

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 1 of 60

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [1- Truss Pros Help Wanted](#)
- [2- Torrential rainfall this morning](#)
- [3- Madison Bulldogs Captures Lead Early to Defeat Groton Area](#)
- [5- Groton Area Outdone by Outlaws Varsity, 6-5](#)
- [7- That's Life by Tony Bender](#)
- [8- Weber Landscaping Ad](#)
- [8- The Pantry ad](#)
- [9- Jumbo Graduation Cards](#)
- [10- Graduation Balloons](#)
- [11- Prairie Doc: Mentioning the Unmentionables](#)
- [12- Weather Pages](#)
- [17- Daily Devotional](#)
- [18- 2022 Community Events](#)
- [19- Subscription Form](#)
- [20- News from the Associated Press](#)



“The most treasured heirlooms are the sweet memories of our family that we pass down to our children.”

-Author Unknown

Tuesday, May 11

Senior Menu: Ham, sweet potatoes, peas, acini depepi fruit salad, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg bake.

School Lunch: Sloppy joes, fries.

Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m., UMYF at 7 p.m.

6 p.m.: Emmanuel Confirmation.

6:30 p.m.: Emmanuel League

Monday, May 9

Senior Menu: Goulash, green beans, apple crisp, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.

School Lunch: Pizza crunchers, corn.

6:30 a.m.: Emmanuel Bible Study

10 a.m.: Girls Golf at Olive Grove Golf Course

3:30 p.m.: Junior High Track Meet at Aberdeen Roncalli

7 p.m.: School Board Meeting

1 p.m.: Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center

Tuesday, May 10

Senior Menu: Hot turkey combination, mashed potatoes and gravy, 7-layer salad, apple sauce, cookie.

School Breakfast: Muffins.

School Lunch: Chicken strips, tater tots.

9:30 a.m.: Methodist Bible Study

6 p.m.: High School Baseball at Redfield (V/JV)

7 p.m.: All School Play at GHS Gym.

7 p.m.: Emmanuel Church Council



HELP

WANTED!

Groton

Store

Part time cashier & part time deli.
Deli must be 18 years of age or older.
Apply at Ken's in Groton.

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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

© 2022 Groton Daily Independent

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 2 of 60



A torrential rainfall fell this morning to the point that the storm sewer could not keep up. The water starting coming up on the curb in front of the Groton Daily Independent office. Half an inch of rain fell in a matter of minutes. The total amount of rain that fell so far this morning is 1.40.

Madison Bulldogs Captures Lead Early to Defeat Groton Area

Groton Area watched the game slip away early and couldn't recover in a 12-2 loss to Madison Bulldogs Varsity on Sunday. Madison Bulldogs Varsity scored on a walk by Riley Kearin and a walk by Mickale Dohrer in the first inning.

The Groton Area struggled to put runs on the board and had a tough time defensively containing Madison Bulldogs Varsity, giving up 12 runs.

Madison Bulldogs Varsity got on the board in the first inning. Jared Kennington was hit by a pitch, driving in a run.

Madison Bulldogs Varsity scored three runs in the sixth inning. Mason Kennington and Addison Gehrels each had RBIs in the frame.

Dohrer earned the victory on the pitcher's mound for Madison Bulldogs Varsity. The righthander went five innings, allowing two runs on seven hits, striking out three and walking one. Calvin Kelsey threw one inning in relief out of the bullpen.

Pierce Kettering took the loss for Groton Area. The righthander allowed three hits and six runs over three innings, striking out four.

Bradin Althoff led Groton Area with two hits in three at bats. Groton Area didn't commit a single error in the field. Kaleb Hoover had the most chances in the field with seven.

Madison Bulldogs Varsity racked up eight hits. Gehrels and Aspen Dahl all managed multiple hits for Madison Bulldogs Varsity. Michael Peters led Madison Bulldogs Varsity with two stolen bases, as they ran wild on the base paths with 14 stolen bases. Madison Bulldogs Varsity was sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Dahl had the most chances in the field with four.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 4 of 60

Groton Area 2 - 12 Madison Bulldogs Varsity

📍 Away 📅 Sunday May 08, 2022

	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E
GRTN	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	8	0
MDSN	3	2	1	2	1	3	12	8	0

BATTING

Groton Area	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
P Kettering (P, CF)	2	0	1	0	1	0
C Simon (SS, P, 2B)	3	1	1	0	0	0
D Abeln (CF, SS)	3	0	1	0	0	0
B Althoff (1B)	3	1	2	1	0	0
K Hoover (C)	3	0	0	0	0	2
C Dunker (3B)	3	0	1	0	0	0
C Simon (LF)	3	0	1	0	0	2
C McInerney (RF)	3	0	1	1	0	1
B Flieds (2B, P)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	24	2	8	2	1	5

Madison Bulldogs \	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
A Dahl (SS)	3	3	2	0	1	0
P Wolf (2B)	2	1	0	0	1	1
M Kennington	1	0	0	1	0	0
L Mork (2B)	1	0	1	0	1	0
T Smith (RF)	1	2	1	1	1	0
A Gehrels (RF)	2	1	2	1	1	0
J Kennington (C)	1	0	0	2	1	0
C Wolf (C, CF)	1	1	0	0	1	1
N Ricke (3B)	1	0	0	0	0	0
L Johnson (3B)	1	1	0	0	1	1
R Kearin (1B)	1	0	0	0	1	0
C Vostad (1B)	2	0	0	0	0	0
M Peters (LF)	1	1	0	0	2	1
M Dohrer (P)	0	1	0	1	2	0
T Olson	0	0	0	0	0	0
C Kelsey (P)	3	1	1	0	0	2
H Kane (CF)	2	0	1	0	0	1
Totals	23	12	8	6	13	7

2B: C Simon, **TB:** C Simon, C Simon 2, P Kettering, C Dunker, B Althoff 2, D Abeln, C McInerney, **CS:** P Kettering, **HBP:** B Flieds, **LOB:** 6

2B: A Dahl 2, **TB:** L Mork, H Kane, C Kelsey, T Smith, A Gehrels 2, A Dahl 4, **CS:** C Wolf, **HBP:** N Ricke, J Kennington 2, **SB:** L Mork, M Dohrer, P Wolf, L Johnson 2, C Wolf, M Peters 2, H Kane, T Smith 2, A Gehrels, A Dahl 2, **LOB:** 9

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 5 of 60

Groton Area Outdone by Outlaws Varsity, 6-5

Groton Area got things moving in the first inning. Dillon Abeln drove in one when Abeln singled.

Outlaws Varsity scored four runs in the sixth inning. Landon Cleveland, Carson Stephenson, and Cade Mohling powered the big inning with RBIs.

Quinten Christensen earned the victory on the hill for Outlaws Varsity. The lefthander allowed zero hits and zero runs over one inning, walking one. Kaden Krutzfeldt threw two innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Bradin Althoff took the loss for Groton Area. The pitcher allowed three hits and three runs over two and a third innings, striking out one.

Abeln started the game for Groton Area. The righty surrendered three runs on five hits over five and a third innings, striking out four. Mason Schelske started the game for Outlaws Varsity. The southpaw surrendered four runs on five hits over five innings, striking out nine.

Groton Area racked up seven hits in the game. Abeln and Pierce Kettering all had multiple hits for Groton Area. Kettering and Abeln all had two hits to lead Groton Area. Groton Area stole ten bases during the game as three players stole more than one. Kettering led the way with three.

Outlaws Varsity totaled eight hits in the game. Blaze Herdman and Christensen each had multiple hits for Outlaws Varsity.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 6 of 60

Groton Area 5 - 6 Outlaws Varsity

📍 Away 📅 Sunday May 08, 2022

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	H	E
GRTN	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	5	7	3
OTLW	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	6	8	2

BATTING

Groton Area	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
P Kettering (C)	5	1	2	0	0	0
C Simon (2B)	4	2	1	0	1	2
D Abeln (P, CF)	4	1	2	1	1	0
B Althoff (1B, P)	3	1	0	1	1	1
K Hoover (SS)	3	0	1	1	1	0
C Dunker (3B, 1B)	4	0	0	0	0	0
C Simon	0	0	0	0	0	0
N Morris (LF)	4	0	1	0	0	3
N Morris	0	0	0	0	0	0
K Antonsen (RF)	3	0	0	0	0	1
B Flihs (CF, 3B)	2	0	0	0	2	2
Totals	32	5	7	3	6	9

TB: C Simon, K Hoover, N Morris, P Kettering 2, D Abeln 2, **CS:** B Flihs, **HBP:** K Antonsen, **SB:** C Simon 2, K Hoover, P Kettering 3, K Antonsen 2, D Abeln, C Dunker, **LOB:** 10

PITCHING

Groton Area	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
D Abeln	5.1	5	3	2	2	4	0
B Althoff	2.1	3	3	1	3	1	0
Totals	7.2	8	6	2	5	5	0

L: B Althoff, **P-S:** B Althoff 49-26, D Abeln 85-48, **HBP:** D Abeln, **BF:** B Althoff 15, D Abeln 23

Outlaws Varsity	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
B Herdman (SS)	5	0	2	0	0	0
P McDonnell (LF)	3	1	0	0	2	2
Q Christensen (RF...)	4	1	2	0	0	0
L Cleveland (C)	3	1	1	2	0	0
M Schelske (P, 1B)	3	1	1	0	1	0
K Krutzfeldt (3B,...)	4	1	0	0	0	2
K Haider (2B)	3	1	1	0	0	1
C Stephenson (1B...)	2	0	0	1	2	0
C Mohling (CF)	4	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	31	6	8	3	5	5

2B: L Cleveland, Q Christensen 2, **TB:** L Cleveland 2, B Herdman 2, K Haider, M Schelske, C Mohling, Q Christensen 4, **SF:** L Cleveland, **HBP:** K Haider, **SB:** P McDonnell, **LOB:** 7

Outlaws Vars	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
M Schelske	5.0	5	4	3	3	9	0
K Krutzfeldt	2.0	2	1	1	2	0	0
Q Christens...	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	8.0	7	5	4	6	9	0

W: Q Christensen, **P-S:** K Krutzfeldt 31-17, M Schelske 94-62, Q Christensen 13-6, **HBP:** M Schelske, **BF:** K Krutzfeldt 9, M Schelske 26, Q Christensen 4

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 7 of 60

That's Life by Tony Bender

The trails that led us here

My friend Jack McDonald received an award at the North Dakota Newspaper Association convention last Friday for his tireless legal defense of freedom of the press. Our freedom. Your freedom. We listened in the great ballroom, elbows on white tablecloths among the cake crumbs and carcasses of Chicken Cordon Bleu..

In his speech, Jack pondered the "what if's" in life. The paths traveled. The detours. And he wondered how his life might have changed had he made different decisions. Is it destiny? Free will? A crapshoot with eight billion other crapshooters? I dunno, but I think about such things, too. We all do.

What if my girlfriend hadn't gotten pregnant and what if I hadn't dropped out of college anticipating that I needed to get married, get a job, start a family at 18, and what if she hadn't miscarried? These events detoured me into radio, a 12-year adventure that took me to Denver, Juneau, and Myrtle Beach and points in-between, but all along I knew I would write. In time.

The gang knew it before I did, but I wonder if I'd have done so had they not been so certain and so insistent that someday, "You need to write about us!" My English teacher, Bernice Rollo, encouraged me, too. We never had a conversation about it, but every composition I wrote, she read aloud to the class. In those moments, even the hooligans listened with rapt attention. Like they were in church. Inexplicably, my columns are occasionally quoted from pulpits. Don't they know I'm on the other side?

What if my newspaper journey and an NDNA convention a thousand years ago hadn't led me into the arms of spectacular redhead, a skilled newspaperwoman? Would've I decided to buy my own publications? Would I have taken the leap without her? I wonder.

I wonder, too, about The Poet, the Tiny Dancer with China doll features, and I remember the Saturday I awoke, peered from my second-story bedroom, and saw her climb out of a new, laughably-huge jet-black GMC pickup—she almost needed a ladder—and begin moving in across the street. I just knew. And when we see each other these days, we still know.

But then I was offered my first decent radio job and I knew I couldn't take her with me. She'd recently lost her parents in a car crash and I understood she needed to be close to her brother and sister. Somehow, the 100 miles between us seemed insurmountable, and I still wonder why I didn't drive that stretch every weekend. But then it was off to Denver and Juneau and Myrtle Beach, and, well, life goes on, and these days I'm at peace with lost loves.

Things would have been different because she couldn't have kids and being a father is the best job I'll ever do. I've told Dylan and India about her, but how could I have regrets? "Because, then," I tell them, "I wouldn't have you."

What if I'd joined that rock-n-roll band in Aberdeen? Jon, my friend, the guitarist, was convinced I could learn to play bass. Maybe. But I remember a high school music teacher, 20 years ago, sighing at my ineptitude after numerous guitar lessons. "Tony, I just don't know what to tell you."

I could've handled a tambourine, the microphone, and the spotlight, and I have a hunch that we'd have made it, but if so, I might be dead in some hotel room because musicians work like rented mules. Then again, only the good (guitar players) die young.

I still buy guitars, drums, trumpets and saxophones, and I give them to my kids who are brilliant when they take them to the stage. I've become a stage mother.

What if... I counted my near-death experiences recently, and all I can say is that comparatively, cats are pikers. I was losing a fight in an RV park populated by custom combiners when I was in my 20's, on my back being strangled to death until I got pissed. "I am not going to die in effing Oklahoma!" Whatever motivates you to win. To live. In this case, rage.

India's decided that we need to get family tattoos—a cockroach—because like them, we're survivors, and until proven otherwise, immortal.

Different turns, different timing, would surely mean I wouldn't be here. Now. In this sun. In this solitude. Birds singing.

It feels right. Maybe it's destiny. Maybe these chapters were written in the sky before I took my first breath. Maybe the angels got it right.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 8 of 60

*Weber Landscaping
Greenhouse*
204 N State St., Groton

Opening
for the
season
on Friday,
May 6th!



**New products!
New Planters!**



**We have tons
of hanging
baskets,
vegetables,
annuals,
garden seeds,
gift cards and
much, much
more!**



**Livingston
garden seeds!!!!**

Hours: M-F 10-6, Sat 10-4, Sun 12-4
Look for the green flags! Questions? Call 605-380-6587

THE PANTRY



Opening May 9th at the Groton Community Center

Mondays: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesdays: 4 p.m. to 8 p.m

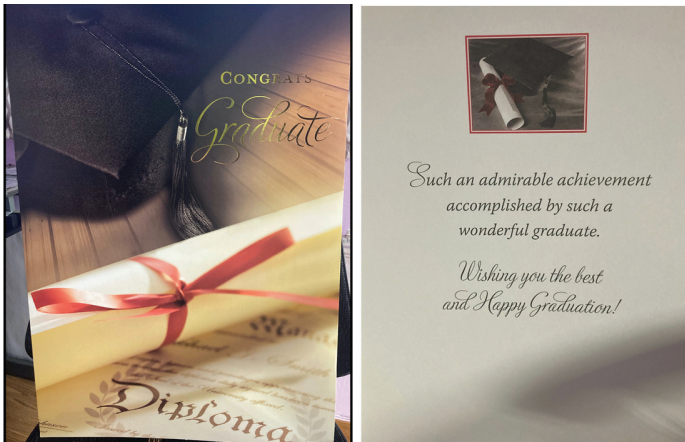
Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 9 of 60

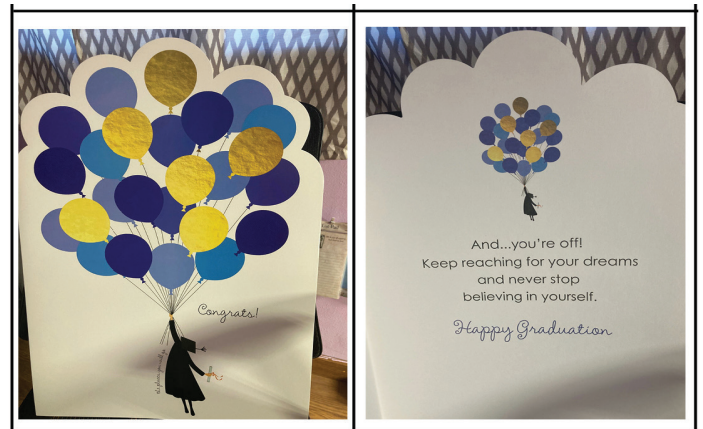
Jumbo Graduation Cards

Only \$7.99 each ~ Card Size: 16.25" x 24"

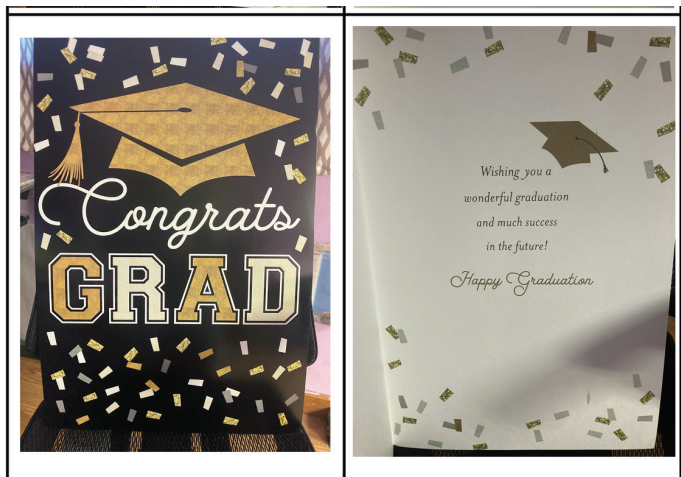
Can now be ordered on-line at 397news.com - Link on Black Bar
Or Call/Text Paul at 605-397-7460 or Tina at 605-397-7285
to reserve your card(s)



50-9903-C
\$7.99



50-9666-C
\$7.99



50-10977JM-C
\$7.99



50-9360-C
\$7.99

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 10 of 60



- NEWS
- LIVE
- FIT
- CLEAN
- RENT

Scan Code Below for
More Details



15 N Main St., Groton
PO Box 34, Groton, SD
57445-0034
www.397news.com
Call/Text Paul: 605/397-7460
Call/Text Tina: 605/397-7285
paparpaul@grotonsd.net



New at the
GDI FIT
The Stairmaster
and Air Bike



Call/Text Paul at 605/397-7460
or Tina at 605/397-7285
for membership info

Order your Graduation Balloons while we have a good supply!



#1 - \$5



#2 - \$5



#3 - \$6



#4 - \$10 - 45"



#5 - \$5



#6 - \$6



\$3.50 - 9" on a stick



#7 - \$10 - 36"



#8 - \$5



#9 - \$5



#10 - \$5



#11 - \$5



#12 - \$5



#13 - \$8 35"



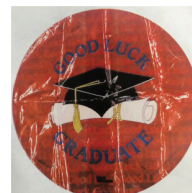
#14 - \$5



#15 - \$5



#16 - \$5



#17 - \$5



#18 - \$5



#19 - \$5



#20 - \$5

We have many other balloons available as well. We now offer locker pickup in the laundromat so you can pick up your order ANY TIME once the order is completed!

Mentioning the Unmentionables



By Jill Kruse, D.O.

Over the course of my career, I have performed countless pelvic exams on women of all ages from all walks of life. There are two common patient behaviors that I have observed. First, most women leave their socks on. This could be the fact that most stirrups are cold, but it also seems like one feels just a little less exposed when wearing at least one item of their own clothing. The other thing that almost every woman does in the exam room is hide her undergarments under her pile of clothes. It is interesting that almost everyone, me included, feels the need to cover and hide their “unmentionables” when they are about to bare the very areas normally covered by these garments.

Therefore, it is no surprise that it can be difficult for women to voice concerns when it comes to their “private areas.” These areas are just that, private! Women do not often visit with family or friends about incontinence, menstrual irregularities, or pelvic pain. It may be easy to discuss gallbladder issues or a migraine headache, but it is much more embarrassing to ask a friend if she leaks a bit of urine when she sneezes, jumps, or coughs after birthing a child. This condition is common, and it can be treated. But if we don’t talk about it, we may not realize when something is “normal” or if it is something to be concerned about.

It is perfectly fine for women to hide our underwear from our health care provider, but let’s not hide our concerns or be embarrassed about discussing the areas covered by these garments. If we choose not to talk about it, what may seem like a minor nuisance could lead to a bigger problem. For example, vaginal spotting or bleeding after menopause is never normal and should always be reported to your provider. It could be caused by harmless uterine fibroids, but it might also be a sign of uterine cancer. The sooner you discuss it with your doctor, the better.

Unfortunately, I have seen too many women who suffer in silence because they figure whatever is happening to them must be “normal” or just a sign of “getting older” or is the “price of having children”. Primary care providers and obstetrician-gynecologists are ready to help you talk about these sensitive topics. When you uncover and discuss your concerns, they will listen, diagnose, and treat with care.

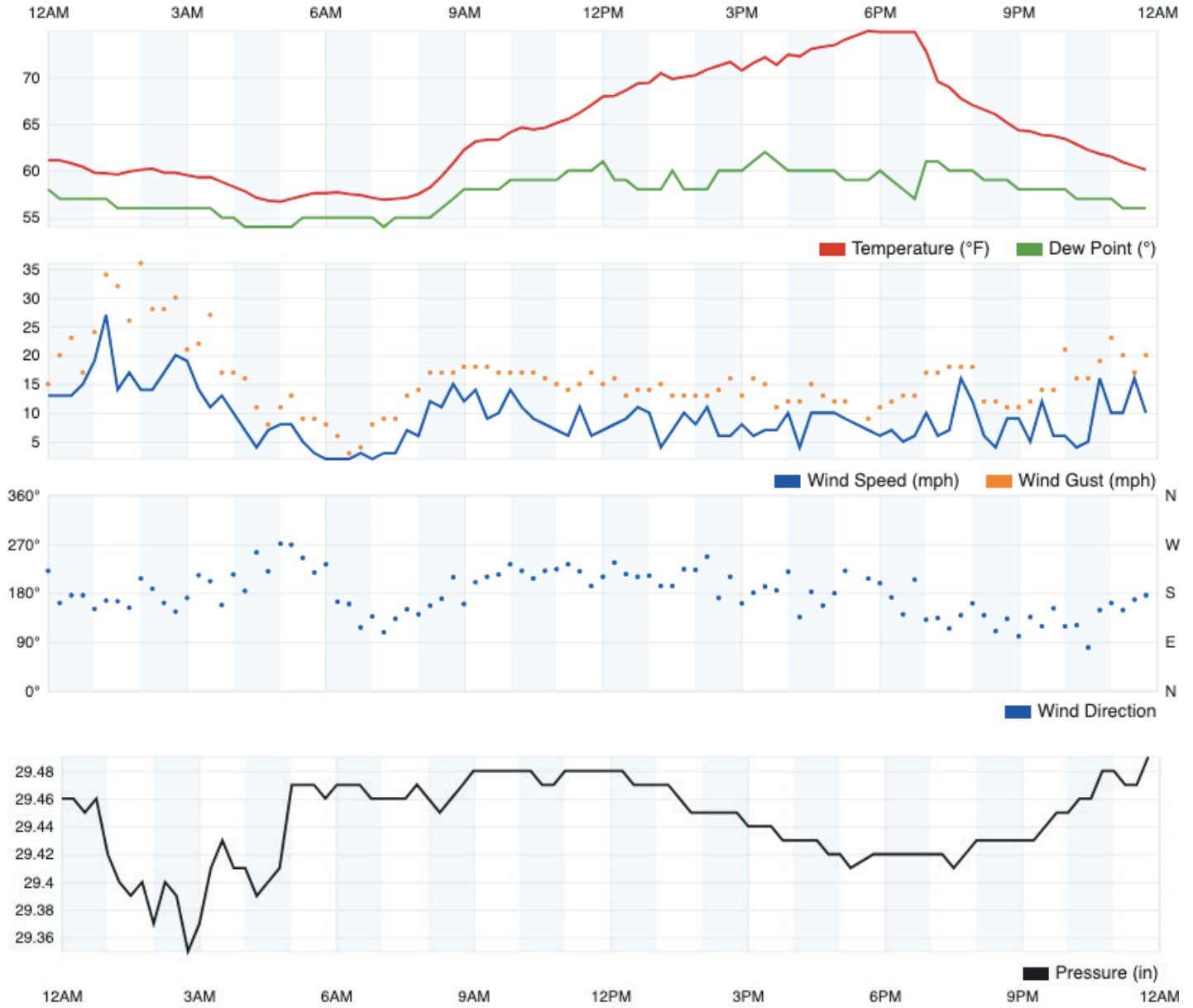
So go ahead, keep your socks on and hide your “unmentionable” clothing, but please, never hide your health concerns.

Jill Kruse, D.O. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices as a hospitalist in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairedoc.org and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show celebrating its twentieth season of truthful, tested, and timely medical information, broadcast on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

Groton Daily Independent

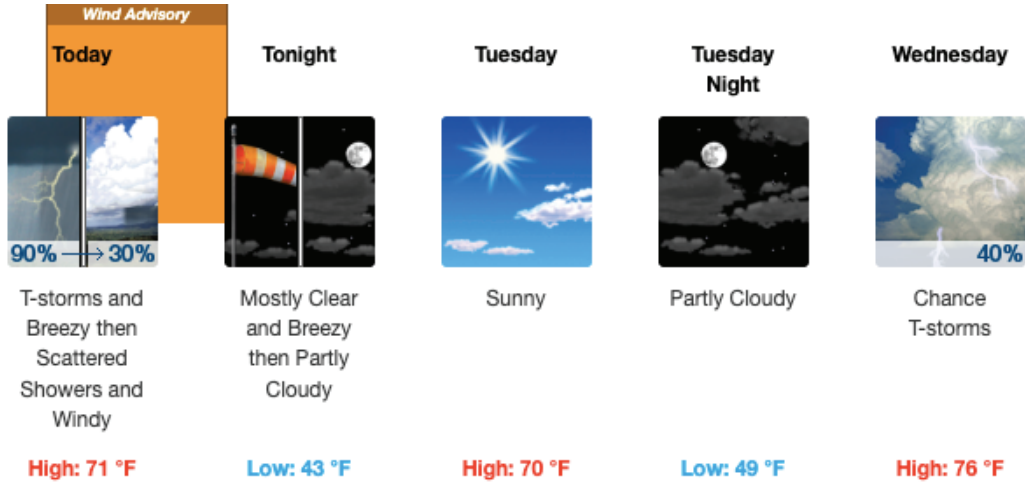
Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 12 of 60

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Broton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 13 of 60



Severe Risk Through Early Morning

What

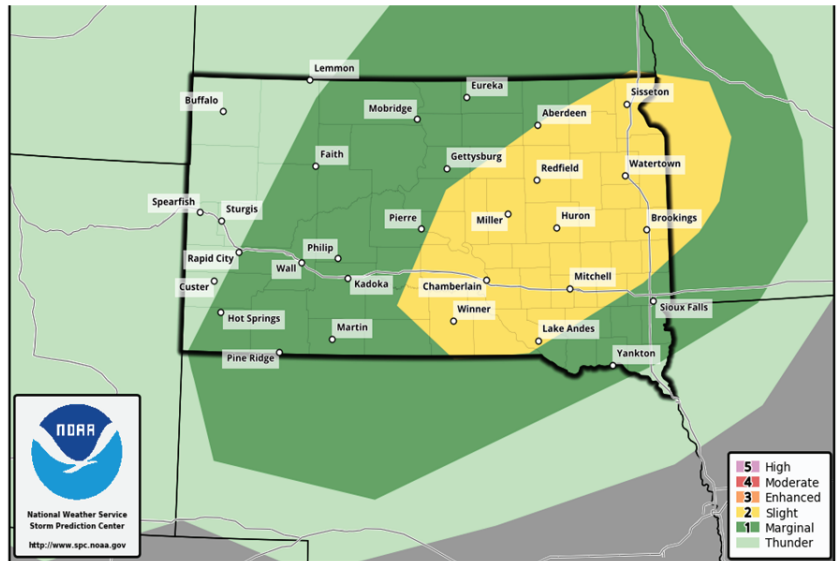
→ Strong to severe thunderstorms this morning with large hail and strong winds possible

Where

→ Eastern South Dakota As Well As Western Minnesota

When

→ Storms will move across eastern SD and into western MN during the early morning hours. Most of the activity will have pushed out of the area by 8am CDT.



Strong to severe storms remain possible this morning across the region. #sdwx #mnwx

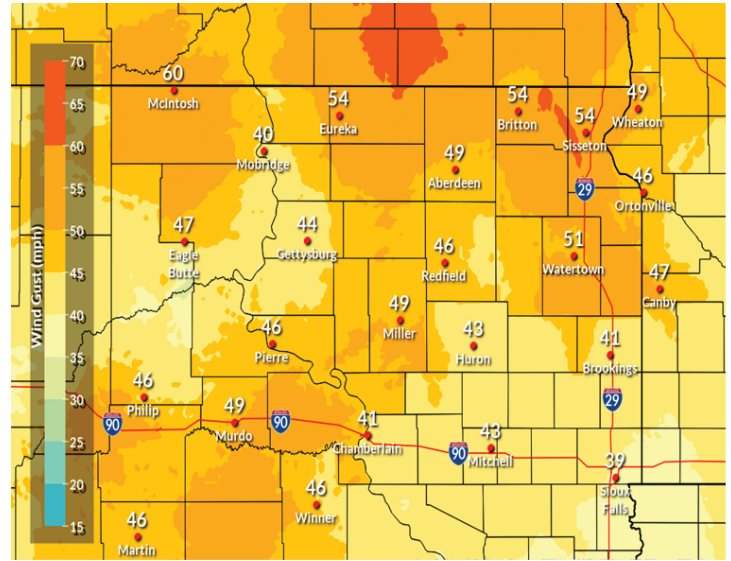
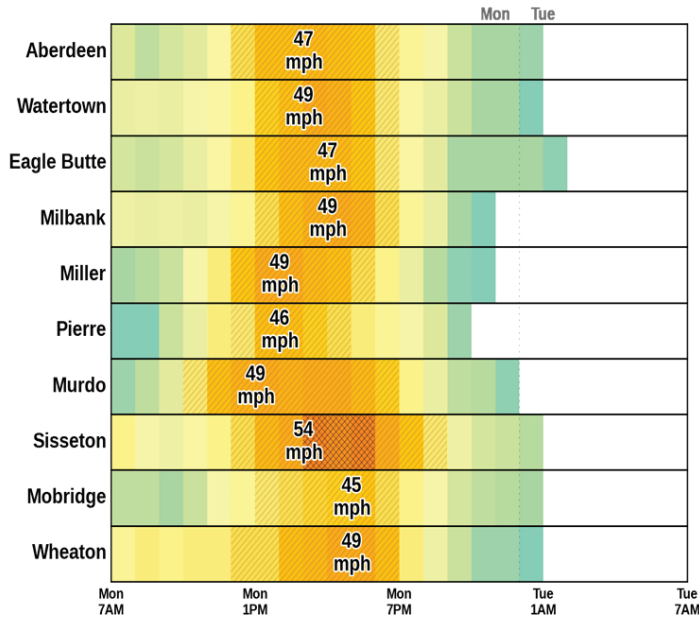
Broton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 14 of 60



Strong Winds for Today

May 9, 2022
3:20 AM



Peak Gusts Today



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Behind a low pressure system the wind will turn gusty today from the west and southwest, with gusts up to 55 mph possible this afternoon. #sdwx #mnwx

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 15 of 60

Today in Weather History

May 9, 1999: Torrential rains of two to five inches fell in Lyman County during the late evening hours which caused flash flooding on Medicine Creek. The KOA Campgrounds near Kennebec were flooded including the main facility. Several roads were also flooded and damaged along Medicine Creek. Storm total rainfall in Kennebec was 3.40 inches. Also, a weak F0 tornado touched down briefly three miles south of Reliance with no damage reported. Winds gusting to 70 mph knocked over a 4000-bushel holding bin near Revillo.

1918: An F4 tornado moved across Floyd, Chickasaw, and Winneshiek Counties in northeast Iowa from two miles north of Pearl Rock to Calmar. Two people died east of Calmar when the tornado was a mile wide. Losses in and near Calmar totaled \$250,000. Overall, this tornado killed seven people and injured 15 others.

1933: An estimated F4 tornado moved through Monroe, Cumberland, and Russell Counties in Kentucky along a 60-mile path. The town of Tompkinsville, KY was the hardest hit with 18 people killed. Overall, 36 people lost their lives.

1966: Record snows fell in the northeastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania, including 3.1 inches at Pittsburgh and 5.4 inches at Youngstown Ohio. Snow also extended across parts of New York State with eight inches reported in the southern Adirondacks.

1977 - A late season snowstorm hit parts of Pennsylvania, New York State, and southern and central New England. Heavier snowfall totals included 27 inches at Slide Mountain NY and 20 inches at Norwalk CT. At Boston it was the first May snow in 107 years of records. The heavy wet snow caused extensive damage to trees and power lines. The homes of half a million persons were without power following the storm. (9th-10th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1985 - Lightning struck some trees about 150 yards away from a home in Alabama, and followed the driveway to the home. The charge went through the house and burned all the electrical outlets, ruined appliances, and blasted a hole in the concrete floor of the basement. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Unseasonably warm weather spread from the Pacific Northwest to the Upper Mississippi Valley. Fifteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date. It was the fourth day of record warmth for Eugene OR and Salem OR. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A massive cyclone in the central U.S. produced severe thunderstorms from eastern Texas to the Upper Ohio Valley. A strong (F-3) tornado ripped through Middleboro KY causing more than 22 million dollars damage. Thunderstorms in east central Texas produced hail three and a half inches in diameter at Groesbeck, and near Fairfield. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front in the south central U.S. produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 62 mph at Mira LA, and during the morning hours drenched Stuttgart AR with five inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the central U.S. during the evening hours, mainly from southeastern Missouri to southwestern Indiana. Severe thunderstorms spawned four tornadoes, including two strong (F-2) tornadoes in southern Illinois. Strong thunderstorm winds gusted to 85 mph at Orient IL, and to 100 mph at West Salem. Thunderstorms drenched northeastern Illinois with up to 4.50 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990: The 1990 Machilipatnam Cyclone was the worst disaster to affect Southern India since the 1977 Andhra Pradesh cyclone. This category four on the Saffir-Simpson scale had a severe impact on India, with over 967 people reported having been killed. Over 100,000 animals also died in the cyclone with the total cost of damages to crops estimated at over \$600 million (1990 USD).

1995: An F3 tornado produced \$10 million in damages along its 40-mile path across central Illinois. The tornado caused significant damage in Cantrall where three homes were destroyed, 10 had significant damage, and 11 had minor damage. The roof and interior of a grade school suffered extensive damage. The tornado passed about 2 miles southeast of the new NWS Office in Lincoln, Illinois.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 16 of 60

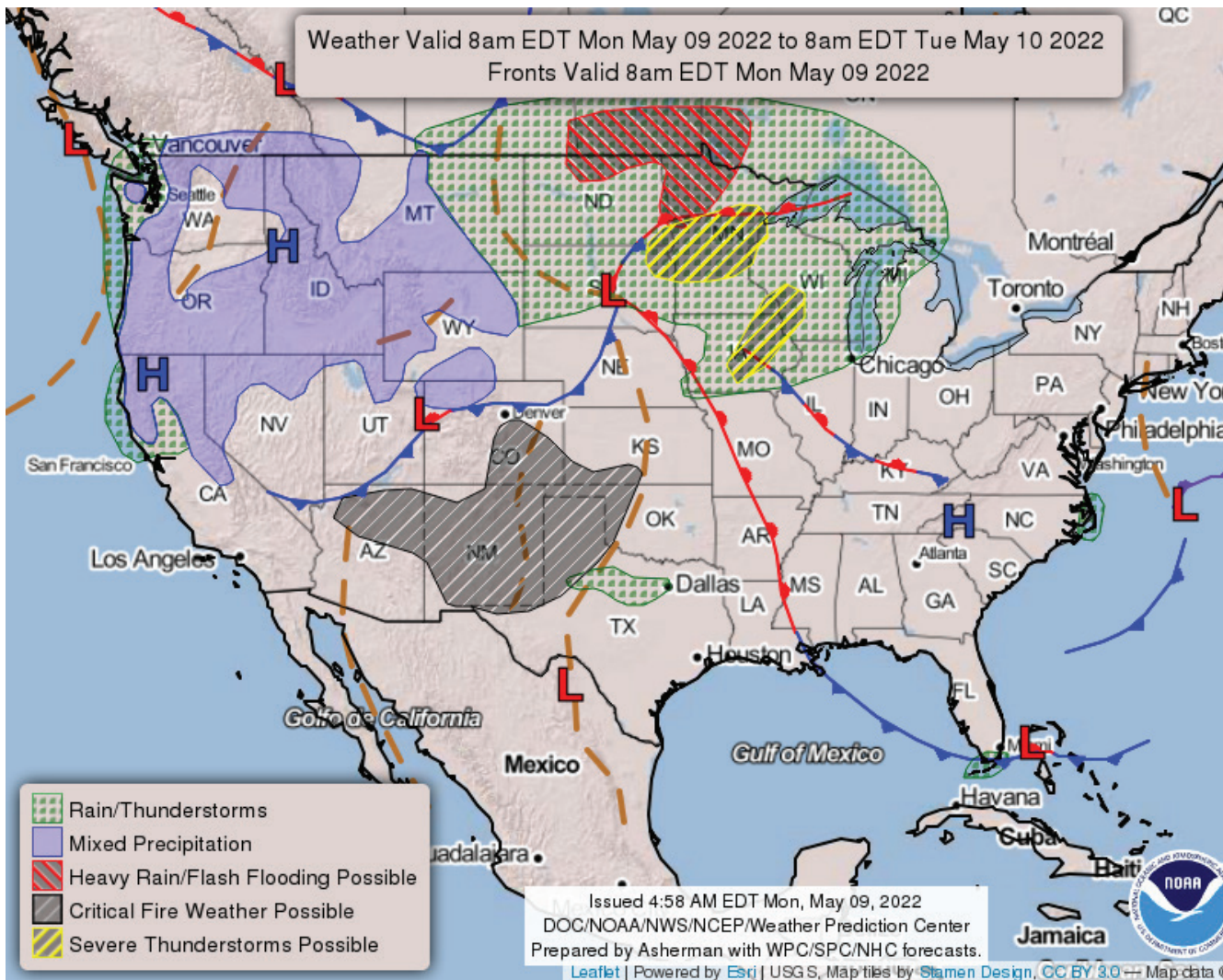
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 75 °F at 5:46 PM
Low Temp: 57 °F at 4:56 AM
Wind: 36 mph at 2:00 AM
Precip: 0.00

Day length: 14 hours, 43 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 93 in 1992
Record Low: 21 in 1966
Average High: 68°F
Average Low: 41°F
Average Precip in May.: 0.98
Precip to date in May.: 0.60
Average Precip to date: 4.95
Precip Year to Date: 7.10
Sunset Tonight: 8:50:31 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:05:51 AM



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 17 of 60



AN EVERLASTING FOUNDATION

Years ago, it was the custom in England to carve the words found in Psalm 127:1 over the doorways of homes: "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain." Perhaps returning to this custom and following its implications would have great benefits for everyone.

There is only one Builder - the Lord. But He placed two laborers - the husband and wife (mother and father) - as the ones responsible for the "construction and maintenance" of "the home." Husband is an Anglo-Saxon word which means "the band of the house." He is the one who organizes it, controls it and holds it together. The wife becomes his "chief assistant" - and the meaning of the word "wife" is "weaver." She is to "weave" godliness into the activities of the home. She is to use her gifts to demonstrate God's expressions of thoughtfulness, kindness, grace, and compassion in the everyday activities that are required to make the atmosphere "God-honoring, Christ-centered, and Spirit-filled" through her examples of service.

There is only one Person who can "watch" over the home - the Lord. For the Psalm continues, "Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain." This statement describes the parenting role of mothers and fathers in a strange but significant way: They are the ones who turn the "building into a home." They are to be examples of Christ at all times. They are ultimately responsible to God for whatever is allowed to enter into the activities and entertainment of the home. What a priceless opportunity God has given to parents.

Prayer: Father, give those of us who are parents grace and courage to raise our children to love and honor You. Help us instill Your values in their hearts. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. Psalm 127:1

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 18 of 60

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,
04/07/2022 Groton CDE
04/09/2022 Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)
04/09/2022 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)
06/17/2022 SDSU Alumni & Friends Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 12pm Start
06/18/2022 Groton Triathlon
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)
Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar 11am-1pm at the Groton Legion
Baseball Tourney
07/21/2022 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
08/05/2022 Wine on Nine at Olive Grove Golf Course 6pm
08/12/2022 GHS Basketball Golf Tournament
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
09/11/2022 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)
12/03/2022 Tour of Homes & Holiday Party at Olive Grove Golf Course
Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9am-12pm
01/29/2023 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 19 of 60

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

- Black & White \$48.99/year
- Colored \$79.88/year
- Colored \$42.60/6 months
- E-Weekly* \$31.95/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

Groton Daily Independent

www.397news.com

Subscription Form

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

- 1 Month \$15.98
- 3 Months \$26.63
- 6 Months \$31.95
- 9 Months \$42.60
- 12 Months \$53.25

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



News from the Associated Press

NTSB: Pilot didn't clear ice before 2019 crash that killed 9

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Federal investigators confirmed that the buildup of ice on the wings and other parts of the plane was a key factor in a 2019 crash that killed nine of 12 members of an Idaho family on board an overloaded small plane.

The National Transportation Safety Board said in its report on the November 30, 2019 crash near Chamberlain, South Dakota, that the single-engine plane didn't even have enough seats for all the passengers aboard, and two people were likely seated in the aisles when it crashed shortly after takeoff. The report said the plane was about 100 pounds overweight, according to the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.

The crash killed nine members of the Hansen family from Idaho Falls, Idaho. They were returning home from an annual pheasant-hunting trip in South Dakota when the plane crashed.

The report said the pilot made several key errors that contributed to the crash including failing to remove all the snow and ice from the plane even though a witness told investigators that the pilot and a passenger spent three hours clearing snow and ice before takeoff.

Carey Story, who owns the lodge where the family was staying, said she urged the family to stay another night because of the snow storm but the pilot refused and said they needed to get home.

The report said the pilot told Story "the airplane was 98% good and the remaining ice would come off during takeoff."

But the report said that ten minutes before takeoff there were visible icicles hanging from the plane's horizontal stabilizer, and snow was falling heavily. Video from the crash, and a transcript of communications with the tower indicate the runway was at least partly covered with snow.

Previously, the NTSB said three of the Pilatus PC12 plane's warning systems — the stall warning, stick shaker and stick pusher — activated within seconds of liftoff. The plane only managed to climb 460 feet into the air before it crashed less than a mile from the Chamberlain airport.

Russian ambassador to Poland hit with red paint

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Russia's ambassador to Poland was splattered by red paint thrown at him by protesters opposed to the war in Ukraine, preventing him from paying respects on Monday at a Warsaw cemetery to Red Army soldiers who died during World War II.

Ambassador Sergey Andreev arrived at the Soviet soldiers cemetery to lay flowers on Victory Day, which marks the defeat of Nazi Germany by the Allies. The holiday was celebrated with pomp in a parade at Red Square in Moscow.

As he arrived at the Soviet Soldiers Cemetery in the Polish capital, Andreev was met by hundreds of activists opposed to Russia's war in Ukraine.

Video footage shows red paint being thrown from behind Andreev before a protester standing beside him throws a big blob of it in his face.

The protesters prevented the ambassador and others from laying their flowers at the cemetery.

The protesters carried Ukrainian flags and chanted "fascist" and "murderer" at him, while some were dressed in white sheets smeared with blood, symbolizing the Ukrainian victims of Russia's war. Other people in his entourage were also seen splattered with what appeared to be red paint.

Police arrived at the scene to help the ambassador and other members of his delegation get away.

Protesters also marched in Warsaw to protest the war, bringing a tank on a tractor and parking it in front of the Russian Embassy on Sunday evening. Since the war began on Feb. 24, images of Ukrainian tractors hauling off Russian tanks have been symbols of Ukrainian resistance.

The Soviet cemetery is set amid a vast park on the route linking downtown to the international airport. It is the final resting place of more than 20,000 Red Army soldiers who perished fighting while helping to defeat Nazi Germany.

While Poland has removed some monuments to the Red Army in the years after it threw off Moscow-backed communist rule, it has allowed the cemetery to remain undisturbed.

Follow the AP's coverage of the war at <https://apnews.com/hub/russia-ukraine>

Israeli PM's government limps into new parliament session

By JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The government of Israel's embattled prime minister was limping on Monday into the opening of parliament's summer session on the verge of collapse.

Less than a year after taking office, Naftali Bennett has lost his parliamentary majority, his own party is crumbling and a key governing partner has suspended cooperation with the coalition. That has set the stage for a possible attempt by the opposition, led by former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, to topple the government later this week.

While Bennett appears to be poised to fend off this immediate challenge, his longer-term prospects are uncertain at a time when the government is deeply divided over major issues, Israel is facing an ongoing wave of stabbings and shootings by lone-wolf Palestinian attackers and a confrontation with the United States over West Bank settlement construction is looming.

Boaz Toporovsky, the acting coalition chairman, acknowledged the coalition is in the midst of a "serious crisis" but said he was optimistic it would survive. "Everyone understands that we're at a crossroads that can bring about, heaven forbid, elections in Israel," he told the Israeli public broadcaster Kan.

The new government made history when it took office last June, ending prolonged deadlock in which the country went through four rounds of inconclusive elections in just two years. Racing to head off what would have been another election, Bennett cobbled together a diverse coalition of eight parties with little in common beyond their shared animosity toward Netanyahu.

The new coalition, including hard-line religious nationalists that oppose Palestinian statehood, dovish left-wingers and for the first time in an Israeli coalition, an Islamist Arab party, agreed to sideline the country's most divisive issues and focus on areas of broad consensus.

The government has managed to pass a budget, navigate the coronavirus pandemic and strengthen relations with both the Biden administration and Israel's Arab allies. Bennett also has emerged as a surprising mediator in the Ukraine-Russia war, regularly speaking to the leaders of both countries.

Although Bennett, who leads a small religious-nationalist party, has ruled out peace talks with the Palestinians, he has tried to reduce tensions by taking steps to improve living conditions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

This cautious approach has repeatedly been tested. One member of Bennett's Yamina party defected when the government took office, accusing him of abandoning their nationalist ideology. A second member followed suit last month, leaving the coalition and opposition equally divided in the 120-seat parliament.

A public opinion survey in April by the Israel Democracy Institute found that only 30% of respondents believed the government was likely to survive the year, down from 49% in February. The think tank polled 751 Israeli Jews and Arabs, and reported a margin of error of 3.65%.

Weeks of Israeli-Palestinian violence, much of it fueled by tensions and fighting at Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site, prompted Mansour Abbas, leader of the Islamist Arab Ra'am faction in the coalition, to suspend cooperation. Abbas has not said whether he will resume cooperation or join the opposition in attempts to topple the coalition this week.

"We're in a not so simple crisis with Ra'am," Toporovsky said, adding that he understood the Islamist party's disappointment in the slow pace of effecting change for Israel's Arab citizens.

Netanyahu is weighing whether to introduce a motion this week to dissolve parliament and trigger new elections. Such a move is risky. It would require at least one of the remaining members of the coalition to join him, and there is no guarantee that will happen. If he fails, he would not be able to introduce a similar motion for the next six months as an ongoing corruption trial against Netanyahu moves ahead.

Yohanan Plesner, a former lawmaker who is now president of the Israel Democracy Institute, said he expects the coalition to weather the storm, at least in the short term.

He said that even unhappy coalition members would have much to lose if the country were to plunge into new elections. Abbas, for instance, is just beginning to see the huge budgets he has secured to flow into the impoverished Arab communities he represents.

But any member of the coalition can now pressure the government into pushing pet projects opposed by other partners. This week, an Israeli planning committee is expected to approve plans to build some 4,000 new homes in Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, despite vociferous opposition from the United States and most of the international community. The construction project is being pushed by members of Bennett's own party, which draws much of its support from the settler community.

"The next few days will allow us to know whether the coalition is in critical but stable condition or critical but unstable condition," Plesner said. "The immediate areas to look at are either the Ra'am party, as a whole or parts of it, or elements from within Yamina."

Shanghai tightens lockdown despite falling COVID cases

BEIJING (AP) — Authorities in Shanghai have again tightened anti-virus restrictions, just as the city was emerging from a month of strict lockdown due to a COVID-19 outbreak.

Notices issued in several districts said residents were ordered to stay home and are barred from receiving nonessential deliveries as part of a "quiet period" lasting at least until Wednesday. The tightened measures could be extended depending on the results of mass testing, the notices said.

"Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Together we can lift the lockdown at an early date," said one notice issued in the city's Huangpu district and posted online.

It wasn't clear what prompted the renewed tightening, with numbers of new COVID-19 cases in the city continuing to fall.

Shanghai on Monday reported 3,947 cases over the previous 24 hours, almost all of them asymptomatic, along with 11 deaths. Authorities have been gradually lifting isolation rules on the city's 25 million residents, but the new orders appear to be returning to conditions at the early stage of the outbreak.

Shanghai originally ordered mass testing along with a limited lockdown, but extended that as case numbers rose. Thousands of residents have been forced into centralized quarantine centers for showing a positive test result or merely having been in contact with an infected person.

Two Shanghai residents reached through social media said they'd had no prior notice of the new restrictions, which they were told could last for up to a week.

"We're unprepared," said Zhang Chen, a researcher with a technology company. "I packed my luggage thinking it would be my turn next" to be taken to a quarantine facility.

"I don't know what will happen in May, but after the lockdown, I think I'll need psychological help," Zhang said.

A marketing professional in the western Pudong district said quality of life has been declining even as living expenses continue to rise under lockdown.

"Every time, they say lockdown will be eased after a few days, but there seems to be no end," said the woman, who asked that she be identified only by her surname, Lu, to avoid repercussions from authorities who have cracked down heavily on dissent.

"All aspects of work are affected. I don't know when it will be time for the lockdown to come to an end," Lu said.

In Beijing, authorities closed down the largest city district, with residents told to stay home and stores closed. Beijing has ordered daily testing of all residents, closed parks and other leisure venues and limited restaurants to takeout business only.

The usually bustling Sanlitun area crammed with restaurants, boutiques and an Apple store was all but deserted. Despite that, retiree Yang Xiaochang said Beijing appeared to be far better prepared to weather the surge than its southern cousin.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 23 of 60

"Even though at the beginning there were some panic buying ... Beijing will not be like that," Yang said, referring to Shanghai.

Still, companies and investors worry the ruling Communist Party's "zero-COVID" strategy that closed most businesses in Shanghai and other industrial centers is disrupting global trade and activity in autos, electronics and other industries.

China's export growth tumbled in April as global demand weakened, adding to pressure on the world's second-largest economy.

Exports rose 3.7% over a year earlier to \$273.6 billion, down sharply from March's 15.7% growth, customs data showed Monday. Reflecting weak Chinese demand, imports crept up 0.7% to \$222.5 billion, in line with the previous month's growth below 1%.

White House says internet providers to discount fee for poor

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — The Biden administration announced on Monday that 20 internet companies have agreed to provide discounted service to low-income Americans, a program that could effectively make tens of millions of households eligible for free service through an already existing federal subsidy.

The \$1 trillion infrastructure package passed by Congress last year included \$14.2 billion funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program, which provides \$30 monthly subsidies (\$75 in tribal areas) on internet service for millions of lower-income households.

With the new commitment from the internet providers, some 48 million households will be eligible for \$30 monthly plans for 100 megabits per second, or higher speed, service — making internet service fully paid for with the government subsidy if they sign up with one of the providers participating in the program.

Biden, during his White House run and the push for the infrastructure bill, made expanding high-speed internet access in rural and low-income areas a priority. He has repeatedly spoken out about low-income families that struggled finding reliable wi-fi, so their children could take part in remote schooling and complete homework assignments early in the coronavirus pandemic.

"If we didn't know it before, we know now: High-speed internet is essential," the Democratic president said during a White House event last month honoring the National Teacher of the Year.

The 20 internet companies that have agreed to lower their rates for eligible consumers provide service in areas where 80% of the U.S. population, including 50% of the rural population, live, according to the White House. Participating companies that offer service on tribal lands are providing \$75 rates in those areas, the equivalent of the federal government subsidy in those areas.

Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris on Monday were set to meet with telecom executives, members of Congress and others to spotlight the effort to improve access to high-speed internet for low-income households.

The providers are Allo Communications, AltaFiber (and Hawaiian Telecom), Altice USA (Optimum and Suddenlink), Astound, AT&T, Breezeline, Comcast, Comporium, Frontier, IdeaTek, Cox Communications, Jackson Energy Authority, MediaCom, MLGC, Spectrum (Charter Communications), Starry, Verizon (Fios only), Vermont Telephone Co., Vexus Fiber and Wow! Internet, Cable, and TV.

American households are eligible for subsidies through the Affordable Connectivity Program if their income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, or if a member of their family participates in one of several programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) and Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit.

Call Pence or Trump? It's decision time for Jan. 6 panel

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and FARNOUSH AMIRI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection has interviewed nearly 1,000 people. But the nine-member panel has yet to talk to the two most prominent players in that day's events — former President Donald Trump and former Vice President Mike Pence.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 24 of 60

As the investigation winds down and the panel plans a series of hearings in June, members of the committee are debating whether to call the two men, whose conflict over whether to certify Joe Biden's 2020 presidential election win was at the center of the attack. Trump pressured Pence for days, if not weeks, to use his ceremonial role presiding over the Jan. 6 count to try to block or delay Biden's certification. Pence refused to do so, and rioters who broke into the building that day called for his hanging.

There are reasons to call either or both of them. The committee wants to be as thorough as possible, and critics are sure to pounce if they don't even try. But some lawmakers on the panel have argued that they've obtained all the information they need without Trump and Pence.

Nearly a year into their wide-ranging investigation into the worst attack on the Capitol in more than two centuries, the House committee has interviewed hundreds of witnesses and received more than 100,000 pages of documents. Interviews have been conducted out of the public eye in obscure federal office buildings and private Zoom sessions.

The Democratic chairman, Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson, said in early April that the committee has been able to validate a lot of the statements attributed to Trump and Pence without their testimony. He said at that time there was "no effort on the part of the committee" to call Pence, though there have been discussions since then about potentially doing so.

Speaking about Pence, Thompson said the panel had "initially thought it would be important" to call him, but "there are a lot of things on that day we know — we know the people who tried to get him to change his mind about the count and all of that, so what is it we need?"

A lot of the people they are interviewing, Thompson added, "are people we didn't have on the original list."

The panel, comprised of seven Democrats and two Republicans, has said that the evidence it has compiled is enough to link Trump to a federal crime.

Much of the evidence the committee has released so far has come from White House aides and staff — including little-known witnesses like Cassidy Hutchinson, a former special assistant in the Trump White House, and Greg Jacob, who served as Pence's chief counsel in the vice president's office. The panel also has thousands of texts from Trump's final chief of staff, Mark Meadows, and has talked to two of the former president's children, Ivanka Trump and Donald Trump Jr., who were with their father the day of the attack.

Among hundreds of others, the committee has also interviewed former White House aide Jared Kushner, Ivanka's husband, former communications director Alyssa Farah and multiple Pence aides, including his chief of staff, Marc Short, and his national security adviser, Keith Kellogg. Former White House press secretaries Kayleigh McEnany and Stephanie Grisham have also appeared, as has former senior policy adviser Stephen Miller.

There are still questions that Trump and Pence could answer, including what they talked about the morning of Jan. 6, when Trump made his final plea for Pence to overturn the election when he presided over the Electoral College count in Congress. Lawmakers have been able to document most of Trump's end of the call but not what Pence said in response.

In the hours after Trump and Pence spoke, the vice president issued a statement saying he did not have the power to object to the counting of electoral votes. But the president did not relent, and went on to publicly pressure Pence at his massive rally in front of the White House and then on Twitter even after his supporters had broken into the Capitol.

Still, it is unlikely that the two former leaders would speak about the conversation to the committee — and it's unclear if they would cooperate at all.

While Pence has yet to comment on the committee's work, Trump would certainly be a hostile witness. He has fought the investigation in court, demonized the committee on TV and tried to assert executive privilege over White House papers and any conversations he had with his aides — demands that would certainly apply to his morning call with Pence.

In addition, calling a former president or vice president to testify in a congressional investigation is a

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 25 of 60

rare, if not unprecedented, move that could face major legal hurdles and backfire politically.

The Jan. 6 committee has given only a glimpse of what it has found, mostly in court filings where excerpts of transcripts have been used.

A recent filing from the committee revealed portions of interviews with Hutchinson that took place in February and March of this year. That testimony provided new evidence about the involvement of GOP lawmakers in Trump's effort to overturn the 2020 election, including a meeting at the White House in which attorneys for the president advised that putting up an alternate slate of electors declaring Trump the winner was not "legally sound."

Another court document revealed testimony from Jacob, who served as Pence's chief counsel. In a series of emails, Jacob repeatedly told lawyer John Eastman, who was working with Trump, that Pence could not intervene in his ceremonial role and halt the certification of the electoral votes. Jacob told Eastman the legal framework he was putting forward to do just that was "essentially entirely made up."

Meadows' texts have also been revelatory, detailing how people inside Trump's orbit pleaded for him to forcefully condemn the attack on the Capitol as it unfolded. The pleas came from Trump's children, members of Congress and even Fox News hosts.

"He has to lead now. It has gone too far and gotten out of hand," Donald Trump Jr. texted Meadows as protesters breached the security perimeter at the Capitol.

No end in sight for Ukraine war as Putin hails Victory Day

By ELENA BECATOROS and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

ZAPORIZHZHIA, Ukraine (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin used a major patriotic holiday Monday to again justify his war in Ukraine but did not declare even a limited victory or signal where the conflict was headed, as his forces continued to pummel targets across the country with few signs of significant progress.

The Russian leader oversaw a Victory Day parade on Red Square, with troops marching in formation, military hardware on display, and a brass band blaring to mark the Soviet Union's defeat of Nazi Germany. But his much-anticipated speech offered no new insights to how he intended to salvage the grinding war — and instead stuck to allegations that Ukraine posed a threat to Russia, even though Moscow's nuclear-armed forces are far superior in numbers and firepower.

"The danger was rising by the day," he said as he surveyed the troops. "Russia has given a pre-emptive response to aggression. It was a forced, timely and the only correct decision."

Ukrainian leaders and their Western backers have often rejected claims that Kyiv posed any threat to its giant neighbor.

Many analysts had suggested Putin might use his speech to declare some sort of limited victory — potentially in the besieged strategic port city of Mariupol — as he looks for an exit from the conflict that has unleashed punishing sanctions from the West and strained Russia's resources. Others suggested he might order a nationwide mobilization to beef up the depleted ranks for an extended conflict.

There was "nothing significant in Putin's speech today, but he will need to make a decision regarding mobilization in the coming weeks," wrote Rob Lee, a senior fellow at the Philadelphia-based Foreign Policy Research Institute, on Twitter.

As Putin laid a wreath in Moscow, air raid sirens echoed again in Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital. But Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy declared in his own Victory Day address that his country would eventually defeat the Russians.

"Very soon there will be two Victory Days in Ukraine," he said in a video released to mark the holiday. "We have never fought against anyone. We always fight for ourselves. ... We are fighting for freedom for our children, and therefore we will win."

An adviser to Zelenskyy also pushed back against the idea that Ukraine and its Western allies posed any threat to Russia.

Mykhailo Podolyak wrote on Twitter that "NATO countries were not going to attack Russia. Ukraine did

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 26 of 60

not plan to attack Crimea," which Russia seized in 2014.

The Ukrainian military's General Staff warned Monday of a high probability of missile strikes on the holiday, and Britain's Defense Ministry said in its daily assessment Russian forces could increasingly subject Ukrainian towns and cities to "intense and indiscriminate bombardments with little or no regard for civilian casualties" as they run short of precision-guided munitions.

In fact, more than 60 people were feared dead after a Russian bomb flattened a Ukrainian school being used as a shelter in Bilohorivka, an eastern village, Ukrainian officials said.

With the war now in its 11th week, battles were being waged on multiple fronts, but Russia was perhaps closest to victory in Mariupol, where Ukrainian fighters are making a last stand at a sprawling steel mill in a battle that has highlighted some of the worst suffering of the war.

The complete capture of Mariupol would deprive Ukraine of a vital port, allow Russia to complete a land corridor to the Crimean Peninsula, and free troops up for fighting elsewhere in the Donbas, which is now Putin's stated focus following his failure to seize the capital in the early days of the conflict. The fall of the city would provide a much-needed symbolic victory for Russia.

Russian forces pounded away over the weekend at the plant, where as many as 2,000 Ukrainian fighters are estimated to be holding out.

"We are under constant shelling," said Capt. Sviatoslav Palamar, deputy commander of the Ukrainian Azov Regiment, which held the mill.

Lt. Ilyia Samoilenko, another regiment member, said a couple hundred wounded soldiers were inside. He declined to say how many able-bodied fighters remained. He said fighters had to dig by hand to free people from bunkers that collapsed under shelling.

For weeks, hundreds of civilians also took shelter with the fighters at the plant, but the last were evacuated Saturday. In a convoy led by the United Nations and international Red Cross, they arrived Sunday night in Zaporizhzhia, the first major Ukrainian city beyond the frontlines. They spoke of constant shelling, dwindling food, ubiquitous mold — and using hand sanitizer for cooking fuel.

The Ukrainian military warned Russian troops were seizing "personal documents from the local population without good reason" in parts of the Zaporizhzhia region that they controlled — allegedly as a way to force residents to join in Victory Day commemorations.

As a stiffer than expected Ukrainian resistance, bolstered by Western arms, has bogged down Russian forces, Moscow scaled back its war aims. It is now pressing offensives in some areas of southern Ukraine and the Donbas, where Moscow-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian troops for years. But they still have struggled to make significant strides, and Ukrainian and Russian forces have fought village by village in recent weeks.

A Ukrainian counteroffensive in the northeast near Kharkiv, outside of the Donbas but key to offensive there, was making "significant progress," according to the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank.

However, Rodion Miroshnik, a pro-Kremlin official in the Luhansk region of the Donbas, said Moscow-backed separatist forces and Russian troops had captured most of Popasna, an embattled city that saw two months of fierce fighting.

The southern Black Sea port of Odesa has also seen increased fighting recently, and Ukrainian officials said Russia fired four cruise missiles targeting the city Monday from Crimea. It said no civilians were wounded in the attack, but did not elaborate on what was struck.

"The enemy continues to destroy the infrastructure of the region and exert psychological pressure on the civilian population," the command said. "There is a very high probability of continued missile attacks in the region."

As they struggle to make gain, Russian forces have repeatedly shelled cities and towns indiscriminately. About 90 people were sheltering in the school basement in Bilohorivka when it was attacked Saturday. Emergency crews found two bodies and rescued 30 people, but "most likely all 60 people who remain under the rubble are now dead," Serhiy Haidai, governor of Luhansk province, wrote on the Telegram

messaging app.

Ukraine's military also warned some 19 Russian battalion tactical groups were stationed just across the border in Russia's Belgorod region. Those groups likely consist of some 15,200 troops with tanks, missile batteries and other weaponry.

As Victory Day turned attention toward Putin, Western leaders showed new signs of support for Ukraine.

The Group of Seven leading industrial democracies pledged Sunday to ban or phase out imports of Russian oil.

The United States, meanwhile, announced new sanctions, cutting off Western advertising from Russia's three biggest TV stations, banning U.S. accounting and consulting firms from providing services, and cutting off Russia's industrial sector from wood products, industrial engines, boilers and bulldozers.

U.S. first lady Jill Biden met Sunday with her Ukrainian counterpart. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau raised his country's flag at its embassy in Kyiv. And U2's Bono, alongside bandmate The Edge, performed in a Kyiv subway station that had been used as a bomb shelter, singing the 1960s song "Stand by Me."

Russia marks WWII victory overshadowed by Ukraine

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday sought to cast Moscow's military action in Ukraine as a forced response to Western policies and a necessary move to ward off a potential aggression.

Speaking at a military parade on Red Square marking the World War II victory over the Nazis, Putin drew parallels between the Red Army's fighting against the Nazi troops and the Russian forces' action in Ukraine.

While lambasting the West, Putin gave no indication of a shift in strategies or made any indication that he was going to declare a broad mobilization, as some in Ukraine and the West have feared.

Addressing the phalanxes of elite Russian troops filling Red Square, Putin said the campaign in Ukraine was a necessary move to avert what he described as "a threat that was absolutely unacceptable to us (that) has been methodically created next to our borders."

"The danger was rising by the day," he claimed, adding that "Russia has given a preemptive response to an aggression" in what he described as a "forced, timely and the only correct decision by a sovereign, powerful and independent country."

The Russian leader has repeatedly accused Ukraine of harboring aggressive intentions, with support from the U.S. and its allies — claims Ukrainian and Western officials have denied.

In his speech at the parade, Putin again scolded the West for failing to heed Russian demands for security guarantees and a rollback to NATO's expansion, arguing that it left Moscow no other choice but to launch an action in Ukraine.

The Russian leader emphasized that the Russian troops were fighting for the country's security in Ukraine and called a minute of silence to honor the soldiers who fell in combat. Putin noted that some of the troops taking part in the parade previously have fought in Ukraine.

He said that the troops in Ukraine have been "fighting for the Motherland, so that no one will forget the lessons of World War II and there will be no place in the world for hangmen, executioners and the Nazis."

The Victory Day that Russia marks on May 9 is the country's most important holiday, celebrated with military parades and fireworks across the country.

The Soviet Union lost a staggering 27 million people in World War II, which it calls the Great Patriotic War. The conflict, which devastated the country and caused enormous suffering, has left a deep scar in the national psyche.

Some in Ukraine and the West expected Putin to use his speech at the parade to switch from describing the Russian action in Ukraine that the Russian officials have called the "special military operation" to calling it a war.

Putin didn't make any such shift in rhetoric or give any indication that the Kremlin may change its strategy and declare a broad mobilization to beef up the ranks.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 28 of 60

The Kremlin has focused on Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland known as the Donbas, where Moscow-backed rebels have been fighting Ukrainian government forces since 2014. That conflict erupted weeks after Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula.

The Russian military has rearmed and resupplied its forces withdrawn from areas near Kyiv and other regions in Ukraine's northeast and moved them to Donbas in an apparent attempt to encircle and destroy the most capable and seasoned Ukrainian troops concentrated there.

EXPLAINER: What comes next with John Lee leading Hong Kong?

HONG KONG (AP) — There was little doubt about John Lee's election as Hong Kong's next leader.

The city's former security chief received more than 99% of the vote from a committee stacked with mostly pro-Beijing members. He was the sole candidate in Sunday's vote.

On July 1, the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's 1997 handover from Britain to China, Lee will take over as chief executive of the semi-autonomous territory from Carrie Lam. She leaves after five tumultuous years that spanned pro-democracy protests in 2019, a subsequent crackdown that snuffed out virtually all dissent, and Hong Kong's worst coronavirus outbreak, which has killed more than 9,000 people this year.

WHO IS JOHN LEE?

Lee, 64, spent more than three decades in the police force before he was appointed undersecretary of Hong Kong's security bureau in 2012. He was promoted to security minister in 2017 in Lam's government. He was a key figure in pushing for a proposed extradition bill in 2019 that would've sent Hong Kong suspects to mainland China, where courts operate under the ruling Communist Party.

But the bill sparked massive anti-government protests over fears that Beijing was encroaching on Hong Kong's autonomy, and soon morphed into calls for wider democratic rights, including universal suffrage. The government backtracked on the bill, but under Lee, police unleashed a heavy response that included the use of tear gas and rubber bullets against protesters as well as mass arrests.

The following year, in 2020, Beijing imposed a sweeping national security law on Hong Kong, with Lee as its main supporter and enforcer. The law, which outlaws secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces in the city's affairs, was used to clear streets of protesters, silence government opponents and crack down on freewheeling media.

The same year, Lee and other Chinese as well as Hong Kong officials including Lam were sanctioned by the U.S. "for being involved in coercing, arresting, detaining, or imprisoning individuals under the authority of the National Security Law, as well as being involved in its development, adoption, or implementation."

In June 2021, Lee was promoted to chief secretary for administration, effectively becoming the No. 2 official in Hong Kong.

He resigned from his post in April to stand for the leadership polls. During his election campaign, YouTube terminated Lee's channel in compliance with U.S. sanctions — a move that Lee described as "bullying" and "unreasonable."

WHAT DOES HIS ELECTION MEAN FOR HONG KONG?

Experts have said that Beijing's endorsement of Lee signals the central government is looking for someone reliable to ensure that its authority in Hong Kong is never questioned again.

The city was promised freedoms not found in mainland China when the British handed it over in 1997. But such Western-style liberties, including the freedom of press and assembly, have been seriously eroded with the implementation of the national security law. Over 150 people, most of them pro-democracy supporters, have been arrested and many others fled abroad or keep quiet.

Lee has also pledged to enact a local legislation to protect against security threats, known as Article 23 of Hong Kong's mini-constitution, the Basic Law. Previous attempts to pass the bill have failed because of strong local opposition. Article 23 stipulates that the city shall enact its own laws to prohibit "any act of treason, secession, sedition, subversion against the Central People's Government," as well as "theft of state secrets."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 29 of 60

HOW DID THE ELECTION PROCESS CHANGE?

This year's vote for Hong Kong's chief executive is the first since the electoral system was changed last year to ensure that only "patriots" are allowed to run for office.

The crackdown on dissent, coupled with the electoral reform, all but eliminate pro-democracy candidates for the legislature or the top post. Under the new system, candidates must be vetted by a committee that determines if they are suitable or patriotic enough.

Under the new electoral rules, Lee was the only candidate who received backing by Beijing. Several people, including a movie producer, had expressed interest in running but did not submit their names during the nomination process.

Marketing deals trickle down from NCAA to high school sports

By MARK GILLISPIE Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Ian Jackson and Johnuel "Boogie" Fland are among the brightest stars in the firmament of high school basketball and now have business deals to prove it.

The New York City teens and friendly rivals are cashing in on their name, image and likeness through marketing contracts often referred to as NIL deals. The contracts have begun to trickle down to the high school level after the NCAA's decision last year to allow college athletes to monetize their stardom.

Seven states have so far approved the deals for prep athletes. Other states, such as Ohio, continue to debate whether NILs would sully high school sports.

Jackson and Fland, both of whom are ranked as top college prospects for the 2024 graduating class, are paid a percentage of sales on a merchandise company's products carrying their likeness and four-figure monthly checks to post about the brand on social media.

Jackson, 16, said he is saving the money he earns from the merchandise company Spreadshop and several other deals to buy a home for his family.

"I want to put my family in a better place," Jackson said.

Fland, 15, also said he wants to help his family.

"It's been a very big deal," he said. "All the hard work is finally paying off."

In Ohio, high school principals began voting May 1 on whether to change the state high school athletic association's bylaws to allow athletes to sign deals.

"A lot of us here at the OHSAA and school administrators don't like NIL," said Ohio High School Athletic Association spokesperson Tim Stried. "We wish we weren't having to deal with this, but it's not going away. We can have a hand in shaping it or do what the NCAA did and fight it until otherwise."

Karissa Niehoff, CEO of the National Federation of State High School Associations, said NIL rights for high school athletes could prove disruptive, but she tempered her criticism, saying, "I don't think we're going to see a lot of this."

High school, Niehoff said, "is not intended to be an opportunity to earn a living, and we hope it will stay that way."

The issue of NIL deals for high school athletes follows a U.S. Supreme Court decision last June that said the NCAA cannot restrict education-related compensation benefits for the country's nearly 500,000 college student-athletes. Since then, Alaska, California, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Louisiana and Utah have created laws or policies allowing NIL compensation for high school athletes.

Jackson, who attends Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx, is represented by his AAU coach. Archbishop Stepinac High School in White Plains, New York, has hired a marketing consultant to help Fland and other students at the school with NIL deals.

Generally, college and high school athletes can use sports agents to market their name, image and likeness, but they are not permitted to hire agents to represent them professionally without endangering their eligibility. The standard fee for marketing agents is 15-20% of an athlete's NIL deal.

High school athletic associations in states where NIL deals are permitted bar students from using their school names and team logos in the deals they strike.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 30 of 60

In Florida, high school athletes are not allowed to benefit from their stardom. But Laney Higgins, a senior volleyball player at Carrollwood Day School in Lake Magdalene, cut a deal after her season ended that has her donating earnings to a concussion center that treated her.

She signed with Q30 Innovations, a Connecticut company that produces devices to help reduce brain injuries, after suffering numerous concussions playing her sport. She donates the earnings to the University of South Florida Concussion Center in Tampa.

Higgins is continuing her volleyball career at Oglethorpe University in Brookhaven, Georgia, this fall.

"Brands are going to continue to see that female student athletes can fulfill goals in a unique and authentic way because the biggest name doesn't always mean the best success," Higgins said.

According to the latest data gathered by Opendorse Deals, a company that its officials say have helped connect 100,000 college athletes with third parties for NIL deals, the average payout has been small thus far. Division I athletes with at least one deal have earned about \$664 on average, according to the data. For Division II athletes, it's \$59 and just \$43 in Division III.

Nearly 70% of deals involve social media posts, the Opendorse data shows.

David Ridpath, an associate professor of sports business at Ohio University, frames the opportunity for student-athletes to benefit financially as a civil rights issue. Athletes are not employees of the schools they attend and should not be restricted from earning money, he said, adding that amounts won't be large but could put "a few extra bucks in their pockets."

"In my view, it's all been positive," Ridpath said. "College and, by extension, high school athletes, are not employees and should not be restricted to any market place where they have value."

Basketball phenom Mikey Williams is among the exclusive group of high school athletes who have signed lucrative NIL deals. Williams, who will play his senior year at San Ysidro High School in San Diego, signed a deal with shoe and athletic apparel maker Puma for an undisclosed amount while attending a sports academy in Florida.

Former Texas high school football star Quinn Ewers is another exception to the norm of modest earners. The highly touted quarterback chose to forgo his senior year to enroll early at Ohio State University last year, a move that allowed him to sign a reported \$1.4 million in NIL deals before arriving on campus last summer. Ewers played only two meaningless snaps for the Buckeyes last season before choosing to transfer to the University of Texas.

Matthew Mitten, a sports law professor at Marquette University in Milwaukee, said there are potential pitfalls in NIL deals at both the high school and college levels, which he called the "last bastion of amateurism."

Mitten noted that University of Texas alumni and supporters in December announced that up to 16 football offensive linemen on scholarship would each receive \$50,000 starting in August to support charitable causes.

"It's almost become a de facto pay to play," Mitten said.

Mitten and others wonder about the affect NIL opportunities could have on the forbidden yet hardly uncommon practice of high schools recruiting athletes. He raised the possibility that wealthy alumni from private high schools might copy the University of Texas alumni model.

Mitten and others say parents of high school athletes need to become educated about NIL deals to protect their children should an opportunity arise.

"I think they're going to have to be careful," Mitten said. "There's a whole lot of legal issues that minors and their parents and guardians won't be familiar with."

Trial to start for driver who ran down Times Square tourists

NEW YORK (AP) — The man behind the wheel of the car that barreled through crowds of pedestrians in New York City's Times Square, killing a woman and injuring 22 other people, is finally headed to trial after various delays over five years, including pandemic-induced court shutdowns.

Opening statements are expected Monday in the trial of Richard Rojas, a 31-year-old U.S. Navy veteran

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 31 of 60

who told police after his arrest that he had been smoking marijuana laced with the hallucinogenic drug PCP before plowing through helpless tourists in 2017 at the Manhattan landmark known as "the crossroads of the world."

Alyssa Elsmann, an 18-year-old from Portage, Michigan, on an annual family trip was killed. Her 13-year-old sister, Ava, was among the injured. Jessica Williams, of Dunellen, New Jersey, was so badly hurt that her mother had to accept the diploma at her high school graduation while she remained in the hospital.

Rojas' trial, in state court in Manhattan, is expected to take several months.

Prosecutors say Rojas drove his car from the Bronx, where he lived with his mother, through Times Square on May 18, 2017, then made a U-turn, steered his car onto a sidewalk, and roared back up the sidewalk for three blocks before he crashed his car into protective barriers.

Photographers snapped pictures of a wild-eyed Rojas after he climbed from the wrecked car and ran through the street waving his arms. PCP, or phencyclidine, can cause users to become delusional, violent or suicidal, according to the National Drug Intelligence Center.

According to prosecutors, Rojas said he wanted to "kill them all."

Rojas pleaded not guilty at an arraignment in 2017 and has since been jailed at New York City's notorious Rikers Island jail complex. His lawyer said at the time that it was a "terrible thing that happened" in Times Square.

"But how we handle this type of a case will determine how civilized of a society we are," said defense attorney Enrico DeMarco.

Rojas has several prior criminal cases that paint a picture of a troubled man. Days before the Times Square incident he pleaded guilty to a harassment charge in the Bronx for pulling a knife on a notary in his home and accusing the person of trying to steal his identity.

He also had two previous drunken driving cases.

Rojas enlisted in the Navy in 2011 and served for part of 2012 aboard the USS Carney, a destroyer. Rojas spent his final months in the Navy at the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Florida.

In 2012, he was arrested and accused of beating a cab driver whom he said had disrespected him by trying to charge too much, according to the arrest report. The arresting officer said Rojas screamed, "My life is over!" as he was being detained. After his arrest, Rojas told the officer he was going to kill all police and military police he might see after his release from jail, the Jacksonville sheriff's office report stated.

Alan Ceballos, an attorney who represented Rojas in that case, said the state charges were dropped after the military stepped in to take jurisdiction over the criminal case. Navy records show that in 2013 Rojas spent two months at a naval prison in Charleston, South Carolina. He was discharged in 2014 as the result of a special court martial, a Navy official said.

Chef Mario Batali on trial in Boston sexual misconduct case

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Celebrity chef Mario Batali's pandemic-delayed trial on sexual misconduct allegations opens Monday in Boston.

Batali pleaded not guilty to a charge of indecent assault and battery in 2019, stemming from accusations that he forcibly kissed and groped a woman after taking a selfie with her at a Boston restaurant in 2017. The woman says Batali noticed her photographing him and invited her to take one together, then touched and kissed her repeatedly without her consent.

If convicted, Batali could face up to 2 1/2 years in jail and be required to register as a sex offender. He's expected to be in court throughout the proceedings, which should last about two days once jury selection is complete, said Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden's office.

Lawyers for Batali didn't comment ahead of the start of jury selection Monday in Boston Municipal Court. The chef's lawyers have previously said the charge is without merit.

His accuser has also filed a civil lawsuit against Batali seeking unspecified damages for "severe emotional distress" that's still pending in Suffolk County Superior Court in Boston. Her lawyer didn't respond

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 32 of 60

to emails Friday.

Batali is among a number of high-profile men who have faced a public reckoning during the #MeToo social movement against sexual abuse and harassment in recent years.

The 61-year-old was once a Food Network fixture on shows like "Molto Mario" and "Iron Chef America." But the ponytail- and orange Croc-wearing personality's high-flying career crumbled amid sexual misconduct allegations.

Four women accused him of inappropriate touching in 2017, after which he stepped down from day-to-day operations at his restaurant empire and left the since-discontinued ABC cooking show "The Chew."

Batali has offered an apology, acknowledging the allegations "match up" with ways he has acted.

"I have made many mistakes and I am so very sorry that I have disappointed my friends, my family, my fans and my team," he said in an email newsletter at the time. "My behavior was wrong and there are no excuses. I take full responsibility."

Last year, Batali, his business partner and their New York City restaurant company agreed to pay \$600,000 to resolve a four-year investigation by the New York attorney general's office into allegations that Batali, restaurant managers and other workers sexually harassed employees.

In Boston, he opened a branch of the popular Italian food marketplace Eataly in the downtown Prudential Center in 2016 as well as a Babbo Pizzeria e Enoteca in the city's Seaport District in 2015.

Batali has since been bought out of his stake in Eataly, which still has dozens of locations worldwide including in Boston, and the Babbo restaurant in the city has since closed.

Coral reefs provide stunning images of a world under assault

By CURT ANDERSON and CODY JACKSON Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Humans don't know what they're missing under the surface of a busy shipping channel in the "cruise capital of the world." Just below the keels of massive ships, an underwater camera provides a live feed from another world, showing marine life that's trying its best to resist global warming.

That camera in Miami's Government Cut is just one of the many ventures of a marine biologist and a musician who've been on a 15-year mission to raise awareness about dying coral reefs by combining science and art to bring undersea life into pop culture.

Their company — Coral Morphologic — is surfacing stunning images, putting gorgeous closeups of underwater creatures on social media, setting time-lapsed video of swaying, glowing coral to music and projecting it onto buildings, even selling a coral-themed beachwear line.

"We aren't all art. We aren't all science. We aren't all tech. We are an alchemy," said Colin Foord, who defies the looks of a typical scientist, with blue hair so spiky that it seems electrically charged. He and his business partner J.D. McKay sat down with The Associated Press to show off their work.

One of their most popular projects is the Coral City Camera, which recently passed 2 million views and usually has about 100 viewers online at any given time each day.

"We're going to actually be able to document one year of coral growth, which has never been done before in situ on a coral reef, and that's only possible because we have this technological connection right here at the port of Miami that allows us to have power and internet," Foord said.

The livestream has already revealed that staghorn and other corals can adapt and thrive even in a highly urbanized undersea environment, along with 177 species of fish, dolphins, manatees and other sea life, Foord said.

"We have these very resilient corals growing here. The primary goal of us getting it underwater was to show people there is so much marine life right here in our city," Foord said.

McKay, meanwhile, sounds like a Broadway producer as he describes how he also films the creatures in their Miami lab, growing coral in tanks to get them ready for closeups in glorious color.

"We essentially create a set with one of these aquariums, and then obviously there's actors — coral or shrimp or whatever — and then we film it, and then I get a vibe, whatever might be happening in the scene, and then I soundtrack it with some ambient like sounds, something very oceanic," McKay explained.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 33 of 60

Their latest production, "Coral City Flourotour," will be shown on the New World Center Wallscape this week as the Aspen Institute hosts a major climate conference in Miami Beach. Foord is speaking on a panel about how the ocean's natural systems can help humans learn to combat impacts of climate change. The talk's title? "The Ocean is a Superhero."

"I think when we can recognize that we're all this one family of life and everything is interconnected, that hopefully we can make meaningful changes now, so that future generations don't have to live in a world of wildfires and melted ice caps and dead oceans," Foord told the AP.

Their mission is urgent: After 500 million years on Earth, these species are under assault from climate change. The warming oceans prompt coral bleaching and raise the risk of infectious diseases that can cause mass die-offs in coral, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Stronger storms and changes in water chemistry can destroy reef structures, while altered currents sweep away food and larvae.

"Climate change is the greatest global threat to coral reef ecosystems," NOAA said in a recent report.

That gets at the second part of Coral Morphologic's name. "What does it mean to be morphologic? It really means having to adapt because the environment is always changing," Foord said.

The staghorn, elkhorn and brain coral living in Government Cut provide a real-world example of how coral communities can adapt to such things as rising heat and polluted runoff, even in such an unlikely setting as the port of Miami. Their video has documented fluorescence in some of the coral, an unusual response in offshore waters that Foord said could be protecting them from solar rays.

"The port is a priceless place for coral research," Foord said. "We have to be realistic. You won't be able to return the ecosystems to the way they were 200 years ago. The options we are left with are more radical."

Beyond the science, there's the clothes. Coral Morphologic sells a line of surf and swimwear that takes designs from flower anemones and brain coral and uses environmentally sustainable materials such as a type of nylon recycled from old fishing nets.

"We see the power of tech connecting people with nature. We are lucky as artists, and corals are benefiting," Foord said.

With Marcos Jr. tipped to win, Philippines at tenuous moment

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Filipinos stood in long lines to choose a new president Monday, with the son of an ousted dictator and a champion of human rights the top contenders in a tenuous moment in a deeply divided Asian democracy.

Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the son and namesake of the strongman ousted in a 1986 army-backed "People Power" uprising, held a seemingly insurmountable lead in pre-election surveys. But his closest challenger, Vice President Leni Robredo, has tapped into shock and outrage over the prospect of a Marcos recapturing the seat of power and harnessed a network of campaign volunteers to underpin her candidacy.

Eight others are in the presidential race, including former boxing star Manny Pacquiao, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno and former national police chief Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Long lines of voters turned up early across most of the country, with the start of voting delayed by a few hours in a few areas due to malfunctioning vote machines, power outages, bad weather and other problems.

Thousands of police and military personnel were deployed to secure election precincts, especially in rural regions with a history of violent political rivalries and where communist and Muslim rebels are active. In Maguindanao province, a security hotspot in the south, three village guards were killed by gunmen outside an elections center in Buluan town, briefly disrupting voting. Nine would-be voters and their companions were wounded separately Sunday night when unidentified men fired five rifle grenades in the Datu Unsay town hall, police said.

The election winner will take office on June 30 for a single, six-year term as leader of a Southeast Asian

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 34 of 60

nation hit hard by two years of COVID-19 outbreaks and lockdowns.

Still more challenging problems include a pandemic-battered economy, deeper poverty and unemployment and decades-long Muslim and communist insurgencies. The next president is also likely to hear demands to prosecute outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte for thousands of killings during his anti-drug crackdown — deaths already under investigation by the International Criminal Court.

Duterte's daughter, southern Davao city Mayor Sara Duterte, has topped surveys as Marcos Jr.'s vice-presidential running mate in an alliance of the scions of two authoritarian leaders who concern human rights groups. The tie-up has combined the voting power of their separate northern and southern political strongholds, boosting their chances but compounding worries of human rights activists.

"History may repeat itself if they win," said Myles Sanchez, a 42-year-old human rights worker. "There may be a repeat of martial law and the drug killings that happened under their parents."

Sanchez said the violence and abuses that marked the martial-law era under Marcos and Duterte's drug war more than three decades later victimized loved ones from two generations of her family. Her grandmother was sexually abused and her grandfather tortured by counterinsurgency troops under Marcos in the early 1980s in their impoverished farming village in Southern Leyte province.

Under Duterte's crackdown, Sanchez's brother, a sister and a sister-in-law were wrongfully linked to illegal drugs and separately killed, she told The Associated Press in an interview. She described the killings of her siblings as "a nightmare that has caused unspeakable pain."

She begged Filipinos not to vote for politicians who either openly defended the widespread killings or conveniently looked away.

Marcos Jr. and Sara Duterte have avoided such volatile issues in the campaign and steadfastly stuck instead to a battle cry of national unity, even though their fathers' presidencies opened some of the Philippines' most turbulent divisions.

"I have learned in our campaign not to retaliate," Sara Duterte told followers Saturday night on the final day of campaigning, where she and Marcos Jr. thanked a huge crowd in a night of rap music, dance shows and fireworks near Manila Bay.

At her own rally, Robredo thanked her supporters who jammed her star-studded sorties and waged a house-to-house battle to endorse her brand of clean and hands-on politics. She asked them to fight for patriotic ideals beyond the elections.

"We've learned that those who have awoken will never close their eyes again," Robredo told a crowd that filled the main avenue in the capital's Makati financial district. "It's our right to have a future with dignity and it's our responsibility to fight for it."

Aside from the presidency, more than 18,000 government posts are being contested, including half of the 24-member Senate, more than 300 seats in the House of Representatives, as well as provincial and local offices across the archipelago of more than 109 million Filipinos.

More than 67 million people have registered, including about 1.6 million Filipinos overseas, to cast their ballot. When voting centers close after the 13-hour day, thousands of counting machines will immediately transmit the results to be tallied. In the 2016 contest, Duterte emerged as the clear winner within a few hours and his key challengers quickly conceded. The vice presidential race that year was won narrowly by Robredo over Marcos Jr., and the outcome was slower to become known.

Associated Press journalists Joael Calupitan, Aaron Favila and Cecilia Forbes in Manila, Philippines, and Kiko Rosario in Bangkok contributed to this report.

The AP Interview: BLM's Patrisse Cullors denies wrongdoing

By AARON MORRISON Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — No, insists Patrisse Cullors, former leader of the Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation: Despite allegations of financial improprieties, neither she nor anyone else in leadership misused millions of dollars in donations.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 35 of 60

But in an interview with The Associated Press, Cullors acknowledged that BLM was ill-prepared to handle a tidal wave of contributions in the aftermath of protests over George Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police in 2020. She said the foundation was slow to build the necessary groundwork.

She and others offered insights into the growing pains of an organization that went from an idea to a global brand, almost in an instant.

"On paper, it looks crazy," she said. "We use this term in our movement a lot, which is we're building the plane while flying it. I don't believe in that anymore. The only regret I have with BLM is wishing that we could have paused for one to two years, to just not do any work and just focus on the infrastructure."

Recent disclosures that the foundation had paid \$6 million for a Los Angeles compound in 2020 unleashed a torrent of criticism and social media chatter. The property in Studio City -- including a home with six bedrooms and bathrooms, a swimming pool, a soundstage and office space -- is meant to be both a meeting venue and a campus for Black artists.

Some criticism came from BLM supporters like Justin Hansford, director of the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at Howard University. He said the property purchase could be weaponized by movement opponents, leading possible donors to shy away from Black-led social justice organizations: "That's the thing that you don't want to get out of hand."

Cullors defended the purchase. "We really wanted to make sure that the global network foundation had an asset that wasn't just financial resources," she said, "and we understood that not many Black-led organizations have property. They don't own their property."

Cullors said she had made mistakes and even some regrettable choices that haven't fostered trust. She acknowledged she had used the BLM property twice for personal purposes.

But the 38-year-old bestselling author and artist angrily and adamantly denied accusations that she had personally benefited in the six years she guided the BLM foundation, including media reports that she had purchased homes for herself and members of her family.

"The idea that (the foundation) received millions of dollars and then I hid those dollars in my bank account is absolutely false," she said. "That's a false narrative. It's impacted me personally and professionally, that people would accuse me of stealing from Black people."

BLM first appeared as a Twitter hashtag following the 2013 acquittal of George Zimmerman, the neighborhood watch volunteer who killed 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Florida. The next year, the death of Michael Brown at the hands of police in Ferguson, Missouri, saw the movement's emergence in the political realm.

Along with BLM co-founders Alicia Garza and Ayọ Tometi, Cullors pledged to build a decentralized movement governed by consensus. As donations and support grew, an array of local BLM chapters transformed into a nonprofit organization.

BLM protests in the summer after Floyd's death in May 2020 became the largest mobilization of a movement in U.S. history. Cullors said she became the foundation's full-time executive director that year, charged with ensuring it had the organizational infrastructure to handle the massive influx of donations and would use the resources to further its mission.

Just over a year ago, the foundation announced a \$90 million fundraising haul. That announcement drew sharp criticisms over access to donor funds, as well as broader calls for openness from activists in several local BLM chapters and from the families of police brutality victims who had rallied to the movement.

Cullors acknowledged that a lack of transparency about the foundation's board and staffing drove perceptions that things were amiss. And when the organization was transparent -- revealing that it had raised millions -- the reaction wasn't what she expected.

"I thought practicing radical transparency with Black people would have been received well," she said. "What was unhelpful about releasing it was not getting enough people allying with us about it. We weren't the only organization to receive millions of dollars."

Then Cullors resigned as foundation director to work on personal projects -- a departure that had long been planned, and was unconnected with any alleged improprieties, she said.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 36 of 60

In addition to promoting her latest book, "An Abolitionist's Handbook: 12 Steps to Changing Yourself and the World," Cullors is focused on the Crenshaw Dairy Mart. It's a former convenience store in Los Angeles that was converted into an artist collective and gallery, which overlaps with her activism on criminal justice issues. Cullors is also well into a multiyear programming development deal with Warner Bros.

In the year since her resignation, the BLM foundation hasn't hired new leadership or publicly discussed plans for money still sitting in its coffers.

Two veteran civil rights organizers who were announced last May as interim senior executives for the foundation said they never began serving in that capacity, citing in a statement a failure to reach an agreement with BLM's leadership council about the scope of their work and decision-making authority.

It was only earlier this month that the foundation announced a new board of directors, which leaders said will grow in the coming months.

And it was only recently that the foundation caught up with its financial filings: In California, where it had been deemed delinquent in submitting required charity disclosures from 2020, the state Registry of Charitable Trusts now shows the foundation is current.

Records show a small number of people with responsibility over the foundation. A 990 filing submitted to the IRS for January through June 2020, lists Cullors as an uncompensated executive director and the foundation's only employee. At that point, still under the fiscal sponsorship of a well-established charity, the BLM foundation reported no revenue, assets, contributions or expenses.

The filing lists just two board members, including Shalomayah Bowers, who is the president at Bowers Consulting, a firm that has provided operational support to the BLM foundation for two years.

In a phone interview, Bowers said the organization had been working since Cullors' departure to sort out its infrastructure. He said the organization underwent an independent financial audit which, along with the expected May release of its latest 990 filing, will show that "nothing impermissible or nefarious has happened" with BLM's finances.

"We are now a foundation that is deeply devoted to investing in organizations that are committed to doing the work of abolition (and) committed to building Black power," he said.

Cullors is far from the only Black activist to withstand questions about her money, her motivations and her leadership. Elders in the civil rights struggle often speak of attacks, both from within and outside of the movement, meant to discredit or stop social change.

On Saturday, Candace Owens, the Black conservative political pundit and opponent of the BLM movement, arrived uninvited with a camera crew at Cullors' Los Angeles-area home. In an Instagram video shared with millions of followers, Owens said she was there to film a documentary about BLM's finances and ask questions about the foundation's property (which is not at the same address as Cullors' home).

"The constant harassment, online and offline, that I've experienced is unacceptable and dangerous," Cullors said.

Still, legitimate questions of accountability should not be dismissed, said Garza, the BLM co-founder who was not involved in the BLM organization after 2015.

"I think it is important to be transparent about what is actually happening," Garza said. "And my assessment is that because there was a lack of response (to public questions), specifically from the global network foundation, it allowed for people to fill in the blanks."

She added: "If there is impropriety (in the foundation), we should talk about it. I don't think we should sweep that under the rug, but we haven't established that."

Cullors knows that she gave critics an opening when she issued a statement denying suggestions that she had lived at the Studio City property or taken advantage of it for personal gain. She later acknowledged to the AP that, during a four-day stay at the property, she had used the compound for purposes that were not strictly business.

She said in January 2021, while seeking refuge at the property amid threats on her life, she hosted a small party to celebrate the inauguration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. The gathering included about 15 people, including BLM Los Angeles chapter members and other prominent movement supporters, she said.

And in March 2021, she held a private birthday party for her son at the property, for which Cullors said she intended to pay a rental fee to the foundation. The foundation confirmed it had billed her, and it said it was reviewing its policies to prevent such uses in the future.

Cullors said, in hindsight, she should not have used the property that way.

"I look back at that and think, that probably wasn't the best idea," she said.

Strong winds batter New Mexico, complicating wildfire fight

By CEDAR ATTANASIO and KATHLEEN RONAYNE Associated Press

LAS VEGAS, N.M. (AP) — Dangerous, gusty winds were expected to continue Monday across northeast New Mexico, complicating the fight against wildfires that threaten thousands of homes in mountainous rural communities.

The region's largest city — Las Vegas, New Mexico, home to 13,000 people — was largely safe from danger after firefighters mostly stopped a blaze there from moving east. But the northern and southern flanks of the wildfire proved trickier to contain as wind gusts topped 50 mph (80 kph).

"It's been a challenging day. The winds have picked up; they haven't let up," fire spokesperson Todd Abel said Sunday night.

A so-called "red flag warning" that indicates high fire danger due to heat, low humidity and fast winds will remain in place through Monday night, nearly four days after it began.

More than 1,600 firefighters were out Sunday battling the two major blazes burning northeast of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Together they covered 275 square miles (some 710 square kilometers), an area more than twice the size of Philadelphia. Firefighters had contained nearly half of the blazes by Sunday night.

Still, the threat was far from over with the National Interagency Fire Center saying early Sunday that more than 20,000 structures remained threatened by the fire, which has destroyed about 300 residences over the past two weeks.

Fast winds are in many ways firefighters' worst nightmare, especially in conditions as hot and dry as those the crews have been battling in the Southwest since early April.

In addition to fanning and spreading the flames, these winds keep air tankers and light planes grounded. That left them unable to drop water directly on the fire or lay down retardant ahead of its path to allow bulldozers and ground crews to dig firebreaks in places where there are no highways or roads to help stop the progression.

In extreme conditions, like the ones in New Mexico, even the helicopters that can typically get up in the air — at least during the early morning hours before winds start to pick up in the afternoon — are grounded. That prevents them from gathering intelligence about overnight developments. Aircraft were able to fly early Sunday but were grounded by the afternoon.

"It's not good, obviously; it takes away a tool in our toolbox, but we're not stopping," said fire spokesperson Ryan Berlin.

Officials were concerned about winds that had whipped up more flames on the northern edge of the fire near some very small communities of several hundred people. Gusts had driven fire down into a canyon, making it difficult to get to, said Dave Bales, the incident commander.

He and other officials strongly urged people to be ready to evacuate or to leave immediately if they've been told to do so. Should the fire overwhelm a community, heavy smoke and congested roads could make it hard for people to flee and for firefighters to access the area, he said.

"It is so thick you can't see, you can't drive, you can't see the engine ahead of you," Bales said.

Those towns sit along a state highway that runs from Las Vegas, New Mexico, up to Taos, a popular place for skiing and other outdoor recreation. Taos, however, was not threatened, but people in some parts of the larger Taos County have been told to prepare for possible evacuations.

In the small community of Las Vegas, some residents began returning on Saturday and some local businesses reopened. Containment lines established by bulldozers as well as the direction of the wind helped keep the community safe over the weekend. But some fire officials warned people to remain aware of

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 38 of 60

evacuation orders because conditions could change quickly.

"Just because the winds are coming from one direction doesn't mean they can't change direction, so it's better to be prepared and have residents ready to go," said Wendy Mason with the New Mexico Forestry Division.

Nationwide, close to 2,000 square miles (5,180 square kilometers) have burned so far this year, with 2018 being the last time this much fire had been reported at this point, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. And predictions for the rest of the spring do not bode well for the West, where long-term drought and warmer temperatures brought on by climate change have combined to worsen the threat of wildfire.

2022 midterms: What to watch in Nebraska, West Virginia

By GRANT SCHULTE Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The top race in Tuesday's primary elections in Nebraska and West Virginia is a heavily contested Republican primary for Nebraska governor, featuring a Donald Trump-endorsed candidate who has been accused of groping multiple women.

Voters in Nebraska will also be nominating candidates to replace former U.S. Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, a Republican convicted in March on charges he lied to federal authorities about an illegal campaign contribution he received from a Nigerian billionaire.

In West Virginia, two incumbent congressmen are facing off in a Republican primary after redistricting cost the state a seat in the U.S. House.

What to watch as Tuesday's primaries unfold:

HOW MUCH SWAY DOES TRUMP HAVE IN NEBRASKA?

In Nebraska's Republican primary for governor, Trump has endorsed Charles Herbster, a wealthy agribusinessman and cattle breeder who has positioned himself as a political outsider.

Herbster has recently faced allegations that he groped young women, including a Nebraska state senator and a former legislative staffer. He vehemently denies the accusations and has filed a defamation lawsuit against the lawmaker, state Sen. Julie Slama. She filed a countersuit, accusing Herbster of sexual battery. Despite the allegations, Trump has stood by Herbster and appeared with him at a rally last week.

His main rival is University of Nebraska regent Jim Pillen, a former college football player and veterinarian who owns a hog farm operation and swine breeding-stock company. Pillen has won support from high-profile conservatives, including Gov. Pete Ricketts, former Gov. Kay Orr, the influential Nebraska Farm Bureau and former Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne.

And in a surprising twist, state Sen. Brett Lindstrom of Omaha has risen to top-tier status as well with support from Omaha's Republican mayor and ads in which he pitches himself as a "new generation" of leader. He is considered the more moderate option to Herbster and Pillen.

The winner of the GOP primary is expected to face state Sen. Carol Blood, who is all but certain to win the Democratic nomination for governor over a little-known candidate who hasn't actively campaigned.

HOW DID A CONGRESSMAN'S CONVICTION RESHAPE THE PRIMARY?

U.S. House primary races are usually low-key affairs in Nebraska, with little turnover among the Republican incumbents. But the state has an open seat this year following Fortenberry's resignation.

Fortenberry initially planned to seek reelection to a 10th term despite a federal indictment and launched attack ads against his main challenger, Republican state Sen. Mike Flood. He dropped his bid after his conviction, and Flood gained momentum with endorsements from Ricketts and former Gov. Dave Heineman.

Flood is now the strong favorite to win the nomination for the 1st Congressional District out of a field of five Republican candidates. Fortenberry's name will still appear on the ballot because he withdrew after the state's deadline to certify candidates.

The GOP nominee is expected to face Democratic state Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks in November. Pansing Brooks is running against University of Nebraska-Lincoln student Jazari Kual Zakaria in the Democratic primary.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 39 of 60

Flood and Pansing Brooks will also face each other in a June 28 special election to decide who serves the rest of Fortenberry's term. The November general election will determine who fills the seat starting in January 2023.

The 1st Congressional District encompasses a stretch of eastern Nebraska, excluding Omaha and most of its suburbs. The Republican-leaning district includes Lincoln as well as large stretches of farmland and small towns.

HOW MUCH DO INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS MATTER TO WEST VIRGINIA VOTERS?

A Republican primary in West Virginia's 2nd Congressional District between two incumbents could hang on support for President Joe Biden's \$1.2 trillion infrastructure law in the GOP-leaning state.

One of the incumbents, Rep. David McKinley, was among 13 House Republicans to vote for the bill. He cited the state's "D" infrastructure grade from the American Society of Civil Engineers, saying it would have been a betrayal to vote based on "party politics" on an issue so important to residents.

West Virginia, one of the nation's poorest states, is slated to get \$6 billion in infrastructure money.

The other incumbent, Rep. Alex Mooney, voted against the infrastructure bill and won Trump's endorsement the day Biden signed the measure into law. Mooney and Trump have called McKinley and other Republicans who voted for the infrastructure bill RINOs, or "Republicans In Name Only." Mooney called the bill "Biden and Speaker Nancy Pelosi's spending masterplan" and said it will contribute to inflation.

While in Congress, McKinley and Mooney voted together the vast majority of the time. But the infrastructure vote will serve as a test of Trump's clout in a state that wholeheartedly embraced him in two presidential elections.

Trump, emboldened after Ohio victory, faces challenges ahead

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Fresh off a victory in the first real test of his power as GOP kingmaker, former President Donald Trump enters the next stretch of the midterm campaign emboldened — and facing new risks.

Trump's late-stage endorsement of JD Vance in Ohio's GOP Senate primary catapulted the "Hillbilly Elegy" author to victory in last week's election, reinforcing the deep ties the former president holds among the most loyal Republican voters.

"Every single candidate that I endorsed won their primaries on Tuesday," Trump crowed at a Friday night rally in Pennsylvania, where he held up Vance as a trophy of his achievement. "Tuesday's primary results are just the latest proof that we have transformed the face of the Republican Party. Thank goodness."

With Trump trying to assert his dominance over the party ahead of another potential presidential run, some allies say the Ohio victory could encourage him to step up his involvement in other bitter primary fights from Arizona to Missouri, where a former governor and current U.S. Senate candidate, Eric Greitens, is facing allegations of abuse. But there's also caution that the coming phase of the campaign, which continues on Tuesday with a tight GOP race for governor in Nebraska, could be more complicated for Trump.

"Round one to Trump, but I think it gets an awful lot harder from here," said Dan Eberhart, a GOP donor who spent time last week at Trump's Mar-a-Lago club. "I think it's going to encourage him to get even more involved and it's also got to worry him," Eberhart said, pointing to questions about what it will be like "the day after Pennsylvania or the day after Georgia?"

In some respects, Trump's allies acknowledge, Ohio was a uniquely favorable state for him.

Trump carried Ohio by more than 8 percentage points in the 2016 and 2020 elections. The candidates running to fill the seat being vacated by retiring Sen. Rob Portman desperately courted his endorsement while trying to paint themselves to voters as the Trumpiest of the bunch. The field was crowded, meaning that even a small bump would have been enough to make a difference. And Trump's endorsement addressed what had been Vance's biggest vulnerability in the race: his past criticism of Trump.

"It clarified things, consolidated the vote and helped JD overcome a trust deficit with primary voters," said Luke Thompson, who ran Vance's super PAC. "That happens because Trump's endorsement told conservative voters: You can trust this guy because I do."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 40 of 60

Yet even in that environment, there were warning signs for Trump. More than two-thirds of Republican voters who cast ballots in the race voted for Vance's rivals. And nearly a quarter chose Matt Dolan, the only candidate who did not seek Trump's nod.

For now, however, Trump is riding high. And allies say the former president may be willing to take even greater risks now that he has notched a major victory.

That could mean an endorsement soon in Arizona's competitive Senate primary, where Republicans will choose a candidate in August to take on Democratic Sen. Mark Kelly, a top target for Republicans.

Trump was already seen as favoring Blake Masters, a young conservative, who, like Vance, has the backing of billionaire and PayPal cofounder Peter Thiel, but lacks Vance's celebrity appeal. Masters is running against Attorney General Mark Brnovich and businessman Jim Lamon. Trump has repeatedly railed against Brnovich, accusing him of not fighting hard enough to overturn the will of voters in the 2020 election.

Matt Schlapp, chair of the American Conservative Union, said he thinks Trump took a risk in endorsing Vance. "He took somebody who was struggling in the polls but has a great personal biography and celebrity status and helped push him over the goal line." Schlapp added: "I think he's prone to take risks both in his business career and in politics and so he's going to be prone to want to act."

But, Schlapp said, "there's an upside and a downside to acting. If you endorse someone and they don't win, it can be perceived that your endorsement doesn't matter as much." Schlapp is supporting Lamon.

The rest of the month's calendar will be more challenging for Trump, especially in races with incumbents.

On Tuesday, Republicans will vote in Nebraska, where Trump had endorsed Charles Herbster, who was seen as a strong front-runner through much of the race but is now fighting accusations that he groped at least eight young women at public events. Nearly all of Nebraska's GOP establishment leaders have lined up behind businessman Jim Pillen.

Meanwhile, in West Virginia, a race in the 2nd Congressional District between Republican Reps. Alex Mooney and David McKinley will serve as another barometer of Trump's clout in a state he won twice by large margins. Trump endorsed Mooney the day President Joe Biden signed the bipartisan infrastructure bill into law last year. He has repeatedly condemned McKinley and 12 other House Republicans for voting with Democrats, though the bill provides \$6 billion in infrastructure spending for West Virginia.

Next week, Trump's pick for an open Senate seat in North Carolina, Rep. Ted Budd, is well positioned against former Gov. Pat McCrory and former Rep. Mark Walker after a rocky start. But in Pennsylvania, celebrity TV doctor Mehmet Oz is locked in a tight race with ex-hedge fund CEO David McCormick and conservative activist Kathy Barnette, according to the most recent Franklin and Marshall College poll, despite Trump's late-stage endorsement.

Trump's decision to back Oz earned the doctor a wave of media attention and a rally Friday night, where Trump trumpeted the impact of his Vance endorsement ("He was like a rocket ship," Trump said, with sound effects), praised Oz ("I've known him a long time. His show is great. He's on that screen. He's in the bedrooms of all those women") and eviscerated McCormick as a "liberal Wall Street Republican" who is "absolutely the candidate of special interests and globalists and the Washington establishment."

But Oz has not seen the same kind of poll bounce that Vance enjoyed in the days after Trump waded in. And that resistance was on display in the rain and mud on Friday, with some in the crowd booing at the mention of Oz's name before Trump's arrival and others standing and turning their backs to him when he walked on stage, according to video of the event.

Vance, who attended the rally with Trump, made the case to voters that even if they didn't support Oz, the race was a referendum on Trump himself.

"It's not about Dr. Oz," Vance said. "It's not about anything other than you and Donald Trump. These people are trying to make it so that Trump-endorsed candidates get defeated because when they do the fake news media back there will say, 'Well, Donald Trump's endorsement doesn't matter,'" he went on. "We need to support the candidates who are endorsed by Donald Trump. That's why I'm here."

The month will close with contests in Alabama — where Trump dropped Rep. Mo Brooks when it became clear the candidate was struggling in his Senate race — and in Georgia, where the governor's race poses Trump's biggest challenge. For now, he appears poised for a major defeat, with former Sen. David Perdue

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 41 of 60

trailing incumbent Republican Gov. Brian Kemp, arguably Trump's biggest target of the election calendar because he rejected Trump's efforts to try to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

Yet even if his candidates lose their primaries, or ultimately their general elections, Trumpism has already won. Hundreds of candidates have run in the former president's image and on his "America First" policy — with some running ads claiming his support even when he failed to endorse them — laying bare how dramatically Trump has transformed the party as he mulls another run for president in 2024.

And while it appeared at one point as if the leaders of the party might reject him, Trump will again headline a major party fundraiser on Monday, this time speaking at a National Republican Congressional Committee dinner in Dallas.

S Korea's Moon calls for peace with North in farewell speech

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's departing liberal president defended his policy of engaging North Korea, saying in his farewell speech Monday that he hopes efforts to restore peace and denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula will continue.

Moon Jae-in leaves office Tuesday following a single five-year term, handing over presidential power and responsibilities to conservative Yoon Suk Yeol, who has accused him of being "subservient" to North Korea and promised to take a tougher stance on the North's nuclear program.

"Peace is the condition for our survival and prosperity. I heartily hope that efforts to resume dialogue between South and North Korea and establish denuclearization and peace would continue," Moon said in the nationally televised speech.

When Moon — a dove who favors greater rapprochement between the rival Koreas — took office in 2017, he found little room to maneuver diplomatically because of North Korea's torrid run of nuclear and missile tests. But he eventually seized an opportunity to reconcile with North Korea when its leader Kim Jong Un abruptly reached out to Seoul and Washington in early 2018 for talks on the future of its advancing nuclear arsenal.

Kim first sent his powerful sister to South Korea for talks with Moon and to let her to attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics in South Korea in February 2018. The two Korean leaders met three times for summits later in 2018, taking steps to lower tensions at the border and allowing rare exchange programs involving singers, basketball teams and others. Moon also lobbied hard to broker now-stalled nuclear diplomacy between Kim and then-U.S. President Donald Trump.

But after the North Korea-U.S. diplomacy collapsed in 2019, Moon has faced withering criticism that his engagement policy only helped North Korea buy time and perfect its weapons program in the face of U.S.-led sanctions and pressure campaign on the North.

Pyongyang eventually urged Moon not to interfere in its dealings with the United States and unleashed crude insults on him.

In his last speech, Moon claimed his government helped ease the danger of war on the Korean Peninsula and bring up hopes for peace through diplomacy.

"The reason why we failed to move forward further wasn't because we lacked efforts and a determination to do that. There was a barrier that we can't overcome only with our determination. It's a barrier that we should overcome," Moon said, without clarifying what the obstacle was.

Last month, Moon and Kim exchanged their final official letters expressing hope for improved bilateral relations. But some experts say the way North Korea described the letters, in which it highlighted Moon's vow to continue campaigning for Korean reunification even after leaving office, reflected its intent to divide public opinion in South Korea and discourage Seoul's new government from taking a hard line toward Pyongyang.

During a massive military parade in Pyongyang three days after the letter exchange was announced, Kim pledged to speed up the development of his nuclear weapons and threatened to use them proactively if provoked. In recent months, Kim's military has also been test-launching a spate of missiles targeting

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 42 of 60

South Korea, Japan or the mainland U.S.

Some experts say Kim aims to rattle Yoon's incoming government while modernizing his weapons arsenal and pressuring the Biden administration into relaxing sanctions on it. South Korean officials say North Korea also appears to be preparing for its first nuclear test since 2017.

Taliban divisions deepen as Afghan women defy veil edict

By KATHY GANNON Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Arooza was furious and afraid, keeping her eyes open for Taliban on patrol as she and a friend shopped Sunday in Kabul's Macroyan neighborhood.

The math teacher was fearful her large shawl, wrapped tight around her head, and sweeping pale brown coat would not satisfy the latest decree by the country's religiously driven Taliban government. After all, more than just her eyes were showing. Her face was visible.

Arooza, who asked to be identified by just one name to avoid attracting attention, wasn't wearing the all-encompassing burqa preferred by the Taliban, who on Saturday issued a new dress code for women appearing in public. The edict said only a woman's eyes should be visible.

The decree by the Taliban's hardline leader Hibaitullah Akhunzada even suggested women shouldn't leave their homes unless necessary and outlines a series of punishments for male relatives of women violating the code.

It was a major blow to the rights of women in Afghanistan, who for two decades had been living with relative freedom before the Taliban takeover last August — when U.S. and other foreign forces withdrew in the chaotic end to a 20-year war.

A reclusive leader, Akhunzada rarely travels outside southern Kandahar, the traditional Taliban heartland. He favors the harsh elements of the group's previous time in power, in the 1990s, when girls and women were largely barred from school, work and public life.

Like Taliban founder Mullah Mohammad Omar, Akhunzada imposes a strict brand of Islam that marries religion with ancient tribal traditions, often blurring the two.

Akhunzada has taken tribal village traditions where girls often marry at puberty, and rarely leave their homes, and called it a religious demand, analysts say.

The Taliban have been divided between pragmatists and hardliners, as they struggle to transition from an insurgency to a governing body. Meanwhile, their government has been dealing with a worsening economic crisis. And Taliban efforts to win recognition and aid from Western nations have floundered, largely because they have not formed a more representative government, and restricted the rights of girls and women.

Until now, hardliners and pragmatists in the movement have avoided open confrontation.

Yet divisions were deepened in March, on the eve of the new school year, when Akhunzada issued a last-minute decision that girls should not be allowed to go to school after completing the sixth grade. In the weeks ahead of the start of the school year, senior Taliban officials had told journalists all girls would be allowed back in school. Akhunzada asserted that allowing the older girls back to school violated Islamic principles.

A prominent Afghan who meets the leadership and is familiar with their internal squabbles said that a senior Cabinet minister expressed his outrage over Akhunzada's views at a recent leadership meeting. He spoke on condition of anonymity to speak freely.

Torek Farhadi, a former government adviser, said he believes Taliban leaders have opted not to spar in public because they fear any perception of divisions could undermine their rule.

"The leadership does not see eye to eye on a number of matters but they all know that if they don't keep it together, everything might fall apart," Farhadi said. "In that case, they might start clashes with each other."

"For that reason, the elders have decided to put up with each other, including when it comes to non-agreeable decisions which are costing them a lot of uproar inside Afghanistan and internationally," Farhadi

added.

Some of the more pragmatic leaders appear to be looking for quiet workarounds that will soften the hard-line decrees. Since March, there has been a growing chorus, even among the most powerful Taliban leaders, to return older girls to school while quietly ignoring other repressive edicts.

Earlier this month, Anas Haqqani, the younger brother of Sirajuddin, who heads the powerful Haqqani network, told a conference in the eastern city of Khost that girls are entitled to education and that they would soon return to school — though he didn't say when. He also said that women had a role in building the nation.

"You will receive very good news that will make everyone very happy... this problem will be resolved in the following days," Haqqani said at the time.

In the Afghan capital of Kabul on Sunday, women wore the customary conservative Muslim dress. Most wore a traditional hijab, consisting of a headscarf and long robe or coat, but few covered their faces, as directed by the Taliban leader a day earlier. Those wearing a burqa, a head-to-toe garment that covers the face and hides the eyes behind netting were in the minority.

"Women in Afghanistan wear the hijab, and many wear the burqa, but this isn't about hijab, this is about the Taliban wanting to make all women disappear," said Shabana, who wore bright gold bangles beneath her flowing black coat, her hair hidden behind a black head scarf with sequins. "This is about the Taliban wanting to make us invisible."

Arooza said the Taliban rulers are driving Afghans to leave their country. "Why should I stay here if they don't want to give us our human rights? We are human," she said.

Several women stopped to talk. They all challenged the latest edict.

"We don't want to live in a prison," said Parveen, who like the other women wanted only to give one name.

"These edicts attempt to erase a whole gender and generation of Afghans who grew up dreaming of a better world," said Obaidullah Baheer, a visiting scholar at New York's New School and former lecturer at the American University in Afghanistan.

"It pushes families to leave the country by any means necessary. It also fuels grievances that would eventually spill over into large-scale mobilization against the Taliban," he said.

After decades of war, Baheer said it wouldn't have taken much on the Taliban's part to make Afghans content with their rule "an opportunity that the Taliban are wasting fast."

Havana hotel death toll at 31 as dogs search for survivors

By ANDREA RODRÍGUEZ Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — The death toll of a powerful explosion at a luxury hotel in Cuba's capital increased to 31 Sunday evening as search crews with dogs hunted through the rubble of the iconic, 19th century building looking for people still missing.

The Hotel Saratoga, a five-star 96-room hotel in Old Havana, was preparing to reopen after being closed for two years when an apparent gas leak ignited, blowing the outer walls into the busy, midmorning streets just a block from the country's Capitol building on Friday.

Several nearby structures also were damaged, including the historic Marti Theater and the Calvary Baptist Church, headquarters for the denomination in western Cuba. The church said on its Facebook page that the building suffered "significant structural damage, with several collapsed or cracked walls and columns (and) the ceiling partially collapsed," though no church workers were hurt.

In releasing the names of those who were killed, the Health Ministry said the dead included four minors, a pregnant woman and a Spanish tourist, whose companion was seriously injured.

The ministry also said 54 people were injured, with 24 hospitalized. It previously reported 85 injured, but that tally turned out to include those killed by the explosion.

Nineteen families had reported people missing as of Saturday evening, but authorities did not say Sunday whether the number had changed.

Authorities said the cause of the explosion at the hotel owned by Grupo de Turismo Gaviota SA was still

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 44 of 60

under investigation, but believed it to have been caused by a gas leak. A large crane hoisted a charred gas tanker out of the rubble Saturday.

Burials for victims had begun, municipal authorities said, while some people still waited for news of missing friends and relatives.

"We are hoping that something will be known about my cousin's mother," Angela Acosta told The Associated Press near the site of the explosion. Her relative, María de la Concepción Alard, lived in an apartment adjacent to the hotel with a black Labrador, which was rescued along with another dog Sunday.

Crews have worked to clean up streets around the hotel and by late Saturday, substantial pedestrian traffic had resumed.

"There are mothers who are without their children today," Matha Verde, a manicurist who was walking near the Saratoga, said Sunday, when Mother's Day was celebrated in Cuba. She said she tells women who lost their sons or daughters in the explosion that they "have to keep going."

The explosion added to the woes of a crucial tourism industry that had been stifled by the coronavirus pandemic as well as tightened sanctions imposed by former U.S. President Donald Trump and kept in place the Biden administration. Those limited visits by U.S. tourists to the islands and restricted remittances from Cubans in the U.S. to their families in Cuba.

Tourism had started to revive somewhat early this year, but the war in Ukraine deflated a boom of Russian visitors, who accounted for almost a third of the tourists arriving in Cuba last year.

The Saratoga, which had been closed through the pandemic, was one of the elite lodgings in Havana, often hosting visiting VIPs and celebrities. Its owner is one of the Cuban military's businesses.

Some attention in Cuba began to shift to an official visit by Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who arrived Saturday night at the end of a five-country tour that began in Central America.

López Obrador met Sunday with Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel, who awarded him the Order of Jose Marti "for his great achievements for humanity." It is the most important award the country gives to a foreigner.

Díaz-Canel's office stated in a tweet that López Obrador said he would insist to U.S. President Joe Biden that Cuba not be excluded from the Summit of the Americas it will host in Los Angeles in June.

López Obrador said the objectives of the trip included signing agreements on trade, health, education and cooperation with the island, while he ratified his foreign policy stance.

"We are not in favor of hegemonies," he said. "Let no one exclude anyone because we are independent countries, we are sovereign countries, and no one can place themselves above the rights of peoples and nations."

Díaz-Canel visited Mexico during its independence day celebrations last year. López Obrador has recently spoken out against the apparent U.S. government intention of to exclude Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua from the upcoming summit.

EXPLAINER: How 81-1 shot Rich Strike won the Kentucky Derby

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Sports Writer

This doesn't happen. Horses at odds of nearly 81-1 don't win the Kentucky Derby. Jockeys who have never won any big stakes race of any kind don't win the Kentucky Derby. Owners with fewer than 10 career wins don't win the Kentucky Derby.

Rich Strike and his connections disagree with those sentiments.

One of the biggest upsets in racing history happened Saturday in the Kentucky Derby, when Rich Strike shocked the establishment by running past everyone and winning the first leg of this year's Triple Crown series.

Those who bet \$2 to win on Rich Strike got \$163.60 in return. Not bad for about two minutes of work. For jockey Sonny Leon, trainer Eric Reed and owner Rick Dawson, the result was life-changing. Leon was racing Friday at a little-known track in Cincinnati called Belterra Park. Reed's biggest win before Saturday was with a filly called Satans Quick Chick in a Grade 2 race nearly 12 years ago. Dawson, a half-hour or so after the Derby, rhetorically asked a question to anyone within earshot.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 45 of 60

"What planet is this?" Dawson said.

Indeed, it's a whole new world that he's part of now. And a 3-year-old colt that was much closer to last place than first for most of the race Saturday made it all happen.

HOW DID HE EVEN GET IN?

Good luck for him, bad luck for another. The Kentucky Derby can't have more than 20 horses in the field. Rich Strike was 21st on the list. If one of the 20 horses that qualified didn't scratch from the race before 9 a.m. Friday, Rich Strike's Derby plan would have ended.

At 8:45 a.m. Friday, the call came: No scratches. Reed texted his father: "Didn't happen." The security guard working the barn and protecting Rich Strike was sent home. Plans were being made to run Rich Strike in a race this week in New York instead.

Around that time, the connections for Ethereal Road — trained by D. Wayne Lukas — told Derby officials that they were pulling out of the race. Reed got another call at 8:55 telling him not to move the horse, then another call a minute or two later with the official word.

They were in.

"What just happened?" Reed asked.

Turns out, history was starting to happen.

HOW DID HE WIN?

Think of the horses like race cars. There's a finite amount of fuel in the tank. The faster you burn the fuel, the quicker the tank empties. And that's exactly what happened in the Kentucky Derby.

Summer Is Tomorrow was the leader after a quarter-mile, or two furlongs. He covered that distance in 21.78 seconds — the fastest time in Kentucky Derby history. No horse can sustain that pace for 1 1/4 miles. And Summer Is Tomorrow wound up finishing last in the 20-horse field, 64 1/2 lengths behind Rich Strike.

It wasn't just Summer Is Tomorrow. Many horses went out on a blistering pace, because so many trainers and jockeys had decided their best move was to get close to the lead for the opening portions of the race.

The biggest indicator that this was going to be a wild finish probably came when track announcer Larry Collmus briefly stopped his rundown of which horse was where in the field at the half-mile mark. "The opening half-mile was — WHOA! — blazing fast, 45.36 seconds," Collmus said.

Those fuel tanks were emptying far faster than anticipated.

At that half-mile mark, Rich Strike was ahead of only two horses. He was sitting in 18th place.

HOW DID RICH STRIKE PASS SO MANY HORSES?

Two answers: He ran by some, and some, as they say in racing, stopped running.

Technically, that last part isn't true. All 20 horses were "running" when they crossed the finish line. Nobody "stopped." But some simply ran out of gas, meaning their all-out sprints had become little more than a gallop or a jog.

Rich Strike had tons of fuel left. He also had one other major advantage: He was near the rail.

It's simple math: The closer one is to the rail, the shorter of a distance one has to run. Most of the contending horses as the leaders turned into the stretch and headed home were fanned out wide across the track, moves that made their trips a bit longer.

This is where Leon had a huge decision to make. He had to get around Messier, one of the early leaders who was fading fast. Leon decided to veer slightly to his right and get around Messier, then dove back down toward the rail to finish Rich Strike's run. It was almost as if nobody saw him coming.

They saw him at the end. That's all that mattered.

HOW DID HANDICAPPERS GET THIS SO WRONG?

If we knew that, everyone would have cashed their Derby tickets. Rich Strike had just one win coming into the race (though, in fairness, it was by 17 1/4 lengths, which is impressive regardless of the level of competition).

He's a closer. He hadn't won any of his last five races but made late moves in all of them, going from sixth to third, seventh to fifth, eighth to third, 11th to fourth and 11th to third. Passing horses down the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 46 of 60

stretch is apparently his favorite pastime. Handicappers definitely missed that.

But reputations also matter. Frankly, not many horseplayers knew who Leon was, or who Reed was, before Saturday.

They do now.

"It's a horse race, and anybody can win," Reed said. "And the toteboard doesn't mean a thing."

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Preakness is May 21 at Pimlico, and it would seem like Rich Strike will head there to see if he can move one win away from grabbing the most improbable Triple Crown ever.

"That's probably the plan," Reed said Sunday. "I'm not going to do a whole lot with him and I don't like to run back quick. You get one like this in a lifetime and you have to protect him."

G-7 leaders mark VE Day stressing unity, support for Ukraine

By SYLVIA HUI and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Leaders from the Group of Seven developed democracies pledged Sunday to phasing out or banning the import of Russian oil, as they met with Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, for online talks to stress their support and to display unity among Western allies on Victory in Europe Day, which marks Nazi Germany's surrender in 1945.

Cutting out Russian oil supplies "will hit hard at the main artery of (President Vladimir) Putin's economy and deny him the revenue he needs to fund his war," the G-7 countries, which include the U.S., Britain, Canada, Germany, France and Italy and Japan, said in a statement.

"We will ensure that we do so in a timely and orderly fashion, and in ways that provide time for the world to secure alternative supplies," they added.

Casting a look back at World War II, the leaders stressed unity in their resolve that Putin must not win. "We owe it to the memory of all those who fought for freedom in the Second World War, to continue fighting for it today, for the people of Ukraine, Europe and the global community," they said.

U.S. President Joe Biden's call with the G-7 leaders and Zelenskyy lasted about an hour.

Italy Prime Minister Mario Draghi's office said in a statement that the G-7 leaders "reiterated the commitment to diversify energy sources, reducing dependence on Russian supplies." Italy, heavily dependent on Russian natural gas when the war began, has since secured several agreements for alternative gas supplies from other countries. Draghi is scheduled to meet with Biden in Washington on Tuesday.

The U.S. also announced new sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine. They include cutting off Western advertising from Russia's three biggest television stations, banning U.S. accounting and consulting firms from providing services to any Russian, and piling additional restrictions on Russia's industrial sector, including cutting off Moscow from wood products, industrial engines, boilers, bulldozers and more.

The White House announced the new sanctions ahead of the May 9 Victory Day, when Russia traditionally celebrates Nazi Germany's defeat in 1945 with huge military parades.

Putin is expected to talk about what Russia calls its special military operation in Ukraine and address troops on Red Square on Monday.

The U.S. and European allies were seeking to offer counter-messaging that Putin is further isolating Russia from the rest of the world and doing enormous harm to the Russian economy.

The new round of U.S. sanctions will hit three of Russia's most popular television stations in Russia — Channel One Russia, Russia-1, and NTV — that the U.S. has said have been at the forefront of spreading misinformation about Russia's prosecution of the invasion.

The Biden administration said the new sanctions prohibiting U.S. accounting and consulting firms from doing business in Russia will help thwart Russian companies and elites from getting help to obscure their wealth and evade an avalanche of sanctions that have already been enacted.

The U.S. also said it imposed some 2,600 visa restrictions on Russian and Belarusian officials and issued a new visa restriction policy that applies to Russian military officials and authorities.

The U.S. sanctioned 27 executives from Gazprombank, a bank that facilitates sales by Russia's Gazprom,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 47 of 60

one of the largest natural gas exporters in the world, with Europe. The sanctions are the first time that the U.S. has hit the bank that plays a critical role Russia's considerable gas exports, but the move stops well short of the full blocking sanctions that the U.S. has hit other big Russian banks.

Ahead of the call, U.K. officials said Britain will provide an extra 1.3 billion pounds (\$1.6 billion) in military support to Ukraine to help the nation defend itself against Russian forces.

The funding, which comes from British government reserves, includes 300 million pounds of military kit promised by Prime Minister Boris Johnson earlier this week, such as radar systems to target Russian artillery, GPS jamming equipment and night vision devices.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made a surprise visit to Ukraine Sunday, touring the northern town of Irpin, which had been heavily damaged by Russia's attempt to take the capital of Kyiv at the start of the war. The mayor on Sunday posted images of Trudeau on social media, saying that the Canadian leader was shocked by the damage he saw at civilian homes.

Trudeau's office later said "the prime minister is in Ukraine to meet with President Zelenskyy and reaffirm Canada's unwavering support for the Ukrainian people."

Jill Biden also made an unannounced visit on Sunday, holding a surprise Mother's Day meeting in western Ukraine with first lady Olena Zelenska. Biden traveled under the cloak of secrecy, becoming the latest high-profile American to enter Ukraine during its 10-week-old war with Russia.

"I wanted to come on Mother's Day," the U.S. first lady told Zelenska. "I thought it was important to show the Ukrainian people that this war has to stop and this war has been brutal and that the people of the United States stand with the people of Ukraine."

In Germany, Chancellor Olaf Scholz said in a televised address that Sunday was "a May 8th like no other."

He said Germany has worked hard to own up to its actions during World War II, reconciling with both Russia and Ukraine and committing itself to the concept of "never again." But Russia's "barbaric" invasion of Ukraine in February has brought war back to Europe, Scholz said, a prospect that once seemed unthinkable.

"Freedom and security will prevail -- just as freedom and security triumphed over lack of freedom, violence and dictatorship 77 years ago," Scholz said in his address.

German Bundestag President Bärbel Bas, the second highest-ranking German official after the president, met Sunday with Zelenskyy in Kyiv and attended a memorial event honoring the anniversary of the end of World War II.

"We really appreciate that on the Day of Remembrance and Reconciliation itself, and in what for us is such a trying time of war, the President of the German Bundestag Bärbel Bas came to support Ukraine," said a post published Sunday on Zelenskyy's Telegram channel.

'Doctor Strange 2' conjures up biggest opening of 2022

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

The summer movie season is off to a blockbuster start thanks to "Doctor Strange and the Multiverse of Madness." The superhero extravaganza grossed an estimated \$185 million in ticket sales in its first weekend in U.S. and Canadian theaters, the Walt Disney Co. said Sunday.

Not only did it more than double the opening of the first "Doctor Strange," which opened to \$85 million in 2016, it's also the biggest opener of the year, ahead of "The Batman's" \$134 million; the second biggest of the pandemic, behind "Spider-Man: Far From Home's" \$260.1 million; and the sixth biggest of all time globally.

Internationally, it's doing even better with an estimated \$265 million since opening Wednesday. In total, "Doctor Strange 2" has already made \$450 million.

Spider-Man is at least partially to thank for the massive debut. Benedict Cumberbatch's powerful sorcerer appeared prominently in "Spider-Man: No Way Home," which has become the third biggest movie of all time since opening in December. "Doctor Strange 2" picks up several months after the events of "No Way Home," and brings in Elizabeth Olsen's Wanda Maximoff, who became even more popular thanks to the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 48 of 60

recent Disney+ series "WandaVision."

The film also has a gigantic footprint. It's playing in 4,534 theaters in the U.S. and Canada alone, which according to Disney is the seventh widest opening ever. Premium format screens, including IMAX and 3D, accounted for 36% of the overall box office.

"Summer blockbuster season is off to a roaring start with 'Doctor Strange' — an excellent sign for the phenomenal slate ahead," Rich Gelfond, the CEO of IMAX, said in a statement.

Hollywood's summer movie season typically kicks off in early May and runs through the end of August and — aside from the last two years — regularly accounts for over \$4 billion in ticket sales (or about 40% of the year's grosses).

Sam Raimi stepped up to direct "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness," which reportedly cost around \$200 million to make — though that number doesn't account for the many more millions spent on marketing and promotion.

Over the weekend, the film has trended on social media for everything from its many cameos to a spirited debate over its PG-13 rating and whether or not the horror elements warranted something more restrictive.

"This is a total win for the industry for whom the last two summers almost didn't exist in terms of box office," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "Marvel has been kicking off summers for over a decade. This is a return to normalcy."

There was little left for other movies playing in theaters. Part of that is due to the fact that many multiplexes chose to pack their theaters with wall-to-wall "Doctor Strange" screenings. Film Critic Matt Singer tweeted a photo a Manhattan AMC offering 70 screenings on Thursday alone.

Universal and DreamWorks Animation's "The Bad Guys" fell to second place in its third weekend with an estimated \$9.8 million, while "Sonic the Hedgehog 2," from Paramount, landed in third with \$6.2 million.

"Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore" took fourth with \$3.9 million, bringing its domestic total to \$86 million. And in fifth place was another multiverse-themed film, "Everything Everywhere All At Once." It had a slight dip in its seventh weekend, but is still speeding along with an additional \$3.3 million from 1,542 screens in its seventh weekend in theaters. The A24 film has grossed \$41.6 million total.

The success of "Doctor Strange 2" only helps build momentum for the big summer movies on the way, like "Top Gun: Maverick" on May 27.

"We've got a real summer movie season on our hands, something we couldn't have imagined two years ago," Dergarabedian said. "It's been a long time coming."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness," \$185 million.
2. "The Bad Guys," \$9.8 million.
3. Sonic the Hedgehog 2," \$6.2 million.
4. "Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore," \$3.9 million.
5. "Everything Everywhere All At Once," \$3.3 million.
6. "The Northman," \$2.8 million.
7. "The Lost City," \$2.5 million.
8. "The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent," \$1.5 million.
9. "Memory," \$1.2 million.
10. "Father Stu," \$800,000.

How climate scientists keep hope alive as damage worsens

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

In the course of a single year, University of Maine climate scientist Jacquelyn Gill lost both her mother and her stepfather. She struggled with infertility, then during research in the Arctic, she developed embolisms in both lungs, was transferred to an intensive care unit in Siberia and nearly died. She was airlifted

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 49 of 60

back home and later had a hysterectomy. Then the pandemic hit.

Her trials and her perseverance, she said, seemed to make her a magnet for emails and direct messages on Twitter "asking me how to be hopeful, asking me, like, what keeps me going?"

Gill said she has accepted the idea that she is "everybody's climate midwife" and coaches them to hope through action.

Hope and optimism often blossom in the experts toiling in the gloomy fields of global warming, COVID-19 and Alzheimer's disease.

How climate scientists like Gill or emergency room doctors during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic cope with their depressing day-to-day work, yet remain hopeful, can offer help to ordinary people dealing with a world going off the rails, psychologists said.

"I think it's because they see a way out. They see that things can be done," said Pennsylvania State University psychology professor Janet Swim. "Hope is seeing a pathway, even though the pathway seems far, far away."

United Nations Environment Programme Director Inger Andersen said she simply cannot do her job without being an optimist.

"I do not wish to sound naive in choosing to be the 'realistic optimist,' but the alternative to being the realistic optimist is either to hold one's ears and wait for doomsday or to party while the orchestra of the Titanic plays," Andersen said. "I do not subscribe to either."

Dr. Kristina Goff works in the intensive care unit at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and said at times she felt overwhelmed during the pandemic. She keeps a file folder at home of "little notes that say 'hey you made a difference.'"

"I think half of the battle in my job is learning to take what could be a very overwhelming anxiety and turn it into productivity and resilience," Goff said. "You just have to focus on these little areas where you can make a difference."

Alzheimer's disease may be one of the bleakest diagnoses a physician can convey, one where the future can appear hopeless. Yet Dr. Ronald Petersen, director of the Mayo Clinic Alzheimer's research center and a man colleagues describe as optimistic and passionate, doesn't see it that way.

"I don't think it's depressing. I don't think it's gloomy. It's difficult. It's challenging," Petersen said. But "we're so much better off today than five years ago, 10 years ago."

The coping technique these scientists have in common is doing something to help. The word they often use is "agency." It's especially true for climate researchers — tarred as doomsayers by political types who reject the science.

Gill, who describes herself as a lifelong cheerleader, has also battled with depression. She said what's key in fighting eco-anxiety is that "regular depression and regular anxiety tools work just as well. And so that's why I tell people: 'Be a doer. Get other there. Don't just doomscroll.' There are entry level ways that anyone, literally anyone, can help out. And the more we do that, 'Oh, it actually works,' it turns out."

It's not just about individual actions, like giving up air travel, or becoming a vegetarian, it's about working together with other people in a common effort, Gill said. Individual action is helpful on climate change, but is not enough, she said. To bend the curve of rising temperatures and the buildup of heat-trapping gases, steady collective action, such as the youth climate activism movement and voting, gives true agency.

"I think maybe that's helped stave off some of this hopelessness," she said. "I go to a scientific meeting and I look around at the thousands of scientists that are working on this. And I'm like 'Yeah, we're doing this.'"

Northern Illinois University meteorology professor Victor Gensini said that, at 35, he figures it's his relative youth that gives him hope.

"When I think about would could be, I gain a sense of optimism and create an attitude that this is something I can do something about," Gensini said.

The U.N.'s Andersen is a veteran of decades of work on ecological issues and thinks this experience has made her optimistic.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 50 of 60

"I have seen shifts on other critical environmental issues such as banning of toxic material, better air quality standards, the repair of the ozone hole, the phase-out of leaded petrol and much more," Andersen said. "I know that hard work, underpinned by science, underpinned by strong policy and yes, underpinned by multilateral and activist action, can lead to change."

Deke Arndt, chief of climate science and services at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Center for Environmental Information, said what buoyed him with an overwhelming optimism is his personal faith, and remembering all the people who have helped his family over the generations — through the Dust Bowl for his grandparents and through infertility and then neonatal issues for his son.

"We've experienced the miracle of hands-on care from fellow human beings," Arndt said. "You kind of spend the rest of your life trying to repay."

"Where people are suffering not through their own purchase, that makes me want to recommit as a scientist and a Catholic," Arndt said. "We've got to do as much as we can."

What's more, Gill and several others said, the science tells them that it is not game over for Earth.

"The work that I do inherently lends me a sense of agency," Gill said. "As a paleo-ecologist (who studies the past) and climatologist, I have a better sense of Earth's resilience than a lot of people do."

It helps that she studies plants and deals with changes on a glacial timescale. She pointed to Georgia Tech climate scientist Kim Cobb, who spent much of her career diving and studying the same coral reef in the Pacific, only to return in 2016 and find it dead: "God, I cannot imagine what a gut punch."

Cobb laughed heartily when she heard how Gill described the life of a reef scientist.

From 1997 to 2016, Cobb dived at one of the tiny islands of Kiritimati in the Pacific, monitoring the effects of climate change and El Niño on a delicate coral reef there. Super hot water killed it in 2016, with only faint signs of life clinging on.

That fall, Cobb made one last trip. It was during the elections. A big Hillary Clinton fan, Cobb was wearing a Madame President shirt when she heard the news that Donald Trump was elected. She said fell into a pit of despair that lasted maybe a couple months.

"And then on New Year's Eve, I decided that I probably had enough and I know my husband had enough, my kids had had enough. So people needed their mother and their wife back," Cobb said. "I decided to grope for another path out there."

"I am not able to wallow for so long before I start asking myself some questions like, 'Look you know how you can put your position to work? How can you put your resources to work?'" Cobb said.

She and her family cut their personal carbon emissions 80%. She doesn't fly on planes anymore. She went vegan, composts, installed solar panels. She works on larger climate action instead of her more focused previous research. And she bikes everywhere, which she said is like mental health therapy.

She tells people when they are anxious about climate change, "there's not going to be a win, a shining moment where we can declare success," but "it's never going to be too late to act. It's never going to be too late to fix this."

NOAA's Arndt said the climate of the 20th century he grew up with is gone forever. He grieves the loss of that, but also finds mourning what's gone "weirdly liberating."

With climate change "we have to kind of hold hope and grief at the same time, like they're kind of twins that we're cradling," Maine's Gill said. "We have to both understand and witness what has happened and what we've lost. And then fiercely commit to protecting what remains. And I don't think you can do that from a place of hopelessness."

N.Ireland parties urged to work together after Sinn Fein win

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The U.K., U.S. and Irish governments have urged rival parties in Northern Ireland to come together to resurrect its power-sharing government after Irish nationalist party Sinn Fein scored a historic victory to become the biggest party in Northern Ireland's Assembly.

Sinn Fein, which seeks union with Ireland, won 27 seats in the 90-seat legislature, beating the Demo-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 51 of 60

cratic Unionist Party, which secured 25 seats. It's the first time in Northern Ireland's history that an Irish nationalist party has topped the voting.

But it's not clear whether Sinn Fein will lead a new government because of Northern Ireland's delicate power-sharing politics and ongoing tussles over the legacy of Britain's exit from the European Union.

While Sinn Fein's vice-president Michelle O'Neill now has the right to the post of first minister, a functioning Northern Ireland Executive — or devolved government — cannot be formed unless the largest unionist party agrees to join in the role of deputy first minister.

In February the DUP's Paul Givan quit as first minister in protest against post-Brexit border arrangements, collapsing the Executive. His party has said it will not return to government unless their demands over the customs arrangements are met.

Leaders in London and Dublin said all parties must now re-establish Northern Ireland's government as soon as possible.

Irish prime minister Micheál Martin said late Saturday that "it is now incumbent on all political parties and elected representatives to deliver on their mandate."

"Power-sharing and principles of partnership, equality and mutual respect are at the heart of the Good Friday Agreement, through which peace has been secured and progress achieved for almost 25 years," he added. "A new power-sharing Executive is vital for progress and prosperity for all in Northern Ireland."

In London, Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis said he will meet with party leaders Monday to discuss how to re-establish a functioning government.

Lewis reiterated his position that the U.K. government would like to reach an agreement with the EU to resolve disputes over post-Brexit rules known as the Northern Ireland Protocol.

The DUP is strongly opposed to the rules, which have imposed customs and border checks on some goods entering Northern Ireland from the rest of the U.K. Unionists say the new checks have created a barrier between Northern Ireland and the rest of the U.K. that undermines their British identity.

Britain's Conservative government is trying to get the EU to agree to major changes, but negotiations have reached an impasse.

"The U.K. government's position is we want to secure a deal with the EU. We're very clear about that," Lewis told the BBC Sunday. "We have worked very hard on that for over a year now across a series of conversations. We made proposals. The EU haven't shown any flexibility."

Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab said post-Brexit problems are an "obstacle to stability" in Northern Ireland, and that the government in London will take "whatever measures are necessary" to try to resolve it.

"It's clear from the dynamic that we now see that we won't get to that position of stability unless and until it is fixed," Raab said.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price also urged Northern Ireland's political leaders to take the necessary steps to re-establish a functioning government.

Brexit's legacy adds an extra challenge to Northern Ireland's politics, which operates under a delicate system splitting power between the largest British unionist party and largest Irish nationalist party. The system was created by the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement that ended decades of Catholic-Protestant conflict.

If no power-sharing Executive can be formed within six months, a new election may be triggered.

Workers grapple with new stresses as they return to office

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Last summer, Julio Carmona started the process of weaning himself off a fully remote work schedule by showing up to the office once a week.

The new hybrid schedule at his job at a state agency in Stratford, Connecticut, still enabled him to spend time cooking dinner for his family and taking his teenage daughter to basketball.

But in the next few months, he's facing the likelihood of more mandatory days in the office. And that's creating stress for the father of three.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 52 of 60

Carmona, 37, whose father died from COVID-19 last year, worries about contracting the virus but he also ticks off a list of other anxieties: increased costs for lunch and gas, day care costs for his newborn baby, and his struggle to maintain a healthy work-life balance.

"Working from home has been a lot less stressful when it comes to work-life balance," said Carmona, who works in finance at Connecticut's Department of Children and Families. "You are more productive because there are a lot less distractions."

As more companies mandate a return to the office, workers must readjust to pre-pandemic rituals like long commutes, juggling child care and physically interacting with colleagues. But such routines have become more difficult two years later. Spending more time with your colleagues could increase exposure to the coronavirus, for example, while inflation has increased costs for lunch and commuting.

Among workers who were remote and have gone back at least one day a week in-person, more say things in general have gotten better than worse and that they've been more productive rather than less, an April poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows. But the level of stress for these workers is elevated.

Overall, among employed adults, the April AP-NORC poll shows 16% say they work remotely, 13% work both remotely and in-person and 72% say they work only in-person.

Thirty-nine percent of employees who had worked at home but have returned to the office say the way things are going generally has gotten better since returning in-person at the workplace, while 23% say things have gotten worse; 38% say things have stayed the same. Forty-five percent say the amount of work getting done has improved, while 18% say it's worsened.

But 41% of returned workers say the amount of stress they experience has worsened; 22% say it's gotten better and 37% say it hasn't changed.

Even workers who have been in person throughout the pandemic are more negative than positive about the way the pandemic has impacted their work lives. Thirty-five percent say the way things are going in general has gotten worse, while 20% say it's gotten better. Fifty percent say their stress has worsened, while just 11% say it's gotten better; 39% say there's no difference.

At least half of in-person workers say balancing responsibilities, potential COVID exposure at work, their commute and social interaction are sources of stress. But fewer than a third call these "major" sources of stress.

People with children were more likely to report their return was having an adverse effect, some of it stemming from concerns about keeping their families safe from COVID and maintaining a better work-life balance. Most said it could help alleviate stress if their employer provided more flexible work options and workplace safety precautions from the virus. But for some workers, a physical return — in any form — will be hard to navigate.

"A lot of people have gotten accustomed to working from home. It's been two years," said Jessica Edwards, national director of strategic alliances and development at the National Alliance on Mental Illness, a U.S.-based advocacy group. "For companies, it's all about prioritizing mental health and being communicative about it. They should not be afraid of asking their employees how are they really doing."

Companies like Vanguard are now expanding virtual wellness workshops that started in the early days of the pandemic or before. They're also expanding benefits to include meditation apps and virtual therapy. Meanwhile, Target, which hasn't set a mandatory return, is giving teams the flexibility of adjusting meeting times to earlier or later in the day to accommodate employees' schedules.

A lot is at stake. Estimates show that untreated mental illness may cost companies up to \$300 billion annually, largely due to impacts on productivity, absenteeism, and increases in medical and disability expenses, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Russ Glass, CEO of online mental health and wellbeing platform Headspace Health, said he has seen a fourfold spike in the use of behavioral health coaching and a fivefold spike in clinical services like therapy and psychiatric help during the pandemic compared to pre-pandemic days. With apps like Ginger and Headspace, the company serves more than 100 million people and 3,500 companies. Among the top

worries: anxiety over contracting COVID-19, and struggles with work-life balance.

"We haven't seen it abate. That level of care has just stayed high," Glass said.

The constant wave of new virus surges hasn't helped.

Francine Yoon, a 24-year-old food scientist at Ajinomoto Health and Nutrition North America, in Itasca, Illinois, has been working mostly in person since the pandemic, including at her current job that she started last fall. Yoon said her company has helped to ease anxiety by doing things like creating huddle rooms and empty offices to create more distance for those experiencing any form of anxiety about being in close proximity to colleagues.

But moving in last year with her older parents, both in their early 60s, has led to some heightened level of anxiety because she's worried about passing on the virus to them. She said every surge of new cases creates some anxiety.

"When cases are low, I feel comfortable and confident that I am OK and that I will be OK," she said. "When surges occur, I can't help but become cautious."

As for Carmona, he's trying to lower his stress and is considering participating in his office's online meditation sessions. He's also thinking of carpooling to reduce gas costs.

"I am one of those people that take it day by day," he said. "You have to try to keep your stress level balanced because you will run your brain into the ground thinking about things that could go haywire."

GOP pins hopes on Nevada's Laxalt to help win Senate control

By KEN RITTER and NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The man Republicans hope could be their 51st senator, putting them back in power, took the stage recently at a rowdy country music bar in Las Vegas packed with excited voters.

Adam Laxalt is the grandson of a Republican senator from Nevada and an avowed conservative who was state attorney general before losing a 2018 race for governor. By his side in the bar was Florida's governor, Ron DeSantis, a likely candidate for the party's 2024 presidential nomination who was fresh off his legislation punishing Disney for opposing his new law barring instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity in kindergarten through the third grade.

Laxalt has already drawn criticism for being too hard-line to win a race in a state that has mostly elected Democrats over the past 15 years. But he called Democratic Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, his potential opponent in November, the partisan problem.

"Nevada deserves someone that will break from the radical left and stand with our state when we need courage," Laxalt said to cheers from supporters waving "Patriots for Laxalt" signs. "We need independence and someone that will break from that party and stand with us."

Nevada is central to the GOP's hopes this year to retake the evenly-split Senate and potentially make longer-term inroads with minority voters. It's the third most-diverse state, but Democratic margins have been steadily shrinking here since 2008, when Barack Obama became his party's first presidential candidate to carry Nevada in 12 years.

Toppling Cortez Masto would not only give Republicans the additional seat needed for control — provided they do not lose any seats they now hold — but bragging rights to having greater appeal among immigrant communities.

It also would be a sign there are fewer barriers to aggressive conservatives than assumed.

Laxalt served a single term as Nevada's attorney general, then was soundly defeated in his 2018 gubernatorial bid. In 2020, he co-chaired President Donald Trump's campaign in Nevada and repeated Trump's lies about the election being swung by voter fraud.

Laxalt is also a strong opponent of abortion rights, which Democrats hope will become a bigger vulnerability for him if the U.S. Supreme Court follows through with a draft opinion released last week that would overturn the landmark Roe v. Wade decision. His dilemma quickly became clear when he simultaneously praised the potential opinion as "an historic victory for the sanctity of life" but played down its impact in Nevada, where voters enshrined abortion rights in the state constitution in 1990.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 54 of 60

Cortez Masto, whose staff said she was not available for an interview for this story, tried to highlight the contrast in the race.

"My opponent says that overturning Roe v. Wade and ending protections for a woman's right to choose is a 'historic victory,'" she tweeted. "I trust women and their doctors to make the health care decisions that are best for them — not politicians."

Laxalt's conservative positions go well beyond abortion. He has warned that he may file lawsuits challenging the election even before the November vote. As attorney general he feuded with the state's moderate Republican governor over guns, taxes and immigration.

Republicans argue that will not matter in a year when inflation is at 40-year highs and President Joe Biden's approval numbers are scraping record lows.

"This election will be focused on inflation, the price of gas and Joe Biden's first two years in office," said Jeremy Hughes, a GOP strategist in the state. "Under that scenario, Adam Laxalt is in line with a vast majority of Nevada voters."

There is a history in Nevada, however, of a Democratic senator defying the odds during a Republican wave year. In 2010, Sen. Harry Reid beat GOP challenger Sharron Angle by portraying her as extreme on immigration and unfit for higher office. Democrats have similar plans for Laxalt.

"Voters already rejected him," said Josh Marcus-Blank, a spokesman for Cortez Masto's campaign. "He's only gotten worse."

Reid, a legendary figure in Nevada and national politics, died of pancreatic cancer last year. He hand-picked Cortez Masto, herself a former attorney general, as the Democratic nominee when he retired in 2016. Cortez Masto is the first Latina U.S. senator. This year's election will be the first test of Reid's vaunted political operation since he died.

When his political machine has worked, Democrats have been able to win Nevada by rallying its heavily working-class, minority population with promises to protect their economic interests, immigration needs or both.

But because the state has a highly transient population and Democrats rely on poorer voters from communities that are less likely to vote, it's very expensive to get enough people to show up. When there isn't sufficient campaign money available to the party — such as in 2014, the year that Laxalt was elected attorney general — Democrats can get crushed.

Cortez Masto has proven to be a prolific campaign fundraiser, with \$11 million in cash on hand as of the end of March.

But with core Democratic voters, especially young ones, depressed over Biden's performance, it may be challenging to turn out the voters the incumbent needs. The issue will hinge on questions specific to Nevada, said Andres Ramirez, a Democratic strategist in Las Vegas.

"This election, at least in Nevada, is going to have less to do with Biden than with our own internal candidates and with turnout," Ramirez said.

Laxalt is not the Republican nominee yet. He faces four other contestants in the June 14 primary, including Sam Brown, a former U.S. Army captain who earned a Purple Heart after being severely wounded in Afghanistan.

But Laxalt has the endorsement of Trump, as well as the backing of a wide swath of the GOP establishment, as seen last week when he was joined at Las Vegas-area campaign appearances by both DeSantis and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

Though it's a long flight from Washington, Nevada has become a popular destination for politicians thinking of running for president. The state holds one of the initial four nominating contests in the nation — Nevada's caucus in 2020 was sandwiched between the New Hampshire and South Carolina primaries — and is also home to several deep-pocketed Republican donors.

Republicans also continue to have high hopes for their prospects in the Silver State, believing Cortez Masto has not shown herself to be as nimble and pugilistic a politician as her predecessor, Reid.

In contrast to 2010, when Reid made defense of a pro-immigrant bill known as the DREAM Act the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 55 of 60

centerpiece of his reelection bid, Cortez Masto has joined other Democrats in questioning Biden's efforts to roll back pandemic rules that made it harder for border-crossers to apply for asylum in the U.S.

Laxalt contends she should have changed her approach earlier.

"If she decided to be the moderate she's gonna run as, if she decided to be Joe Manchin, she could have gotten anything she wanted for this state," Laxalt told a Republican country club audience in suburban Henderson, referring to the West Virginia moderate Democrat who has blocked major parts of Biden's agenda. "She could have stood against the president and said, 'Not for our state of Nevada.'"

Cortez Masto has so far stuck to low-key events promoting her ability to deliver wins for Nevada, such as securing \$450 million for water recycling projects and \$3.4 billion to combat wildfires as part of last year's bipartisan infrastructure package.

"The senator gets her state," her campaign spokesman, Marcus-Blank, said. "She's been able to get a lot of things done and make a big difference."

Detailed 'open source' news investigations are catching on

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — One of the more striking pieces of journalism from the Ukraine war featured intercepted radio transmissions from Russian soldiers indicating an invasion in disarray, their conversations even interrupted by a hacker literally whistling "Dixie."

It was the work of an investigations unit at The New York Times that specializes in open-source reporting, using publicly available material like satellite images, mobile phone or security camera recordings, geolocation and other internet tools to tell stories.

The field is in its infancy but rapidly catching on. The Washington Post announced last month it was adding six people to its video forensics team, doubling its size. The University of California at Berkeley last fall became the first college to offer an investigative reporting class that focuses specifically on these techniques.

Two video reports from open-source teams — The Times' "Day of Rage" reconstruction of the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot and the Post's look at how a 2020 racial protest in Washington's Lafayette Square was cleared out — won duPont-Columbia awards for excellence in digital and broadcast journalism.

The Ukraine radio transmissions, where soldiers complained about a lack of supplies and faulty equipment, were verified and brought to life with video and eyewitness reports from the town where they were operating.

At one point, what appears to be a Ukrainian interloper breaks in.

"Go home," he advised in Russian. "It's better to be a deserter than fertilizer."

The Times' visual investigations unit, founded in 2017 and now numbering 17 staff members, "is absolutely one of the most exciting areas of growth that we have," said Joe Kahn, incoming executive editor.

The work is meticulous. "Day of Rage" is composed mostly of video shot by protesters themselves, in the heady days before they realized posting them online could get them into trouble, along with material from law enforcement and journalists. It outlines specifically how the attack began, who the ringleaders were and how people were killed.

Video sleuthing also contradicted an initial Pentagon story about an American drone strike that killed civilians in Afghanistan last year. "Looking to us for protection, they instead became some of the last victims in America's longest war," the report said.

"There's just this overwhelming amount of evidence out there on the open web that if you know how to turn over the rocks and uncover that information, you can connect the dots between all these factoids to arrive at the indisputable truth around an event," said Malachy Browne, senior story producer on the Times' team.

"Day of Rage" has been viewed nearly 7.3 million times on YouTube. A Post probe into the deaths at a 2021 Travis Scott concert in Houston has been seen more than 2 million times, and its story on George Floyd's last moments logged nearly 6.5 million views.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 56 of 60

The Post team is an outgrowth of efforts begun in 2019 to verify the authenticity of potentially newsworthy video. There are many ways to smoke out fakes, including examining shadows to determine if the apparent time of day in the video corresponds to when the activity supposedly captured actually took place.

"The Post has seen the kind of impact that this kind of storytelling can have," said Nadine Ajaka, leader of its visual forensics team. "It's another tool in our reporting mechanisms. It's really nice because it's transparent. It allows readers to understand what we know and what we don't know, by plainly showing it."

Still new, the open-source storytelling isn't bound by rules that govern story length or form. A video can last a few minutes or, in the case of "Day of Rage," 40 minutes. Work can stand alone or be embedded in text stories. They can be investigations or experiences; The Times used security and cellphone video, along with interviews, to tell the story of one Ukraine apartment house as Russians invaded.

Leaders in the field cite the work of the website Storyful, which calls itself a social media intelligence agency, and Bellingcat as pioneers. Bellingcat, an investigative news website, and its leader, Eliot Higgins, are best known for covering the Syrian civil war and investigating alleged Russian involvement in shooting down a Malaysian Airlines flight over Ukraine in 2014.

The Arab Spring in the early 2010s was another key moment. Many of the protests were coordinated in a digital space and journalists who could navigate this had access to a world of information, said Alexa Koenig, executive director of the Human Rights Center at the University of California at Berkeley's law school.

The commercial availability of satellite images was a landmark, too. The Times used satellite images to quickly disprove Russian claims that atrocities committed in Ukraine had been staged.

Other technology, including artificial intelligence, is helping journalists who seek information about how something happened when they couldn't be on the scene. The Times, in 2018, worked with a London company to artificially reconstruct a building in Syria that helped contradict official denials about the use of chemical weapons.

Similarly, The Associated Press constructed a 3D model of a theater in Mariupol bombed by the Russians and, combining it with video and interviews with survivors, produced an investigative report that concluded more people died there than was previously believed.

AP has also worked with Koenig's team on an investigation into terror tactics by Myanmar's military rulership, and used modeling for an examination on the toll of war in a neighborhood in Gaza. It is collaborating with PBS' Frontline to gather evidence of war crimes in Ukraine and is further looking to expand its digital efforts. Experts cite BBC's "Africa Eye" as another notable effort in the field.

As efforts expand, Koenig said journalists need to make sure their stories drive the tools that are used, instead of the other way around. She hears regularly now from news organizations looking to build their own investigate units and need her advice — or students. Berkeley grad Haley Willis is on the team at The Times.

It feels, Koenig said, like a major shift has happened in the past year.

Browne said the goal of his unit's reporting is to create stories with impact that touch upon broader truths. A probe about a Palestinian medic shot by an Israeli soldier on the Gaza strip was as much about the conflict in general than her death, for example.

"We have similar mandates," the Post's Ajaka said, "which is to help make sense of some of the most urgent news of the day."

Patriotism, unease mix as Russia marks Victory Day in WWII

By The Associated Press undefined

Red Soviet flags and orange-and-black striped military ribbons are on display in Russian cities and towns. Neighborhoods are staging holiday concerts. Flowers are being laid by veterans' groups at monuments to the Great Patriotic War, as World War II is known in the country.

At first glance, preparations for Monday's celebration of Victory Day, marking the defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945, seem to be the same as ever.

But the mood this year is very different, because Russian troops are fighting and dying again.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 57 of 60

And this battle, now in its 11th week, is going on in neighboring Ukraine, against what the government has falsely called a campaign against "Nazis."

The pride and patriotism usually associated with Russia's most important holiday, marked by a huge parade of soldiers and military hardware through Red Square, is mixing with apprehension and unease over what this year's Victory Day may bring.

Some Russians fear that President Vladimir Putin will use it to declare that what the Kremlin has previously called a "special military operation" in Ukraine will now be a full-fledged war — bringing with it a broad mobilization of troops to bolster Russia's forces.

"I can't remember a time when the May 9 holiday was anticipated with such anxiety," historian Ivan Kurilla wrote on Facebook.

Ukraine's intelligence chief, Kyrylo Budanov, said Moscow was covertly preparing such a plan. British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace told LBC Radio that Putin was "laying the ground for being able to say, 'Look, this is now a war against Nazis, and what I need is more people.'"

The Kremlin denied having such plans, calling the reports "untrue" and "nonsense."

Asked by The Associated Press on Friday whether mobilization rumors could dampen the Victory Day mood, Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said "nothing will cast a shadow" over "the sacred day, the most important day" for Russians.

Still, human rights groups reported a spike in calls from people asking about laws concerning mobilization and their rights in case of being ordered to join the military.

"Questions about who can be called up and how have started to flow on a mass scale through our hotline about the rights of conscripts and the military," said Pavel Chikov, founder of the Agora legal aid group, on the messaging app Telegram.

Russian state TV has ramped up the patriotic rhetoric. In announcing the Feb. 24 military operation, Putin declared it was aimed at the "demilitarization" of Ukraine to remove a perceived military threat to Russia by "neo-Nazis."

A recent TV commentary said Putin's words were "not an abstract thing and not a slogan" and praised Russia's success in Ukraine, even though Moscow's troops have gotten bogged down, making only minor gains in recent weeks.

Ukraine, which has a democratically elected Jewish president who lost relatives in the Holocaust, and the West have condemned the remarks as a fictitious cover for a blunt act of aggression.

But many Russians fed a steady diet of the official narrative have cheered on their troops, comparing them to "our grandfathers" who fought the Germans.

Popular support in Russia for the war in Ukraine is difficult to gauge in a country that has seen a steady crackdown on journalists in recent years, with independent media outlets shut down and state-controlled television providing a pervasive influence.

A recent poll by the respected independent Levada Center found that 82% of Russians remain concerned by the military campaign in Ukraine. The vast majority of them — 47% — are worried about the deaths of civilians and Russian soldiers in the war, along with the devastation and suffering. Only 6% of those concerned by the war said they were bothered by the alleged presence of "Nazis" and "fascists" in Ukraine.

"A significant part of the population is horrified, and even those who support the war are in a permanent psychological militant state of a perpetual nightmare," said political analyst Andrei Kolesnikov in a recent commentary.

A government campaign encouraging support for the military is using the distinctive black-and-orange St. George's ribbon that is traditionally associated with Victory Day. The letter "Z" has become a symbol of the conflict, decorating buildings, posters and billboards across Russia, and many forms of it use the ribbon's colors and pattern.

Rallies supporting the troops have taken place in recent days at World War II memorials, with participants singing wartime songs from the 1940s.

One official has suggested that Victory Day marchers display photos of soldiers now fighting in Ukraine.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 58 of 60

Normally on the holiday, Russians carry portraits of their relatives who took part in World War II to honor those in the so-called "Immortal Regiment" from a conflict in which the Soviet Union lost a staggering 27 million people.

—
Follow AP's coverage of the war in Ukraine: <https://apnews.com/hub/russia-ukraine>

Court leak is catnip for those who love a juicy DC whodunit

By NANCY BENAC Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Washington loves a whodunit. And the latest one comes with the stunning plot twist of a leak from the famously buttoned-up Supreme Court.

The publication this past week of a draft opinion that said *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark 1973 decision establishing a constitutional right to abortion in the United States, was wrong from the start and should be overruled, has set off sleuthing from every corner of the capital.

Who could possibly be behind such a glaring breach of trust? Why did that person choose to leak the draft? Why did that person choose a reporter from Politico? Who will investigate the matter? Will there be consequences? What will the court's ultimate opinion say?

Washington, by nature, abhors a vacuum. So the two months before the court actually issues a final ruling will be filled with guesses, surmise, false starts — and maybe even the truth about who is behind the leak.

It's an intrigue in the tradition of Watergate's "Deep Throat" — one of Washington's best-kept secrets for more than three decades; of Iran-Contra, with classified documents spirited out in a secretary's undergarments; of "Primary Colors," a roman à clef about a certain Southern governor.

The Trump era provided almost an entire genre. Among them: an unidentified whistleblower's complaint about Donald Trump's phone call with the president of Ukraine and the writings of "Anonymous," a senior administration official who only stayed anonymous for about two years after he wrote an opinion piece and subsequent book slamming the president.

The Supreme Court leak is "up there with the most important disclosures of this century and the last century — maybe ever," said Danielle Brian, executive director of the private Project on Government Oversight. "It ranks, certainly, with the Pentagon Papers and Wikileaks and Deep Throat."

While leaks spout daily in gossipy Washington, the explosive revelation of a draft opinion that would overturn the 1973 decision creating a nationwide right to abortion has captivated the city.

The hunt for the high court leaker is afoot. Chief Justice John Roberts has ordered an investigation into what he called an "egregious breach of trust." Amateur detectives have been eagerly trading theories on social media.

Is it even possible to keep this kind of secret in Washington anymore?

"Of course not," said Eric Dezenhall, a crisis communications expert who has watched decades of leaks play out in the capital.

"Very few people who leak truly just keep it to themselves," Dezenhall said. "There's always a conversation that says, 'You have to swear not to tell anybody this' — and that's the beginning of the end."

He added that there's often a psychic — and financial — incentive to make oneself known as a figure in history.

"The endgame is a book deal, a movie deal, being on TV," he said.

Even when leakers are circumspect about their doings, there's the dicey matter of digital footprints, which make it far easier for leak hunters to track down modern sources of information than it was in the past.

"The way some sources have been able to maintain their anonymity has been really impacted by the age of surveillance and technology tracking, so it's possible that we will find out who it is," said Brian, who laments a "reflexive instinct" within government to go after leakers and clamp down on information.

Big secrets in Washington have a way of eventually coming out, one way or another.

The identity of Deep Throat, the source who guided Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 59 of 60

Carl Bernstein in the Watergate investigation, wasn't known until 2005, when a 91-year-old former FBI official, W. Mark Felt, revealed that he was the one who used to meet the reporters in an underground parking garage at 2 a.m. to share tips about how to unravel wrongdoing by President Richard Nixon and his allies. A Post editor had dubbed him "Deep Throat" after the 1972 porn movie of the same name.

The secret identities of many other truth tellers, leakers and whistleblowers of different stripes have been shorter-lived.

"Anonymous" — whose 2018 New York Times opinion piece and later book bashing Trump left the president fuming and on the hunt for the leaker — chose to reveal himself six days before the 2020 election, when Trump was seeking reelection.

When he stepped out of the shadows, Miles Taylor, a former Homeland Security chief of staff, called Trump "a man without character" and urged other former administration officials to "find their conscience" and speak up, too.

In 2019, it was a CIA officer's whistleblower complaint about Trump's phone call with Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy that led to the president's impeachment. The whistleblower's identity was kept confidential under federal laws that protect whistleblowers from retaliation. But conservatives widely circulated speculation about the officer's identity.

In January 1996, a fictionalized account of Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign by an anonymous author set off a hunt for the writer who seemed to know so much about the inner workings of the political operation.

Six months later, journalist Joe Klein confessed to being the author after the Post fingered him through handwriting analysis of an annotated manuscript it had obtained. Klein said he had kept his name off the book, his first novel, because he was not sure it would be any good. He ended up with a movie deal.

Military analyst Daniel Ellsberg, who in 1971 leaked a secret study that laid bare America's misguided involvement in the Vietnam War, publicly identified himself as the source of the Pentagon Papers a few weeks after the Times and Post published articles that touched off a massive legal battle over the free press. Ellsberg was charged with theft, conspiracy and violations of the Espionage Act, but his case ended in a mistrial when evidence surfaced about government-ordered wiretappings and break-ins.

The drama swirling around the Supreme Court leaker is amplified by conjecture about motivation. Was it someone trying to head off a final opinion overturning Roe? Or someone trying to do the opposite — shore up justices who had initially voted to overturn Roe but might be getting cold feet?

Depending on the politics of the readers, the leaker has been alternately labeled a cultural hero or villain. Some speculators, on reflection, have switched theories mid-debate. The White House wants people to focus less on the leaker and more on the potential implications of the draft opinion itself.

The idea that the leak was designed to ensure the final opinion would track with the first draft "might be too Machiavellian by half," Dezenhall postulates. "It was probably exactly who you think it is — somebody who wanted to screw this thing up."

Today in History: May 9, Mandela chosen to lead South Africa

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, May 9, the 129th day of 2022. There are 236 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 9, 1994, South Africa's newly elected parliament chose Nelson Mandela to be the country's first Black president.

In 1860, writer J.M. Barrie, the creator of Peter Pan, was born in Kirriemuir, Scotland.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson, acting on a joint congressional resolution, signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

In 1945, with World War II in Europe at an end, Soviet forces liberated Czechoslovakia from Nazi occupation. U.S. officials announced that a midnight entertainment curfew was being lifted immediately.

In 1951, the U.S. conducted its first thermonuclear experiment as part of Operation Greenhouse by

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 9, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 306 ~ 60 of 60

detonating a 225-kiloton device on Enewetak Atoll in the Pacific nicknamed "George."

In 1962, scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology succeeded in reflecting a laser beam off the surface of the moon.

In 1965, Russian-born American pianist Vladimir Horowitz performed publicly for the first time in 12 years with a recital at Carnegie Hall in New York.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon made a surprise and impromptu pre-dawn visit to the Lincoln Memorial, where he chatted with a group of protesters who'd been resting on the Memorial steps after protests against the Vietnam War and the Kent State shootings.

In 1974, the House Judiciary Committee opened public hearings on whether to recommend the impeachment of President Richard Nixon. (The committee ended up adopting three articles of impeachment against the president, who resigned before the full House took up any of them.)

In 1980, 35 people were killed when a freighter rammed the Sunshine Skyway Bridge over Tampa Bay in Florida, causing a 1,400-foot section of the southbound span to collapse.

In 2016, Filipinos went to the polls to elect Rodrigo Duterte, the controversial, tough-talking mayor of Davao city, to be their country's next president.

In 2019, Pope Francis issued a groundbreaking new church law requiring all Catholic priests and nuns to report clergy sexual abuse and cover-ups by their superiors to church authorities.

In 2020, the Food and Drug Administration approved a coronavirus antigen test that could quickly detect virus proteins from swabs that were swiped inside the nasal cavity. Rock 'n' roll pioneer Little Richard, known for his piercing wail, pounding piano and towering pompadour, died in Tennessee at the age of 87 after battling bone cancer; he had helped shatter the color line on the music charts while introducing Black R&B to white America.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama declared his unequivocal support for same-sex marriage in a historic announcement that came three days after Vice President Joe Biden spoke in favor of such unions on NBC's "Meet the Press." Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney repeated his opposition to gay marriage, telling reporters in Oklahoma City, "I believe that marriage is between a man and a woman." Hair stylist Vidal Sassoon, 84, died in Los Angeles.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump abruptly fired FBI Director James Comey, ousting the nation's top law enforcement official in the midst of an FBI investigation into whether Trump's campaign had ties to Russia's meddling in the election that sent him to the White House.

One year ago: The Biden administration loosened regulations on the transport of petroleum products on highways, as part of an effort to avoid disruptions in the fuel supply in the wake of a ransomware attack that shut down a major fuel pipeline system across the East Coast. Joyous reunions among vaccinated parents and children across the country marked Mother's Day, the second one to be celebrated during the coronavirus pandemic. A man fatally shot six people at a Colorado birthday party before killing himself; police said he was upset after not being invited to the gathering thrown by his girlfriend's family. Trainer Bob Baffert announced that Kentucky Derby winner Medina Spirit had tested positive for an excessive amount of a steroid. (State racing stewards disqualified Medina Spirit in February 2022, ten weeks after the horse's death from a heart attack; they declared second-place finisher Mandaloun the Derby winner.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor-writer Alan Bennett is 88. Actor and politician Glenda Jackson is 86. Producer-director James L. Brooks is 85. Musician Sonny Curtis (Buddy Holly and the Crickets) is 85. Singer Tommy Roe is 80. Singer-musician Richie Furay (Buffalo Springfield and Poco) is 78. Actor Candice Bergen is 76. Pop singer Clint Holmes is 76. Actor Anthony Higgins is 75. Singer Billy Joel is 73. Blues singer-musician Bob Margolin is 73. Rock singer-musician Tom Petersson (Cheap Trick) is 72. Actor Alley Mills is 71. Actor Amy Hill is 69. Actor Wendy Crewson is 66. Actor John Corbett is 61. Singer Dave Gahan (GAHN) (Depeche Mode) is 60. Actor Sonja Sohn is 58. Rapper Ghostface Killah is 52. Actor Chris Diamantopoulos (dy-uh-MAN'-toh-POO'-lehs) is 47. R&B singer Tamia (tuh-MEE'-ah) is 47. Actor Daniel Franzese is 44. Rock singer Pierre Bouvier (Simple Plan) is 43. Actor Rosario Dawson is 43. Rock singer Andrew W.K. is 43. Actor Rachel Boston is 40. TV personality Audrina Patridge is 37. Actor Grace Gummer is 36.