responses. The team reviewed some limited work done in the past that indicates certain cannabinoids have antiviral effects against other viruses, so this looked like a promising research question. CBD is a product of the cannabis plant which can be extracted for human use, and in oral solution is currently FDA-approved (brand name: Epidiolex) as a drug for the treatment of seizure disorders.

So they pretreated human lung cells expressing ACE2 (the binding site for SARS-CoV-2) with a concentration of CBD that is achievable in tissues and then infected them with SARS-CoV-2, monitoring for evidence of viral replication in the cells. They also treated other lung cells with other known viral inhibitors so that they would have a reference standard for comparison. The CBD "potently inhibited viral replication under

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 10 of 87

non-toxic conditions,” and it did not appear to do that by interfering with viral entry to the cells. This is important because when you target viral entry, you’re pretty much always targeting spike (S) protein, the one that seems to mutate with some frequency. Instead, the targeted process seems to be viral protein production, a process that tends to be conserved in mutation, so it’s unlikely to shift in new variants. That would mean, if this turns out to be a useful antiviral, it’s not likely to lose its effectiveness when a new variant emerges. It appears the active metabolite is 7-hydroxy-cannabidiol (7-OH-CBD), the same one we think is active in Epidiolex as well, and has some inhibitory effects on cytokine expression that results from viral infections. That means it has potential both to prevent viral replication early in infection and to counteract a cytokine storm late.

The key, then, will be whether this benefit carries over from the lab to an actual human patient. Analysis of over 93,000 patients testing positive for Covid-19 at the University of Chicago Medical Center showed that when the test positivity rate was 10 percent in the population tested, it was just 5.7 percent for the approximately 400 who tested positive for cannabinoid. The team also did a matched-samples comparison between 82 patients taking Epidiolex and patients who were not; while 12.2 percent of the non-cannabinoid patients tested positive, only 1.2 percent of those taking CBD did. That difference is an entire order of magnitude.

There’s a fair amount of work to be done here, so don’t ask your doctor about a prescription or just hit the local dispensary just yet. Particularly with respect to what’s available with a medical marijuana card, the variability of concentrations and inactive carriers in various products could make a big difference to how this all plays out; the purity and composition of the substances labeled as CBD are going to matter, especially since some of this research indicates other cannabinoids than 7-OH-CBD—including THC—might counteract its antiviral efficacy. This team is suggesting a move to clinical trials to establish its role in preventing and treating, the necessary concentration, and the optimal route and formulation. They’re suggesting skipping over the usual animal trials because we know animal models metabolize and clear these substances far differently than humans do; it’s unlikely animal trials will have much relevance. Fortunately, this drug has an impressive safety profile, so this is a relatively safe proposition. Despite the work ahead of us on this one, if it works out, there is real potential to provide benefit.

The Shift Project surveys tens of thousands of workers at retail and fast food businesses. A recent finding from one of their surveys should give us pause: About 65 percent of the hourly workers who were sick on a given day between September and November reported going to work anyway. Why? They needed the money and don’t have sick leave. Additionally, 45 percent of them said their workplaces were already running short-staffed and they didn’t want to let their co-workers down; 40 percent said they couldn’t find someone to cover for them. Forty-four percent said they were afraid they’d get in trouble if they called in sick. Some can’t find tests or can’t afford them, so they never find out whether what they have is Covid-19, but of course, that is certainly what some of them have—quite a few these days. The Bureau of Labor Statistics confirms 41 percent of service sector workers do not have paid sick leave. It’s difficult to judge people who are often just one paycheck away from homeless when they make decisions in their own economic self-interest; but this is a disaster.

This is a late add: The news broke a few hours after this Update posted, so I decided to edit it in here rather than wait a what I hope is several days for the next post. The FDA just expanded its approval for remdesivir (Veklury) to use in patients 12 and over who are not sick enough to be hospitalized. We talked about this use recently in my Update #499 posted December 27 at <https://www.facebook.com/marie.schwabmiller/posts/5473849672631394>, and some physicians have been ordering it off-label for these patients. Now it won’t be off-label, and that might encourage more use. Additionally, it will put insurers in a position where they’re going to need to cover it; that is not a given for off-label drugs. The supply’s pretty

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 11 of 87**

good, but there is still a drawback: It must be given as an infusion on three consecutive days, which means a vulnerable patient has to come in three times for treatment and hospitals which are already strapped for personnel will need to free up someone to supervise the infusion, a fairly labor-intensive process. Nonetheless, as it can be given, this offers a significant benefit to high-risk patients early in infection, reducing the risk of hospitalization and death by 87 percent in high-risk patients. I'll note here the clinical trial was done in unvaccinated individuals. I'm not sure how this translates to vaccinated people, but I'm going to guess we're about to find out in real life.

That's it for today. There's been a lot to process each day; I continue to live with the hope that slows down

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 12 of 87

## Northern State Men Drop Saturday Contest to Winona State

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University men's basketball team dropped a close contest to Winona State on Saturday evening, dropping to 13-9 overall. The Wolves gave up 12 points on turnovers and struggled from beyond the arc in the loss.

### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 74, WSU 83

Records: NSU 13-9 (7-7 NSIC), WSU 11-6 (7-5 NSIC)

Attendance: 3436

### HOW IT HAPPENED

- Both teams got off to a bit of a slow start with the scoreboard reading 33-27 at the half
- Winona was efficient in the second half, scoring 50 points and shooting at a 73.9% clip
- The Wolves shot 51.7% in the second half and 43.1% in the game from the floor, however were unable to keep up with the Warriors production
- Northern out-rebounded Winona 32-27, notching 14 points off eight offensive boards
- NSU added 32 points in the paint and nine points off the bench, as well as 14 assists, two steals, and one block
- The Wolves scored in double figures, led by Sam Masten with 22 points, while three tallied 3-plus assists, led by Cole Bergan with five
- Kailleb Walton-Blanden led the team off the bench with six points and Moni hit a team best four from beyond the arc

### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

- Sam Masten: 22 points, 6 rebounds, 53.8 FG%, 3 assists
- Jackson Moni: 21 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists
- Jordan Belka: 12 points, 8 rebounds
- Cole Bergan: 8 points, 5 assists, 3 rebounds

### UP NEXT

Northern State opens two weekends of road trips at Concordia-St. Paul and Minnesota State. Tip-off times are set for 7:30 p.m. on Friday against the Golden Bears and 5:30 p.m. on Saturday versus the Mavericks.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 13 of 87

## Northern State Falls at Home to Winona State 65-55

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State women’s basketball team fell on the final day of I Hate Winter weekend, with a 65-55 loss to Winona State. The loss to the Warriors snapped a four game win streak for the Wolves.

### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 55, WSU 65

Records: NSU 10-8 (7-6 NSIC), WSU 9-9 (6-8 NSIC)

Attendance: 2276

### HOW IT HAPPENED

- Back-to-back 3-point baskets by Kailee Oliverson and Rianna Fillipi pushed the early Northern State lead to 10-5
- A 7-2 run by Winona State to end the first quarter gave the Warriors a 17-14 lead after the first period
- Another Fillipi 3-pointer and a jumper by Carly Mekash cut the WSU lead to four points heading into the halftime break
- Laurie Rogers and Oliverson each made baskets to start the third quarter and tied the game at 34
- An 8-0 Warrior run midway through the third quarter pushed the Winona State lead to ten points
- The closest Northern State would get the remainder of the game would be six points following a Lexi Roe basket with 9:13 remaining in the game
- Haley Johnson scored a career high 17 points off 8-15 shooting from the field
- The Wolves shot 40.0 percent from the field, 31.3 percent from the field, and 100.0 percent from the free throw line

### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Haley Johnson: 17 points, 6 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals

Rianna Fillipi: 14 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals

Kailee Oliverson: 9 points, 7 rebounds, 1 assist

### UP NEXT

The Northern State women’s basketball team will begin a four game road trip next weekend when they travel to Concordia-St. Paul and Minnesota State. The Wolves and Golden Bears will tip-off at 5:30 p.m. on Friday afternoon, and the Wolves and Mavericks are scheduled for a 3:30 p.m. start on Saturday afternoon.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 14 of 87

## Lana's Annals by Lana Greenfield

Greetings to you all! We have just finished legislative week 2. Session has begun rather slowly, but committees are starting to hear bills and will ramp up from now on.

As chair of the education committee, I invited Dr. Maher, executive director of the Board of Regents, as an informational guest. He gave us an overview of the status of our universities, and we now have a total enrollment of 35,542 enrolled (university students both full and part time). The help centers, called opportunity centers, have replaced diversity offices. This may not seem to be a gripping idea to the average reader, but it creates an avenue for all students who have questions about needs they have, not just critical care offices used by small groups of students who want to promote their own causes. I really am pleased as has been what I have promoted for about 2 years now.

Our committee also heard from SDSU President Dunn, who informed us about a new degree in concrete construction, which many businesses think is needed for our state. BHSU President Nichols also told us about a new forestry degree being offered at her university. I think these two programs may be great to add. I did ask them, though, if programs are added, are they also studying ones that are losing enrollment and should be eliminated. I was assured that this is mandated in SB55 and is being carefully researched.

I also invited Secretary of Education, Tiffany Sanderson, to our committee, and she gave us an overview of the findings of the 5 year teacher compensation review that met this summer and of which I was a member. It is no secret that there is a teacher shortage in every state in the nation. We did find that those who are education majors in SD is growing so that is encouraging. Statistics show that our average teacher salaries in South Dakota have increased by 22 per cent in the past five years and has made us second in the nations for rate of increase. We have an actual parity ranking of 45th in the nation even though we listed as 50th in pay. She also stated that the current average SD teacher salary plus benefits is 71,000 dollars. Now that said, we have many teachers at retirement age, so that average will inevitably drop as beginning, inexperienced teachers will come in at a lower base rate.

The bill of the week in our education committee was known as the "Moment of Silence," HB1015. At the start, I thought it sounded like a good idea as it would give children a time of quiet and reflection to start the day, a time to take a breath. However, we committees are in place to listen to testimony. During that time, the chief testifier was asked what would happen if the teacher/school did not observe the moment of silence. We were told that if passed and enacted into a law, the school could be in jeopardy of accreditation status for violating that law. This became a great deal breaker for me. Would this be a good reason to close certain schools? I then began thinking about teachers. What about an instructor? If he/she was only observing this for a half minute rather than one minute (the bill said one minute) or forgot to do it a few mornings, could this become a part of a poor evaluation? Would the teacher possibly be fired for insubordination (this term is on teaching contracts)? Some readers may look at this as "a stretch of the bill." I look at it as "unintended consequences." Therefore, I honored the vote to send the bill to the 41st day, which killed the bill in committee.

In local government we listened to HB1076 which would allow certain communities to elect aldermen at large. Again, at first glance, I thought this may be a decent bill. After all, we small town people have a hard time getting people to run for aldermen, let alone confine that to a specific area. I did, however, find it questionable that the size of the town was set at less than 2000.. One would think a town of 1500, for example, would be able to at least one person from a designated ward to run for office or at least be compelled to step up. In committee an amendment, brought by the sponsor, now called for the magic number to be a town less than 3000. This told me that someone from some town in South Dakota looked at the bill ahead of time and wanted their town to be included. Possible red flag. I started thinking about towns, projects, fights over projects, etc. This bill could essentially create a monopoly where a group from one city block of town could get elected to the board to push some agenda for their area. It also could mean that 5 people from the same household could run! Again, a stretch? Well, it could happen. I think there should be a person from each area providing a cross section of each part of a city. If we are able to do this in my town of 180, a town of 2500 should be able to. I was one of the 4 "no" votes so now it will go to the floor for debate. Stay tuned.

I would encourage everyone to get online and listen to our committee meetings. Just go to South Dakota State Legislature and find the committee you wish to hear. I also invite you to come to Pierre to our capitol to testify on a bill or just to visit. We are no longer doing testimony by phone but our lrc or I can direct you how to get on zoom.

I can best be reached by messaging me at [lane.greenfield@sdlegislature.gov](mailto:lane.greenfield@sdlegislature.gov).

Until next week, stay safe and well.

Rep. Lana Greenfield, Dist. 2

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 15 of 87

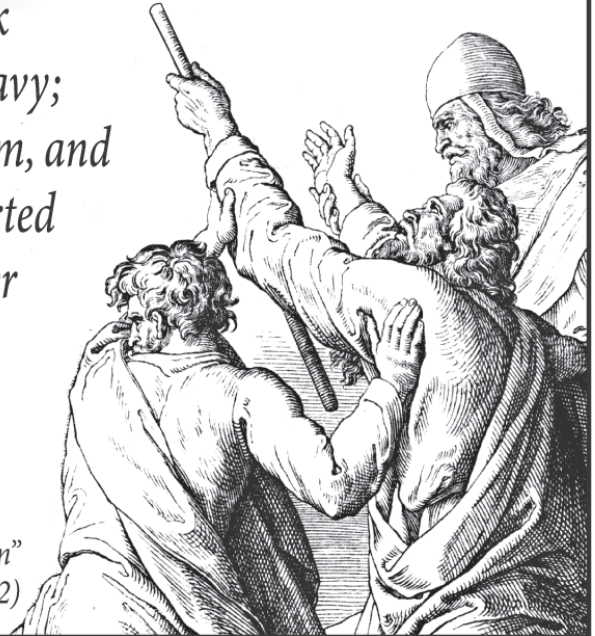


## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

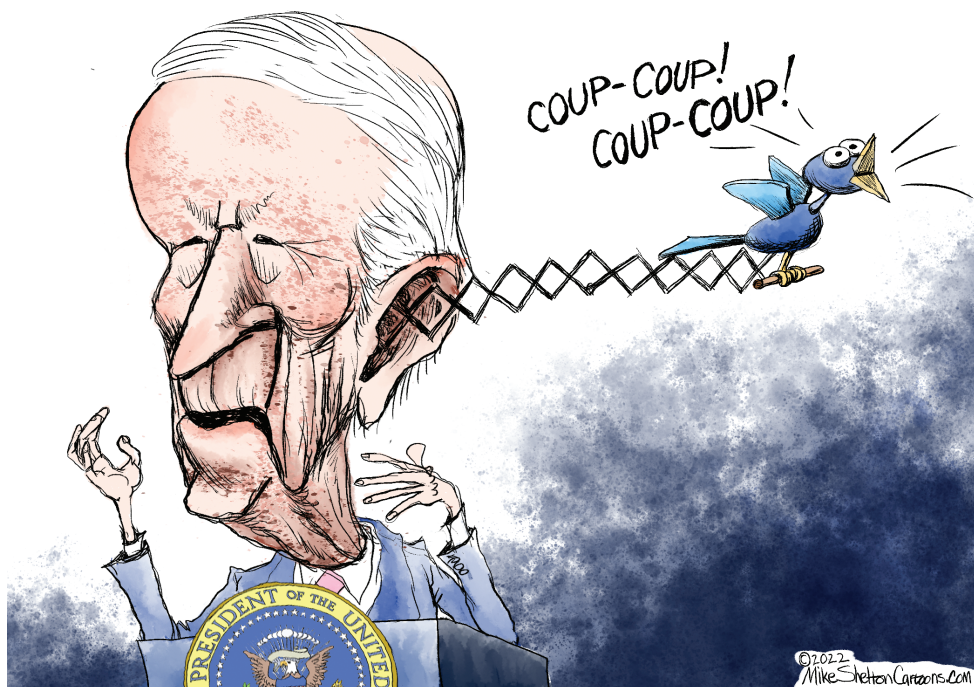
*And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.*

EXODUS 17: 11,12

*"Aaron Holding Moses' Arm"*  
by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794-1872)



© 2022 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.



## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Job in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. The book of Hebrews tells us to entertain strangers as they may be ...? *Demons, Angels, Prophets, Reincarnated*

3. From Genesis 17:15, what was the name of Abraham's wife? *Ruth, Anna, Abigail, Sarah*

4. Which book of the New Testament is divided into three parts? *Corinthians, Timothy, Peter, John*

5. In Mark 5:30, who said, "Who touched my clothes"? *Jesus, John the Baptist, David, Solomon*

6. What was the name of Seth's son, thus Adam's grandson? *Eliam, Eadhard, Enosh, Eadmer*

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Angels; 3) Sarah; 4) John; 5) Jesus; 6) Enosh

*Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.*

© 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Comfort foods

Made fast and healthy



by Healthy Exchanges  
**Mexican Chicken Bake**

Sunny Mexico -- where the warm blue sky is never ending and the "spiciness" of the food can be as "hot" or as "mild" as you want it to be. For us wimps who love the bold flavors but say "Hold the jalapenos," reach for the mild salsa.

1/2 cup salsa (mild, medium, hot or extra-hot)  
1 (8-ounce) can tomato sauce  
Sugar substitute to equal 1 tablespoon, suitable for baking  
3/4 cup shredded reduced-fat Cheddar cheese  
1 cup coarsely crushed baked nacho chips  
1 1/2 cups diced cooked chicken breast  
1 (15-ounce) can cut green beans, rinsed and drained

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray an 8-by-8-inch baking dish with butter-flavored cooking spray.

2. In a medium saucepan, combine salsa, tomato sauce and sugar substitute. Stir in Cheddar cheese. Cook over medium heat for 5 minutes or until cheese melts, stirring often.

3. Evenly arrange half of chips in prepared baking dish. Layer chicken and green beans over chips. Pour hot salsa mixture evenly over beans. Evenly sprinkle remaining chips over top.

4. Bake for 25 minutes. Remove from oven and place baking dish on a wire rack and let set for 5 minutes. Makes 4 servings.


\* Each serving equals: 262 calories, 6 g fat, 26 g protein, 26 g carb., 921 mg sodium, 3 g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 3 Meat, 2 Vegetable, 1 Starch/Carb.

(c) 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.




# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 17 of 87



Character Profile:  
**Dale Arden**



**AN AIRPLANE IS TORN ASUNDER BY A FREAK METEOR SHOWER!**

THAT FATEFUL FLIGHT BRINGS RAVEN-HAIRED BEAUTY DALE ARDEN INTO THE ARMS OF WORLD-RENOUNDED ATHLETE FLASH GORDON.

SINCE THEN THEIR LIVES HAVE BEEN BOUND TOGETHER...FACING ADVENTURES UNDREAMED OF IN THE HOPES OF SAVING A WORLD ON THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION!

## FLASH GORDON

By JIM KEEFE

**H**IS KINGDOM RECLAIMED, KING RONAL LEADS A RECONNAISSANCE MISSION IN SEARCH OF THE TREACHEROUS CAPTAIN LONAK.

CAREFUL...THE KRONTORS' VILLAGE IS JUST BEYOND THIS RIDGE.

WEARING PROTECTIVE GEAR AGAINST THE SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURES, THE SEARCH PARTY CAUTIOUSLY PEERS DOWN INTO THE CAMP.

I SEE HIM.  
HE... STILL WEARS THE CROWN.


THEN IT APPEARS THE CREATURES ARE NO LONGER A THREAT...

"...NOW THAT THEIR MONARCH IS RESTORED TO THE THRONE."

LONAK DESIRED TO BE KING. IT LOOKS LIKE HE GOT HIS WISH.

**NEXT: NEW ADVENTURE!**


## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



**T**HE FASTER THE CLUBHEAD TRAVELS AT IMPACT, ASSUMING SQUARE DELIVERY, THE FARTHER THE BALL FLIES.

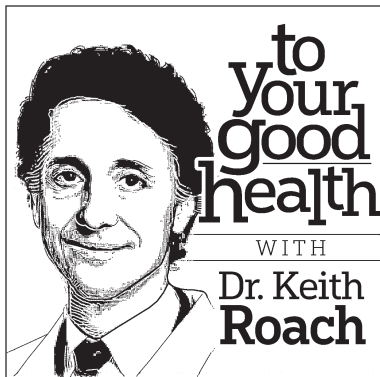
THE LIGHTER THE CLUB, THE EASIER IT IS TO SWING FAST THROUGH THE BALL.

JM



THAT'S ONE REASON OLDER PLAYERS SHOULD FAVOR LIGHT-SWINGING CLUBS.

A SECOND IS THAT THE LIGHTER THE CLUB, THE LESS EFFORT IS REQUIRED TO SWING IT, WHICH IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR SENIORS WHO LIKE TO PLAY A LOT.



## Late Recurrences Are Possible in Breast Cancer Patients

---  
DEAR DR. ROACH: I just read another sad story about a woman who had breast cancer, fought it and seemed to win, but after five years, it came back and took her life. The same sequence of events happened to my wife two years ago. She fought the second round of cancer for a year and a half, but it was just about everywhere. What is this connection between the initial breast cancer occurrence and it coming back five or six years later even more widespread throughout the body? Is screening stepped up during that period? -- Anon.

ANSWER: I am very sorry to hear about your wife.

With most cancers, no evidence of disease five years out from diagnosis usually means a cure, that the person will not have a recurrence of that particular cancer, although people who've had one cancer are at a higher risk of developing a second, unrelated cancer. Breast cancer is one of the exceptions. Late recurrences (after five years) are possible, even very late recurrences. I have seen 20 years afterward, and there are reports of even longer.

Although the reasons why breast cancer seems to hide for many years are not known precisely, we do know some risk factors for recurrence: Larger tumors are more likely to recur. Those with positive lymph nodes are at high risk, and women with estrogen receptor positive, progesterone receptor positive and HER2 negative tumors are more likely to experience recurrence.

Screening is absolutely appropriate in women who have had breast cancer. There is not a consensus about the type and frequency of screening, but many experts choose yearly mammography. Breast MRI has been considered, but it has not been proven to be better in women with a history of breast cancer.

A healthy lifestyle, including regular exercise, a diet with plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables, abstinence from smoking and minimal alcohol intake, has been shown to reduce cancer risk in women with a history of breast cancer.

\*\*\*

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have had stage 4 kidney disease for several years now. My doctors have said there is not much else they can do for me. I have been told by an alternative health care practitioner that asparagus and watermelon eaten approximately three times per week could have a beneficial effect. Any comments or suggestions you have would be appreciated. -- R.A.

ANSWER: Chronic kidney disease is not a single entity. Any condition that can cause long-term damage to the kidney will cause reduced kidney function, measured by the glomerular filtration rate. It is graded on a scale of 1 to 5, based on how well the kidneys can filter blood. A normal GFR is above 90: CKD 1 is kidney disease with a normal GFR, while CKD 2 is a GFR of 60-89; CKD 3 is 30-59; CKD 4 is 15-29; and CKD 5 is below 15. At this point, people are usually contemplating dialysis.

Occasionally, kidney experts can find a reversible cause of poor kidney function, such as poor blood flow to the kidneys. Most of the time, the damage is largely irreversible.

I dearly wish that asparagus and watermelon could reverse kidney damage. It cannot. The main goal in someone with chronic kidney disease is to take steps to slow the decline. A plant-based diet does that, and some people, especially those with protein in the urine, may benefit from an ACE inhibitor to slow kidney damage.

A nephrologist is the expert in CKD and should be consulted early in the course of the disease. You can read much more on the National Institutes of Health's excellent site: <https://tinyurl.com/y6gekvqo>.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 19 of 87



**The Afterparty** — High-school reunions are often anxiety-inducing events, but rarely do they involve drama as serious as an actual murder. In this eight-episode Apple original comedy series, comedian and national treasure Tiffany Haddish plays a police investigator attempting to find the killer among a group of the class of 2006. The recently departed was a much-hated fellow class member Xavier (played to smarmy perfection by Dave Franco), who also happened to be hosting said party. Every episode will leave you second-guessing who the perpetrator is, as each tells the story from a different suspect's perspective. (Apple TV+)

**Home Team** (PG) — The man who made a career out of playing dudes with everyman jobs is back, this time as youth league football coach. Kevin James plays Sean Payton, a former NFL coach who was suspended from the league for a year due to his involvement in bounty-for-injury shenanigans. During his time off, he signed on to help coach his son's losing and hapless Pop Warner team (think "Bad News Bears," but with football). Having not spent much time together since his divorce, Coach Payton and son struggle to reconnect emotionally. The Netflix original movie also stars Taylor Lautner and Rob Schneider. (Netflix)

**Take Out With Lisa Ling** — For over 20 years Lisa Ling has hosted a variety of news and human interest shows, often with an international flair. Her latest project showcases Asian food in America, but goes deeper than lo mein and chop suey, highlighting the diverse backgrounds and communities behind the different types of cuisine. Asian immigrant families often began their American dreams with family-run restaurants - as did Lisa's grandfather - and their foods are what kept those families connected to their past while

striving for better lives away from their homelands. All six episodes will be available January 27. (HBOMax)

**The Ice Age: Adventures of Buck Wild** (PG) — Sid the lispng sloth and friends Crash and Eddie return for more bumbling adventures. This time around, they're back in the Lost World and hook up with new friend Buck Wild, a weasel voiced by Simon Pegg. Together the quartet embarks on a mission to save the world from dinosaur domination. In the process they realize that the mega-mammals aren't the only dangers to their mission. (Disney+)



Movie Stills Database

## Tiffany Haddish investigates in "The Afterparty."

**That's My Jam** (TV-PG) — Jimmy Fallon has taken segments from his late-night talk show and turned them into a lively full hour entertainment show. Two-person celebrity teams battle each other in various crazy music-related challenges, playing for bragging rights and ambiguous points rather than actual prizes. It's fast-paced and full of top-notch contestants including Ariana Grande, Kelly Clarkson, and Josh Groban attempting impossible karaoke and themed music trivia. It's spontaneous, seriously fun to watch and showcases musical talent in unexpected ways. If you've missed it in first run, Peacock has the first six episodes available on streaming. (Peacock)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 20 of 87



1. Which group released an album titled "Agents of Fortune"?
2. Who wrote and released "Sundown"?
3. Name the '60s singer who was partially deaf as a result of having meningitis as a child.
4. What do The Chords, Bobby Hebb and Edison Lighthouse all have in common?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Jubilation, she loves me again, I fall on the floor and I'm laughing."

## Answers

1. Blue Oyster Cult, in 1976. The 2001 CD reissue had four additional songs, including the longer demo

version of "(Don't Fear) The Reaper."

2. Gordon Lightfoot, in 1974. It was his only chart topper in the U.S. (He's Canadian.)
3. Mary Wells, of "My Guy" fame. She was singing in clubs by the age of 10.
4. They all made it to the list of One-Hit Wonders for the decades when their songs hit the charts, the '50s, '60s and '70s.
5. "Cecilia," by Simon & Garfunkel, in 1970. The song was partially created at a late-night party and recorded on a tape recorder. Simon later came back to it, deciding that it had the making of a song. The title likely refers to St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music.

(c) 2022 King Features Syndicate

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 21 of 87

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



©2022 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

## GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner

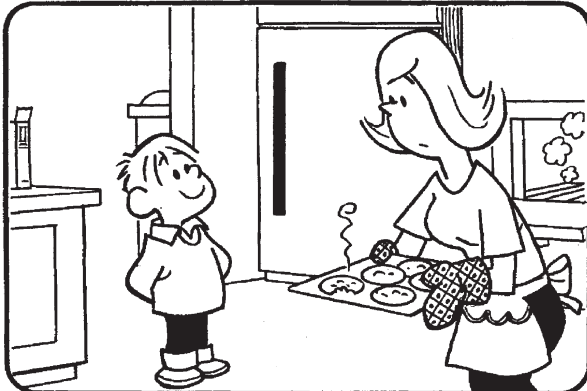


© by North America Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

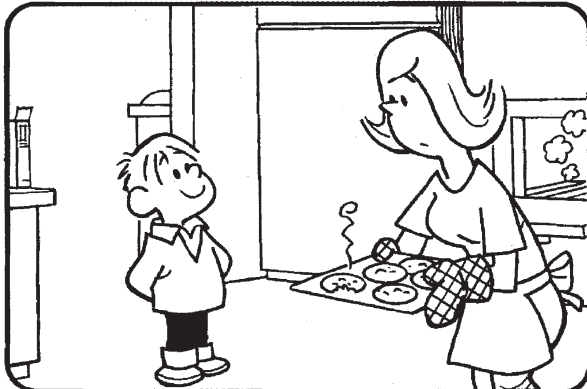
“What’s the big idea of forecasting rain for the day of the bureau picnic?”

### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cabinet is miss- ing. 4. Gloves are different. 5. Apron is different. 6. Pants are different.

©2022 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



- File this one under safety AND energy smarts: Clean the dryer vent after every load. Clean the dryer vent screen monthly with a gentle soap and water bath. Rinse well and dry thoroughly before inserting back into your dryer.

- I used to struggle with plastic wrap every time I tried to use it. But now, it's a breeze since I learned to do these two things: One, keep plastic wrap in the freezer. It unrolls evenly, not one side or the other. Two, use a serrated knife to cut it instead of relying on the metal strip down the side of the box. You lay it out on the counter, and just run the knife down the edge you want to cut. Works like magic, and it's no longer frustrating. — *G.S. in Georgia*

- Store an apple or two with your potatoes to keep them from sprouting. Be sure to check them often.

- Cut cotton pads in half to double your supply. They are typically big enough for two uses, and you can always use two halves if you need a whole.

---

- “Make a cream lipstick last longer and stay cleaner by using a makeup brush to apply. Your skin picks up more of the lipstick than necessary, one reason why we blot our lips afterward. But the brush uses only what you need. And there's less bacteria transfer.” — *Y.R. in Massachusetts*

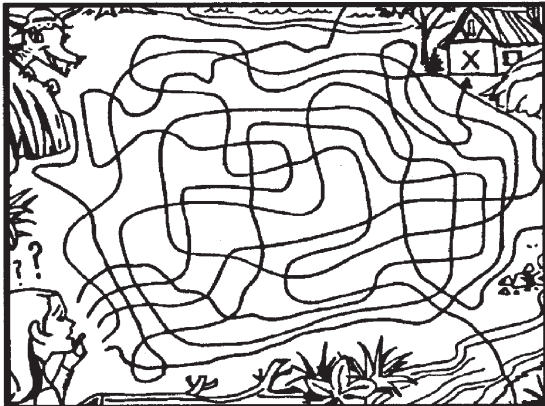
- Studies have shown that you spend more and make worse decisions when grocery shopping at peak hours. To be a saver on the family food bill, pick a time to shop when you're not rushed; have a list; know the sales ahead of time; and eat before you go.

*Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.*

© 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

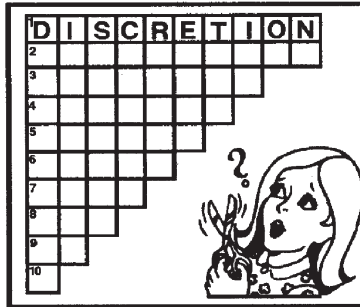
# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 23 of 87



## Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



### DISCRETION IS USED IN THIS WORD TEST

STARTING with the word DISCRETION (see left), remove a letter and rearrange those that remain, to form a new word in each step.

#### Definitions:

1. DISCRETION (in place).
2. North, south, east or west, for example.
3. The Monroe —.
4. Happened to see.
5. Public sign.
6. Builder-upper potion.
7. Involved with.
8. Large amount.
9. Opposite of yes.
10. Irish surname letter.

Remember, a letter is dropped and those remaining are rearranged in each step.

1. Discretion, 2. Direction, 3. Doctrines, 4. Noticed, 5. Notice, 6. Tonic, 7. Into, 8. Ton, 9. No, 10. O.

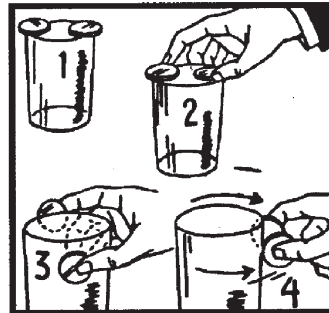
**HOMING IN!** Which path leads to Grandma's house? Pick one and see where it goes. Then, if necessary, try another.

**SIGN ON!** See how quickly you can think of five words or more containing the word "sign." One such word, for example, is "design." Take it from there, if you can, with four more.

**COIN WRAP!** Balance two coins atop the rim of a glass (see figure 1, at right). Challenge someone to remove the coins in unison, without having them fall into the glass or drop to the table ... using just one hand.

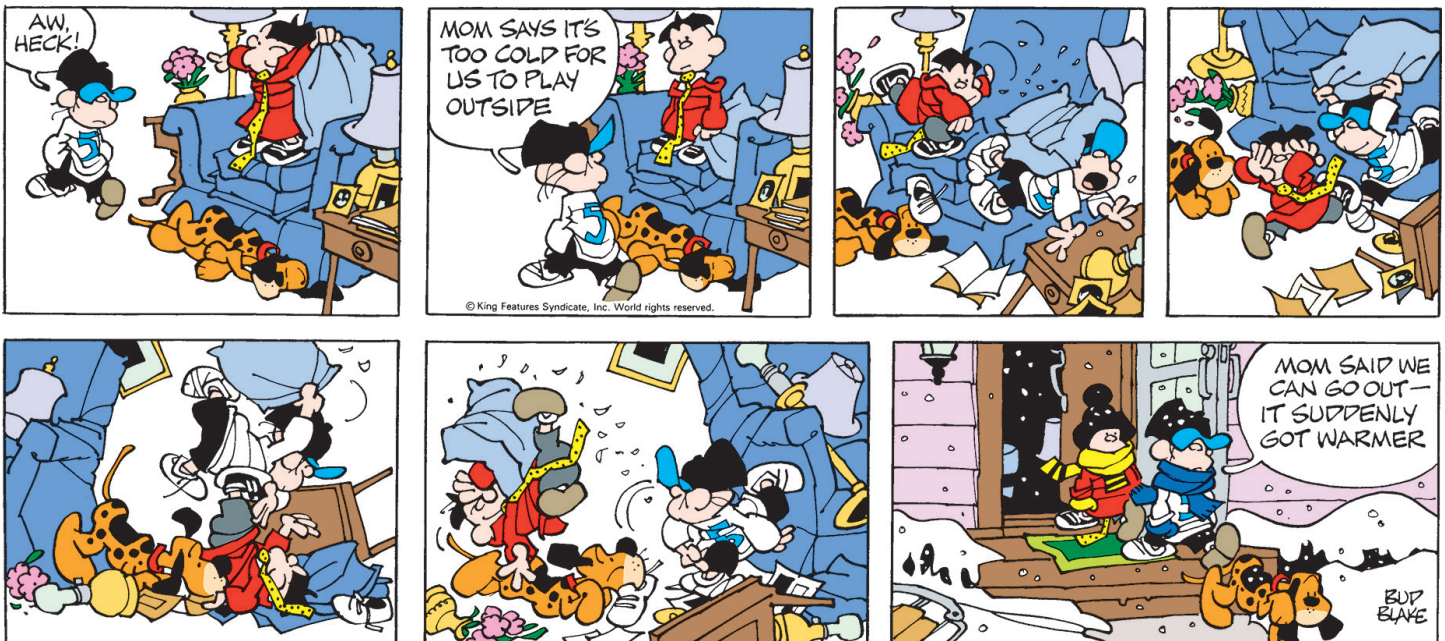
Secret: Hold thumb and forefinger over coins (fig. 2). Press down on coins simultaneously (fig. 3). Press coins to sides of glass, and bring them together in fingers (fig. 4).

Practice makes perfect, natch.



## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 24 of 87

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Shade
- 4 Frontiersman  
Crockett
- 8 Pocket bread
- 12 100 percent
- 13 Dutch cheese
- 14 Pedestal  
occupant
- 15 Cowboy's  
sweetie
- 16 Do math
- 18 Slowpoke
- 20 Hydrocarbon  
suffix
- 21 Cushions
- 24 Persian Gulf  
emirate
- 28 Nutritional  
label info
- 32 Flamingo's  
color

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16				17				
18			19				20					
			21		22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31		32			
33				34				35		36		
37			38		39				40			
41				42		43						
			44		45			46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54			55		
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- 33 Copper head?
- 34 Lauder of  
cosmetics
- 36 Summer on  
the Seine
- 37 Guns the  
engine
- 39 Toe of Italy's  
boot
- 41 Fashion
- 43 Hit with a stun  
gun
- 44 Ms. Thurman
- 46 Gossip
- 50 Baseball's  
"Iron Man"
- 55 Deluge refuge
- 56 Now, in a  
memo
- 57 Cowboy's  
neckwear
- 58 Luau bowlful
- 59 Quick swims
- 60 Winter blanket
- 61 Novelist Rand
- 8 Accumulate
- 9 Hollywood's  
Lupino
- 10 Nanny's  
charge
- 11 Hearty quaff
- 17 German con-  
junction
- 19 Wall St. debut
- 22 Platter
- 23 Attack
- 25 Coffin stand
- 26 Con
- 27 Furniture  
brand
- 28 2006 Pixar  
film
- 29 Help a hood
- 30 Tax
- 31 Actress Ward
- 35 "Calm down!"
- 38 Drinks noisily
- 40 Spell-off
- 42 Brit. record  
label
- 45 LAPD alerts
- 47 Wine valley
- 48 Helen's home
- 49 Related
- 50 Scoundrel
- 51 " — was say-  
ing ..."
- 52 Napkin's  
place
- 53 " — -Tiki"
- 54 "Evil Woman"  
band



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 25 of 87

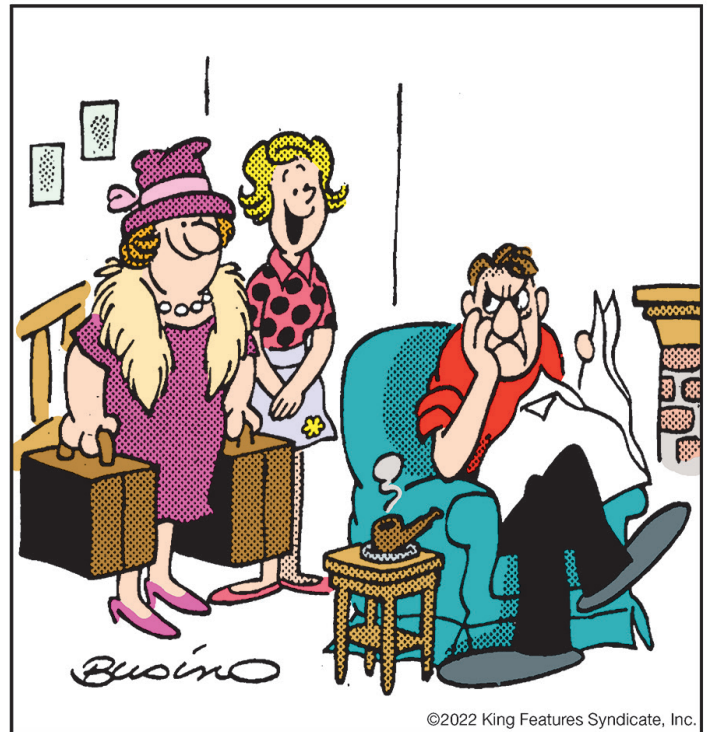
## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

H	U	E		D	A	V	Y		P	I	T	A	
A	L	L		E	D	A	M		I	D	O	L	
G	A	L		C	A	L	C	U	L	A	T	E	
S	N	A	I	L			A	N	E				
			P	A	D	S			D	U	B	A	I
C	A	L	O	R	I	E	S		P	I	N	K	
A	B	E		E	S	T	E	E		E	T	E	
R	E	V	S		C	A	L	A	B	R	I	A	
S	T	Y	L	E		T	A	S	E				
			U	M	A			Y	E	N	T	A	
C	A	L	R	I	P	K	E	N		A	R	K	
A	S	A	P		B	O	L	O		P	O	I	
D	I	P	S		S	N	O	W		A	Y	N	

## LAFF - A - DAY



"You won't even know Mother's in the house—you're staying in the garage."

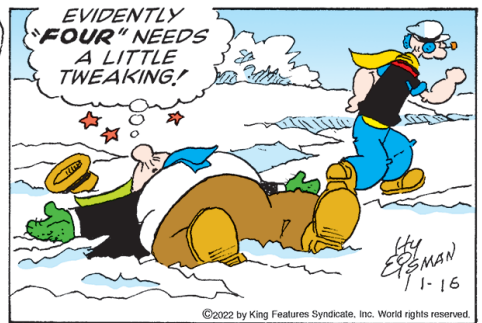
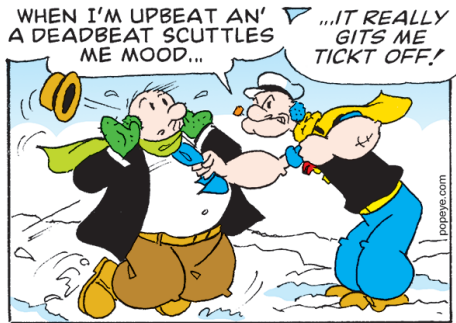
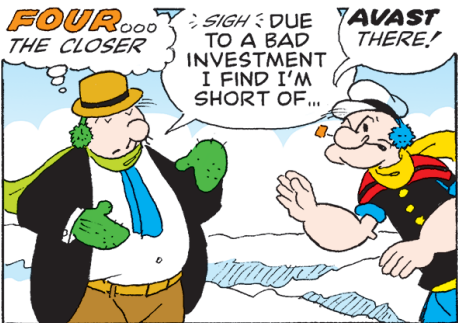
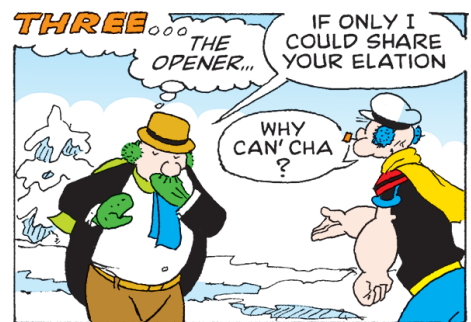
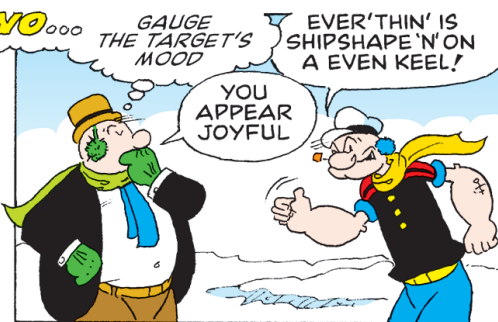
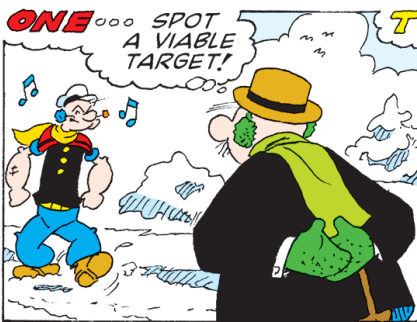
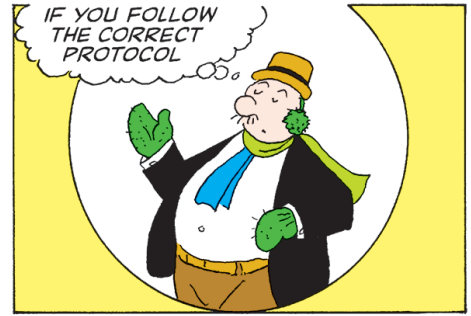
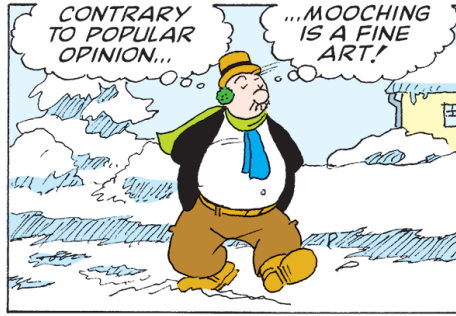
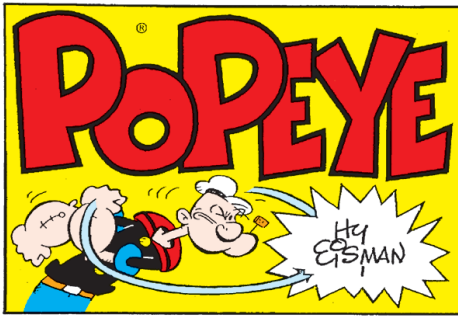
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



# Groton Daily Independent

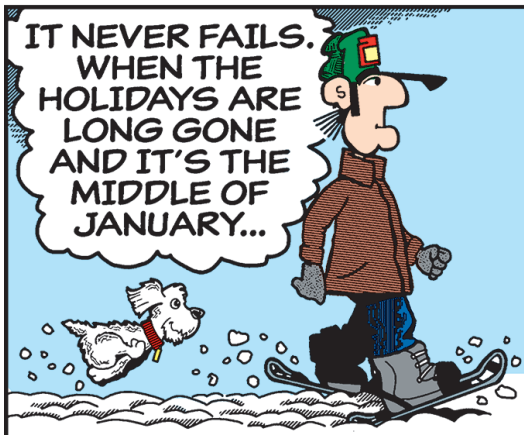
Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 26 of 87



©2022 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



©2022 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 27 of 87

VAL'S SPARRING PARTNER IS THE VICTIM OF A FREAK ACCIDENT. TRAMPLED BY A HORSE, HE IS BORNE OFF BY FELLOW SQUIRES.

Hal Foster's  
**Prince Valiant**  
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ

DID HE PRESS HIS DUELING OPPONENT TOO HARD? HE FEELS DRACO'S REPROACHFUL GLARE ...

... BUT IT IS THE ACCUSING EYES OF THE SQUIRES THAT HURT MOST. DO ALL FEEL HE IS SOMEHOW TO BLAME?



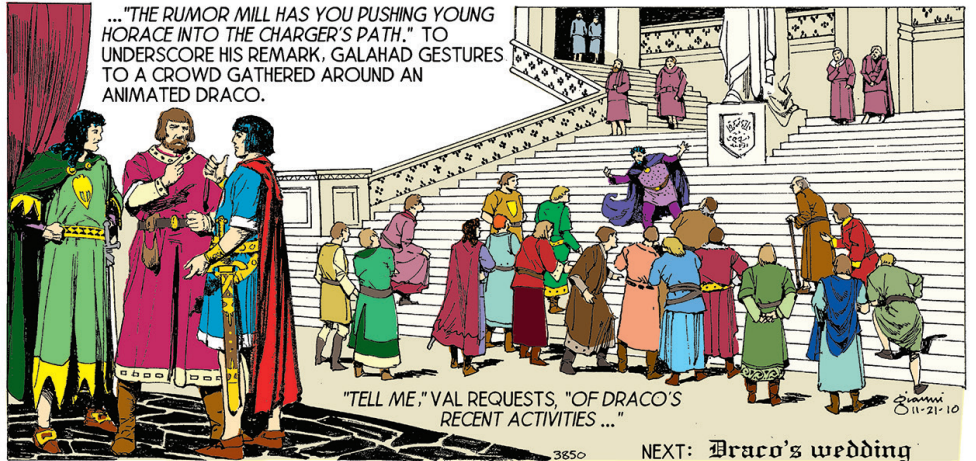
ALTHOUGH VAL IS NOT AT FAULT, HE FEELS MISERABLE.



©2010 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



THE NEXT DAY, THE CONCERNED GAWAIN AND GALAHAD APPROACH VAL. "YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THE TELLING OF YESTERDAY'S EVENTS HAS GROWN UGLY," REPORTS GALAHAD ...



... "THE RUMOR MILL HAS YOU PUSHING YOUNG HORACE INTO THE CHARGER'S PATH." TO UNDERSCORE HIS REMARK, GALAHAD GESTURES TO A CROWD GATHERED AROUND AN ANIMATED DRACO.

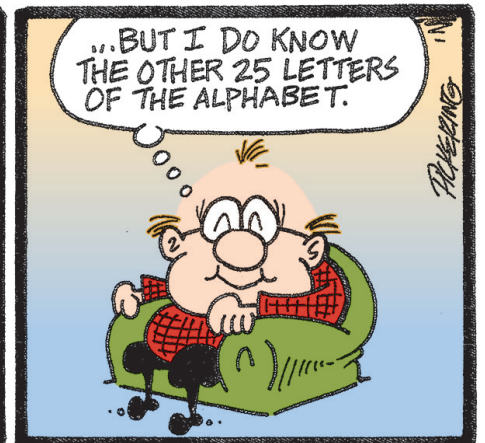
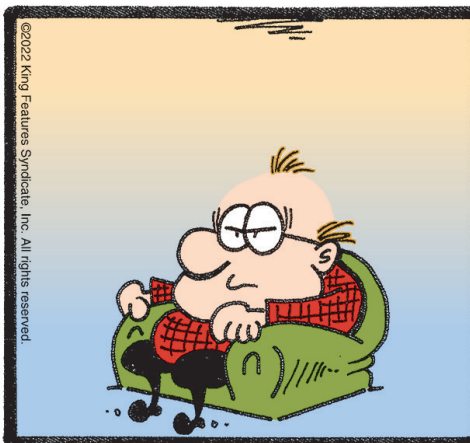
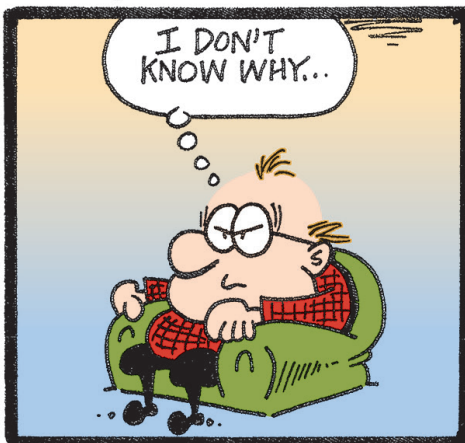
"TELL ME," VAL REQUESTS, "OF DRACO'S RECENT ACTIVITIES ..."

3850

NEXT: Draco's wedding

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### The Rising Costs of Food

It's not over yet. Rising food prices, that is.

The best guess of experts is that food prices are likely to rise 5% in the first half of 2022. This is on top of the average 6.8% rise for all items, as reported by the Consumer Price Index in November for the previous 12 months. That report cited increases for foods such as eggs, meat, poultry and fish topping the list at 12.8%, the highest since 1982.

Which food items do experts point to as likely to see additional price increases? Nearly everything. And what are the reasons for all the increases? That depends on the item. Potatoes are heavy; it costs more to ship them. Mayonnaise comes in a jar; packaging costs have risen.

In other words, if there's a reason, there's an increase.

We're all scrambling to find low-

er food prices. If you have one of the warehouses clubs near you, it might be worth joining. Costco and Sam's Club will charge you for an annual membership, but over the course of a year, it might be worth it. Your biggest hurdle, however, will be calculating whether you can actually use up the foods before they expire. Nearly everything comes in a mega bulk size.

One benefit is that you can buy more than food in those stores — including tires, furniture, books, jewelry and much more — which keeps you from needing to go into multiple stores to get the things you need. Some of the stores have been using curbside pick-up, and some have a discount pharmacy and two-day delivery. All of them have online ordering.

As a test, I just checked the prices of my cereal. If I bought several large boxes, I would save over \$2 per box, compared with my local grocery store. I'm tempted to sign up.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 29 of 87

1. Name the NASCAR Hall of Famer who in 1963 became the first Black driver to win a race in NASCAR's premier Grand National Series.

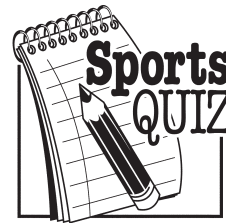
2. What Panamanian jockey amassed 9,530 career wins, including one at the Kentucky Derby (1984) and three straight at the Belmont Stakes (1982-84)?

3. What NFL franchise played its first season in 1967 but did not have a winning campaign until it finished 12-3 in the strike-shortened 1987 season?

4. What New York Yankees lefthanded pitcher was named AL Rookie of the Year in 1981 and threw a no-hitter on July 4, 1983?

5. What name did the NBA's Washington Wizards franchise have when it was established in 1961?

6. Federation Internationale des



by Ryan A. Berenz

Echecs (FIDE) is the global governing body of what game?

7. Name the Denver Nuggets coach who was fined and suspended for ordering his team to stop playing defense during a 156-113 loss to the Sacramento Kings in November 1983.

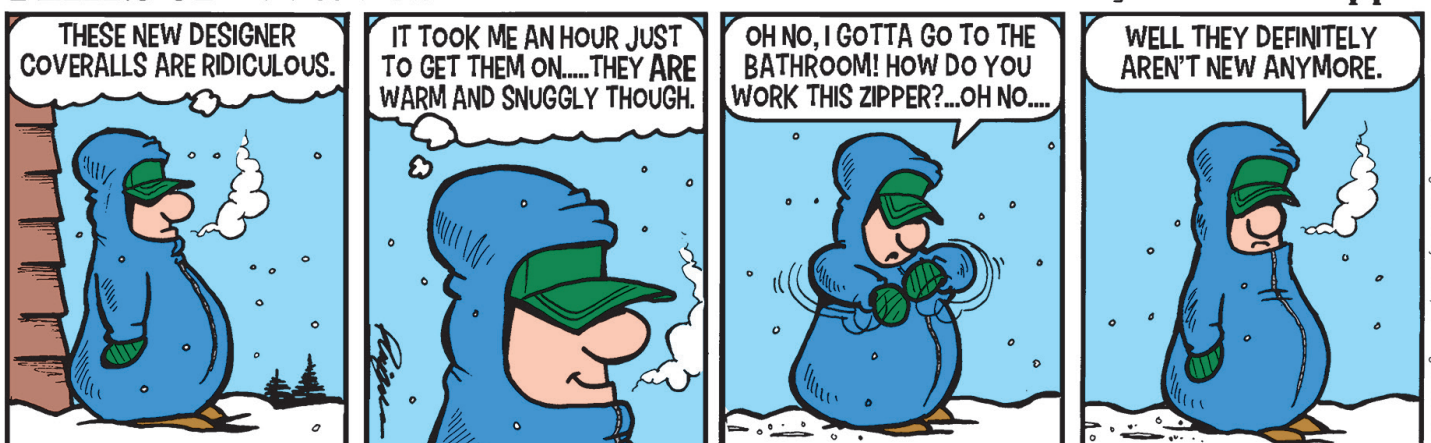
## Answers

1. Wendell Scott.
2. Laffit Pincay Jr.
3. The New Orleans Saints.
4. Dave Righetti.
5. The Chicago Packers.
6. Chess.
7. Doug Moe.

© 2022 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



©2022 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.



## Locating Pet's Favorite Food May Be More Difficult - Here's Some Alternatives

**Dear Paws:** Lately it has been nearly impossible to find my dog's favorite brand of dry food. He likes it, and it offers the kind of nutrition I want him to have, especially lots of protein. My supply at home is running low. Do you have any suggestions for supplementing my dog's nutrition with something else until his favorite food is back in stock? — *Casey H., Bar Harbor, Maine*

Dear Casey: Supplementing is the right choice to stretch his dry food supply. What I'd recommend first is to contact his veterinarian to talk about his current diet and figure out ways to continue providing the nutrients rec-

ommended to keep him healthy. Vets can offer advice on a good balance of pet foods to give him, as well as ways to entice your dog to eat if he turns his nose up at other dog food brands.

Consider adding freshly cooked ingredients to his dinner dish, such as beef or boneless chicken thighs — baked or braised, with no savory elements added like onions or black pepper. Add calories and more nutrients by mixing in steamed rice, peas and carrots. Cool the food before putting it into his dish. Many pet owners will bulk-prepare fresh food once per week and freeze all but the first couple of days' servings. Mix fresh ingredients with a half-portion of his favorite dry food, or place in separate bowls if he's picky.

Fresh pet food recipes are available online, too. The Dog Bakery ([tinyurl.com/mrxbkrkc](http://tinyurl.com/mrxbkrkc)) has several easy, tasty recipes that add salmon, turkey, brown rice and more to the mix. Rover has a good, basic guide to safely feeding fresh foods to pets. ([tinyurl.com/2p-8w3taw](http://tinyurl.com/2p-8w3taw)) And here's a handy guide on how much fresh food to feed your dog, based on weight. ([tinyurl.com/3pub-8ny5](http://tinyurl.com/3pub-8ny5)) Hang in there!

*Send your tips, comments or questions to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com).*

## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

\* In mid-18th century France, eating potatoes was considered cruel and unusual punishment since they were not only thought of as feed for livestock, but believed to cause leprosy in humans. The fear was so widespread that the French passed a law banning them in 1748.

\* Every year, Americans alone create around one-fifth of the world's trash.

\* Some of the boulevard medians in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, have 8- to 10-foot deep bunkers with toilets in them, originally installed in the 1930s as a convenience for city workers who were out and

about all day without access to a bathroom.

\* According to the head of MI6, if Ian Fleming's iconic hero James Bond were real, he wouldn't be allowed to work for British intelligence due to lack of the required emotional intelligence, respect for the law and teamwork abilities.

\* Colombian pop singer Shakira was rejected for the choir in her Catholic school because her music teacher thought that her vibrato was too strong and that she sounded "like a goat."

\* In 1907, Parisian waiters went on strike for the right to grow a moustache.

\* Cruise control in cars was invented in 1948 by the blind inventor and mechanical engineer Ralph Teetor. The idea was inspired by his frustration with his driver's habit of speeding up and slowing down as he talked.

\* There is a material called FOGBANK, used by the U.S. Department of Energy, the precise nature of which is classified and so top secret and compartmentalized that the government once actually "forgot" how to make it due to a lack of actual records and dwindling institutional knowledge.

\* A sloth takes two weeks to digest the food it's eaten.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "Great thoughts speak only to the thoughtful mind, but great actions speak to all mankind." - Theodore Roosevelt

(c) 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 32 of 87

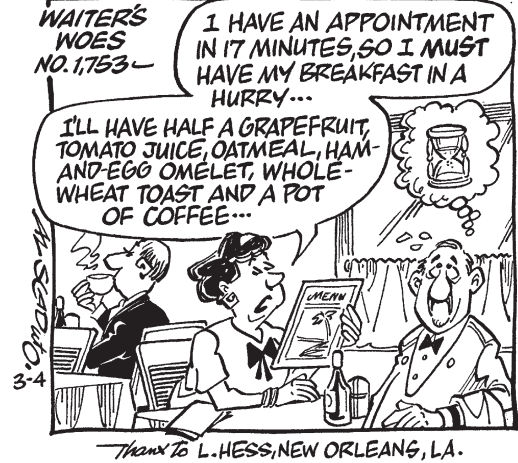
## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

NOTHING LIKE  
A CHEERFUL  
SEND-OFF...



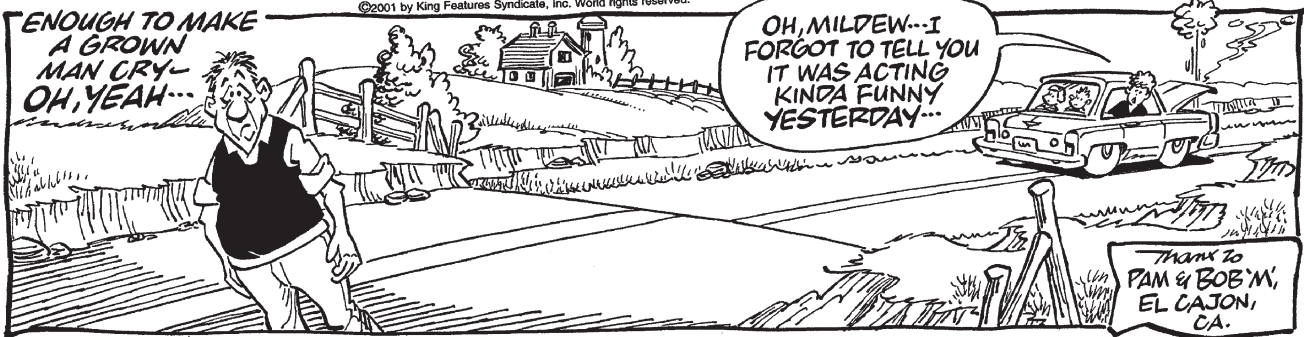
## BY AL SCADUTO

WAITER'S  
WOES  
NO. 1,753--

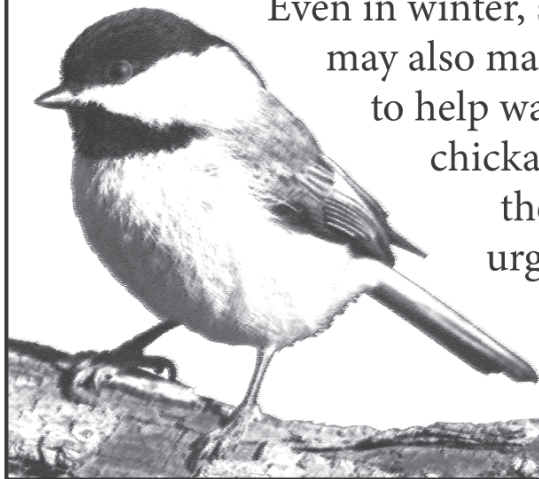


©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

ENOUGH TO MAKE  
A GROWN  
MAN CRY--  
OH, YEAH...



### Winter warnings



If you make soft, repeated “psh-psh-psh” sounds while standing near trees, this is bird-speak for “a predator is coming near.”

Even in winter, some birds may investigate, and may also make a few short calls of their own to help warn of danger. The black-capped chickadee is often the first to respond; they are known to vary the rate or urgency of their calls to convey the distance of the threatening predator. – Brenda Weaver

Source: northernwoodlands.org



## VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

### The VA Versus Covid

The Department of Veteran's Affairs has been battling COVID-19 from the very beginning of the pandemic. The recently released Coronavirus Disease 2019 Response Report Annex B tells just how they've done. The facts are impressive.

So far they've vaccinated 4.3 million people.

The VA was the first federal agency to issue a mandate requiring all VA employees who work in health care to be vaccinated. They beefed up telehealth for veterans at home and those who live in rural areas. This resulted in 2,500% increase of telehealth care visits.

The VA carried out 43 Fourth Mission assignments, improving preparedness on the national, state and local levels. These assignments ranged from admitting 630 civilians to VA medical centers to providing 937,000 pieces of personal protec-

tive equipment such hand sanitizers, wipes, plexiglass isolation stations, webcams, air machines and so much more. Personnel were deployed to all 50 states to provide support at all levels and in all types of capacities, from hands-on medical to logistics to grocery delivery to homebound veterans.

They have processed between 70,000 and 90,000 COVID tests per week.

The VA published over 300 COVID studies, including: a comparison between the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines (Moderna was better), vaccination rates between minorities and white patients (minorities received more vaccines in the VA system while white patients received more vaccines in the civilian population) and Baricitinib plus remdesivir was better than remdesivir by itself, among many other studies.

The VA pulled together pulmonary experts to study long COVID, the long-term symptoms after a COVID infection. It moved early to administer monoclonal antibody therapy and genome sequencing in labs.

If you want to look at the whole 199-page Annex B report, go to [www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/COVID\\_19\\_Response\\_Reports.asp](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/COVID_19_Response_Reports.asp). Annex B is the second addendum to the original Response Report.

What is clear is that VA left no stone unturned in its battle with COVID-19

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 34 of 87



CONGRESSMAN  
**DUSTY JOHNSON**  
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



## One Year...It's Been a Bumpy Ride

This week marked one year since President Biden took office. I wish I could say happy anniversary, but it isn't that happy. Let's be honest, it's been a bumpy ride.

I'm not somebody who just complains. I also focus on solutions, so I'm going to identify four areas where I think this administration has failed and how we can do a better job as a country.

For one, during his first few days in office, President Biden reinstated catch and release policies and ended the Remain in Mexico policy put in place by President Trump. I support this policy because it significantly decreased illegal border crossings and essentially ended the crisis at the border. In 2021 alone, there were over 1.7 million illegal border crossings. While a federal court recently blocked the administration's action on this policy, I am hoping we will see illegal crossings come down as soon as possible.

Secondly, inflation is higher than it has been at any point in the last 40 years – that's a long time. Because we have a federal government that continues to spend. I'll continue to vote against trillion-dollar package after trillion-dollar package. We're thirty trillion dollars in debt. President Biden should focus on needs as a country rather than on wants.

Rising prices due to inflation have only increased more due to shortages from the supply chain delays. I'm sure many of you have run into issues trying to buy lumber, your favorite items from the grocery store, or furniture for your home. While supply chain disruptions have mostly been caused by COVID-19, the President's administration has not enough steps to reduce the backlogs at American ports.

Foreign flagged ocean carriers have been discriminating against American manufacturing and agriculture products. When I saw how this was affecting businesses in South Dakota, I teamed up with U.S. Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA) to introduce the Ocean Shipping Reform Act (OSRA). OSRA holds these folks accountable and prevents discrimination against American exports. Our bill passed the House in December 2021 and I'm hopeful it will pass the Senate.

Due to the shortage of truck drivers, I've also requested the administration re-up stalled pilot programs put in place by previous administration to expand the number of eligible truck drivers who can drive across state lines.

Speaking of worker shortages, there are currently 10 million job openings in America. The workforce participation rate is the percentage of adult Americans that are working – it's gone down and has not returned to what it was prior to the earliest days of COVID-19 – in fact, it's as low as it has been in any point since women entered the workforce in large numbers. We are still paying people a lot of money not to work. We need a social safety net in this country – I believe in it, but it needs to be one that encourages work. We have a help wanted sign around every corner in every country. Let's get Americans back to work.

There are a lot of strong solutions out there to fix the problems our nation is facing – I'll continue to stay focused on those solutions.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 35 of 87

South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



**South Dakota:** *Under God, the People Rule*

## **In South Dakota, we protect life**

It is no mistake that when Thomas Jefferson declared all men are endowed with the “right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,” LIFE came first. The Constitution clearly delegates defending the lives and safety of the people to the government as its chief role. That includes defending the rights and the lives of unborn children.

In South Dakota, we took great strides toward protecting those lives. The total number of abortions declined more than 80% over the last decade. Credit goes to our legislators, who proved that abortion does not need to be a divisive issue. Last year, we earned unanimous, bipartisan support for my bill to guarantee protections for unborn children with Down syndrome.

But we cannot rest until we protect every unborn life. The Supreme Court has a historic opportunity to make that a reality. As soon as the High Court overturns *Roe v. Wade*, our state laws already in place should protect every unborn South Dakota child. But until then, we can take steps to protect South Dakota children today. And we will do it from the very first heartbeat of every child.

Each human life carries a beautiful uniqueness from the moment that life is conceived. Before long, they have their own unique heartbeat, too. Science tells us that an unborn child’s heart starts beating as early as six weeks after conception. And any abortion after that point stops that heartbeat — stops that life — stops that gift from God.

That gift must be protected. I am bringing a bill this session to ban abortions after a heartbeat has been detected in the womb. This law, similar to the Texas Heartbeat Act, will save lives and ensure that South Dakota remains a staunchly pro-life state.

We must do more to uphold South Dakota’s culture of life, protect the unborn, and defend women against dangerous procedures. That includes stopping the movement toward telemedicine abortions which pose a serious threat to women in our state.

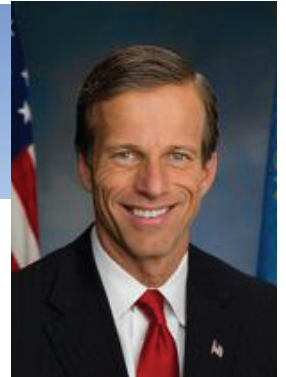
Chemical abortions happen when a woman ends an unborn life with a pill. These unsupervised procedures expose women to four times the risk of ending up in the emergency room.

We all know how important it is to see a doctor, especially when concerned about health risks. Under the Biden Administration, the federal government removes the safeguards that protect women in our country by easing requirements for telemedicine abortion and chemical abortion pill-by-mail. But as the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists warns, an “in-person visit is medically necessary and sound medical practice because it ensures that every woman receives a full evaluation for any contraindications to a medication abortion.” Telemedicine strips away those visits—those safeguards.

I will not stand by while the federal government jeopardizes women’s health. Last year, I signed an executive order banning telemedicine abortions in South Dakota. The legislature approved the rule for our Department of Health to take action immediately. I am bringing legislation to codify this rule permanently into state law. I am asking lawmakers to take action to protect South Dakota women from this dangerous procedure.

We respect life in South Dakota, and I look forward to the day when we protect all unborn lives. Our laws must reflect our values and our commitment to protect the unalienable rights of all of our citizens.

**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## Defending the Defenseless

Each year, I'm encouraged by the tens of thousands of Americans who travel to Washington, D.C., around the Roe v. Wade anniversary to participate in the annual March for Life, and I'm particularly proud of all the South Dakotans who, over the years, have made the trek to our nation's capital to let their voices be heard.

The March for Life, of course, is just one small facet of the pro-life movement, which works every day in this country to offer help and hope to moms in need. But events like this are fundamentally important, because they provide a public witness to the truth about abortion. They remind all of us that in this country we are denying our most vulnerable citizens their most basic right – something that can be all too easy to minimize or ignore. Perhaps most importantly, these marchers, and other people in the movement like them, lead by example to underscore our responsibility to speak up and stand up for unborn babies in this country.

The CDC reports that almost 630,000 babies were killed by abortion in 2019 alone. That number is so big it's almost unfathomable. Sadly, it could be an underestimate as state reporting to CDC on abortions is not required or consistent. To put 630,000 in perspective, that's equivalent to roughly 70 percent of the population of South Dakota – killed in one year.

Abortion advocates would like to obscure the fact that unborn babies are human beings, but they face an uphill battle. Because every person knows, on some level, that when we're talking about abortion, we are talking about killing a human being.

It is reprehensible that a country like ours, dedicated to the defense of human rights, has some of the most extreme abortion laws in the world. The United States is part of a handful of countries that allow elective abortion past 20 weeks of pregnancy. Among those other countries are China and North Korea – not exactly the kind of company we want to be keeping when it comes to protecting human rights.

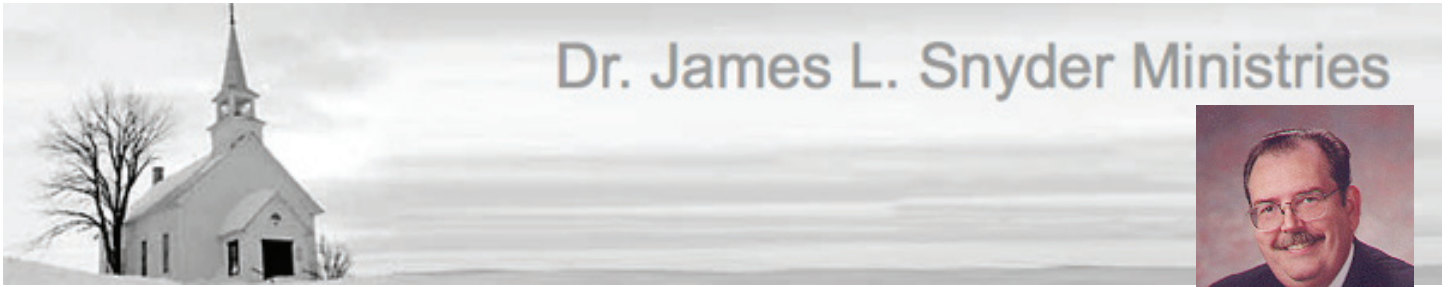
I will continue to work in Washington to protect the right to life of unborn human beings. As we anticipate the Supreme Court's ruling on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, I am working with my pro-life colleagues to advance legislation like the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act and the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. It is unthinkable that the law allows unborn babies who are capable of feeling pain to be killed by abortion. I've co-sponsored this legislation in previous Congresses, and I will continue to be a fierce advocate for it until the day we can get it signed into law.

I am proud to stand beside all those who work so hard to secure the right to life of unborn Americans. I know that it is not always easy. But I am confident that in the end, right and justice will prevail. Because we have the truth on our side – the truth that every human being, born and unborn, old or young, of every race and religion and political persuasion, is created in the image and likeness of God and has infinite dignity and value.

I will be keeping all birth mothers and children in my prayers, and I hope you'll join me.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 37 of 87



## What Did She Just Say?

To be honest, I don't always hear what I'm supposed to hear. I do have ears, but sometimes they are not working in such a way as to benefit me.

Often, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will talk to me about something, and then at the end of that, she will ask me a question of which I have no idea what the answer would be. I did hear her talking; I just did not hear what she was saying.

That's why I say, "Yes, dear," to knock her off her game, thinking that I heard what she said.

Often, when I come home, as soon as I come through the door, she will say, "Did you stop and get what I told you to get at the grocery store?"

Now I'm in a situation where I have to explain why I didn't stop and get what she wanted me to get. I cannot let her know that I did not hear her say that nor that I did not remember what she said. So that, as you well know, gets me into some very serious problems, problems that I certainly do not want to deal with on any day of the week.

I must confess that when anybody, not just my wife, is talking to me, I'm not 100% on target. So I can get the gist of what you're saying but I'm thinking of something else or, I'm thinking of the answer I'm going to give as soon as you stop talking.

However, with the wife, it is an entirely different situation.

Not only do I need to hear what she is saying, but I also need to understand what she is saying. That is perhaps the most challenging aspect of listening. I can hear, but I don't always understand what I am hearing.

It's not that I am mentally challenged, but I just don't go through the proper thought process to the point of understanding. And when a wife is talking to her husband, that thought process is greatly challenged, if you know what I mean?

Frequently she will say, "Are you paying attention to me?"

One time, and only once, I said, "I'm too poor to pay attention."

That didn't get me very far in that situation. I think of it many times, but I don't speak it.

Paying attention is very expensive in many regards, but not paying attention is much more costly.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 38 of 87

I've been trying to save up some money recently so I can afford to pay attention to more things she is saying.

I've researched this and discovered why I have this problem. According to my research, the average woman speaks 20,000 words a day while the average man only speaks 7000 words a day. I'm not sure where they come up with those figures but I think it's pretty close to the real thing.

I know the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage speaks more than 20,000 words a day, but I can only handle 7000 words. That means two-thirds of what she says I do not hear, which explains why I get in trouble most of the time.

There has to be a way in which she can come down with her speaking, and I can come up with my hearing. I'm not quite sure how this would work, but I'm thinking about it.

In my thinking about this, I thought maybe it would be a good idea if the politicians would pass a law limiting how many words a person can speak each day. Then, as I was thinking about this, politicians say ten times more words than anybody in the world. So there is no way they would do anything to curb the speaking in our country.

The only qualification for politicians is that they can speak faster than they can think. But, of course, the big challenge would be to find a politician who can actually think.

Then something happened recently that caught me off guard. I'm not sure exactly what was going on or what the situation was that my wife was speaking in. I couldn't keep up with every word, but I heard it, and at the end of her little speech, these traumatizing words, "You are right."

I've never heard such language from her all the time we've been married. I can't remember what she was talking about at the time. I'm a little hesitant about asking her what I was right on that I have been tempted lately to ask her that question.

It would mean the world to me if I knew exactly what she thought I was right about. I'm sure that would change my whole life in one way or another. Because if she thinks I'm right about something, it must be true.

Lately, I've been trying to listen more intently to see if I can find out what I was right about according to her understanding. So far, I've not been too successful hearing anything along that line. It could've been a once-in-a-lifetime comment that will never happen again.

I remember a verse of Scripture that helps me understand this. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).

For me, the basis of unity is listening and hearing what the other person is saying. But, as hard as it might be, it's an essential part of unity in any relationship.

## Groton Robotics Pancake Feed

Sponsored by Groton Lions Club

Sunday, January 30, 2022

10:00am-1:00pm

Groton Community Center



Pancakes, Sausage, Coffee, Milk and Juice will be served!

Free will donation!

Proceeds will go to Groton Robotics.



*Carnival of Silver Skates performing at 2pm & 6:30pm!*

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 40 of 87

## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: What's up with all the debate lately as to the flow allowed in new showerheads?

—Bill G., New York, NY

The shower is a place of rejuvenation and relaxation for many of us, but it is also a big water hog, accounting for roughly 17 percent of the average U.S. household's water usage. Of course, we use a lot less water in our showers nowadays thanks to a Clinton-era law mandating that new showerheads sold in the U.S. could not top a flow rate of 2.5 gallons per minute (GPM). While some showerhead manufacturers attempted to circumvent these new restrictions by utilizing multiple nozzles, the federal government eventually revised the legislation (in 2013) to limit entire fixtures to 2.5 GPM.



**The Biden administration recently restored a Clinton-era rule mandating all new showerheads sold in the U.S. adhere to water-saving "low-flow" standards.**

Credit: pexels.com.

During his term in the White House, Donald Trump often complained about his dissatisfaction with the water pressure in his showers. In December 2020 Trump reversed the Obama-era amendment; this restored the federal limit of 2.5 GPM to be applied to individual nozzles instead of the entire fixture. This meant that a shower head with three nozzles would be permitted to use 7.5 GPM.

Although Trump's law did not have a significant impact on the market demand for luxury shower heads, the loophole posed detrimental environmental impacts. Americans take about 200 million showers every day. The Alliance of Water Efficiency estimates that under Trump's rule the country's water usage would increase by 161 billion gallons per year. An increase in water usage also results in more energy use to heat that water, which in turn increases greenhouse gas emissions.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), homes that have switched out older less efficient showerheads with newer models have realized savings of some 2,700 gallons of water per year. This equates to a savings of 330 kilowatt hours of electricity annually, which is enough to power an entire house for 11 days. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) estimates that the average American household stands to save \$500 per year on utility bills after switching to low-flow shower heads. The group estimates that the nationwide transition to lower flow showerheads now underway can generate annual savings of \$2.9 billion in water utilities and \$2.5 billion in energy costs.

Saving water by using a low-flow shower head is a great start, but if you're looking for more ways to maximize your impact, the EPA has a few suggestions. When it comes to appliances, making sure to fix leaks is one easy way to save water. Additionally, whenever you need to run your dishwasher or washing machine, make sure you are optimizing for water- and energy-efficiency by only running it with a full load. Lastly, landscaping is always a talking point when it comes to reducing residential water use. If you have a lawn, it is recommended to save water by replacing it with native plants that don't require additional watering. If you're not ready to part with your lawn, the EPA suggests keeping the grass two to three inches high to ensure the soil retains water, reducing the need for frequent watering.



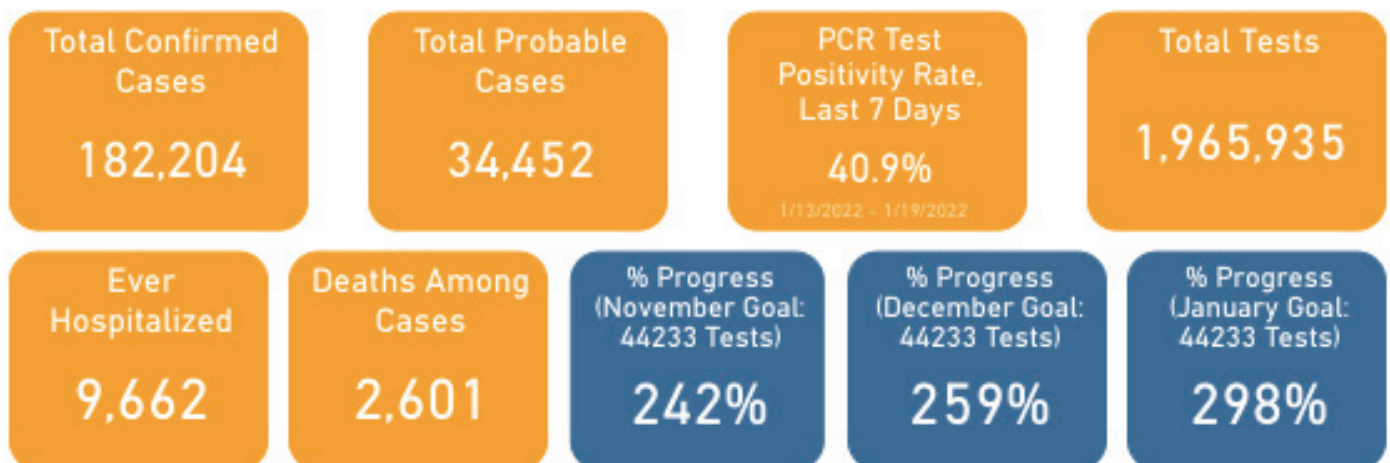
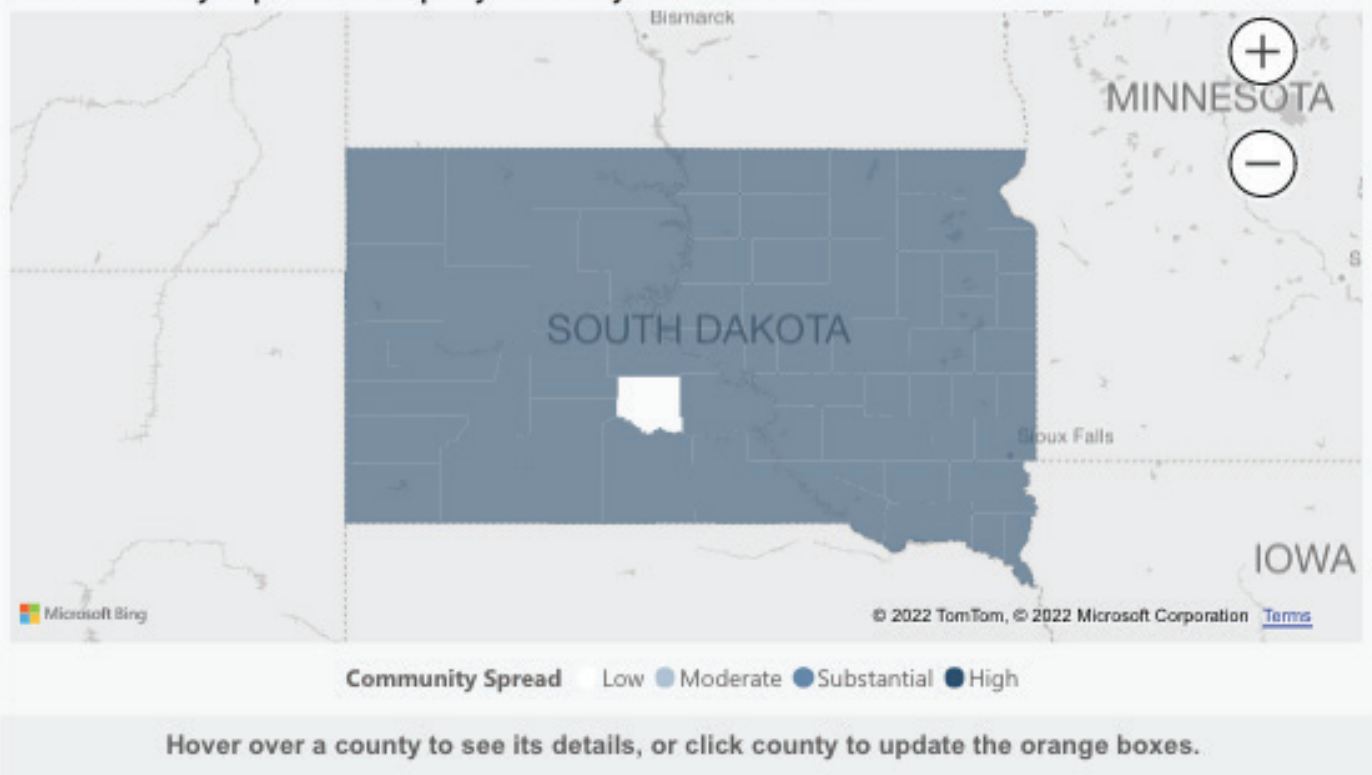
# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 41 of 87

## South Dakota COVID-19 Report



### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



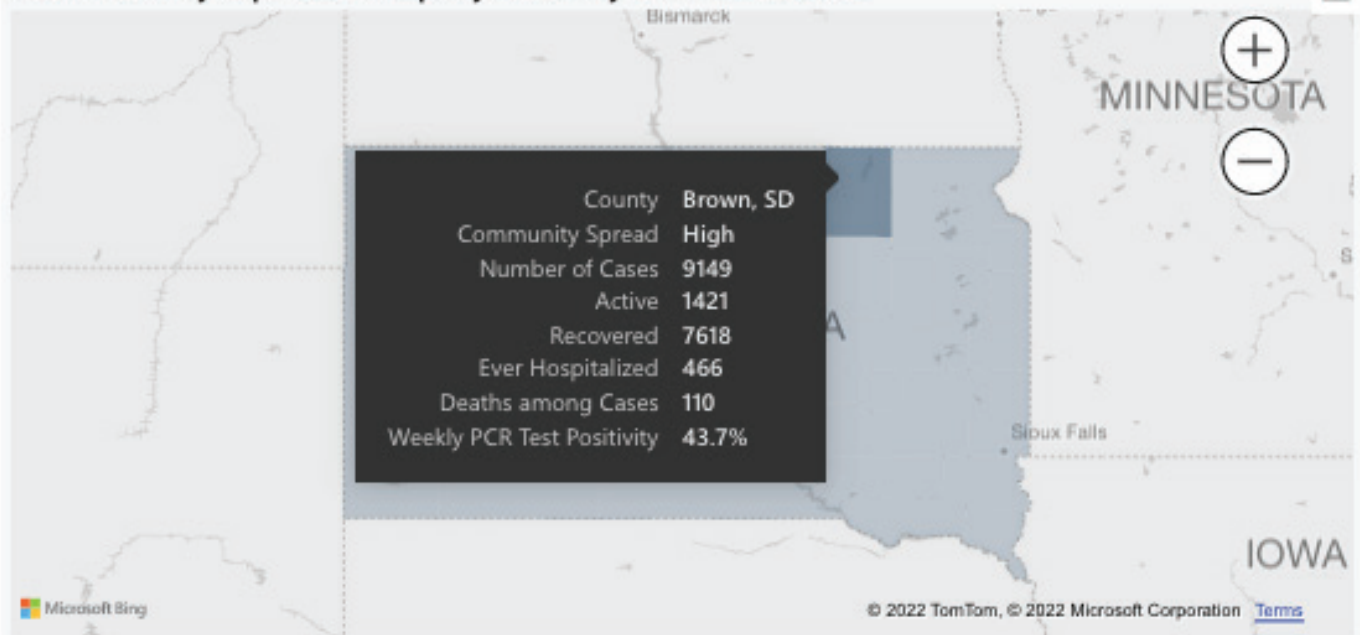
# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 42 of 87

## Brown County COVID-19 Report

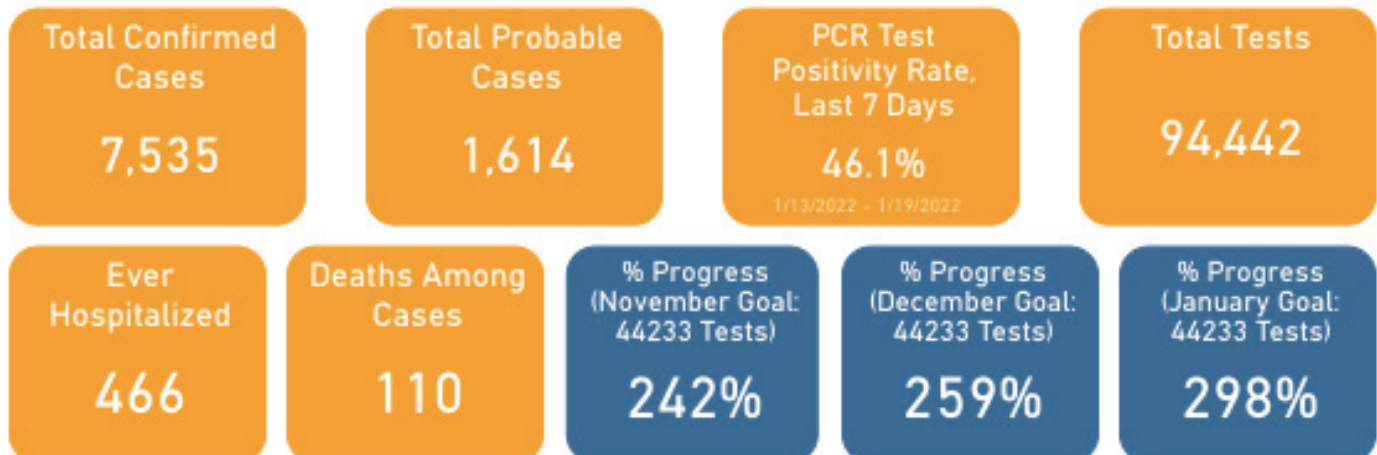


### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread Low Moderate Substantial High

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



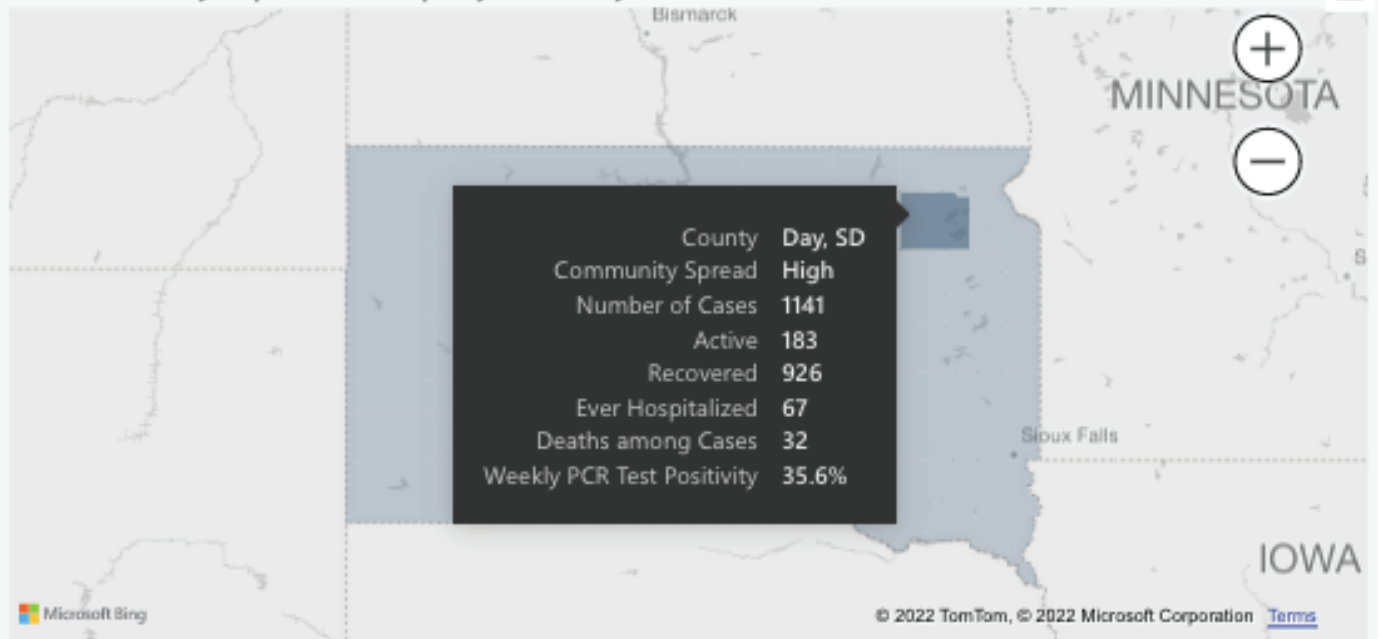
# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 43 of 87

## Day County COVID-19 Report

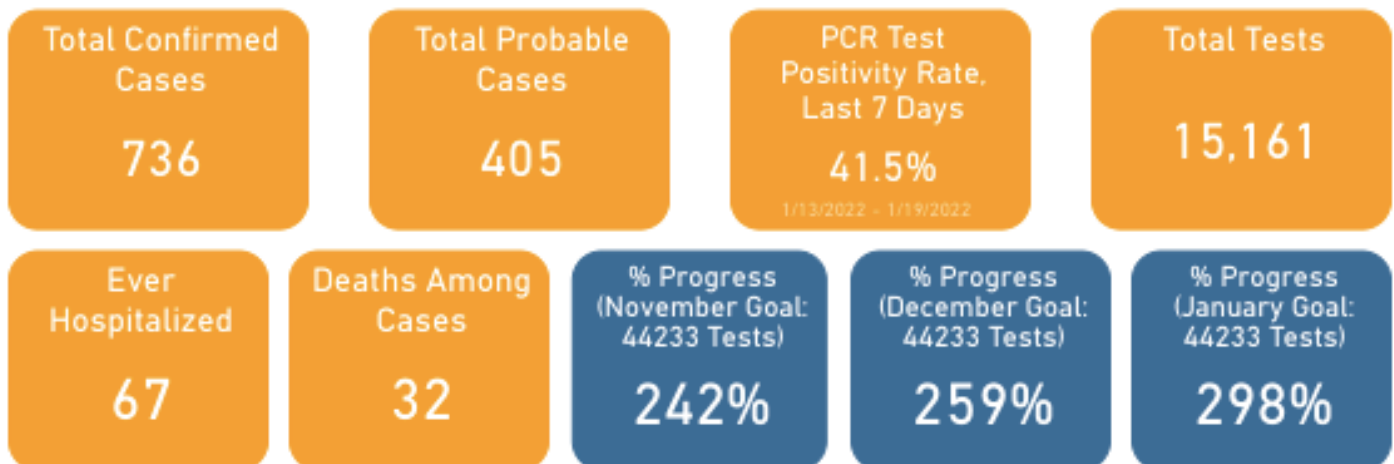


### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread Low Moderate Substantial High

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



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 44 of 87

## COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Currently Hospitalized	<b>+48</b>	397
Deaths Among Cases	<b>+42</b>	2601
Ever Hospitalized		9662
Active Cases		35196
Recovered Cases		178859
Total Cases		216656

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths Among Cases
Female	114073	1187
Male	102583	1414

## VARIANT CASES OF COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

COVID-19 Variant	# of Cases
Delta (B.1.617.2 & AY lineages)	1319
Alpha (B.1.1.7)	176
Omicron (B.1.1.529 & BA lineages)	149
Gamma (P.1)	4
Beta (B.1.351)	2

## AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range with Years	# of Cases	# of Deaths Among Cases
0-9 years	13869	2
10-19 years	26485	0
20-29 years	38267	11
30-39 years	37074	44
40-49 years	30582	69
50-59 years	28048	198
60-69 years	22924	410
70-79 years	11793	601
80+ years	7614	1266

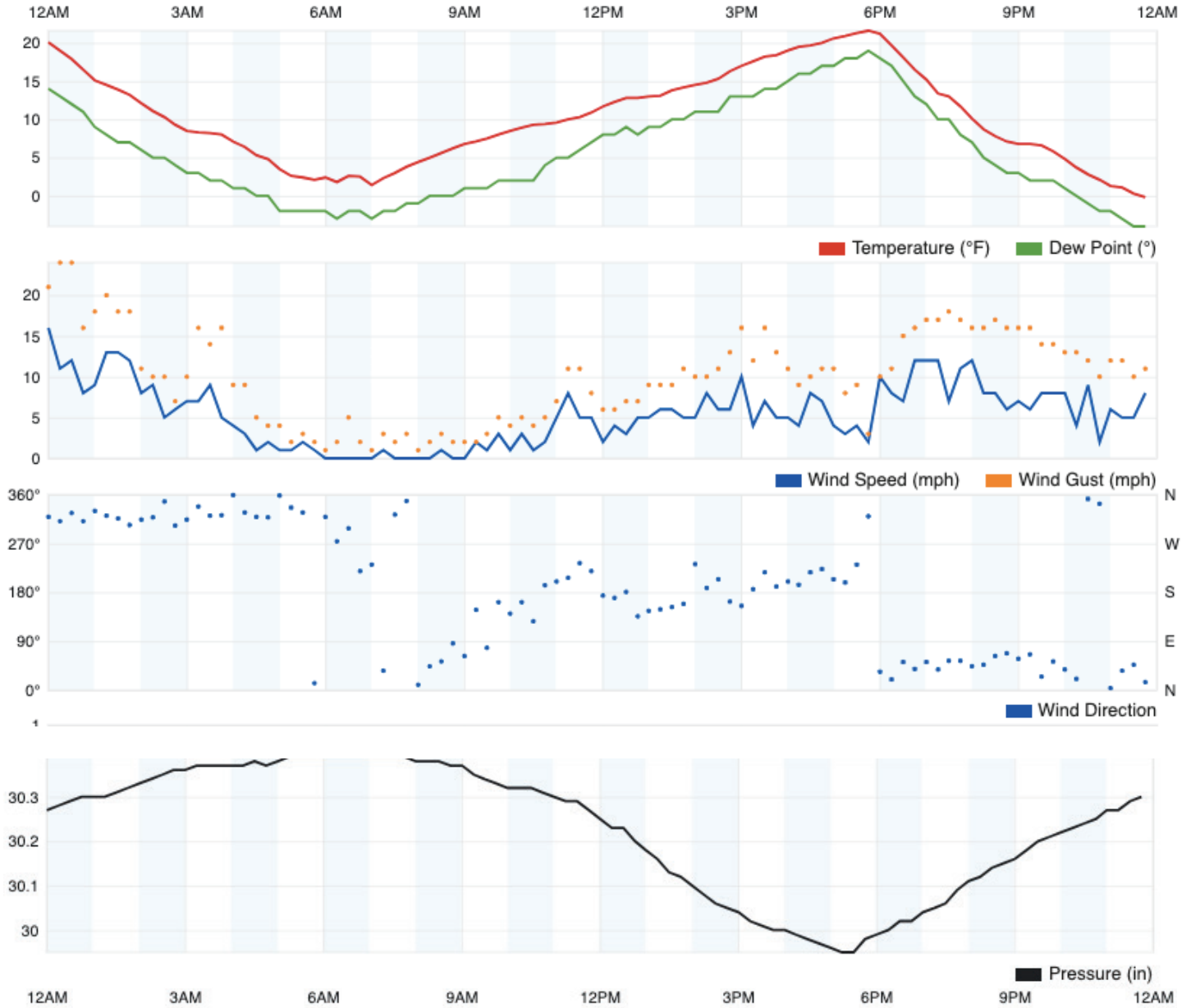
## RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian / Pacific Islander	2910	1%
Black	5387	2%
Hispanic	9133	4%
Native American	26181	12%
Other	2249	1%
Unknown	5660	3%
White	165136	76%

# Groton Daily Independent



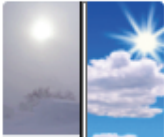


Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 45 of 87

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



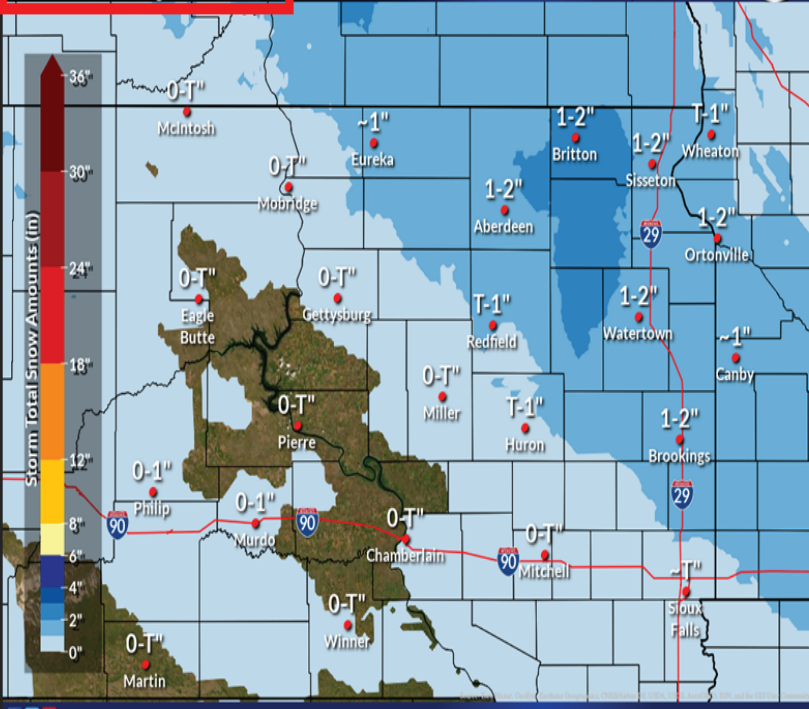
# Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 46 of 87

Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
70% → 30%	40% → 70%	10%		
Snow Likely then Chance Snow	Chance Snow then Snow Likely	Patchy Blowing Snow and Blustery then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Cold
High: 29 °F	Low: 5 °F	High: 10 °F ↓	Low: -13 °F	High: 2 °F

## Yet More Bouts Of Light Snow Today / Monday

**Expected Snowfall - Official NWS Forecast**  
Valid Sun 6:00AM through Mon 6:00PM CST  
Weather Forecast Office Aberdeen, SD  
Issued Jan 23, 2022 2:36 AM CST



### What & When

- 1.) Area of **Light Snow** develops across North Dakota late this morning.
- 2.) Snow moves southeast into eastern South Dakota & western Minnesota before continuing on to the east this evening.
- 3.) Another area of **Light Snow** comes down out of North Dakota this evening and moves south across the state. A **wintry mix** is possible with this. Precip lingers into Monday.

### Impacts

Slick roads are the main concern with these systems.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
www.weather.gov Updated: 1/23/2022 3:07 AM CT

We will have another couple of rounds of light snow in store for the area. Temperatures will recover somewhat late today - so some of this precipitation may fall as a mix.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 47 of 87

## Today in Weather History

January 23, 1969: Intermittent freezing rain on the 20th to the 22nd changed to snow on the 22nd, which continued through the 24th. Snowfall of 2 to 6 inches fell across Minnesota and far northeast South Dakota. Blizzard conditions developed on the 23rd and 24th with 30 to 45 mph winds and temperatures dropping to below zero by the 24th. Most of the traffic was halted, with many roads blocked from snow drifting. Some rural roads had been blocked for 3 to 4 weeks. Stranded motorists were common in the area. Some snowfall amounts included 2 inches at Wilmot and Victor, 3 inches at Milbank and Artichoke Lake, and 4 inches at Clear Lake.

1556: An earthquake in Shaanxi, China, kills an estimated 830,000 people. The estimated 8.0 to 8.3 magnitude earthquake struck in the middle of a densely populated area where many homes were a form of an earth shelter dwelling known as a yaodong. Much is known about this disaster as a scholar named Qin Keda survived the earthquake and recorded the details. Click [HERE](#) for more information about Qin Keda from the Science Museum of China. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

1780 - The coldest day of the coldest month of record in the northeastern U.S. A British Army thermometer in New York City registered a reading of 16 degrees below zero. During that infamous hard winter the harbor was frozen solid for five weeks, and the port was cut off from sea supply. (David Ludlum)

1812: A second major series of earthquakes was felt as part of the New Madrid Shocks of the winter of 1811-1812. Many observers reported that the January 23 shocks were as strong as the main earthquake on December 16th of the preceding year. Click [HERE](#) for more information from Britannica.

1916: Browning, Montana, saw the temperature plummet 100 degrees in 24 hours on January 23-24, from a relatively mild 44 to a bone-chilling 56 degrees below zero.

1969: An F4 tornado cut a 120-mile long path from Jefferson through Copiah, Simpson, Smith, Scott, and Newton Counties in Mississippi, killing 32 and injuring 241 others. Property damage was estimated at \$2 million. An inbound Delta Airlines aircraft reported a hook echo on its scope with this storm.

1971: Alaska, and the US, lowest official temp, -80F (-62.2C), was set at Prospect Creek, a Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline construction camp. Fun fact: the low was initially recorded as -79F but adjusted after thermometer calibration.

1987 - Strong winds ushered bitterly cold air into the north central U.S., and produced snow squalls in the Great Lakes Region. Snowfall totals in northwest Lower Michigan ranged up to 17 inches in Leelanau County. Wind chill temperatures reached 70 degrees below zero at Sault Ste Marie MI and Hibbing MN. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Northeastern Colorado experienced its most severe windstorm in years. A wind gust to 92 mph was recorded at Boulder CO before the anemometer blew away, and in the mountains, a wind gust to 120 mph was reported at Mines Peak. The high winds blew down a partially constructed viaduct east of Boulder, as nine unanchored concrete girders, each weighing forty-five tons, were blown off their supports. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Low pressure brought heavy snow to Wyoming, with 18 inches reported at the Shoshone National Forest, and 17 inches in the Yellowstone Park area. Gunnison CO, with a low of 19 degrees below zero, was the cold spot in the nation for the twelfth day in a row. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - A Pacific cold front brought strong and gusty winds to the northwestern U.S. Winds in southeastern Idaho gusted to 62 mph at Burley. Strong winds also prevailed along the eastern slopes of the northern and central Rockies. Winds in Wyoming gusted to 74 mph in Goshen County. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

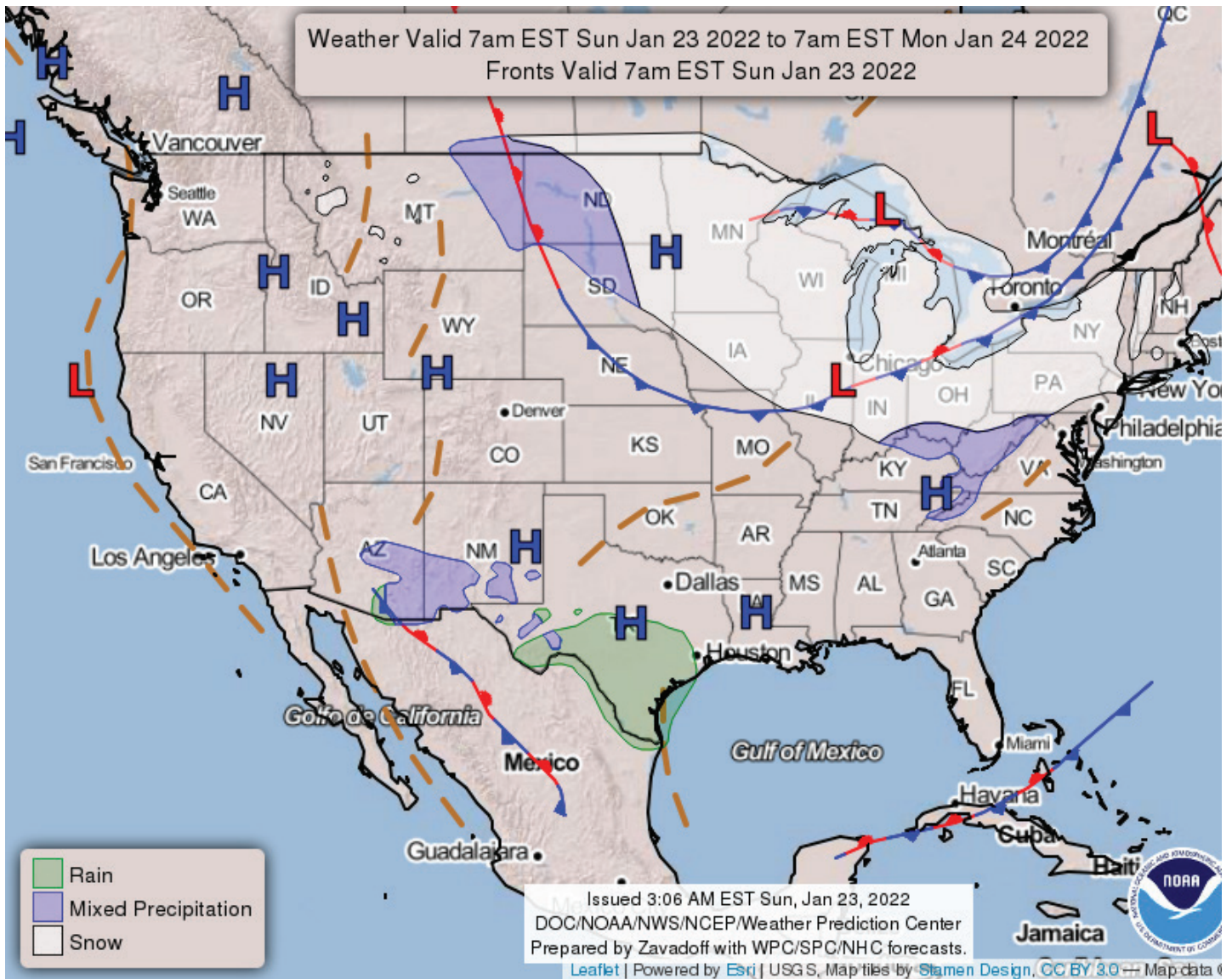
# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 48 of 87

## Yesterday's Groton Weather      Today's Info

**High Temp: 22 °F at 5:46 PM**  
**Low Temp: -1 °F at 11:59 PM**  
**Wind: 24 mph at 12:10 AM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

**Record High: 60 in 1981**  
**Record Low: -34 in 1897**  
**Average High: 24°F**  
**Average Low: 1°F**  
**Average Precip in Jan.: 0.42**  
**Precip to date in Jan.: 0.43**  
**Average Precip to date: 0.42**  
**Precip Year to Date: 0.43**  
**Sunset Tonight: 5:27:58 PM**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:59:41 AM**





# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 49 of 87



## Speaking Of Death...

Not many of us enjoy the topic of death. In fact, for most of us, it is a topic that we avoid until it is necessary. But the author of Psalm 116 made a rather significant statement that Christians can rely on with assurance, confidence and the hope that comes from being born again.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." What might this mean? We know that God is in control of our lives and everything that happens to the Christian. Nothing happens by chance because He is ultimately responsible for every event in our lives from our birth until our death. All of us have our obligation to Him, and until our work is finished, death will not overtake us!

This verse also speaks of God's compassion. The word "precious" means "costly" or "dear." The death of a Christian is an object of great value to our Lord. All throughout our lives we have been born into the Kingdom of God and have His guardian angels surrounding us. Their very last responsibility is to carry us to be with Him eternally.

Another gracious implication in this verse is the consequences of death. There will be no more sadness or sorrow or suffering. We will be free from our worries and woes. When we are with our Lord, we will enjoy the peace of His presence and the joy of being reunited with our family and friends. There will be no more feelings of separation or loneliness, and the longings of our hearts will be complete with the promise of life with Him.

Prayer: How great is the hope in our hearts, Heavenly Father, as we anticipate being with You forever. Save us and hold us, we pray. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: – Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. Psalm 116:15

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 50 of 87

## 2022 Community Events

- 01/30/2022 84th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)  
01/30/2022 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed, 10am – 1pm, Groton Community Center, 109 N 3rd St, Groton,  
04/09/2022 Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)  
Dueling Pianos Baseball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39 6-11:30pm  
04/23/2022 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)  
04/24/2022 Princess Prom 4:30-8pm (Sunday after GHS Prom)  
05/07/2022 Lions Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sales 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)  
St John's Lutheran Church VBS 9-11am  
05/30/2022 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)  
Transit Fundraiser at the Community Center 4-7pm (Thursday Mid-June)  
SDSU Alumni & Friends Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 12pm Start  
Ladies Invitational at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Registration 10am Start  
07/04/2022 Firecracker Couples Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Registration, 10am Start  
(4th of July)  
07/10/2022 Lions Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)  
Dacotah Bank Back To School Supply Drive  
Professional Management Services Check-R-Board Days  
Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar 11am-1pm at the Groton Legion  
Baseball Tourney  
Pro Am Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course  
Ferney Open Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start  
How can we... "Love Groton"? United Methodist Church 9:30am  
Moonlight Swim at the Swimming Pool 9-11pm for 9th grade to age 20  
Golf Fundraiser Lunch at Olive Grove Golf Course 11a-1pm  
JVT School Supply Drive  
Wine on Nine at Olive Grove Golf Course 6pm  
United Methodist Church VBS 5-8pm  
Groton Firemen Summer Splash Day 4-5pm GHS Parking Lot  
09/10/2022 Lions Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)  
6th Annual Doggie Day at the Swimming Pool 3:30-5pm  
Couples Sunflower Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 12pm  
Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport  
10/14/2022 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am (2nd Friday in October)  
10/01/2022 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm  
10/31/2022 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm (working day on or closest to Halloween)  
10/31/2022 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm  
11/12/2022 Legion Post #39 Turkey Party 6:30pm (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)  
11/24/2022 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm (Thanksgiving)  
Tour of Homes & Holiday Party at Olive Grove Golf Course  
Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9am-12pm

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 51 of 87

## 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)



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 52 of 87

News from the  Associated Press

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

02-07-10-11-30

(two, seven, ten, eleven, thirty)

Estimated jackpot: \$64,000

Lotto America

11-27-29-35-46, Star Ball: 9, ASB: 3

(eleven, twenty-seven, twenty-nine, thirty-five, forty-six; Star Ball: nine; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$6.6 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$396 million

Powerball

08-14-33-36-67, Powerball: 17, Power Play: 2

(eight, fourteen, thirty-three, thirty-six, sixty-seven; Powerball: seventeen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$76 million

## Archambault lifts South Dakota over St. Thomas (MN) 90-79

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Mason Archambault scored a career-high 27 points as South Dakota defeated St. Thomas (MN) 90-79 on Saturday night. Kruz Perrott-Hunt added 22 points for the Coyotes.

Archambault made 6 of 9 3-pointers. Perrott-Hunt also had seven rebounds.

Tasos Kamateros had 14 points for South Dakota (11-7, 4-3 Summit League), which earned its fourth straight victory. Boogie Anderson added 13 points.

Riley Miller tied a season high with 24 points for the Tommies (8-10, 2-4). Anders Nelson added 19 points and six rebounds. Brooks Allen had 13 points.

## Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL=

Aberdeen Roncalli 52, Milbank 18

Belle Fourche 69, Bowman County, N.D. 47

Bon Homme 49, Alcester-Hudson 40

Brandon Valley 52, Aberdeen Central 24

Clark/Willow Lake 51, Wilmot 42

Deubrook 56, Canistota 17

Elk Point-Jefferson 54, Dell Rapids 47

Faith 55, Dupree 35

Great Plains Lutheran 52, Iroquois/Doland 34

Gregory 57, Gayville-Volin 49

Harding County 62, Timber Lake 43

Herreid/Selby Area 47, Stanley County 18

Huron 53, Sturgis Brown 46

Langford 41, North Central Co-Op 36

Lemmon 51, Bison 39

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 53 of 87

Lyman 55, Sunshine Bible Academy 24  
Mitchell 48, Spearfish 40  
Rapid City Central 43, Watertown 24  
Rapid City Stevens 64, Brookings 35  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 69, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 35  
Sisseton 63, Redfield 33  
Tiospaye Topa 52, McIntosh 24  
Wessington Springs 69, Marty Indian 34

## BOYS PREP BASKETBALL=

Bon Homme 55, Alcester-Hudson 49  
Bowman County, N.D. 72, Belle Fourche 71  
Brandon Valley 52, Aberdeen Central 43  
Chester 50, Beresford 42  
Elk Point-Jefferson 74, Dell Rapids 67  
Flandreau 56, Parker 47  
Great Plains Lutheran 80, Iroquois/Doland 39  
Gregory 65, Gayville-Volin 35  
Huron 51, Sturgis Brown 45  
Langford 52, North Central Co-Op 26  
Little Wound 75, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 68  
Mitchell 76, Spearfish 56  
Oelrichs 59, St. Francis Indian 39  
Rapid City Christian 52, Red Cloud 49  
Rapid City Stevens 54, Brookings 42  
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 66, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 60  
Sisseton 64, Redfield 53  
Stanley County 49, Herreid/Selby Area 34  
Wall 79, New Underwood 58  
Watertown 59, Rapid City Central 43  
DVC Classic=  
Arlington 69, Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley, Minn. 50  
Castlewood 67, Canistota 52  
Colman-Egan 52, Ortonville, Minn. 45  
Dawson-Boyd, Minn. 68, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 48  
Deubrook 45, Pipestone, Minn. 40  
Elkton-Lake Benton 63, Hills-Beaver Creek, Minn. 51  
Menno 45, Lake Preston 43  
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 63, Dell Rapids St. Mary 52  
Scotland 48, Estelline/Hendricks 45  
Hanson Corn Palace Classic=  
Aberdeen Christian 60, Platte-Geddes 49  
Dakota Valley 48, St. Thomas More 46  
DeSmet 63, White River 49  
Ethan 61, Waubay/Summit 54  
Lyman 58, Bridgewater-Emery 52  
Potter County 69, Hanson 59  
Sioux Valley 63, Tea Area 47  
West Central 68, Clark/Willow Lake 53

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 54 of 87

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

## **S. Dakota St. stays perfect in Summit; topples W. Illinois**

MACOMB, Ill. (AP) — Baylor Scheierman scored 17 points and Zeke Mayo and Douglas Wilson scored 15 apiece and South Dakota State remained unbeaten in Summit League play beating Western Illinois 93-75 on Saturday.

Matt Dentlinger's basket broke a 21-all tie, started an 8-0 Jackrabbits (17-4, 8-0) run and South Dakota State led the rest of the way. South Dakota State led 40-29 at halftime and went on to a 53-point second half.

Alex Arians and reserve Luke Appell each scored 13 for the Jackrabbits.

Trenton Massner scored 24 points, reserve George Dix scored 12 and Tamell Pearson 10 for the Leathernecks (12-7, 3-4).

## **Man arrested for DUI after crashing vehicle into police car**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A man was arrested for DUI after his vehicle struck a Sioux Falls Police car.

The Argus Leader reports it happened about 1:20 a.m. Friday.

Police say an officer saw a vehicle driving the wrong way and turned on his lights, waiting for the vehicle to stop.

Police say the officer's squad car was going about 5 mph when it was struck by the other vehicle that estimated to be going about 25 mph.

The 37-year-old driver of the vehicle was arrested for DUI and other traffic violations. Police say the officer experienced minor knee pain but was not seriously injured.

Police said the driver who was arrested for DUI suffered no injuries.

## **Heavy gunfire reported at Burkina Faso military base**

By SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP) — Heavy gunfire rang out at a military base in Burkina Faso's capital early Sunday, prompting fears that a coup attempt was underway after weeks of growing frustration with the government's handling of the Islamic insurgency wracking the country.

The government put out a statement acknowledging gunfire in army barracks but denying an army take-over of the country. President Roch Marc Christian Kabore has not been detained, according to Defense Minister Aime Barthelemy Simpore.

State broadcaster RTB carried a news headline describing the gunfire as "acts of discontent by soldiers."

"The military hierarchy is working to restore calm and serenity in the barracks," it read. "Contrary to some information, no institution of the republic has been targeted."

The Lamizana Sangoule military barracks was under the control of the mutinous soldiers Sunday morning, with crowds gathering in support of them outside the base. Angry soldiers shot into the air, directing their anger over army casualties at the president.

The soldiers put a man on the phone with The Associated Press who said that they were seeking better working conditions for Burkina Faso's military amid the escalating fight against Islamic militants. Among their demands are increased manpower in the battle against extremists, and better care for those wounded and the families of the dead. The mutinous soldiers also want the military and intelligence hierarchy replaced, he said.

The gunfire comes a day after protesters demanded his resignation at a demonstration in Ouagadougou. Kabore has faced growing opposition since his reelection in November 2020. He fired his prime minister and replaced most of the Cabinet last month.

Violence in the once peaceful West African nation is escalating as attacks linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group increase. Thousands have died in recent years and around 1.5 million people have

been displaced.

## Beijing district orders mass virus testing ahead of Olympics

BEIJING (AP) — People in a Beijing district with some 2 million residents were ordered Sunday to undergo mass coronavirus testing following a series of infections as China tightened anti-disease controls ahead of the Winter Olympics.

The government told people in areas of the Chinese capital deemed at high risk for infection not to leave the city after 25 cases were found in the Fengtai district and 14 elsewhere.

The ruling Communist Party is stepping up enforcement of its “zero tolerance” strategy aimed at isolating every infected person as Beijing prepares to open the Winter Games on Feb. 4 under intensive anti-virus controls.

On Sunday, Fengtai residents lined up on snow-covered sidewalks in freezing weather for testing.

The Chinese capital must “take the most resolute, decisive and strict measures to block the transmission chain of the epidemic,” a city government spokesman, Xu Hejian, told a news conference.

“In principle, personnel in risk areas shall not leave Beijing,” Xu said.

Nationwide, 56 new confirmed infections were reported in the 24 hours through midnight Saturday. The National Health Commission said 37 were believed to have been acquired abroad.

China has reported 4,636 deaths out of 105,603 confirmed cases and seven suspected cases since the pandemic began.

The Olympics are being held under strict controls that are meant to isolate athletes, reporters and officials from the outside world. Athletes are required to be vaccinated or undergo a quarantine after arriving in China.

Other outbreaks prompted the government to impose travel bans on the major cities of Xi’an and Tianjin.

## Seoul says it paid Iran’s delinquent UN dues to restore vote

By ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Using Iranian bank funds freed from American sanctions, South Korea has paid Iran’s \$18 million in delinquent dues owed to the United Nations, Seoul said Sunday. The step was apparently approved by Washington to restore Tehran’s suspended voting rights at the world body.

The South Korean Foreign Ministry said Seoul had paid the sum using Iranian assets frozen in the country after consulting with the United States Treasury — a potential signal of flexibility amid floundering nuclear negotiations.

The ministry said it expected Iran’s voting rights to be restored immediately after their suspension earlier this month for delinquent dues.

Iran’s mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment. But Iran state television’s English-language arm Press TV quoted Iran’s permanent representative to the U.N. as confirming that the dues had been paid and Iran’s voting rights would soon be restored. He did not specify how the money had been paid.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran, as an active member of the United Nations, has always been committed to paying its membership dues on time,” Majid Takht-e Ravanchi said. He expressed outrage at the U.S. for what he called its “brutal and unilateral sanctions against Iran” that have prevented Tehran from gaining access to funds to pay the arrears for the past two years.

The funds had been impounded at Korean banks under sanctions imposed by former President Donald Trump after he withdrew the U.S. from Tehran’s landmark nuclear deal with world powers. The U.S. Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control must grant a license for these transactions under the American banking sanctions imposed on Iran. The Treasury did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the unfrozen funds.

The Biden administration wants to restore the 2015 nuclear deal, which granted Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 56 of 87

Diplomats are now engaged in delicate negotiations to revive the accord in Vienna, although a breakthrough remains elusive as Iran abandons every limitation the deal imposed on its nuclear enrichment. The country now enriches a small amount of to 60% purity — a short, technical step away from weapons grade levels — and spins far more advanced centrifuges than allowed.

Under the United Nations Charter, a nation that owes the previous two full years' worth of dues loses its voting rights at the General Assembly.

A letter from Secretary-General Antonio Guterres circulated earlier this month revealed that Iran was among several delinquent countries on that list, which also includes Venezuela and Sudan. The General Assembly can make exceptions to the rule, determining that some countries face circumstances "beyond the control of the member."

According to the secretary-general's letter, Iran needed to pay a minimum of \$18.4 million to restore its voting rights.

Iran also lost its voting rights in January of last year, prompting Tehran to lash out at the U.S. for imposing crushing sanctions that froze billions of dollars in Iranian funds in banks around the world. Tehran regained voting rights last June after making the minimum payment on its dues.

Iran over the past few years has pressured Seoul to release about \$7 billion in revenues from oil sales that remain frozen in South Korean banks since the Trump administration tightened sanctions on Iran.

The frozen funds hang in the balance as diplomats struggle to revive the nuclear deal. Senior South Korean diplomats including Choi Jong Kun, the first vice foreign minister, flew to Vienna this month to discuss the fate of the assets with their Iranian counterparts.

## Talks with Taliban begin in Norway

By DAVID KEYTON Associated Press

OSLO, Norway (AP) — A Taliban delegation led by acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi on Sunday started three days of talks in Oslo with Western government officials and Afghan civil society representatives amid a deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

The closed-door meetings are taking place at a hotel in the snow-capped mountains above the Norwegian capital. The first day will see Taliban representatives meeting with women's rights activists and human rights defenders from Afghanistan and from the Afghan diaspora.

Before the talks, the Taliban's deputy minister of culture and information tweeted a voice message he said was from Muttaqi, expressing hope for "a good trip full of achievements" and thanking Norway, a country he said he hopes will become "a gateway for a positive relationship with Europe."

The trip is the first time since the Taliban took over the country in August that their representatives have held official meetings in Europe. Earlier, they traveled to Russia, Iran, Qatar, Pakistan, China and Turkmenistan.

During the talks, Muttaqi is certain to press the Taliban's demand that nearly \$10 billion frozen by the United States and other Western countries be released as Afghanistan faces a precarious humanitarian situation.

The United Nations has managed to provide for some liquidity and allowed the new administration to pay for imports, including electricity, but warned that as many as 1 million Afghan children are in danger of starving, and most of the country's 38 million people are living below the poverty line.

The Norwegian Foreign Ministry said the Taliban delegation would also meet with Afghans in Norway, including "women leaders, journalists and people who work with, among other things, human rights and humanitarian, economic, social and political issues."

"Norway continues to engage in dialogue with the Taliban to promote human rights, women's participation in society, and to strengthen humanitarian and economic efforts in Afghanistan in support of the Afghan people," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

A U.S. delegation, led by Special Representative for Afghanistan Tom West, plans to discuss "the formation of a representative political system; responses to the urgent humanitarian and economic crises; security



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 57 of 87

and counterterrorism concerns; and human rights, especially education for girls and women," according to a statement released by the U.S. State Department.

On Friday, Norwegian Foreign Minister Anniken Huitfeldt stressed that the visit was "not a legitimation or recognition of the Taliban. But we must talk to those who in practice govern the country today."

"We are extremely concerned about the serious situation in Afghanistan," Huitfeldt said, noting that economic and political conditions have created "a full-scale humanitarian catastrophe for millions of people" facing starvation in the country.

The Scandinavian country, home to the Nobel Peace Prize, is no stranger to sensitive diplomacy and has in the past been involved in peace efforts in a number of countries, including Mozambique, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Colombia, the Philippines, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Syria, Myanmar, Somalia, Sri Lanka and South Sudan.

## US detains smuggling ship, UK seizes drugs in Mideast waters

By ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The U.S. Navy announced Sunday it seized a boat in the Gulf of Oman carrying fertilizer used to make explosives that was caught last year smuggling weapons to Yemen. The British royal navy said it confiscated 1,041 kilograms (2,295 pounds) of illegal drugs in the same waters.

The interdictions were just the latest in the volatile waters of the Persian Gulf as American and British authorities step up seizures of contraband during the grinding conflict in Yemen and ongoing drug trafficking in the region.

The U.S. Navy's Mideast-based 5th Fleet said its guided-missile destroyer USS Cole and patrol ships halted and searched the sailboat, a stateless fishing dhow, that was sailing from Iran on a well-worn maritime arms smuggling route to war-ravaged Yemen last Tuesday. U.S. forces found 40 tons of urea fertilizer, known to be a key ingredient in homemade improvised explosive devices, hidden on board.

Authorities said the vessel had been previously seized off the coast of Somalia and found last year to be loaded with thousands of assault rifles and rocket launchers, among other weapons. U.N. experts say weapons with such technical characteristics likely come from Iran to support the Houthi rebels. The Navy turned over the vessel, cargo and Yemeni crew to Yemen's coast guard earlier this week.

Yemen is awash with small arms that have been smuggled into the country's poorly controlled ports over years of conflict. Since 2015, Iranian-backed Houthi rebels have been battling a Saudi-led military coalition for control of the nation. Iran says it politically supports the rebels but denies arming them, despite evidence to the contrary.

The smuggled weapons have helped the Houthis gain an edge against the Saudi-led coalition in the seven-year war. Violence has drastically escalated over the past week amid stalled international attempts at brokering peace. Following a deadly drone attack claimed by the rebels on Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi warplanes pounded the northern rebel-held province of Saada, hitting a prison and killing over 80 detainees.

Officials also revealed Sunday that a British royal navy vessel had seized a large quantity of illegal drugs valued at some \$26 million from a boat sailing through the Gulf of Oman on Jan. 15.

The HMS Montrose confiscated 663 kilograms (1,461 pounds) of heroin, 87 kilograms (191 pounds) of methamphetamine and 291 kilograms (641 pounds) of hashish and marijuana, the joint maritime task force said in a statement.

The task force did not elaborate on where the drugs came from, who manufactured them or their ultimate destination. But Iran over the last decade has seen an explosion in the use of methamphetamine, known locally as "shisheh" or "glass" in Farsi, which has bled into neighboring countries.

## Russia rejects UK claim of trying to replace Ukraine leader

By JIM HEINTZ Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's Foreign Ministry on Sunday rejected a British claim that Russia was seeking

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 58 of 87

to replace Ukraine's government with a pro-Moscow administration, and that former Ukrainian lawmaker Yevheniy Murayev was being considered as a potential candidate.

Britain's Foreign Office on Saturday also named several other Ukrainian politicians it said had links with Russian intelligence services, along with Murayev who is the leader of a small pro-Russia party that has no seats in the parliament.

The U.K. government made the claim based on an intelligence assessment, without providing evidence to back it up. It comes amid high tensions between Moscow and the West over Russia's designs on Ukraine.

"The disinformation spread by the British Foreign Office is more evidence that it is the NATO countries, led by the Anglo-Saxons, who are escalating tensions around Ukraine," Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on the Telegram messaging app Sunday. "We call on the British Foreign Office to stop provocative activities, stop spreading nonsense."

British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said the information "shines a light on the extent of Russian activity designed to subvert Ukraine, and is an insight into Kremlin thinking."

Truss urged Russia to "deescalate, end its campaigns of aggression and disinformation, and pursue a path of diplomacy," and reiterated Britain's view that "any Russian military incursion into Ukraine would be a massive strategic mistake with severe costs."

Britain has sent anti-tank weapons to Ukraine as part of efforts to bolster its defenses against a potential Russian attack.

Amid diplomatic efforts to defuse the crisis, U.K. Defense Secretary Ben Wallace is expected to meet Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu for talks in Moscow. No timing has been given for the meeting, which would be the first U.K.-Russia bilateral defense talks since 2013.

The U.S. has mounted an aggressive campaign in recent months to unify its European allies against a new Russian invasion of Ukraine. The White House called the U.K. government assessment "deeply concerning" and said it stands with the duly elected Ukrainian government.

"This kind of plotting is deeply concerning," National Security Council spokeswoman Emily Horne said. "The Ukrainian people have the sovereign right to determine their own future, and we stand with our democratically-elected partners in Ukraine."

The assessment came as President Joe Biden spent Saturday at the presidential retreat Camp David outside of Washington huddling with his senior national security team about the Ukraine situation. A White House official said the discussions included efforts to de-escalate the situation with diplomacy and deterrence measures being coordinated closely with allies and partners, including security assistance to Ukraine.

## UNESCO lists Viking-era wooden sailboats on heritage list

By JAMES BROOKS Associated Press

ROSKILDE, Denmark (AP) — For thousands of years, wooden sailboats allowed the peoples of Northern Europe to spread trade, influence and sometimes war across seas and continents.

In December, the U.N.'s culture agency added Nordic "clinker boats" to its list of traditions that represent the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden jointly sought the UNESCO designation.

The term "clinker" is thought to refer to the way the boat's wooden boards were fastened together.

Supporters of the successful nomination hope it will safeguard and preserve the boat-building techniques that drove the Viking era for future generations as the number of active clinker craftsmen fades and fishermen and others opt for vessels with cheaper glass fiber hulls.

"We can see that the skills of building them, the skills of sailing the boats, the knowledge of people who are sailing ... it goes down and it disappears," said Søren Nielsen, head of boatyard at the Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde, west of Copenhagen.

The museum not only exhibits the remains of wooden vessels built 1,000 years ago, but also works to rebuild and reconstruct other Viking boats. The process involves using experimental archaeological methods to gain a deeper, more practical understanding of the Viking Age, such as how quickly the vessels sailed

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 59 of 87

and how many people they carried.

Nielsen, who oversees the construction and repair of wooden boats built in the clinker tradition, said there are only about 20 practicing clinker boat craftsmen in Denmark, perhaps 200 across all of northern Europe.

"We think it's a tradition we have to show off, and we have to tell people this was a part of our background," he told The Associated Press.

Wooden clinker boats are characterized by the use of overlapping longitudinal wooden hull planks that are sewn or riveted together.

Builders strengthen the boats internally by additional wooden components, mainly tall oak trees, which constitute the ribs of the vessel. They stuff the gaps in between with tar or tallow mixed with animal hair, wool and moss.

"When you build it with these overlaps within it, you get a hull that's quite flexible but at the same time, incredibly strong," explained Triona Sørensen, curator at Roskilde's Viking Ship Museum, which is home to the remains of five 11th-century Viking boats built with clinker methods.

Nielsen said there is evidence the clinker technique first appeared thousands of years ago, during the Bronze Age.

But it was during the Viking Age that clinker boats had their zenith, according to Sørensen. The era, from 793 to 1066, is when Norsemen, or Vikings, undertook large-scale raiding, colonizing, conquest and trading voyages throughout Europe. They also reached North America.

Their light, strong and swift ships were unsurpassed in their time and provided the foundations for kingdoms in Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

"If you hadn't had any ships, you wouldn't have had any Viking Age," said Sørensen. "It just literally made it possible for them to expand that kind of horizon to become a more global people."

While the clinker boat tradition in Northern Europe remains to this day, the ships are used by hobbyists, for festivities, regattas and sporting events, rather than raiding and conquest seen 1,000 years ago.

The UNESCO nomination was signed by around 200 communities and cultural bearers in the field of construction and traditional clinker boat craftsmanship, including Sami communities.

The inscription on the Intangible Cultural Heritage list obliges the Nordic countries to try to preserve what remains of the fading tradition.

"You cannot read how to build a boat in a book, so if you want to be a good boat builder, you have to build a lot of boats," the Viking Ship Museum's Nielsen said. "If you want to keep these skills alive, you have to keep them going."

## Migrants at Hungary border become part of election campaign

By JUSTIN SPIKE Associated Press

MAJDAN, Serbia (AP) — A group of migrants huddles beside a small, smoky fire inside an abandoned building in northern Serbia, the last moments of warmth before they set out into the driving snow toward the razor wire, cameras and sensors of Hungary's electrified border fence.

A few hours later, they return, their efforts to cross through Hungary and toward Western Europe thwarted by the three-meter (10-foot) fence and heavy Hungarian police patrols which, after intercepting them, escorted them back across the border into Serbia.

"I'm going to Austria, I'm going to Germany, I'm going to the Netherlands," says Muhtar Ahmad, a 26-year-old from Aleppo, Syria, who is squatting with around 35 other migrants in the makeshift camp outside the Serbian village of Majdan, a mile (less than two kilometers) from the Hungarian border.

"I'm not staying in Hungary. What's the problem?"

As migrants from Syria, Afghanistan and other countries embark on the last stretch of their long journeys toward Europe's wealthier nations, their efforts to cross irregularly into the European Union through Hungary — and the country's contentious practice of returning them to Serbia when they are caught — have made them part of a political campaign with which Hungary's nationalist leader hopes to win an upcoming general election.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 60 of 87

Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who polls suggest will face his closest election in more than a decade in April, is campaigning on a strict anti-immigration platform and is keen to use the prospect of a wave of migrants amassing at Hungary's border as a means to mobilize his conservative voter base.

"Just this year we stopped and detained ... more than 100,000 people," Orban claimed at a rare appearance before journalists in December. "If the Hungarian fence had not stood there, more than 100,000 more illegal migrants would be now first in Austria, then in Germany."

One of the most outspoken opponents of immigration in Europe, Orban has said that migration threatens to replace the continent's Christian culture, and that illegal migrants are responsible for bringing infections like COVID-19 variants into his country.

"We do not want to be an immigrant country," Orban said during an interview with state radio this week.

As the April 3 election approaches, he has portrayed current migration pressures as higher than in 2015, when hundreds of thousands of refugees came into the EU fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and elsewhere, and when he ordered the construction of the country's border barrier.

But figures released by Serbian officials and the EU's border and coast guard agency suggest that far fewer individuals are attempting to enter Hungary than the right-wing leader claims.

"It's a little bit bigger number than, let's say, two years ago, but these are not big numbers. It's a small rise," said Nemanja Matejic, chief officer at a migrant reception center in the northern Serbian city of Subotica, of the current level of migrants along Hungary's border.

While Hungarian police put the number of migrants intercepted by Hungarian authorities at more than 122,000, data from EU border agency Frontex showed that there were 60,540 illegal border crossing attempts last year on the Western Balkan migration route, which includes the Hungary-Serbia border.

What's more, since most migrants are making repeated attempts to cross, the number of individuals involved is far smaller still.

Serbia's Commissariat for Refugees and Migration reports that there are 4,276 migrants residing in reception centers in Serbia and another 1,000 sleeping rough.

Frontex has noted that the majority of Western Balkan crossings "can be traced back to people who have been in the region for some time and who repeatedly try to reach their target country in the EU."

Hikmad Serat, 20, from Nangarhar province, Afghanistan, took shelter in a remote abandoned building near the Serbian border town of Horgos this month as a cold snap brought temperatures to -10 C (14 F).

Serat said he has been in Serbia for 15 months, and has lost count of the number of times he has crossed into Hungary and been returned by police.

"Many times I try, 100 times, more than 100 times ... Every time, police arrest me and deport back to Serbia," Serat said.

This practice — where police deny migrants the right to apply for asylum and escort them back across national borders — is known as a "pushback." It has been declared unlawful by the EU's top court, and is in violation of international asylum treaties.

Matejic, the chief of the reception center, said that migrants making dozens of crossing attempts is "typical."

"Sometimes a guy tries one time and goes, he has luck ... Sometimes they try over 50 times ... They try and try again," he said.

Many migrants have reported abuse by police after they leave Serbian territory for Hungary, or for Croatia or Romania. This includes having mobile phones destroyed or stolen, being made to sit or kneel in the snow for hours and receiving beatings — allegations which are very difficult to independently confirm.

Romanian police didn't respond to questions from The Associated Press. But Hungary's National Police Headquarters wrote in an email that they "strongly reject unsubstantiated allegations" of abuse of migrants.

Yet Matejic said 150 cases of broken limbs were recorded by the Subotica reception center in 2019.

"Sometimes they break their phones, the police. Sometimes they take their money. Sometimes they break their legs. It's a different experience for everybody," Matejic said.

Orban has asked the EU to reimburse Hungary for at least half of the costs related to building, main-

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 61 of 87

taining and patrolling its border fence, which he has said have amounted to 590 billion Hungarian forints (\$1.9 billion) over the past six years.

Ever at odds with the EU's more liberal member states, he has also threatened to "open up a corridor along which migrants can march up to Austria, Germany and Sweden and whoever needs them."

Despite the dangers, Faris al-Ibrahimi, a Moroccan migrant in the Subotica reception center who intends to travel on to Spain, said he was undeterred after being pushed back 27 times by Hungarian police.

"I'm still going to try. I will not give up now ... I will try until I succeed," he said. "It's an adventure. We cross, we go, they catch us, we come back, we go again. It's like a game for us."

## Gould's FG on final play gives 49ers 13-10 upset of Packers

By STEVE MEGARGEE AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Robbie Gould lived up to his name.

On a field littered with snow flurries, Gould made a 45-yard field goal Saturday night as time expired and the San Francisco 49ers knocked off the top-seeded Packers 13-10 and possibly ended Aaron Rodgers' tenure in Green Bay.

Gould has made all 20 of his career playoff field-goal attempts. His latest helped the 49ers complete an improbable comeback by scoring 10 unanswered points in the last five minutes.

"I always trust Robbie. He's as good as gold, man," Niners quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo said. "He always is."

The 49ers (12-7) continued their postseason hex on Rodgers and advanced to an NFC championship game matchup Jan. 30 at either the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (14-4) or Los Angeles Rams (13-5). Those teams play Sunday in Tampa.

This marks the 17th conference championship appearance for the 49ers, the most by any team since conferences were formed in the 1970 merger. The 49ers had been tied with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

San Francisco's win, coupled with the Cincinnati Bengals' 19-16 victory over the Tennessee Titans earlier in the day, marked the first time both No. 1 seeds lost in the divisional round in the same season since 2010. Green Bay won at Atlanta and the New York Jets won at New England that season.

"It's dangerous, man. When a team gets hot, it's dangerous," Garoppolo added. "So we've just got to keep this thing going, focus on next week now, and keep this thing rolling."

Rodgers went 20 of 29 for 225 yards and dropped to 0-4 in career playoff starts against the 49ers. He's the first quarterback in NFL history to lose four playoff starts to a single opponent.

He now enters an uncertain offseason. After skipping the Packers' mandatory minicamp in a standoff with management, Rodgers said he was uncertain whether this would be his last year in Green Bay. Rodgers said last month he was keeping all options open.

Rodgers didn't want to speculate on his future Saturday night, though he said he didn't want to be part of a rebuild if he keeps playing.

"I don't think it's fair to anybody or myself to really go down those paths at this point," Rodgers said. "It's disappointing, sad and fresh. I'll have conversations in the next week or so and start to contemplate after that."

The Packers (13-5) earned the NFC's top seed for a second straight season and were the league's only unbeaten team at home, but again failed to reach the big game. They haven't made it to the Super Bowl since their 2010 championship season.

"I just didn't envision it like this," said Green Bay's Aaron Jones, who had nine catches for 129 yards and 12 carries for 41 yards.

San Francisco tied the game with 4:41 left thanks to a breakdown by Green Bay's special teams, the Packers' biggest weakness all season.

Jordan Willis' outstretched left hand blocked a punt by Corey Bojorquez, who was kicking from the front of his end zone. Talanoa Hufanga picked up the ball at the 6-yard line and ran it in to make it 10-10.

After the Packers went three-and-out, the 49ers got the ball back at their 29 with 3:20 left and drove

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 62 of 87

into field-goal range. Deebo Samuel delivered a 9-yard run on third-and-7 from the Green Bay 38, and the 49ers ran down the clock to set up Gould.

A.J. Dillon's 6-yard touchdown run capped a 69-yard drive on the game's opening possession that put the Packers ahead 7-0. Green Bay's offense didn't do much of anything after that.

Green Bay's special teams fared even worse.

Well before that blocked punt, San Francisco's Jimmie Ward blocked a 39-yard field-goal attempt from Mason Crosby on the final play of the first half, preventing the Packers from extending their lead to 10-0.

The Packers also allowed Samuel to return the second-half kickoff 45 yards, setting up the 49ers' first field goal. Green Bay also appeared to have only 10 men on the field when Gould made his winning kick.

"We thought our special teams had an advantage in this game," 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said. "We thought they had an opportunity to possibly win us the game. And to be able to say that and to actually come to fruition ... was huge for those guys and huge for our team."

San Francisco won by overcoming a brutal start from its offense. The 49ers had minus-10 yards in their first four series, three of which included third-down sacks. It was the first time the 49ers had opened a game with four straight three-and-outs since a 27-24 loss to the Minnesota Vikings on Sept. 27, 2009.

The 49ers didn't get a single first down or pass completion until Garoppolo connected with George Kittle on a 15-yard gain with less than 6 ½ minutes left in the second quarter. Garoppolo was just 11 of 19 for 131 yards with an interception, but the 49ers still managed to win.

"It took everything," Garoppolo said. "We knew it was going to. I mean, it was just offense, defense, special teams - everybody stepping up and doing their part. Wouldn't have it any other way."

## THE TUNDRA

The temperature at kickoff was 14 degrees with a wind chill of zero, making it the fifth-coldest playoff game in Lambeau Field history. The second half was played amid snow flurries.

## INJURIES

The Packers were without OT David Bakhtiari, a 2020 All-Pro selection. Bakhtiari played 27 snaps in the Packers' regular-season finale, which marked his first game since tearing his left anterior cruciate ligament on Dec. 31, 2020.

49ers running back Jeff Wilson left with an ankle injury after the opening kickoff. Packers safety Darnell Savage (back) and running back A.J. Dillon (chest) left in the third quarter.

## NEXT UP

The 49ers will be at either Tampa or the Los Angeles Rams in the NFC championship game on Jan. 30. The Packers' season is over. Will Rodgers be back with the Pack?

## In Kashmir, India batters press freedom — and journalists

By AIJAZ HUSSAIN and SHEIKH SAALIQ Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — For five years, Sajad Gul wrote about conflict wracking his homeland, a disputed Himalayan territory where a violent armed rebellion and India's brutal counterinsurgency have raged for over three decades.

That changed on a snowy Wednesday night in January with a knock at his house. Gul was surrounded by Indian soldiers wielding automatic rifles who bundled him into a vehicle and sped away, plowing through the snow-laden track in Hajin, a quiet village about 20 miles from Srinagar, the region's main city, said his mother, Gulshana, who only uses one name.

Journalists have long contended with various threats in Indian-controlled Kashmir and found themselves caught between warring sides. But their situation has gotten dramatically worse since India revoked the region's semi-autonomy in 2019, throwing Kashmir under a severe security and communication lockdown and the media in a black hole. A year later, the government's new media policy sought to control the press more effectively to censure independent reporting.

Dozens have been arrested, interrogated and investigated under harsh anti-terror laws. Fearing reprisals, local press has largely wilted under pressure.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 63 of 87

"Indian authorities appear determined to prevent journalists from doing their jobs," said Steven Butler, Asia program coordinator of the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists.

Gul's arrest, which the CPJ condemned, underscored the fast-eroding press freedoms and criminalization of journalists in Kashmir.

Police told Gul's family that he was arrested for provoking people to "resort to violence and disturb public peace." A police statement later described him as "habitual of spreading disinformation" and "false narratives" on social media.

He was detained days after his single tweet linked a video clip of a protest against Indian rule, following a Kashmiri rebel's killing. He spent 11 days locked up before a local court granted him bail.

Instead of freeing Gul, authorities charged him in a new case under the Public Safety Act, which allows officials to imprison anyone for up to two years without trial.

"My son is not a criminal," said Gulshana. "He only used to write."

Media has always been tightly controlled in India's part of Muslim-majority Kashmir. Arm twisting and fear have been extensively used to intimidate the press since 1989, when rebels began fighting Indian soldiers in a bid to establish an independent Kashmir or union with Pakistan. Pakistan controls Kashmir's other part and the two counties fiercely claim the territory in full.

The fighting has left tens of thousands of people dead. Yet, Kashmir's diverse media flourished despite relentless pressure from Indian authorities and rebel groups.

That changed in 2019, when authorities began filing criminal cases against some journalists. Several of them have been forced to reveal their sources, while others have been physically assaulted.

"Authorities have created a systematic fear and launched a direct assault on free media. There is complete intolerance of even a single critical word," said Anuradha Bhasin, an editor at Kashmir Times, a prominent English daily that was established in 1954.

Bhasin was among the few who filed a petition with India's Supreme Court, resulting in partial restoration of communication services after the 2019 blackout, which the government had said was necessary to stall anti-India protests.

But she soon found herself in the crosshairs of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

Bhasin's legacy newspaper office in Srinagar, operating from a rented government building, was sealed by authorities without any notice. Its staff was not allowed to take out any equipment.

"They are killing local media except those who are willing to become government stenographers," said Bhasin.

Under Modi, press freedoms in India have steadily shrunk since he was first elected in 2014. Last year, India was ranked 142nd in the global press freedom index by media watchdog Reporters Without Borders, below Afghanistan and Zimbabwe.

Nowhere has this slide been more glaring than in Kashmir.

Authorities have pressed newspapers by chastising editors and starving them of advertisement funds, their main source of income, to chill aggressive reporting.

For the most part, newspapers appear to have cooperated and self-censored stories, afraid to be branded anti-national by a government that equates criticism with secessionism.

"We have been merely trying to keep afloat and hardly have been able to do proper journalism for various reasons, one being that we are mainly dependent on government ads," said Sajjad Haider, the top editor of Kashmir Observer.

There have been press crackdowns in the region before, especially during periods of mass public uprisings. But the ongoing crackdown is notably worse.

Last week, a few journalists supportive of the Indian government, with assistance from armed police, took control of the Kashmir Valley's only independent press club. Authorities shut it down a day later, drawing sharp criticism from journalist bodies.

The Editors Guild of India accused the government of being "brazenly complicit" and dubbed it an "armed takeover." Reporters Without Borders called it an "undeclared coup" and said the region is "steadily being

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 64 of 87

transformed into a black hole for news and information.”

The press club is the region’s latest civil society group to face the government’s widening crackdown. In the last two years, authorities have stopped the Kashmir High Court Bar Association and the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce from holding internal elections.

The government defended its move by citing “potential law and order situation” and “the safety of bona fide journalists.” It said the club failed to register under a new law and hold elections for a new managing body.

The club said new registration was granted by authorities after “six months of rigorous police verification” in late December, but kept in “abeyance” a day later for unknown reasons.

The government’s move ran in stark contrast with its policy in the region’s Hindu-dominated Jammu city where another press club continues to function without having held an election for nearly half a decade.

Majid Maqbool, a local reporter, said the club extended institutional support to journalists working under difficult conditions. “It was like a second home for us,” he said.

Local Kashmiri reporters were often the only eyes on the ground for global audiences, particularly after New Delhi barred foreign journalists from the region without official approval a few years ago. Most of the coverage has focused on the Kashmir conflict and government crackdowns. Authorities are now seeking to control any narrative seen opposed to the broad consensus in India that the region is an integral part of the country.

In this battle of narratives, journalists have been berated by authorities for not using the term “terrorists” for separatist rebels. Government communiqués mostly appear on front pages and statements from pro-India Kashmiri groups critical of Modi’s policies are barely published.

Newspaper editorials reflective of the conflict are largely absent. Rare news reports about rights abuses are often dismissed as politically motivated fabrications, emboldening the region’s heavy-handed military and police to muzzle the press.

Some reporters have been subjected to grueling hours of police interrogation, a tactic condemned by the United Nations last year.

Aakash Hassan, an independent Kashmiri journalist who mainly writes for the international press, said he has been summoned at least seven times by Indian authorities in the last two years.

Hassan said sometimes officers would question his motives to report and “lecture me about how to do journalism the right way.”

“It is a way to dissuade us from reporting,” he said, adding that police also questioned his parents several times and probed their finances.

“Sometimes I wonder if it is worth it to be a journalist in Kashmir,” said Hassan. “But I know, silence doesn’t help.”

## Young officer slain in Harlem joined to help ‘chaotic city’

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The 22-year-old New York City police officer who was shot to death while responding to a call in a Harlem apartment came from an immigrant family and grew up in a community with strained police relations, but joined the force to make a difference in the “chaotic city,” he once wrote.

“I know that something as small as helping a tourist with directions, or helping a couple resolve an issue, will put a smile on someone’s face,” Jason Rivera wrote to his commanding officer in 2020 when he was a probationary police officer.

Rivera and Officer Wilbert Mora were shot Friday night while answering a call about an argument between a woman and her adult son. Mora, 27, suffered a serious head wound, police said.

The medical examiner ruled Rivera’s death a homicide on Saturday after an autopsy found he died from gunshot wounds to the head and torso.

Mora was still “fighting for his life” on Saturday, said Mayor Eric Adams. Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the Archbishop of New York, visited Mora and his family in the hospital and gave the wounded officer a bless-



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 65 of 87

ing, according to a spokesman the archdiocese.

The man police say shot them, Lashawn J. McNeil, 47, also was critically wounded and hospitalized, authorities said. Police declined to comment later Saturday about the conditions of Mora and McNeil.

The shooting is the latest in a string of crimes that have unnerved the nation's largest city.

In the three weeks since Adams took office, a 19-year-old cashier was shot to death as she worked a late-night shift at a Burger King, a woman was pushed to her death in a subway station, and a baby was critically injured when she was hit by a stray bullet as she sat in a parked car with her mother. With the Harlem shooting Friday night, four police officers had been shot in as many days.

And the city is recovering from its deadliest fire in three decades, a Bronx apartment blaze that killed 17 people.

"It's hard to believe, but it's only been three weeks, and it has been nonstop since then," Adams told residents at a gun violence roundtable Saturday. "But I want you to know in a very clear way that I am more energized. I'm not tired. I'm not stressed out."

Rivera joined the force in November 2020.

Growing up in Manhattan's Inwood neighborhood, he noticed tensions with police, according to a brief essay titled "Why I Became a Police Officer," a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

"I remember one day when I witnessed my brother being stopped and frisked. I asked myself, why are we being pulled over if we are in a taxi?" he wrote. "My perspective on police and the way they police really bothered me."

But eventually he noticed the department working to improve relationships, and he wanted to be involved.

"I realized how impactful my role as a police officer would go in this chaotic city," he wrote.

Anti-domestic violence advocate Stephanie McGraw, who knew Rivera through her work with the precinct, said he was energetic and enthusiastic.

"He was so eager to make a difference in this community," said McGraw, founder of We All Really Matter.

Mora is similarly devoted to the community, she said.

Police said the gun used in Friday night's shooting, a .45-caliber Glock with a high-capacity magazine capable of holding up to 40 extra rounds, had been stolen in Baltimore in 2017.

Adams and Gov. Kathy Hochul both said federal authorities need to do more to round up stolen guns like the one used in the Harlem shooting. Hochul, at an appearance in Buffalo on Saturday, called it a "scourge of illegal guns on our streets."

"We're removing thousands of guns off the street," Adams told reporters Saturday. "But there's an endless flow that continues to come through our city borders."

Adams said a woman who made an emergency call Friday said she was ill and that her son who had come up to take care of her had become "problematic." Adams said the woman did not specify the problem.

Authorities said three officers went to the apartment after the call came in. The officers spoke with the woman and another son, but there was no mention of a weapon, police said.

After Rivera and Mora walked from the front of the apartment down a narrow hallway to check on McNeil, he swung open a bedroom door and began shooting, police said. Both officers were gunned down before they could pull their weapons and defend themselves, police said.

As McNeil tried to flee, a third officer who had stayed with McNeil's mother in the front of the apartment shot at McNeil and wounded him in the head and arm, NYPD Chief of Detectives James Essig said.

"This was just not an attack on these brave officers," Adams said Friday night. "This was an attack on the city of New York."

Mora has been with the NYPD for four years.

McNeil was on probation for a 2003 drug conviction in New York City. He also had several out-of-state arrests. In 1998, he was arrested in South Carolina on suspicion of unlawfully carrying a pistol, but records show the matter was later dismissed. In 2002, he was arrested in Pennsylvania on suspicion of assaulting a police officer, Essig said.

## All 100 lab monkeys accounted for after several escape crash

DANVILLE, Pa. (AP) — The last of the escaped monkeys from the crash of a truck towing a trailer load of 100 of the animals was accounted for by late Saturday, a day after the pickup collided with a dump truck on a Pennsylvania highway, authorities said.

Several monkeys had escaped following Friday's collision, Pennsylvania State Police said. But only one had remained unaccounted for as of Saturday morning, prompting the Pennsylvania Game Commission and other agencies to launch a search for it amid frigid weather.

Kristen Nordlund, a spokesperson with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said in an email Saturday evening that all 100 of the cynomolgus macaque monkeys had since been accounted for. Three were dead after being euthanized.

The email did not elaborate on why the three were euthanized or how all came to be accounted for. But Nordlund said those euthanized were done so humanely according to American Veterinary Medical Association guidelines.

The shipment of monkeys was en route to a CDC-approved quarantine facility after arriving Friday morning at New York's Kennedy Airport from Mauritius, an Indian Ocean island nation, police said. The Atlanta-based CDC said the agency was providing "technical assistance" to state police in Pennsylvania.

The collision occurred Friday on a state highway near an Interstate 80 exit in Pennsylvania's Montour County, Trooper Andrea Pelachick told The Daily Item newspaper of Sunbury.

The location of the quarantine facility and the type of research for which the monkeys were apparently destined weren't clear, but cynomolgus monkeys are often used in medical studies. A 2015 paper posted on the website of the National Center for Biotechnology Information referred to them as the most widely used primate in preclinical toxicology studies.

Earlier, police had earlier urged people not to look for or capture any monkey, with troopers tweeting: "Anyone who sees or locates the monkey is asked not to approach, attempt to catch, or come in contact with the monkey. Please call 911 immediately."

Trooper Lauren Leshner had said the concern was "due to it not being a domesticated animal and them being in an unknown territory. It is hard to say how they would react to a human approaching them."

Leshner said state police secured the scene for the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the CDC.

The drivers of the trucks weren't harmed and a passenger was transported to a medical center for treatment of suspected minor injuries, according to the state police's crash report.

A crash witness, Michelle Fallon, told the Press Enterprise newspaper of Bloomsburg that she spoke with the pickup driver and a passenger after the crash. The driver appeared to be disoriented, and the passenger thought he might have injured his legs, she said.

Crates littered the road Friday as troopers searched for monkeys, rifles in hand. Valley Township firefighters used thermal imaging to try to locate the animals, and a helicopter also assisted, the Press Enterprise newspaper of Bloomsburg reported.

The pickup was heading west on I-80 when it got off at the Danville exit and then immediately tried to get back on, driving across the other lane, the newspaper reported.

Fallon told the Press Enterprise that she was behind the pickup when it was hit on the passenger side by the dump truck, tearing off the front panel of the trailer and sending more than a dozen crates tumbling out.

She and another motorist who stopped to help were standing near the scene when the other driver said he thought he saw a cat run across the road, Fallon said.

Fallon peeked into a crate and saw a small monkey looking back at her, she told the newspaper.

"They're monkeys," she told the other motorist.

## McPherson FG as time expires lifts Bengals past Titans 19-16

By TERESA M. WALKER AP Pro Football Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Maybe, just maybe, these young Cincinnati Bengals really are that good.

Especially with the way they keep ending postseason droughts. And with their latest victory putting

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 67 of 87

them in the franchise's first AFC championship game in 33 years — and a win away from the Super Bowl.

Rookie Evan McPherson kicked a 52-yard field goal as time expired, lifting the fourth-seeded Bengals past the top-seeded Tennessee Titans 19-16 on Saturday to end the NFL's longest active road playoff skid.

"He's got ice in his veins," Cincinnati coach Zac Taylor said of McPherson. "There's not much more to be said. He's just as cool as it gets."

A week after snapping a 31-year playoff victory drought, the Bengals (12-7) finally won their first road game in the postseason after losing their first seven. They reached the 1981 and 1988 Super Bowls by winning on their home field.

"We're here to make some noise, and teams are going to have to pay attention to us," Cincinnati quarterback Joe Burrow said.

Cincinnati will play in the AFC championship game next Sunday at the winner of the Buffalo-Kansas City matchup. They play in the other AFC divisional round game Sunday.

The Bengals intercepted Ryan Tannehill three times, setting up two of McPherson's four field goals. Logan Wilson picked off Tannehill with 20 seconds left. Burrow hit Pro Bowl rookie receiver Ja'Marr Chase with a 19-yard pass, then the Bengals ran twice to set up McPherson for the win.

"That's a kicker's dream," McPherson said, "to have the game on your shoulders."

Burrow shook off being sacked nine times as Tennessee tied an NFL mark held by four other teams for the most in the postseason. He threw for 348 yards to become the first quarterback taken No. 1 overall to win a divisional game within his first two seasons.

Chase finished with 109 yards receiving.

Joe Mixon ran for the Bengals' lone touchdown, a 16-yarder on their first drive of the third quarter.

"We found a way all year," Burrow said. "Man, crazy, crazy game. That's a really, really good team. Unbelievable defensive line. They had a great plan on defense. Credit to them, we found a way at the end."

The Titans (12-6) wrapped up their 25th season in Tennessee with their third straight loss on their own field as the AFC's No. 1 seed. They haven't won at home since January 2003 in the postseason.

"I don't think Ryan or myself or anybody did enough to win the game," Titans coach Mike Vrabel said. "That's how it goes. It's never going to be about one person, not as long as I'm head coach, which will be a while."

Tennessee had Derrick Henry, the 2020 AP NFL Offensive Player of the Year, on the field after he missed nine games with a broken foot. He ran for a touchdown and finished with 66 yards.

Tannehill was picked off on the Titans' first play of the game. His second came on first-and-goal at the Bengals 9 in the third. He finished with 220 yards passing. A.J. Brown had five catches for 142 yards.

Burrow was the NFL's most sacked quarterback during the season, just ahead of Tannehill.

The Titans sacked him on his first snap and had three in the first quarter alone. Burrow became only the second quarterback to win an NFL playoff game despite being sacked nine times, joining Len Dawson who beat Buffalo for the 1966 AFL championship.

The Titans had plenty of opportunities to win.

Henry was stopped on fourth-and-1 at the Cincinnati 37 instead of Tennessee trying a long field goal for the lead with 7:16 left. They also got the ball back with 2:43 left and plenty of time to drive for the winning field goal themselves after scoring 10 points within 90 seconds late in the third quarter, tying it up at 16.

Tennessee showed little awareness of the clock, running only one play before the clock stopped for the 2-minute warning. On the third play, Tannehill's pass to Nick Westbrook-Ikhine was picked off by Wilson setting up the Bengals for the winning field goal.

"All day we were just shooting ourselves in the foot," Brown said of the Titans.

Tannehill summed up the pain of the loss, "This hurts. Hurts bad."

McPherson converted for his 11th field goal from 50 yards or longer, the most in a season for one player. He also became the first kicker in NFL history with at least four or more field goals in multiple games in a single postseason.

"He stepped up big and got us to where we need to go," Burrow said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 68 of 87

## TITANS SACK ATTACK

Tennessee's five sacks in the first half were the most in a playoff game since Jan. 8, 2000, when the Titans sacked Buffalo quarterback Rob Johnson five times in the game best known for the Music City Miracle. Burrow was only the third quarterback to be sacked at least five times in the first half of a playoff game since 1991.

Tennessee's nine sacks tied the NFL playoff mark previously set by Kansas City against the then-Oilers on Jan. 16, 1994, Cleveland vs. the Jets on Jan. 3, 1987; the 49ers against the Bears on Jan. 6, 1985 and Buffalo against the Chiefs on Jan. 1, 1967.

## INJURIES

Titans LB David Long was hurt early in the third quarter, but walked off the field. He later returned. ... Bengals Pro Bowl defensive end Trey Hendrickson, cleared from a concussion that knocked him out of last week's wild-card win, went to the sideline with 1:46 left. That cost the Bengals a timeout they didn't wind up needing.

## UP NEXT

Bengals: Will wait to see if they're playing in Kansas City or Buffalo next Sunday.

Titans: Step into the offseason looking for further tweaks to get back to the AFC championship game.

## **New Zealand adds new COVID restrictions as omicron spreads**

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — New Zealanders are set to face new COVID-19 restrictions after nine cases of the omicron variant were detected in a single family that flew to Auckland for a wedding earlier this month, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced Sunday.

The so-called "red setting" of the country's pandemic response includes heightened measures such as required mask wearing and limits on gatherings, and the restrictions will go into effect on Monday.

Ardern stressed that "red is not lockdown," noting that businesses can remain open and people can still visit family and friends and move freely around the country.

"Our plan for managing omicron cases in the early stage remains the same as delta, where we will rapidly test, contact trace and isolate cases and contacts in order to slow the spread," Ardern told reporters in Wellington on Sunday.

New Zealand had been among the few remaining countries to have avoided any outbreaks of the omicron variant, but Ardern acknowledged last week that an outbreak was inevitable given the high transmissibility of the variant.

The country has managed to contain the spread of the delta variant, with an average of about 20 new cases each day. But it has seen an increasing number of people arriving into the country and going into mandatory quarantine who are infected with omicron.

That has put strain on the quarantine system and prompted the government to limit access for returning citizens while it decides what to do about reopening its borders, angering many people who want to return to New Zealand.

About 93% of New Zealanders aged 12 and over are fully vaccinated and 52% have had a booster shot. The country has just begun vaccinating children aged between 5 and 11.

The family from the Nelson-Marlborough region attended a wedding and other events while in Auckland, with estimates suggesting they came into contact with "well over 100 people at these events," Ardern said.

"That means that omicron is now circulating in Auckland and possibly the Nelson-Marlborough region if not elsewhere," she added.

The move to the red setting also impacts Ardern personally. The prime minister was planning to get married next weekend, but as a result of the new restrictions the celebration will be postponed.

"I just join many other New Zealanders who have had an experience like that as a result of the pandemic and to anyone who's caught up in that scenario, I am so sorry," she said.

## **Britain says Russia seeking to replace Ukraine government**

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 69 of 87

By JILL LAWLESS and JARI TANNER Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The British government on Saturday accused Russia of seeking to replace Ukraine's government with a pro-Moscow administration, and said former Ukrainian lawmaker Yevheniy Murayev is being considered as a potential candidate.

Murayev is head of the small pro-Russian party Nashi, which currently has no seats in Ukraine's parliament. Britain's Foreign Office named several other Ukrainian politicians it said had links with Russian intelligence services.

It's unclear what means Britain believes Russia might use to install a friendly government in Kyiv.

The U.K. government made the claim based on an intelligence assessment, without providing evidence to back it up. It comes amid a war of words between Moscow and the West over Russia's designs on Ukraine.

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said the information "shines a light on the extent of Russian activity designed to subvert Ukraine, and is an insight into Kremlin thinking."

Truss urged Russia to "de-escalate, end its campaigns of aggression and disinformation, and pursue a path of diplomacy," and reiterated Britain's view that "any Russian military incursion into Ukraine would be a massive strategic mistake with severe costs."

Britain has sent anti-tank weapons to Ukraine as part of efforts to bolster its defenses against a potential Russian attack.

Amid diplomatic efforts to defuse the crisis, U.K. Defense Secretary Ben Wallace is expected to meet Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu for talks in Moscow. No timing has been given for the meeting, which would be the first U.K.-Russia bilateral defense talks since 2013.

The U.S. has mounted an aggressive campaign in recent months to unify its European allies against a new Russian invasion of Ukraine. The White House called the U.K. government assessment "deeply concerning" and said it stands with the duly elected Ukrainian government.

"This kind of plotting is deeply concerning," said National Security Council spokeswoman Emily Horne. "The Ukrainian people have the sovereign right to determine their own future, and we stand with our democratically-elected partners in Ukraine."

The assessment came as President Joe Biden spent Saturday at the presidential retreat Camp David outside of Washington huddling with his senior national security team about the Ukraine situation. A White House official said the discussions included efforts to de-escalate the situation with diplomacy and deterrence measures being coordinated closely with allies and partners, including security assistance to Ukraine.

In another development, the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania plan to send U.S.-made anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles to Ukraine, a move that the United States fully endorsed Saturday amid Kyiv's escalating tensions with Russia.

The defense ministers of the three Baltic states said in a joint statement that they "stand united in our commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in face of continued Russian aggression."

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a tweet that Washington saluted the NATO nations and former Soviet republics "for their longstanding support to Ukraine."

"I expedited and authorized and we fully endorse transfers of defensive equipment @NATO Allies Estonia Latvia Lithuania are providing to Ukraine to strengthen its ability to defend itself against Russia's unprovoked and irresponsible aggression," Blinken said in another tweet.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov earlier this week described the West supplying arms to Ukraine as extremely dangerous and said the shipments "do nothing to reduce tensions."

Moscow has massed tens of thousands of troops near the Russia-Ukraine border, leading to fears of an invasion. The West has rejected Moscow's main demands — promises from NATO that Ukraine will never be added as a member, that no alliance weapons will be deployed near Russian borders, and that it will pull back its forces from Central and Eastern Europe.

A meeting Friday between Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov ended with no breakthrough. Amid the uncertain security situation, the U.S. State Department has been considering a range of options to ensure the safety and security of the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv and its employees by moving to reduce its diplomatic presence there.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 70 of 87

The defense ministers of the Baltic states said in their statement that Estonia would provide Javelin anti-tank weapons while Latvia and Lithuania were sending Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and other related equipment to bolster Kyiv's defensive military capabilities. It wasn't immediately clear when the weapons and equipment would be sent to Ukraine.

"Today, Ukraine is at the forefront of separating Europe from the military conflict with Russia. Let's face it, the war in Ukraine is ongoing and it is important to support Ukraine in every way we can so that they can resist the aggressor," Estonian Defense Minister Kalle Laanet said.

Estonia also is seeking Germany's approval to send Soviet-made howitzers, which once belonged to East Germany, to Ukraine. Estonia acquired the howitzers from non-NATO member Finland, which in turn had bought them from Germany's military surplus supply in the 1990s.

The German government said Friday that it was considering Estonia's request to pass the howitzers on to Ukraine but gave no timeline for a decision. Berlin said it planned to coordinate the issue with Finland, which has received a similar approval request from Estonia.

Berlin routinely demands a say when German-sold weapons are transferred to third countries. But some recent media reports suggested German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Cabinet could block Estonia's transfer of weapons to Kyiv, highlighting divisions in the West's response to the Ukraine crisis.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba alleged Saturday that Germany was not showing adequate support for Ukraine.

Kuleba said in a Twitter post that the weapons transfer issue and remarks by German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock expressing skepticism about cutting off Russia from the SWIFT global payments system "do not correspond to the level of our relations and the current security situation."

Also Saturday, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry summoned the German ambassador to object to recently circulated video in which the head of the German navy said that Ukraine would not regain the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed in 2014, and that Russian President Vladimir Putin deserved "respect."

The comments by vice admiral Kay-Achim Schoenbach sparked consternation and a swift rebuke back in Berlin. By late Saturday, the German navy chief had tendered his resignation, saying he wanted to prevent further damage resulting from his "ill-considered statements" in India.

The U.S. State Department is currently warning U.S. citizens not to visit Ukraine due to the coronavirus pandemic but is also advising them to reconsider travel there due to potential Russian aggression.

Speculation that an announcement about the U.S. diplomatic presence in Ukraine may be imminent has increased since the embassy in Kyiv announced it would hold a virtual town hall meeting about the security situation with U.S. citizens in Ukraine on Tuesday.

Discussions on the matter have been underway for some time, but Blinken went over the contingency plans with the embassy's security team when he visited Kyiv on Wednesday, officials said.

The officials stressed that no decisions had yet been made and that an outright evacuation is not being considered. One possible scenario would be to order the families of American personnel to leave the country while allowing non-essential staffers to depart voluntarily at government expense, they said.

## Video shows struggle that preceded restrained teen's death

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — Surveillance video shows a Black 17-year-old struggling with staff at a Wichita juvenile center last fall before he died after he was restrained facedown for more than 30 minutes.

Sedgwick County released 18 video clips late Friday afternoon of what happened before Cedric Lofton was rushed to a hospital on Sept. 24. He died two days later.

The release of the clips followed Sedgwick County District Attorney Marc Bennett's announcement Tuesday that the state's "stand-your-ground" law prevented him from pressing charges because staff members were protecting themselves. He also said he struggled with whether an involuntary manslaughter charge was justified, but concluded it was not.

Sedgwick County's webpage crashed after the video was posted, making it temporarily inaccessible. But it was back up by late Saturday afternoon. The hours of footage didn't include audio.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 71 of 87

One video shows several officers carrying Lofton into the Sedgwick County Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center while restrained in something called the WRAP, a device comprised of a locking shoulder harness, leg restraints and ankle straps. The sheriff's office describes it as a way to restrain a person who is "out of control" so that they don't hurt themselves or others.

According to Bennett's report, Lofton had become paranoid and was hallucinating. His foster father said the situation got worse after the teen attended his grandmother's funeral. At a foster official's urging, the foster father drove Lofton to a mental health provider, but he walked away. When Lofton returned home, foster officials told the foster father to call police.

But the 5-foot-10, 135-pound Lofton resisted the officers who responded to the home, assaulting at least one of them, Bennett's report said.

The WRAP was removed at the juvenile intake center, according to Bennett's report. An unrestrained Lofton walked out of his holding cell and then tried to grab a computer monitor from the intake counter.

The video shows him resisting attempts to place him back in the holding cell. At one point, he can be seen punching one of the juvenile detention employees in the head.

The video shows detention workers wrestle him into the cell and more employees showing up to help. The camera doesn't show a close angle of what is happening inside the cell.

Bennett's report said staff shackled Lofton's ankles and put him on his stomach on the floor. His report said Cedric was "mumbling" at times, repeated that he was Jesus and saying staff should kill themselves and that he would "hex" them. Staff noticed he wasn't breathing after they called to arrange for Lofton to be taken to a hospital for a mental health evaluation.

Eventually, the video appears to show workers flip Lofton onto his back and start CPR. The staff scramble around before paramedics arrive and load the teen onto a gurney.

## **Ian Alexander Jr., only child of Regina King, dies at age 26**

By LEANNE ITALIE AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ian Alexander Jr., the only child of award-winning actor and director Regina King, has died. He turned 26 on Wednesday.

"Our family is devastated at the deepest level by the loss of Ian," a family statement shared Saturday by a King spokesman said. "He is such a bright light who cared so deeply about the happiness of others. Our family asks for respectful consideration during this private time."

The spokesman confirmed the death was suicide. No further details were released.

The "One Night in Miami" director shared Alexander with her former husband, record producer Ian Alexander Sr. The two divorced in 2007 after 10 years of marriage. The younger Alexander was a musician and DJ who often accompanied King to red carpet events.

He told E! News at the 2019 Golden Globes: "She's just a super mom. She doesn't really let bad work days or anything come back and ruin the time that we have. It's really awesome to have a mother who I can enjoy spending time with."

The pair had matching tattoos reading "unconditional love" in Aramaic.

"We were taking Kabbalah classes," King said on The View in 2017. "He said, let's choose three designs each and not tell each other which ones they are and whichever one is matching, that's the one we're going to get tattooed — and we both chose unconditional love."

For his mother's 50th birthday last year, Alexander posted a tribute on Instagram that read in part: "To be able to watch you take this lifetime by its neck and make it yours is something i (sic) will forever be grateful for. But to have you as my mother is the greatest gift I could ask for."

On Instagram a week ago, King shared a clip of her son's latest track, "Green Eyes," urging her followers to check it out. In an interview with People, she once called her son "an amazing young man" and spoke of the love between mother and child.

"You don't know what unconditional love is. You may say you do, but if you don't have a child, you don't know what that is," said the Oscar, Golden Globe and four-time Emmy winner. "When you experience it,

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 72 of 87

it's the most fulfilling (thing) ever."

Word of Alexander's death spread quickly on social media.

"Deepest condolences and prayers for strength to @ReginaKing. Sending back to her all the warmth and light and support she has extended to me and to so many others," Sherrilyn Ifill, president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, posted on Twitter.

King, a star in "If Beale Street Could Talk," "The Harder They Fall" and numerous other films, is the recipient of two NAACP Image Awards.

Bernice King, the CEO of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Change and daughter of the civil rights icon, posted on Twitter: "Praying for Regina King. She needs all the grace and light that can flow her way right now."

## Berlusconi drops bid to be elected as Italy's president

By FRANCES D'EMILIO Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Former premier Silvio Berlusconi on Saturday bowed out of Italy's presidential election set for next week, claiming he had the votes to win but the country could ill-afford political divisions during the pandemic.

Berlusconi also announced that he is opposing, along with his allies in a center-right bloc, any bid for the presidency by Premier Mario Draghi. Draghi, the former head of Europe's central bank, is now leading a pandemic-unity government with wide political support.

Together, Berlusconi, anti-migrant League leader Matteo Salvini and nationalist Brothers of Italy leader Giorgia Meloni could command some 400 of the 1,009 grand electors who are set to start casting written ballots for Italy's next president on Monday.

The electors from the lower house of the Italian parliament, the Senate and special regional representatives are tasked with choosing a figure who could unite the country.

Berlusconi, 85, who founded the center-right Forza Italia party three decades ago and served as premier three times, long has been a lightning rod for protests. His past includes a tax fraud conviction and a slew of sex scandals linked to "bunga bunga parties," while his business empire that includes three private TV stations raised conflict-of-interest concerns.

He spent weeks sounding out his own conservative allies as well as lawmakers from centrist forces to see if he had sufficient support to add Italy's highest office to his political resume.

The prospect of Berlusconi becoming president already prompted a protest earlier this month in Rome, and another had been set for Monday, when voting begins.

In dropping his presidential bid, Berlusconi said he had confirmed he would have had enough support to be elected to the seven-year term of president. He said he was "honored and moved" but didn't want to be the cause of "polemics or lacerations" in a nation still struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic.

With his characteristic lack of modesty, Berlusconi added that the presidency "represents the unity of the nation, of the country that I love and to whose service I placed myself for 30 years, with all my energies, my abilities, my competency."

He noted he was one of the biggest backers last year of Draghi's appointment to head a pandemic-unity coalition government of nearly all of Italy's main parties, from right to left. The coalition emerged in 2021 after the pandemic economically ravaged Italy and confidence ebbed in the government of then-Premier Giuseppe Conte, a populist leader.

"In this spirit, I decided to take another step on the path of national responsibility" by asking all those who had pledged support for his presidential bid not to choose him. Instead, he and his fellow center-right leaders will work to "come to agreement on a name able to reap a vast consensus in Parliament."

Italy's recovery from the pandemic, "must go forward," Berlusconi said. "That's why I consider it necessary that the Draghi government complete its work until the end of the legislature to implement" some 200 billion euros (\$230 billion) in European Union pandemic recovery funds, he said. The current Parliament's term runs until spring 2023.



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 73 of 87

Draghi, who is held in high esteem by EU leaders, is largely viewed as the guarantor that the funds will be properly spent and reforms that are required for the assistance will be enacted.

He also is considered a strong contender for the presidency, but for months has coyly sidestepped journalists' questions on whether he wants the job. However, Draghi made clear his interest by saying he offers himself to the service of his country.

Berlusconi taking himself out of contention brought reactions of relief, including from former premier Conte, whose 5-Star Movement had been branded by Berlusconi as a danger to the nation.

"We had said it clearly — the candidacy of Berlusconi was unacceptable," Conte tweeted. "With his withdrawal we can take a step forward and begin a serious comparison among political forces to offer to the country a figure of high profile, authoritative, widely shared."

Despite Berlusconi's claim that he had secured the needed votes, League leader Salvini recently had sounded unconvinced that the media mogul was a shoe-in for the presidency.

A two-thirds majority is required in the first three rounds, making it unlikely a winner could emerge early on, given no one political bloc accounts for such a big margin. The fourth round requires a simple majority.

Past presidential elections have gone for days before yielding a victor.

The term of the current president, Sergio Mattarella, term expires on Feb. 3.

## **Last straw: Fed-up Arizona Democrats censure Sen. Sinema**

By JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — U.S. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema is growing increasingly isolated from some of her party's most influential officials and donors after playing a key role in scuttling voting rights legislation that many consider essential to preserving democracy.

Leaders of the Arizona Democratic Party voted Saturday to censure Sinema, citing "her failure to do whatever it takes to ensure the health of our democracy" — namely her refusal to go along with fellow Democrats to alter a Senate rule so they could overcome Republican opposition to the bill. While the rebuke is symbolic, it is striking given that only three years ago, Sinema was heralded for bringing the Senate seat back into the Democratic fold for the first time in a generation.

Donors are threatening to walk away. Several groups are already collecting money for an eventual primary challenge, even though she's not on the ballot until 2024. Young activists are holding a second hunger strike to draw attention to Sinema's vote.

The moves offer a preview of the persistent opposition Sinema will likely face within her own party in the two years before she next appears on a ballot. The independent streak that has given her tremendous leverage over the agenda in Washington has enraged many Democrats back home who are intent on preventing her reelection.

"Any reservoir of goodwill that she had is gone," said Rep. Ruben Gallego, an Arizona Democrat who may challenge Sinema from the left.

Sinema's defenders say nobody who's watched her for the past decade should be surprised by her position. She often bucked her party in the House, ran an aggressively moderate campaign for Senate and has never wavered in her support for upholding the filibuster.

"During three terms in the U.S. House, and now in the Senate, Kyrsten has always promised Arizonans she would be an independent voice for the state — not for either political party," Hannah Hurley, Sinema's spokesperson, said in a statement before the censure vote. "She's delivered for Arizonans and has always been honest about where she stands."

Hurley repeated her comments in response to the censure.

Sinema's influence is driven by the Senate's 50-50 split, which essentially gives any senator the ability to kill legislation, an option Sinema has repeatedly exercised.

But she faces political dynamics unlike the other Senate moderate thwarting Democratic ambitions, Joe Manchin of West Virginia. Representing a state that former President Donald Trump carried by nearly 39 percentage points in 2020, Manchin is unlikely to face a progressive challenger who would gain traction.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 74 of 87

In Arizona, however, Democrats are ascendant. Joe Biden was the first Democratic presidential candidate to carry the state since 1996, and the party is eager to build on that success. That makes it harder for a Democrat to simply ignore the left here, particularly in a primary election.

Sinema supports the Democrats' voting rights legislation but steadfastly opposes passing it by changing or eliminating the Senate's filibuster rule, which effectively requires 60 of 100 votes to pass most legislation. On Wednesday night, she joined Manchin and all Republicans to oppose a one-time rule change so the bill could pass with a simple majority.

Laphonza Butler, president of Emily's List, an important fundraising group for Democratic women who support abortion rights, said in a statement that Sinema's vote "means she will find herself standing alone in the next election." She said the group would not endorse her reelection if she doesn't support a path forward for voting rights legislation.

Primary Sinema Project, which is raising money for an eventual primary challenge, said it's collected more than \$300,000 from nearly 12,000 donors.

"We are quite literally doing everything we physically, possibly can in terms of putting our bodies on the line and trying to plead for this action because the consequences (of inaction) are far worse than starving or going to jail or both," said Shana Gallagher, one of about three dozen young people holding a hunger strike to protest Sinema and Manchin. Gallagher is co-founder of Un-PAC, launched last year to organize young people in favor of passing voting rights legislation.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, a Vermont independent whose fundraising and mobilization abilities are virtually unmatched on the left, suggested he'd support primary challengers to Sinema and Manchin.

Sinema says the filibuster forces bipartisanship on Capitol Hill and ensures that the millions of Americans represented by the minority party have a voice. Repealing it would lead to wild swings in legislation depending on the party in power, she says.

"When one party need only negotiate with itself, policy will inextricably be pushed from the middle towards the extremes," she said in a floor speech last week, her most expansive explanation of her views on the issue.

Antagonizing the left shores up her standing among the independent women who decide close races in Arizona, said Brian Murray, a GOP consultant in Phoenix and former executive director of the Arizona Republican Party. Sinema has shown the "maverick" sensibilities that made the late GOP Sen. John McCain a favorite son in Arizona, and with her appeal to independents, "she's going to be nearly impossible to beat," he said.

"Bernie Sanders is attacking an Arizona senator?" Murray said. "I'd say: 'Hey, thank you. You're helping me get reelected.'"

Even Republican Gov. Doug Ducey gave Sinema "credit for standing up and protecting a Senate rule that she believes in."

"I'm glad that she's trying to bring people together," Ducey told reporters. Sinema was one of Ducey's fiercest critics in 2020, when she relentlessly lambasted his light-touch response to the pandemic.

Sinema's fight with the left has overshadowed the 2022 reelection bid of Mark Kelly, Arizona's other Democratic senator, who will be trying to hold on to the seat he won in a special election.

With Sinema taking most of the attention, Kelly managed to avoid taking a position on the filibuster throughout his 2020 campaign and his first year in office. Hours before he had to vote Wednesday, Kelly came out in favor of a one-time workaround to pass the voting rights bill.

A statement Saturday by the Arizona Democratic Party's executive board noted that a larger group of party leaders had passed a resolution in the fall outlining potential action against Sinema "should she choose to protect the filibuster and obstruct voting rights legislation."

The censure has no practical consequences but demonstrates the frustration of key Democratic activists. Whether the party pulls its support for Sinema's 2024 bid would be up to the leaders elected after the 2022 midterms.

The state party tolerates disagreements, but safeguarding voter rights is too important, said Raquel

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 75 of 87

Terán, a state senator who is the party chair. On that issue, Sinema has “fallen short,” she said.

“She has an incredible ability to work across the aisle,” Terán said. “Let’s see that ability put to work for voting rights.”

## ‘Stop Right There!’: Foley recalls epic duet with Meat Loaf

By JOCELYN NOVECK and KRISTIN M. HALL Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — “Stop Right There!” Three words of warning — and three words that Ellen Foley credits with launching her career in music.

It was Foley who belted out the words to Meat Loaf about halfway through their eight-and-a-half minute duet “Paradise By the Dashboard Light,” the epic seduction song on his mega-selling 1977 “Bat Out of Hell” album.

Foley is now looking back on the singular experience of making the memorable song as she recalls Meat Loaf and a “beautiful, feisty, joyful friendship” that began in her early 20s. Meat Loaf, born Marvin Lee Aday, died on Thursday at 74.

He was the most unlikely of rock superstars, Foley says.

“I mean, that’s the wild thing,” she said in an interview Friday, when asked to explain the source of his fame. “Who would have thought that at the end of the ‘70s, this 300-pound-plus guy would be a star? But that’s what it was. He was a character, you know, larger than life.”

But, she says, he came at the right time.

“People were ready for this. People were ready to come out of the laid-back Fleetwood Mac ‘70s. And he had an extraordinary voice. I don’t know if he ever took a voice lesson — I think he came out pretty fully formed. First time I ever saw him walk into a rehearsal hall, he was Meat Loaf. He knew what he was.”

It was in the ‘70s that Foley met Meat Loaf, when the two of them were driving around in a blue van, touring with a National Lampoon comedy show. “We got very close,” she said. “You’re on the road, you’re feeling lonely and there are just people you gravitate to.”

She describes him, as others have, as rather a man-child. “I’m not saying that derogatorily,” she noted. “But I think all the women in his life probably ended up sort of caring for him.”

“Bat Out of Hell,” a collaboration with songwriter Jim Steinman and producer Todd Rundgren, overcame mixed reviews to become, via aggressive touring, one of the top-selling albums in history, with worldwide sales of more than 40 million copies.

“I think it was sold off of live performance,” Foley said of the 1977 album. “They toured the heck out of it and people saw him, and were just blown away and bought the record.” And, of course, there was “the wonder of Meat Loaf,” she added. “He was a wonder, truly.”

As for their “Paradise” duet — about two kids “doubly blessed” because they were “barely 17” and “barely dressed” — people never stopped talking to Foley about it.

“It’s got an unbelievable mythology around it,” she said, noting that people often tell her they lost their virginity to the song. “Which makes sense,” she said. “They were following the script.” (The song included baseball announcer Phil Rizzuto giving a play-by-play about rounding the bases and sliding into home. Rizzuto later said he didn’t realize it was a metaphor.)

But Foley says people also recite a litany of other occasions when they’ve pulled out the song, telling her: “I did it at karaoke, at my wedding, at my high school reunion, at my bar mitzvah.”

“It’s kind of incredible,” she said.

Indeed, Foley says, she sometimes feels like an astronaut, looking back on the big moonshot that defined a career.

“You do one thing and it goes with you for your whole life,” she said, “and it makes you always connected, and it makes you feel as young as you did when you sang that song — or went to the moon.”

In fact, though, Foley, now 70, was only beginning a long career as both an actor and singer.

She later originated the role of the Witch in Stephen Sondheim’s “Into the Woods,” in San Diego, and on TV starred for a season in “Night Court.” She’s recorded a number of solo albums and last year released her fifth, “Fighting Words.” She continues to perform and to teach.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 76 of 87

But this week, Foley is remembering the friend she simply calls Meat, whom she last saw when they collaborated on his 2016 album, "Braver Than We Are."

"Meat brought me into the consciousness of the rock 'n' roll world," she wrote on Facebook, "and through 'Paradise By the Dashboard Light,' I get to be a horny teenager for all time. Meat: I will love you forever."

## Jewish leaders, backers defiant a week after hostage siege

By PETER SMITH Associated Press

On the eve of her 100th birthday Saturday, Ruth Salton told her daughter she was going one way or another to Friday night Shabbat services at Congregation Beth Israel, just days after a gunman voicing antisemitic conspiracy theories held four worshippers hostage for 10 hours at the Fort Worth-area synagogue.

"I want to support my people," said Salton, a Holocaust survivor. She said she told her daughter "if she doesn't take me, I'll go by myself, because I feel I belong there. I am Jewish, and this is my faith, and I am supporting it."

She's far from alone.

At synagogues around the U.S., Jewish leaders marked the first Sabbath since last weekend's hostage-taking at Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, with a show of defiance against it and other acts of antisemitism. Many called for a strong turnout to show unity among the faithful, and rabbis, public officials and others spoke out during the Friday night and Saturday services against acts of violence, hatred and intimidation aimed at Jews.

At Beth Israel's service Saturday, Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker and the three other people who were taken hostage last weekend stood in front of the congregation, linking arms as they sang the ritual blessings before and after the weekly reading of the Torah.

And at Friday night services marking the start of the Sabbath, or Shabbat, Cytron-Walker said: "The words Shabbat Shalom, to be able to offer that to each and every one of you, those words have never, never felt so good. While we have a lot of processing to do, God willing, the worst is over ... and we can have a Shabbat of peace."

Viewers of Beth Israel's Facebook Live broadcast of its Saturday service sent greetings from Jerusalem, Florida, North Carolina and elsewhere.

Similar observances took place at other congregations.

"A terrorist tried to steal Shabbat from us last week. Claiming it this week is an act of resistance," Rabbi Angela Buchdahl, of Central Synagogue in New York City, said during Friday night's service.

During the standoff, the hostage-taker forced Cytron-Walker to call Buchdahl in a bid to win Siddiqui's release, according to authorities. She then reported the call to law enforcement.

Christian and Muslim clergy joined in Central Synagogue's Friday service in a show of solidarity, linking arms and swaying with Buchdahl and Mayor Eric Adams as the congregation sang a song of thanksgiving.

"Once again, we are facing the terror of all of the things that are happening in our city and country," Adams said, recalling how New Yorkers rebounded after the Sept. 11 attacks. "In New York, this is our obligation: to get up again to make sure that people know that we are resilient, we're loving, we're kind."

In Pittsburgh, Rabbi Jeffrey Myers of the Tree of Life Congregation struck a similarly defiant tone. On Oct. 27, 2018, a gunman killed 11 worshippers from three congregations meeting at Tree of Life's synagogue in what authorities said was the deadliest antisemitic hate crime in U.S. history.

"I, for one, did not survive Oct. 27 to become a professional victim for the rest of my life," Myers said, adding that the response to antisemites is to engage more deeply in Jewish practice.

"We cannot let terrorists determine our Jewishness," he said at Friday night services. "We did not let the alleged shooter at the Tree of Life do that, and we will not let the hostage taker in Texas do that."

Authorities say Malik Faisal Akram, a British national, took the four people who were at Congregation Beth Israel last Saturday hostage. He was demanding the release of Aafia Siddiqui, a Pakistani neuroscientist convicted of trying to kill U.S. troops in Afghanistan and who is serving a lengthy sentence in a prison in Fort Worth, which is 15 miles (23 kilometers) southwest of Colleyville.

The hostages said Akram cited antisemitic stereotypes, believing that Jews could wield power over

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 77 of 87

President Joe Biden to have Siddiqui released.

The siege ended after the last hostage ran out of the synagogue and an FBI SWAT team rushed in. Akram was killed by multiple gunshot wounds. The Tarrant County Medical Examiner ruled the case a homicide, which under Texas law indicates that one person was killed by another but does not necessarily mean the killing was a crime.

Congregation Beth Israel's services this weekend were being held at another location because the investigation at the synagogue is ongoing. Attendance was limited to members. The worshippers used the same portable ark, containing its Torah scroll, that it used before the congregation had a building of its own.

Many Jewish leaders have said the hostage standoff was an example of a larger rise in antisemitic acts. The Anti-Defamation League says such incidents have reached their highest levels since it began tracking them decades ago.

Anna Eisen, Salton's daughter, said that the supportive response of local police and the FBI has made her "feel safer in my community and my country," but that it's also important to confront antisemitism.

Eisen, co-author of books about her father's Holocaust experience and her own as the daughter of Holocaust survivors, said synagogues in Nazi-controlled Europe "were attacked, and people were attacked and killed, because of the same kind of hatred" that was shown last Saturday by the hostage-taker.

Added Salton: "It's nothing new to me. I hate antisemitism. I don't understand why people feel that way about us."

At the same time, having survived the Holocaust and much else, she said she was ready to celebrate her centennial.

"I would very much like to be 18, but since I'm 100, I'm grateful that I came to a point to live to 100 years," she said.

## Houthis, aid group: Death toll from prison airstrike hits 82

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The death toll from a Saudi-led coalition airstrike that hit a prison run by Yemen's Houthi rebels has climbed to at least 82 detainees, the rebels and an aid group said Saturday.

Internet access in the Arab world's poorest country meanwhile remained largely down as the coalition continued airstrikes on the rebel-held capital, Sanaa, and elsewhere.

The airstrike in the northern Saada province Friday was part of an intense air and ground offensive that marked an escalation in Yemen's yearslong civil war. The conflict pits the internationally recognized government, aided by the Saudi-led coalition, against the Iranian-backed rebels.

The increase in hostilities follows a Houthi claim of a drone and missile attack that struck inside the United Arab Emirates' capital earlier in the week. It also comes as government forces, aided by UAE-backed troops and coalition airstrikes, have reclaimed the entire Shabwa province from the Houthis and pressured them in the central Marib province. Houthis there have for a year attempted to take control of its provincial capital.

Ahmed Mahat, head of Doctors Without Borders's mission in Yemen, told The Associated Press his group counted at least 82 dead and more than 265 wounded in the airstrike.

The Houthis' media office said rescuers were still searching for survivors and bodies in the rubble of the prison site in Saada on the border with Saudi Arabia.

Saudi coalition spokesman Brig. Gen. Turki al-Malki said the Houthis hadn't reported the site as needing protection from airstrikes to the U.N. or the International Committee of the Red Cross. He claimed the Houthis' failure to do so represented the militia's "usual deceptive approach" in the conflict.

The Houthis used the prison complex to hold detained migrants, mostly Africans attempting to cross through the war-torn country into Saudi Arabia, according to the humanitarian organization Save the Children.

But Mahat, of Doctors Without Borders, said the airstrike hit a different part of the facility housing other types of detainees, and no migrants were killed.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 78 of 87

Al-Malki said reports that the coalition targeted the prison were inaccurate and that the coalition would correspond "facts and details" to the U.N. and the ICRC, according to Saudi state-run television.

The Saada attack followed another Saudi-led coalition airstrike Friday at the Red Sea port city of Hodeida that hit a telecommunications center key to Yemen's connection to the internet. Access to the internet has remained "largely down for more than 24 hours" in the country, advocacy group NetBlocks said Saturday.

The Saada airstrike, one of the deadliest of the war, was not the first to hit a Houthi-run prison. A September 2019 airstrike hit a detention center the southwestern Dhamar province, killing more than 100 people and wounding dozens.

Rights groups have previously documented that the Houthis placing civilian detention centers near military barracks under constant threat of airstrikes.

Friday's airstrikes have renewed criticism of the coalition from the United Nations and international aid and rights groups, who just days previous had blasted the Houthis for the attack on the Emirates.

Saudi-led coalition airstrikes have hit schools, hospitals and wedding parties, killing an estimated thousands of civilians according to monitoring groups. The Houthis meanwhile have used child soldiers and indiscriminately laid land mines across the country. They also launched cross-border attacks using ballistic missiles and explosives-laden drones on Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

The coalition continued its airstrikes on Sanaa and elsewhere Saturday, targeting a Houthi-held military facility and an abandoned headquarters of Yemeni state TV in the capital. The coalition said airstrikes also targeted the Houthis in the contested Harib district in Marib.

And Yemeni forces closely allied with the UAE, known as the Giants Brigades, said they shot down three drones carrying explosives launched by the Houthis on government-held areas in Marib and Shabwa provinces.

The rebels, meanwhile, held a funeral procession in Sanaa for a senior military official killed along with family members in a coalition airstrike last week. Hundreds of Houthi supporters attended the military funeral of Gen. Abdalla Kassem al-Junaid, who headed the Air Academy.

Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken urged the warring parties to stop the escalation.

"We urge all parties to commit to a peaceful, diplomatic solution to ending the conflict. The Yemeni people deserve to live in peace and determine their own future," he wrote on Twitter.

The latest escalation comes almost a year after President Joe Biden's administration announced an end to U.S. support for the coalition and removed the designation of the Houthis as a terrorist group as part of American efforts to end the grinding war.

The Houthi-claimed attack on the UAE on Monday prompted Biden to say that his administration would consider restoring the status of the Iranian-backed rebels as terrorists.

The latest fighting is some of the most intense since the 2018 battle for Hodeida and comes after a year of U.S. and U.N. diplomatic efforts failed to bring the two sides to the negotiating table. On Friday, the U.N. criticized the Houthis for not even allowing the body's new envoy to visit their territories. Pitched fighting in Marib has remained a major sticking point, as the Houthis attempt to complete their control of the northern half of Yemen.

"The coalition has pulled the stops out to prevent a collapse in Marib and to shift the conflict towards a military equilibrium," said Peter Salisbury, Yemen expert at the International Crisis Group.

The conflict in the Arab world's poorest country began in 2014, when the Houthis took Sanaa and much of northern Yemen, forcing the government to flee to the south, then into exile in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi-led coalition, backed at the time by the U.S., entered the war months later to try to restore the government to power.

The conflict has since become a regional proxy war that has killed tens of thousands of civilians and fighters. The war also created the world's worst humanitarian crisis, leaving millions suffering from food and medical care shortages and pushing the country to the brink of famine.

**'Whoa, that's not right': Georgia towns lead census appeals**

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 79 of 87

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

When officials in Chester, Georgia, heard that the 2020 census had pegged their small town at 525 people, their jaws dropped. They believed the town was almost triple that size and feared an inaccurate number could force them to make budget cuts.

"I said, 'Whoa, that's not right,'" City Clerk Melanie McCook said. "The first thing I thought is, 'This is going to affect our revenues greatly.'"

Chester and two other small, rural municipalities in Georgia are the first communities in the U.S. to challenge the accuracy of their numbers from the once-a-decade head count. Successful challenges are scant, but the outcome could determine whether Chester, the city of Glennville and White County get their fair share when it comes to the distribution of \$1.5 trillion in annual federal funding.

In the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, White County officials were stunned when the 2020 census said the county had 28,003 residents. A Census Bureau estimate from 2019 had put the county's population at 30,798. The county is home to the town of Helen, a tourist draw modeled on a Bavarian alpine village.

An analysis by the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, a nonprofit agency that provides planning help to communities in the region, said half of the county's census blocks had incorrect housing counts. Although the 2020 census put the number of homes at 13,535, it should have been 15,286, according to the analysis.

"We are concerned about long-term impacts, not qualifying for grants, not getting as many dollars as we need for our schools, those kinds of opportunities that come when the census count is used," said John Sell, director of White County's community and economic development.

Both Glennville and Chester are home to state prisons, which became among the most difficult places to count — along with college dorms, nursing homes and military barracks — as the coronavirus spread throughout the U.S. during crucial weeks for the census in the spring of 2020. Students were sent home from campuses, and prisons and nursing homes went into lockdowns when those residents were supposed to be counted.

In Georgia, inmates are supposed to be counted where they are imprisoned. About a dozen other states are planning to count prisoners at their home addresses when it comes to drawing political districts.

Because of the challenges pandemic lockdowns posed to these "group quarters" counts, the Census Bureau has proposed creating a separate program to accept challenges for dorms, military barracks, nursing homes and prisons. The local officials in Georgia aren't waiting around.

In Glennville, where more than a third of the population is Black, the 2020 census counted 3,834 people. The 2019 estimates said there were 5,066 people, and Glennville officials say the 2020 number should be more than 5,300 residents because they believe the 1,500 or so inmates at Smith State Prison weren't counted.

"It's not that they did anything wrong. It was just an oversight. You had to take into account we had COVID and people weren't allowed in or out," Stan Dansby, Glennville's city manager, said of the prison.

A combination of the pandemic and a lack of reliable broadband for filling out the census questionnaire online may have led to discrepancies in the counts in rural Georgia, said Heather Feldman, executive director of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission.

"Unlike many areas of the country, Georgia was seeing extremely high cases of COVID-19," Feldman said in an email. "Unlike the metro areas where population is dense, door-to-door census counters may not have gone to harder to reach areas of rural counties."

The scope of appeals allowed by the Census Bureau is narrow — mistakes in recording boundaries or housing skipped during data processing. Revisions to population and housing totals were made to about 1% of the nation's 39,000 governments after the 2010 census. The census challenges won't change the number of congressional seats each state gets or the numbers used for redrawing political districts.

Other communities have signaled they plan to challenge their census numbers, including several college towns and the cities of Boston and Detroit.

In the case of Chester, about halfway between Atlanta and Savannah, the 2020 census said it had only

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 80 of 87

525 people, which would mark a 67% decline in the population over the decade if it were true. The 2019 American Community Survey pegged the majority-Black town's population at 2,102 residents, and city officials believe it has a minimum of 1,500 inhabitants.

Chester officials believe the head count missed not only inmates at the Dodge State Prison but also residents in the town's homes.

Without a large property tax base or much business taxes, Chester relies on a state-run program in which counties share sales taxes with cities as well as a tax on insurance premiums. Both sources of revenue are tied to the population of Chester, which spends about \$350,000 per year on its operations but is scrambling to adjust to the lower-than-expected number even as it seeks an adjustment.

"It was a budgeting nightmare for me. I have no idea when this will be straightened out," said McCook, Chester's city clerk. "We are kind of, for the time being, only spending money on the necessities, stuff that you absolutely have to have. We are hoping it will be resolved before we have to make any major budget cuts."

## Bitcoin pyramid schemes wreak havoc on Brazil's 'New Egypt'

By DIANE JEANTET Associated Press

CABO FRIO, Brazil (AP) — In April, Brazil's federal police stormed the helipad of a boutique seaside hotel in Rio de Janeiro state, where they busted two men and a woman loading a chopper with 7 million reais (\$1.3 million) in neatly packed bills.

The detainees told police they worked for G.A.S. Consulting & Technology, a cryptocurrency investment firm founded by a former waiter-turned-multimillionaire who is the central figure in what is alleged to be one of Brazil's biggest-ever pyramid schemes.

Police say the company owned by 38-year-old Glaidson Acácio dos Santos had total transactions worth at least \$7 billion (\$38 billion reais) from 2015 through mid-2021 as part of a Bitcoin-based Ponzi scheme that promised investors 10% monthly returns.

In hundreds of pages of documents obtained by The Associated Press, federal and state police and prosecutors accuse dos Santos and his associates of running a sophisticated racket defrauding thousands of small-scale investors who believed they were getting rich off Bitcoin's steep appreciation. He is now in a Rio jail awaiting trial on charges including racketeering, financial crimes and ordering the murder and attempted murder of two business competitors. He remains under investigation in the attempted murder of a third competitor.

In public statements, dos Santos has repeatedly asserted his innocence. His lawyers didn't reply to AP requests for comment.

Despite the long list of charges he faces, dos Santos represents an unlikely hero to his fervent supporters. Many view him as a modest Black man whose unorthodox Bitcoin business made them wealthy by gaming a financial system they believe is rigged by wealthy white elites.

The case also underscores the fast-growing appetite for cryptocurrencies in Brazil, where years of economic and political crises have made digital currencies an attractive shield against depreciation of the Brazilian real and double-digit inflation.

Bitcoin fervor was particularly keen in Cabo Frio, the resort town of 230,000 where G.A.S. was based. As G.A.S. revenues rose, enriching early adopters, copycat firms sprang up, seeking to cash in on the craze. A wave of cryptocurrency-related violence soon followed.

With so many alleged pyramid schemes, Cabo Frio came to be known as the "New Egypt." And as the town's top dog, dos Santos was dubbed the "Bitcoin Pharaoh."

Police say dos Santos began trading in Bitcoin after leaving his job as a waiter in 2014. A one-time evangelical preacher in training, he enlisted clients from the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God, Brazil's largest neo-Pentecostal group, who earned a referral fee for bringing in fresh recruits and kicking back money to G.A.S., police documents say.

Jéfferson Colombo, a cryptofinance researcher at Sao Paulo's Getulio Vargas Foundation, said religious



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 81 of 87

groups are often targeted by pyramid schemers. "It's through contacts that you increase the base of the pyramid," he said.

In a statement, the Universal Church said it was cooperating with authorities and accused dos Santos of "harassing and recruiting" pastors and their flocks to join his company.

By 2017, dos Santos was starting to make serious money — and attract authorities' attention. That year his company's transactions totaled nearly 10 million reais (\$1.8 million), 15 times higher than the previous year as money siphoned in and out of his bank accounts from all over Brazil, according to a federal police report. The country's financial intelligence unit also noticed the company — at the time registered as a restaurant — was regularly trading cryptocurrency on online exchange platforms.

The alleged scheme worked like this, according to prosecutors: Dos Santos would instruct clients to deposit their money — in cash to avoid further scrutiny — into bank accounts run by managing partners. The money would then be transferred to dos Santos or his Venezuelan wife, Mirelis Yoseline Diaz Zerpa, who would either pocket it, use it to buy bitcoins and other cryptocurrencies as well as traditional financial assets, or pay off other members of the scheme.

Clients were promised a 10% monthly return on their investments over 12- to 48-month contract periods, but did not own the bitcoins they were told G.A.S. was purchasing with their money. And, they were assured, it was risk-free: They would get their entire initial investment back at the end of the contract.

As Bitcoin fever grew, dos Santos was fast becoming a celebrity in Cabo Frio.

"If he wanted to run for mayor, governor even, he'd win," said Gilson Silva do Carmo, 52, one of dos Santos' alleged victims.

The chubby young man in thick-rimmed glasses was also gaining a taste for the high life, police and prosecutors said. Dos Santos bought expensive jewelry and a swanky apartment as contracts poured in from elsewhere in Latin America and as far away as the U.S., Europe and the Gulf.

Brazil's lenient laws regulating cryptocurrency helped fuel dos Santos' rise, experts say.

At the same time, Brazil's securities regulator was making digital currencies more attractive: It authorized the country's investment funds to invest in cryptocurrencies in 2018, giving them greater credibility. Last year, Brazil approved Bitcoin exchange-traded funds, only the second country in the world to do so. And Rio de Janeiro has recently said it wants to offer incentives to those paying city property taxes using bitcoins.

Meanwhile, trades in Brazilian reais on the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, Binance, jumped to nearly \$8.5 billion in the fourth quarter of 2021, from just \$152 million over the same period a year earlier, according to market data provider Kaiko.

In and around Cabo Frio, where residents had seen their neighbors reap rewards by investing their life savings in G.A.S., many began to fear missing out.

Do Carmo was among them. After catching COVID-19 and struggling to get back to work, he was forced to tap his retirement savings to make ends meet.

Then his therapist told him he sold his house to invest in G.A.S., and had been receiving 10% monthly returns for a year. Do Carmo invested 40,000 reais (\$7,000) — just over half the money left in his retirement fund.

In Cabo Frio, dos Santos' success inspired other budding entrepreneurs to follow in his footsteps — not to mention those of Charles Ponzi, who died nearby in a Rio de Janeiro hospital charity ward in 1949. The Italian immigrant who engineered one of the largest scams in U.S. history in the 1920s was buried in a public Rio cemetery with his last \$75.

Some competitors promised even higher returns than G.A.S. — 20% or more a month.

Cabo Frio Mayor José Bonifácio acknowledged his city found itself under a spell. "The talk of the town was to know how much (Bitcoin) was at, who was giving a bigger return," he said.

Dos Santos wasn't happy.

In mid-April, he discussed with associates how rivals were encroaching on his turf, according to WhatsApp messages intercepted by federal police.

"There's a trader here in Cabo Frio, Mr. Pessano, who's going for my clients. I can't let that happen,"

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 82 of 87

dos Santos wrote.

Less than four months later, on Aug. 4, Wesley Pessano, who advertised himself on social media as a cryptocurrency trader, was shot dead in his Porsche. Police accuse dos Santos of ordering the hit.

Rio state police have also linked two attempted killings to dos Santos and what they called his "extermination team." On March 20, a trader known as Nilsinho was shot while driving his BMW through Cabo Frio. He was severely injured but survived. Three months later another firm's operator was targeted, his car hit by 40 bullets; he also survived.

Things came to a head on April 28 when Rio federal police, acting on an anonymous tip, seized the 7 million reais at the helipad of the Insolito Boutique Hotel in Buzios, a short drive from Cabo Frio. A monthlong investigation into dos Santos' business followed.

On Aug. 25, alerted that dos Santos was planning to flee Brazil, federal police raided more than a dozen locations linked to G.A.S., including dos Santos' home where he was found with 13.8 million reais (\$2.5 million) and taken into custody. Agents also found hard drives containing 10 times that amount in Bitcoin, gold bars, jewelry and several sports cars, including a white Porsche Panamera and an electric blue BMW Z4 convertible.

Sixteen other associates were also charged, including Diaz Zerpa, dos Santos' 38-year-old wife, who left the country weeks before the raid and is believed to be in Florida, according to authorities. They say she withdrew more than 4,300 bitcoins worth \$185 million (1 billion reais). AP attempts to locate her were unsuccessful.

Do Carmo watched in horror as the seizures and arrests unfolded; he had invested the rest of his savings in the company just weeks earlier.

"I thought, 'My God, what have I done?'" he said. "You watch everything you fought for, your entire life wash away from one moment to the next."

Still, many early G.A.S. investors who had been receiving regular monthly payments refused to believe dos Santos did anything illegal.

After his arrest, a crowd gathered outside broadcaster TV Globo in Rio de Janeiro to protest coverage of the alleged racket. In October, scores of supporters blocked the street outside a federal courthouse in Rio, demanding his freedom.

Jeferson Brandão, a tax lawyer, G.A.S. investor and vocal advocate of dos Santos, said the company offered an attractive alternative to a banking sector that "only charges you fees."

G.A.S. offered investors a chance to "take part in the profit," Brandão said. "Instead of giving you a crumb of the cake, I'm going to give you a slice."

From prison, dos Santos has maintained his innocence. In an open letter to investors last month, he blamed the authorities for freezing G.A.S. assets and "prohibiting me from paying you."

Brazilian law enforcement is still trying to uncover the true size of dos Santos' empire.

Prosecutors have identified at least 27,000 G.A.S. victims, with operations in at least 13 Brazilian states and seven other countries, including the U.S., United Arab Emirates, the U.K. and Portugal.

The true tally is likely much higher, said Luciano Regis, a lawyer representing dozens of victims. He said one of his clients enlisted her husband, mother, brother, sister-in-law and an 82-year-old aunt, investing a total 822,000 reais (about \$150,000).

"It's hard to have a conversation with anyone in Cabo Frio who doesn't know someone who invested," he said.

## Ex-athlete vows to maintain U. of Michigan sex abuse protest

By COREY WILLIAMS and MIKE HOUSEHOLDER Associated Press

Jon Vaughn's small blue-and-white camper has been parked outside the home of the University of Michigan's president since early October, and he says it won't be moving anytime soon.

The former star running back for the university's Wolverines football team says a \$490 million settlement the school recently announced is not enough by itself to remedy the sexual abuse he and more than 1,000

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 83 of 87

other students say they suffered at the hands of the university's late sports doctor Robert Anderson.

"We've only really scratched the surface and touched the tip of the iceberg on how insidious this atrocity is," Vaughn told The Associated Press on Friday. "That's why I'm staying. The entire truth has not come out."

Anderson has been accused of molesting students over more than three decades. He worked as director of the university's Health Service and as a physician for football and other athletic teams from 1966 until his retirement in 2003. He died in 2008.

In 2018, a former athlete made an allegation of sexual abuse against Anderson and police launched an investigation. Then in early 2020, five more former patients lodged accusations against the late doctor. It was then that a spokesman acknowledged that some university employees were aware of accusations against the doctor even prior to 2018.

The university established a hotline in 2020 for other students to come forward.

Vaughn, who played for the Wolverines during the 1988-1990 seasons, said he was given 50 prostate exams by Anderson, the first when he was an 18-year-old freshman in 1988.

During the recruiting process, he said, football coaches knew his mother had been diagnosed with breast cancer and passed the information on to Anderson.

"He made the comment, 'I see you had cancer in your family history,'" and asked, "'You have any other relative with cancer?'" Vaughn said. "In that exam, he then raped me digitally for the first time."

Vaughn said Anderson, the only doctor whom scholarship athletes could see at the university, usually started his exams with noninvasive procedures such as taking his blood pressure and checking his heart.

"Then he would tell you he needed to do a testicular cancer screening and a prostate cancer screening," the former football player said.

As an athlete you go through exams "cause you want to get the pass to play," he said, noting that while at Michigan, he and other players "were in a constant state of being uncomfortable but learning to compartmentalize things to get the job done."

Vaughn rushed for more than 1,400 yards in two years and nine touchdowns in his final season with the Wolverines. In 1990, he was picked by the New England Patriots in the fifth round of the draft. During a four-year NFL career, he also played for Kansas City and Seattle.

But he said the repercussions of what Anderson subjected him to lingered throughout his pro career and even seeped into his life outside football, namely when it came to taking care of his health.

"You don't want to go to the dentist" and "you don't want to go to the doctor" because of trust issues, he said. This fall, he discovered a lump on his neck, and ultimately ended up going to a doctor. It turned out to be cancerous nodules on his thyroid gland.

"I've been living with this now for I don't know how long," he said Friday morning while heading to surgery to have his thyroid removed. "I realized how long I self-treated things."

The allegations against Anderson are not the only scandal ensnaring the university. On Jan. 15, the university's Board of Regents removed Mark Schlissel as school president because of an alleged "inappropriate relationship with a university employee." Former University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman has been appointed interim president.

Despite his condition, Vaughn said he doesn't plan to stop protesting the way the university handles sex abuse claims or demanding answers in the Anderson case.

"Michigan built us for this fight," he said, referring to himself and other former players who say they were abused by Anderson. "They have no idea who we are."

## With Roe in doubt, states act on abortion limits, expansions

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — It didn't take long for abortion to re-emerge as a flashpoint in state legislatures.

Less than a month into the 2022 legislative sessions, battles over the future of abortion already are setting up around the U.S. Republican lawmakers are proposing new restrictions modeled after laws in Texas and Mississippi that present a direct challenge to the landmark Roe v. Wade decision, while some

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 84 of 87

Democratic-led states are working to preserve or expand access.

The activity in state legislatures was anticipated after the U.S. Supreme Court, with its conservative majority, signaled it was ready to make seismic changes to the nationwide right to abortion that has stood for nearly half a century. If the court overturns *Roe v. Wade* entirely, the decision on whether to keep abortion legal would fall to the states.

More than 20 states already have laws on the books to ban or dramatically restrict abortion if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned. As legislative sessions begin, several are considering new bans.

"This could be a really, really dramatic year in terms of people's ability to access abortion care and to decide if, when and how they become a parent," said Kristin Ford, vice-president of communications and outreach at NARAL Pro-Choice America, a pro-abortion rights group. "At this time next year, we could be looking at a scenario in which more than half of the country has lost access to abortion ... It will have consequences for everyone."

Against that backdrop, California lawmakers will consider plans this year to become a "sanctuary" for those seeking reproductive care. That could include paying for travel, lodging and procedures for people coming from other states.

"We are confronting an all-out assault on reproductive freedom in America. There are powerful forces working tirelessly to drag us backwards. But here in California, we are not going back," said Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris, as state lawmakers proposed eight bills on Thursday. "We will continue to fight for reproductive freedom."

Susan Arnall, director of outreach for the anti-abortion Right to Life League, said other Democratic-led states are likely to follow California's lead. Her organization is fighting the legislation introduced in the nation's most populous state.

Even so, she said abortion opponents have gained the upper hand throughout the U.S.

"Life is winning ... and the abortion industry is losing," Arnall said.

Other Democratic-leaning states are not yet copying California, though New Jersey recently became the 15th state to protect the right to abortion in state law, according to the Guttmacher Institute, an abortion rights think tank. Vermont could move toward enshrining "reproductive autonomy" in its constitution this year. In Michigan, abortion-rights groups are seeking an amendment enshrining the right to abortion in the state constitution.

Meanwhile, at least seven states could follow Texas, which has already effectively banned abortions after six weeks with a law strategically written to avoid a federal court challenge. The Supreme Court has allowed the law to remain in effect, even though it appears to contradict the *Roe* decision.

Similar proposals have been introduced in Ohio, Alabama, Oklahoma, Missouri, Florida and Arizona. South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, a possible 2024 presidential contender, released a proposal on Friday modeled after the Texas law. She said it would "ensure that both unborn children and their mothers are protected in South Dakota."

Other states that already have six-week bans on the books also could amend those measures to look more like the Texas law so they can take effect, said Katie Glenn, government affairs counsel at Americans United for Life, an anti-abortion group.

The Texas law is unusual because it allows private citizens to file civil lawsuits against anyone who helps someone else get an abortion after six weeks. It has made legal challenges difficult because the government is not involved in enforcement.

More than a dozen states have passed abortion bans after six weeks but have seen those efforts blocked by the courts. That has made the Texas model more attractive to conservative lawmakers.

"Our message to lawmakers is, 'Full steam ahead.' If you have felt like maybe something's not worth doing because it might be enjoined or you're worried about it, this is a great opportunity for state lawmakers to let the Supreme Court know, 'We've got this,'" Glenn said.

Meanwhile, at least three Republican-led states — Arizona, Florida and West Virginia — are weighing bans on the procedure after 15 weeks, similar to the Mississippi law that the Supreme Court appeared to

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 85 of 87

view favorably during arguments in December. Under Roe, abortions are legal until the point a fetus can survive outside the womb, which is usually around 24 weeks.

In Florida, which currently allows abortions up to that point, GOP legislative leaders are optimistic about a proposal to ban it after 15 weeks, with some health-related exceptions but none for rape and incest.

"There's a lot of pro-life legislation. We're going to be welcoming it," Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis told reporters earlier this month. He is up for reelection this year and is considered a top Republican presidential hopeful for 2024.

In another major shift last year, the Food and Drug Administration made a regulatory change that allows people access to abortion medication by mail after obtaining a prescription online. That promises to be another front in the legal debate over abortion. Some states could allow pharmacists to opt out of dispensing the drugs if they oppose abortion.

Last year, eight states passed measures restricting abortion medication sent through the mail in anticipation of the FDA decision. A handful of states, including Republican-led Iowa, will debate bills on the topic this year, said Elizabeth Nash, a state policy analyst at the Guttmacher Institute.

Last year was the "worst year for abortion rights" since the Roe decision in 1973, Nash said, with over 100 restrictions enacted in the states.

"It just feels like the state sessions in 2022 are also going to be very active on abortion restrictions," she said. "It feels like we're at the beginning of another wave."

## Stray bullet kills English astrophysicist visiting Atlanta

BROOKHAVEN, Ga. (AP) — A stray bullet struck and killed an English astrophysicist while he was inside an Atlanta-area apartment, authorities say.

Matthew Willson, 31, of Chertsey, Surrey, England, was visiting his girlfriend in the United States when he was hit by a bullet that pierced the wall of the apartment. The shooting happened early Sunday morning, only three days into his visit.

"He was supposed to be here for three months because we've been long distance for a while," Katherine Shepard, his girlfriend of three years, told WSB-TV. "I picked him up from the airport, took him to his favorite eating location, and the next day, he's gone."

Shepard, whose apartment is in the Atlanta suburb of Brookhaven, who told the television station that the couple woke up on Jan. 16 to the sound of more than 30 gunshots coming from an apartment complex directly behind Shepard's. A bullet traveled through Shepard's wall, hitting Willson, she said.

"I held him for another 20 minutes while we waited for the ambulance," she said. "And while we were waiting, there were more gunshots fired."

Police were in the vicinity pursuing reports of gunfire when the 911 call from Shepard came in. Sgt. Jake Kissel of the Brookhaven criminal investigations division said that once officers arrived at the scene, they rendered aid until paramedics arrived.

"Dr. Willson was transported to a local trauma center where he succumbed to his injuries," Kissel said in a statement. The shooting appeared to be a "random act involving individuals participating in the reckless discharge" of firearms.

Willson was being mourned by family, friends and his alma mater, the University of Exeter.

"Matthew Willson was a former PhD student at the University of Exeter and much-loved member of our astrophysics team," a university spokesman said in a statement.

No arrests have been announced. Brookhaven police have asked for witnesses or anyone with information about the shooting to contact them or submit an anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers at 404-577-TIPS (8477).

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Jan. 23, the 23rd day of 2022. There are 342 days left in the year.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 86 of 87

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 23, 2020, Chinese state media said the city of Wuhan would be shutting down outbound flights and trains, trying to halt the spread of a new virus that had sickened hundreds of people and killed at least 17. The World Health Organization said the viral illness in China was not yet a global health emergency, though the head of the U.N. health agency added that "it may yet become one."

On this date:

In 1368, China's Ming dynasty, which lasted nearly three centuries, began as Zhu Yuanzhang (zhoo whan-zhahng) was formally acclaimed emperor following the collapse of the Yuan dynasty.

In 1845, Congress decided all national elections would be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

In 1932, New York Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In 1950, the Israeli Knesset approved a resolution affirming Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

In 1962, Jackie Robinson was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. Tony Bennett recorded "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" in New York for Columbia Records.

In 1964, the 24th Amendment to the United States Constitution, eliminating the poll tax in federal elections, was ratified as South Dakota became the 38th state to endorse it.

In 1968, North Korea seized the U.S. Navy intelligence ship USS Pueblo, commanded by Lloyd "Pete" Bucher, charging its crew with being on a spying mission; one sailor was killed and 82 were taken prisoner. (Cmdr. Bucher and his crew were released the following December after enduring 11 months of brutal captivity at the hands of the North Koreans.)

In 1973, President Richard Nixon announced an accord had been reached to end the Vietnam War, and would be formally signed four days later in Paris.

In 1977, the TV mini-series "Roots," based on the Alex Haley novel, began airing on ABC.

In 1998, fighting scandal allegations involving Monica Lewinsky, President Clinton assured his Cabinet during a meeting that he was innocent and urged them to concentrate on their jobs.

In 2002, John Walker Lindh, a U.S.-born Taliban fighter, was returned to the United States to face criminal charges that he'd conspired to kill fellow Americans. (Lindh was sentenced to 20 years in prison after pleading guilty to providing support for the Taliban; he was released in May 2019 after serving more than 17 years.)

In 2020, in a second day of opening arguments at President Donald Trump's first impeachment trial, Democratic prosecutors made the case that Trump had abused power like no other president in history, swept up by a "completely bogus" theory about Ukrainian interference in the 2016 U.S. election. PBS announced that Jim Lehrer, the longtime host of the nightly "NewsHour" and the moderator of 11 presidential debates, had died at the age of 85.

Ten years ago: Republican presidential contenders Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich clashed repeatedly in heated, personal terms in a crackling campaign debate in Tampa, Florida. In a rare defeat for law enforcement, the Supreme Court unanimously agreed to bar police from installing GPS technology to track suspects without first getting a judge's approval.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the sweeping Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact, using one of his first actions in office to reject a proposed accord that was eagerly sought by American allies in Asia. Kansas Rep. Mike Pompeo was sworn in as CIA director immediately after the Senate confirmed his nomination, 66-32.

One year ago: The U.S. reaffirmed its support for Taiwan following China's dispatch of warplanes near the island. Protests erupted in dozens of cities across Russia to demand the release of opposition leader Alexei Navalny. Restaurants and certain bars across Chicago opened their doors to customers for the first time in months after winning approval from Illinois health officials. Hal Holbrook, the actor who toured the world for more than 50 years as Mark Twain in a one-man show and appeared as "Deep Throat" in "All the President's Men," died at 95 in California. Larry King, known for decades of broadcast interviews with

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 200 ~ 87 of 87**

world leaders, movie stars and ordinary Joes, died at a Los Angeles hospital at 87. Screenwriter Walter Bernstein, among the last survivors of Hollywood's anti-Communist blacklist, died at the age of 101.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Chita Rivera is 89. Actor-director Lou Antonio is 88. Jazz musician Gary Burton is 79. Actor Gil Gerard is 79. Sen. Thomas R. Carper, D-Del., is 75. Singer Anita Pointer is 74. Actor Richard Dean Anderson is 72. Rock musician Bill Cunningham is 72. Rock singer Robin Zander (Cheap Trick) is 69. Former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa (vee-yah-ry-GOH'-sah) is 69. Princess Caroline of Monaco is 65. Singer Anita Baker is 64. Reggae musician Earl Falconer (UB40) is 63. Actor Peter Mackenzie is 61. Actor Boris McGiver is 60. Actor Gail O'Grady is 59. Actor Mariska Hargitay is 58. R&B singer Marc Nelson is 51. CBS Evening News anchor Norah O'Donnell is 48. Actor Tiffani Thiessen is 48. Rock musician Nick Harmer (Death Cab for Cutie) is 47. Actor Lindsey Kraft is 42. Singer-actor Rachel Crow is 24.