

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 1 of 77

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- Groton Memorial Day Ad](#)
- [2- Guthmiller to go to State in golf](#)
- [3- Sunday Extras](#)
- [22- Rep. Johnson's Weekly Column](#)
- [23- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)
- [25- Rep. Thune's Weekly Column](#)
- [26- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
- [28- EarthTalk - Tree Seeds](#)
- [29- COVID-19 Reports](#)
- [33- COVID-19 Update by Marie Miller](#)
- [34- Weather Pages](#)
- [38- Daily Devotional](#)
- [39- 2022 Community Events](#)
- [40- Subscription Form](#)
- [41- News from the Associated Press](#)

Sunday, May 29

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m., SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

Emmanuel: Worship with Communion, 9 a.m.

Methodist: Communion Sunday: Conde Worship at 9 a.m., Groton worship at 11 a.m.

St. John's: Bible Study, 8 a.m.; worship, 9 a.m.; Zion worship, 11 a.m.

30 - MEMORIAL DAY

Senior Menu: No Meal

Groton Post #39: Huffton at 7:30, James at 8:15, Verdon at 8:45, Bates-Scotland at 9:15, Ferney at 10:00, Andover at 11:00, Groton at Noon with lunch to follow at Legion.

Tuesday, May 31

Elementary Library Open 9-11 (Reading time 10 a.m.)

9:30 a.m.: Methodist Bible Study

5:30 p.m.: Legion hosts Sisseton, 5:30 DH

5 p.m.: Jr. Teeners at Aberdeen, DH

5:30 p.m.: U12 at Britton, DH

6:30 p.m.: U10 hosts Watertown (W/B), 1 game, Nelson Field

5:30 p.m.: U8 hosts Watertown (B/W), 2 game, Nelson Field

Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460



“Things turn out best for the people who make the best out of the way things turn out.”

ART LINKLETTER

Wednesday, June 1

10 a.m.: Little Free Library reading time (south Methodist Church)

Senior Menu: Scalloped potatoes with ham, peas, mandarin-orange salad, whole wheat bread.

Noon: Groton Chamber Meeting at City Hall

6 p.m.: T-Ball practice

Thursday, June 2

Senior Menu: Roast beef with potatoes, Carrots, onions; gravy, fruit, whole wheat bread.

10 a.m.: Reading Time at Wage Memorial Library

5 p.m.: Legion at Watertown, 5 p.m. DH

5:30 p.m.: Jr. Teeners host Redfield, DH

5:30 p.m.: U12 vs. Borge at Aberdeen (north complex), DH

5:30 p.m.: U10 vs. Borge at Aberdeen, north complex, (R/B), DH

5:30 p.m.: U8 vs. Borge at Aberdeen, north complex, (R/B), DH

6 p.m.: U12 SB at Warner, DH

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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Groton Post #39 Memorial Day Schedule

Hufton at 7:30 a.m.

James at 8:15 a.m.

Verdon at 8:45 a.m.

Bates-Scotland at 9:15 a.m.

Ferney at 10 a.m.

Andover at 11 a.m.

Groton at Noon

**Guest speaker at Groton is
Les Hinds.**

**Lunch to follow at the Groton Post
#39 home served by the
Legion Auxiliary.**

**In the event of inclement weather,
the ceremony will be held at the
Post home.**

Guthmiller advances to state in girls golf

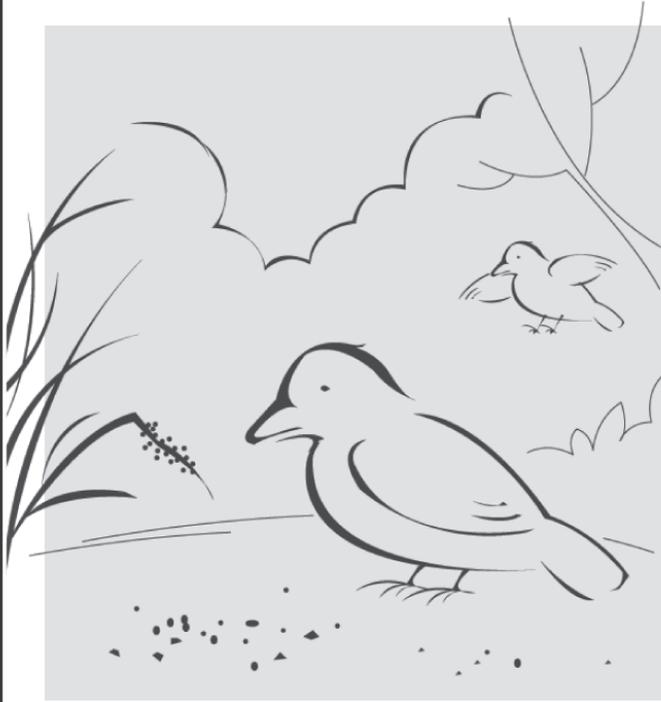
Carly Guthmiller will represent Groton Area at the State Golf Meet June 6-7 in Sioux Falls. The regional meet was held May 26 at Madison.

Guthmiller shot a 53 in the front nine and a 48 in the back nine for a total score of 101. She placed 14th. The top 19 advance to state.

Others participating from Groton Area were Carly Gilbert with a score of 119, Emma Schinkel with a 136 and Shaylee Peterson with a 139.



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



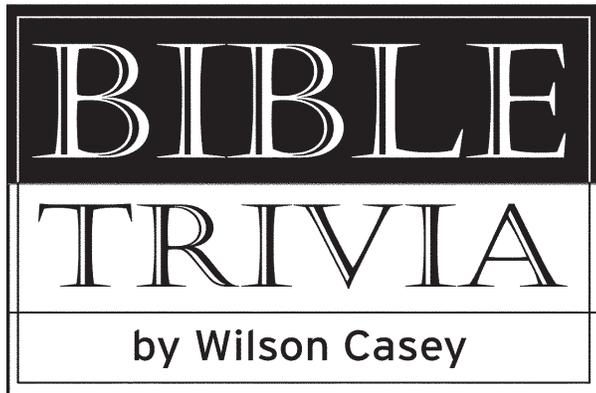
*Look at the birds of the sky,
that they do not sow, nor
reap, nor gather crops into
barns, and yet your
heavenly Father feeds them.
Are you not much more
important than they?*

Matthew 6:26



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by Healthy Exchanges

Bacon Beer Bread

I'm a teetotaler by choice. But I'll tell you this -- this bread will be on the menu as often as I can get my hands on nonalcoholic beer

- 3/4 cup nonalcoholic beer
- 1/4 cup water
- Sugar substitute to equal 2 tablespoons sugar, suitable for baking
- 2 tablespoons Dijon Country Mustard
- 2 tablespoons reduced-calorie margarine
- 3 cups bread flour
- 1/2 teaspoon table salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons active dry yeast
- 1/2 cup purchased real bacon bits
- 1/4 cup chopped green onion

1. In baking pan container, combine beer, water, sugar substitute, mustard and margarine. Add flour and salt. Make an indentation on top of dry ingredients. Pour yeast into indentation.

2. Follow your bread machine instructions for a 1 1/2-pound loaf. Add bacon bits and onion when "add ingredients" signal beeps. Continue following your machine's instructions.

3. Remove loaf from machine and place on wire rack to cool. Makes one 1 1/2-pound loaf. Freezes well. Makes 12 servings.

* Each serving equals: 146 calories, 2g fat, 6g protein, 26g carb., 348mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Starch.

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

2. From Genesis 22, what did God provide as a substitute sacrifice for Isaac? *Horse, Ram, Cow, Raven*

3. One of whose daughters had the 12-letter name of Kerenhappuch? *Potiphar, Zimri, Goliath, Job*

4. As stated in Joshua 2, where did the prostitute Rahab live? *Jericho, Philadelphia, Smyrna, Tarsus*

5. What is the longest chapter in the Bible (KJV)? *John 3, Psalm 119, Revelation 22, 2 Samuel 10*

6. Elijah lived by which brook? *Jordan, Salty, Ahava, Cherith*

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Ram; 3) Job; 4) Jericho; 5) Psalm 119; 6) Cherith

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

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 5 of 77



Character Profile:
Dale Arden



AN AIRPLANE IS TORN ASUNDER BY A FREAK METEOR SHOWER!

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

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

FLASH GORDON
By JIM KEEFE
5-22



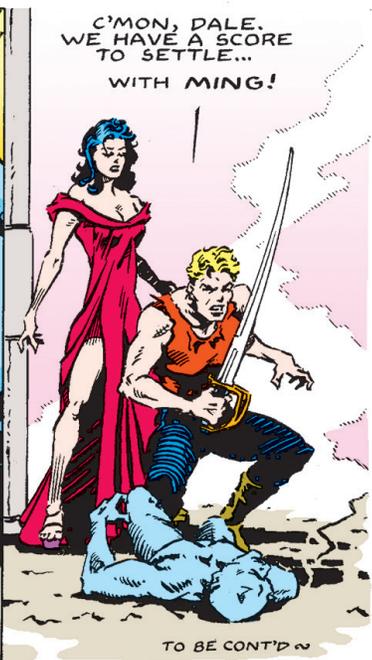
HANG ON, I'LL HAVE YOU FREE IN NO TIME.

BEHIND YOU...



CLAN

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C'MON, DALE. WE HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE... WITH MING!

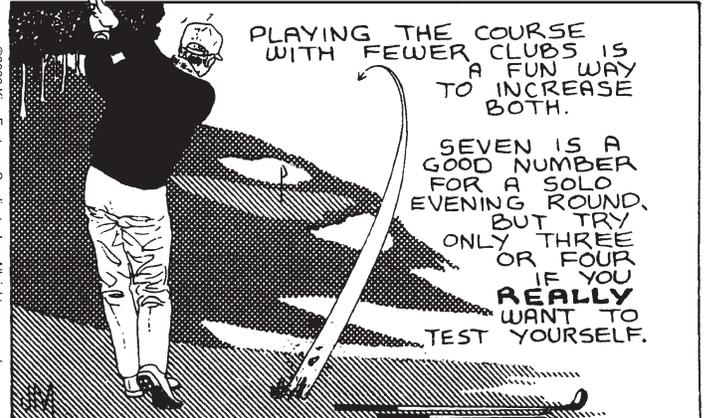
TO BE CONT'D ~

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



GOLFERS ADEPT AT "MANUFACTURING" SHOTS USUALLY SCORE THE BEST IN TOUGH CONDITIONS AND FROM TROUBLE SITUATIONS. IMAGINATION IS THE TOP REQUIREMENT, FOLLOWED BY EXPERIENCE.

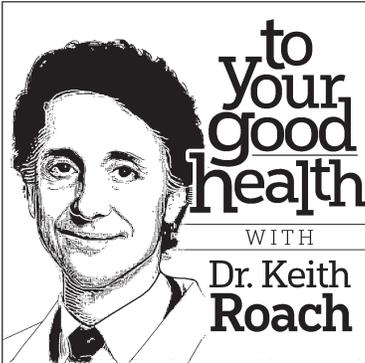
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PLAYING THE COURSE WITH FEWER CLUBS IS A FUN WAY TO INCREASE BOTH.

SEVEN IS A GOOD NUMBER FOR A SOLO EVENING ROUND, BUT TRY ONLY THREE OR FOUR IF YOU REALLY WANT TO TEST YOURSELF.

CPAP Machine Can Help With Sleep Apnea



DEAR DR. ROACH: How are sleep apnea, sighing and heart failure related? Recently, I was told that I have severe sleep apnea and that I must use a CPAP machine. I have noticed that during the day I frequently take a spontaneous deep breath. Is that sleep apnea while awake? I have coronary heart disease and have three stents. Will the CPAP machine help me in any way? -- A.P.

ANSWER: It's complicated.

By far, the most common type of sleep apnea is obstructive sleep apnea. This happens in people who are overweight, or in people whose neck anatomy predisposes them to the condition. During sleep, the upper airway collapses, preventing proper inspiration. This can be noticed by a sleep partner as choking, gasping or just not breathing for a prolonged time. The person eventually

will wake up enough, due to lack of oxygen, to be able to take in a good breath, but will then fall back asleep. The process may happen hundreds of times a night, with the person often unaware.

Sleepiness during the day (from never sleeping properly at night) and snoring are the most common symptoms of obstructive sleep apnea. CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure), which uses high pressure to keep the airway open, is the most common initial treatment for obstructive sleep apnea.

In severe sleep apnea, the oxygen level in the blood can be so low for so long that the heart and lungs can be damaged, eventually leading to a type of heart failure of the right side of the heart.

However, the situation is even more complex. People who have other kinds of heart failure, such as from repeated heart attacks, can develop the less common form of sleep apnea, central sleep apnea. Although this also may be treated by CPAP, it is critical to treat the underlying heart failure as well. Your doctor can tell you whether you have central or obstructive sleep apnea.

Spontaneous deep breaths, sighs, are a part of normal human physiology. Sighs have several purposes, but the most important is to help keep the lungs properly expanded. Sighs might be more common in people with heart failure, but I do not know of any correlation with sleep apnea.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I read your recent column on cramping and constipation. A few months ago I had a period of being constipated, and my wife told me to take a laxative. It worked. A few days later, I had to take it again, and again on and off for a month. Then I remembered something my mom once said to me: She told me to eat a couple of prunes a night. That worked. Now I am 84 years old, and my wife and I eat one or two prunes every night. Let me tell you, they work.

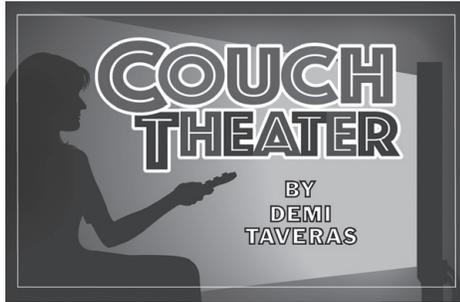
Is this good for us? Can we keep eating them every day? I think they must be healthier than the laxatives. -- R.P.

ANSWER: Prunes are a time-tested constipation treatment that work for a lot of people. Prunes not only contain fiber, but they contain natural laxatives as well. They also have a fair bit of sugar, but one or two a night is not enough to be worried about. I agree with you that prunes are a good alternative to over-the-counter laxatives for many people.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 7 of 77



Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore (PG-13) — Anyone fancying a trip to the Wizarding World? Then don't miss out on the newest installment of "Fantastic Beasts," on streaming now! Jude Law portrays a young Albus Dumbledore, who in 1932 begins recruiting folks to join the war against Gellert Grindelwald, a dark wizard attempting to assume control over the Wizarding World by becoming Supreme Mugwump. The magical-creature-whisperer Newt Scamander is, of course, one of the recruits, along with fan favorite No-Maj (Jacob Kowalski). Mads Mikkelsen gives his first performance as Grindelwald, replacing Johnny Depp, who starred as Grindelwald in the first two films. (HBO Max)

Fire Island (R) — On a weeklong trip to Fire Island that's become a tradition, Noah and Howie experience one of the most unexpected adventures of their lives. Fire Island, known for being a popular gay destination spot, usually feels like coming home for Noah and Howie, but when a group of wealthy, pretentious men begin taking over the island and switching up the dynamic, Noah and Howie's sweet escape turns extremely sour. Only when the two pals learn to find acceptance and love in themselves will their vacation get back on track. "Saturday Night Live's" Bowen Yang stars in this chaotic rom-com premiering June 3. (Hulu)

Hollywood Stargirl (PG) — The eccentric Stargirl Caraway was first introduced in the Disney+ original film "Stargirl," depicting the story of how her music made a life-changing impact on a boy named Leo. In

"Hollywood Stargirl," her enchanting character returns as she and her mother take on a move to Los Angeles. Stargirl continues to follow her dream of becoming a musician, which brings her an opportunity to star in a movie produced by two young filmmakers. As she gets settled in LA, Stargirl simultaneously starts forming a bond with retired musician Roxanne Martel (Uma Thurman), who helps Stargirl to refine her direction in life. In this chapter, it's now Stargirl's turn to make a defining change in her life. Premieres June 3. (Disney+)



Disney+

Jude Law in "Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore"

Interceptor (NR) — Army Capt. JJ Collins (Elsa Pataky) decides it's time for one last assignment. Aboard the remote Pacific Ocean interceptor platform protecting citizens from a nuclear missile attack, Capt. Collins comes face-to-face with a group of terrorists who seize the vessel and attempt to take control of the command center. With cities now in severe threat of a nuclear attack, Collins and her crew's new mission is to hold onto the command center and fight the terrorists. Can she prevail? As the tough Army captain says herself, the terrorists planned to attack, but they sure didn't plan to meet her. This action-packed nail-biter begins streaming June 3. (Netflix)

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 8 of 77

FLASH BACK POP, ROCK & SOUL TRIVIA BY MICK HARPER

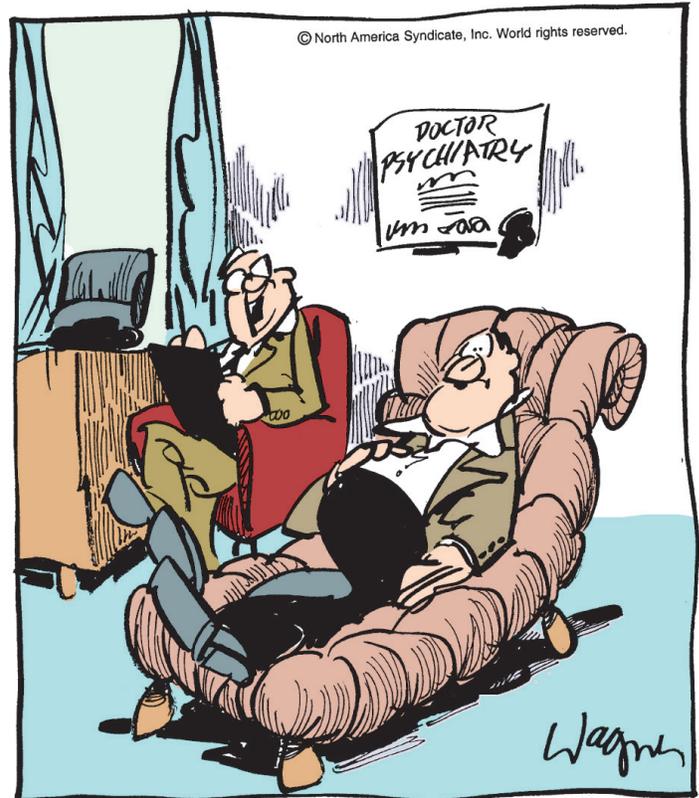
1. Name the song with the singer who has both a custom Continental and an Eldorado.
2. Which artist released "Keep on Truckin'?"
3. Which James Bond movie used Carly Simon's 1977 hit "Nobody Does It Better" as its theme song?
4. Who is Angela Trimble?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Oh I could hide beneath the wings of the blue bird as she sings, The six o'clock alarm would never ring."

Answers

1. "Bad, Bad, Leroy Brown," by Jim Croce, in 1973.
2. Eddie Kendricks, in 1973, after he left the Temptations. The song topped both the R&B and pop charts.
3. "The Spy Who Loved Me," in 1977. Astonishingly enough, the song was kept out of the No. 1 slot by Debby Boone's "You Light Up My Life" and missed out on Academy Award and Golden Globe Award wins due to the same song.
4. Deborah Ann Harry, lead singer of Blondie. Her name was changed when she was adopted as an infant. The group's first hit was "Denis," topping the charts in Belgium and the Netherlands.
5. "Daydream Believer," by the Monkees in 1967. It was the Monkees' last U.S. chart topper. The song has been covered by others, including songwriter John Stewart in 1971 and Anne Murray in 1979.

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GRIN and BEAR IT[®] Wagner



"These sessions build self-confidence, Mr. Figgy. Why, I feel better about myself already!"

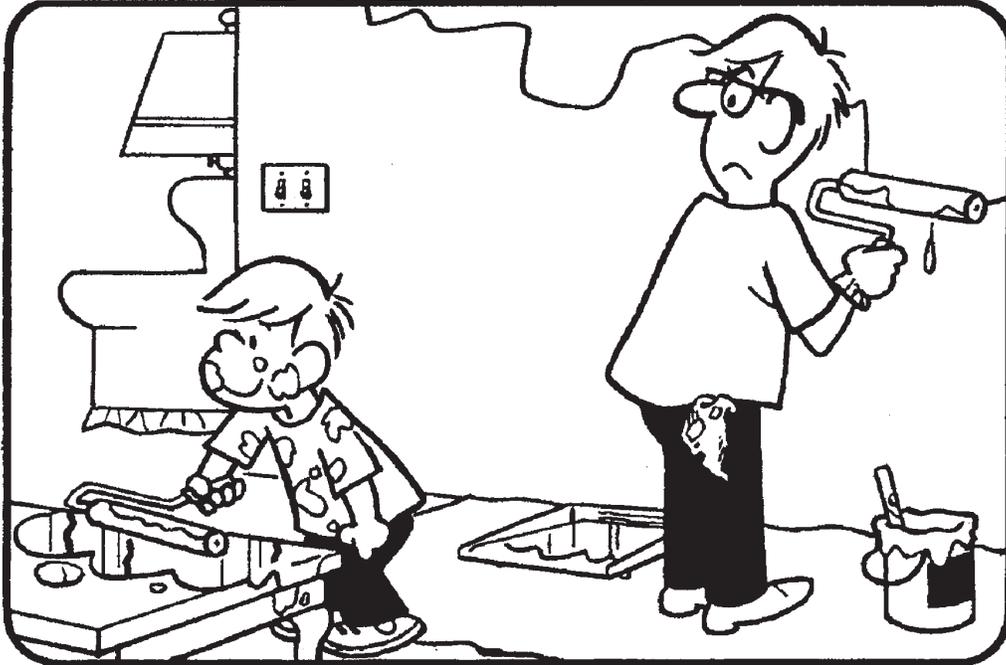
Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



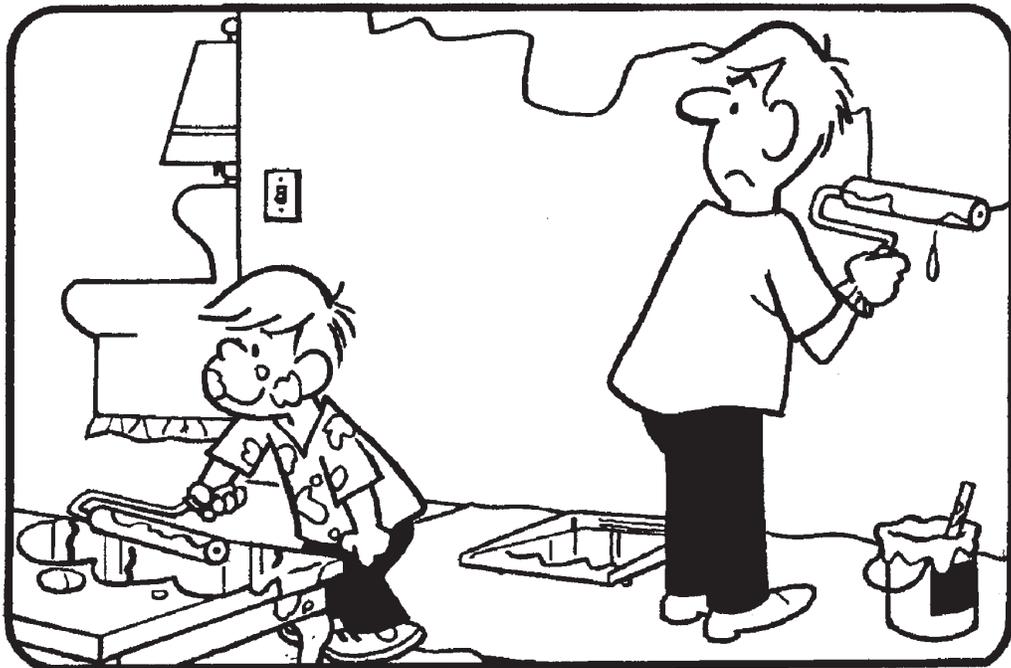
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Shade is smaller. 2. Switch is different. 3. Neckline is different. 4. Glasses are missing. 5. Rag is missing. 6. Stick is moved.

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- Save the peels from your oranges, and dry them at a low temperature in the oven. You can add them to a pot of coffee or tea for a flavor boost that is refreshing and delicious.

- “If your tomato garden is experiencing caterpillars, try planting dillweed close to your tomatoes. It can provide a diversion, allowing your tomatoes to grow pest-free!” —*Y.F. in Florida*

- “Cure your color in new garments (especially dark- or bright-colored) by soaking the item in cold, salty water before washing. Make sure that the fabric will allow this!

- “Take good care of quality paint brushes, and they will take care of you! Wash thoroughly in soapy water and rinse very well. After the brush is washed, combine enough water to cover the bristles and add two tablespoons of fabric softener. Swish for a minute or two, being sure to get it in

the brush good, then hang to drip dry. Before you use the brush to paint, simply rinse the fabric softener away.” —*M.E. in Washington*

- Baking soda can be used as a tooth scrub. It’s particularly effective against stains, as it is a mild abrasive.

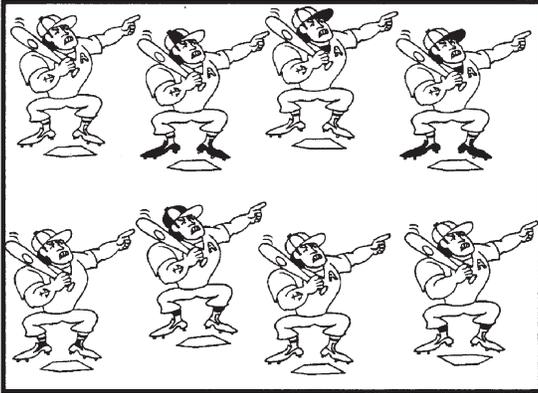
- “When you are dusting, don’t forget the light bulbs. Dusty light bulbs can contribute to less-bright lighting and can shorten the life of your bulbs. Turn lights off when you are not using them. You will save electricity that way.” —*A.L. in Oklahoma*

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

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 11 of 77



FIND TWINS! Which of these eight baseball sluggers look enough alike to be twins? Which two is for you to say.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

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SHARPEN YOUR WITS TO CUT DOUGHNUT

DRAW a doughnut outline on paper and cut it out.

Now, you are challenged to divide this paper doughnut into 13 separate pieces with just three cuts.

There is this catch: Each time you make a cut, you have to cut through all of the pieces.

One way it can be done:

1. Cut doughnut in half.
2. Bend halves in two; put one atop the other, and cut again. Result: Six pieces. Open all folded pieces.
3. Fold one of these six pieces in two; stack the lot; and cut through again.

Result of this third cut should be a total of 13 pieces.

P.S. Results will depend on how the folded pieces are positioned.

SAFE SIDE! STAY and SAFE are two appropriate four-letter words that may be found among letters of the word SAFETY. How many more four-letter words can you find?

Fest, fast, fate, feat, seat, east, sate are some more.

TAKE NOTE! Mi-mi-mi-mi...let's see if you are in tune with this note sufficiently to form six progressively longer words in accord with the following definitions:

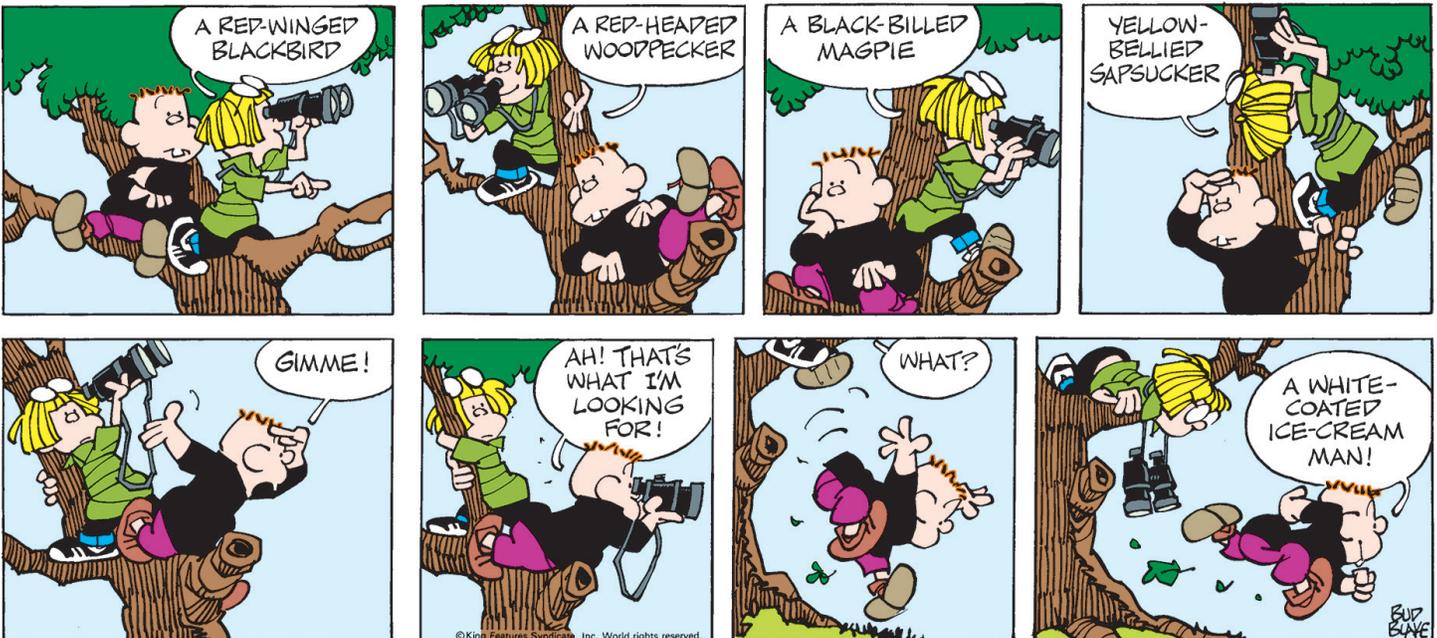
1. Combine together, as cake ingredients.
 2. Out of sight, out of —, 'tis said.
 3. Type of skirt, van, bus, etc., (pl.)
 4. Millionth of a meter unit of length.
 5. Compact car's larger cousin.
 6. Playful deviltry, or worse.
- How quickly can you fill in these words?

1	M I _	
2	M I _ _	
3	M I _ _ _	
4	M I _ _ _ _	
5	M I _ _ _ _ _	
6	M I _ _ _ _ _ _	

1. Mix 2. Mind 3. Minis 4. Micron 5. Midsized 6. Mischief.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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BUD BLAKE

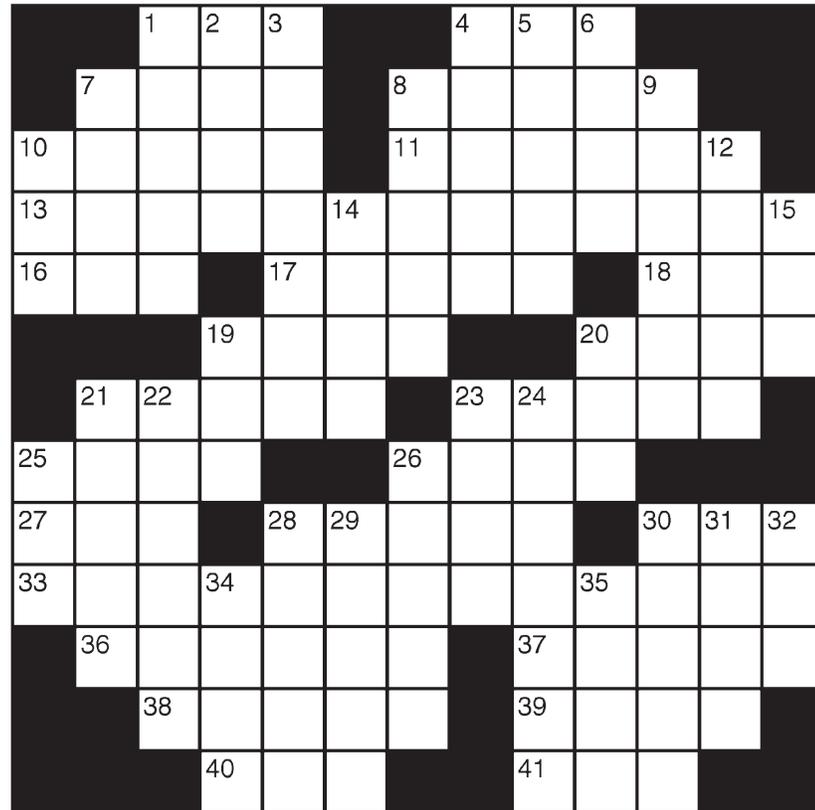
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 12 of 77

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Scratch
- 4 Hosp. scan
- 7 Ashen
- 8 Ridicule
- 10 Director Forman
- 11 Seek, as office
- 13 Breakfast order
- 16 Simile center
- 17 Four-star reviews
- 18 FDR project
- 19 107, to Cato
- 20 Actor Johnny
- 21 Velocity
- 23 Apple centers
- 25 And others (Lat.)
- 26 French cheese
- 27 Plopped down
- 28 Pink hue
- 30 Insult, slangily
- 33 Steakhouse order
- 36 Eucalyptus eaters
- 37 Start of a supplication
- 38 Move furtively
- 39 Smile
- 40 Trail the pack
- 41 Thesaurus wd.



DOWN

- 1 Island south of Sicily
- 2 Oodles
- 3 Set aside
- 4 Bea Arthur sitcom
- 5 Littlest litter-mates
- 6 Data
- 7 Name of 12 popes
- 8 Fountain of Rome
- 9 Precisely
- 10 CEO's deg.
- 12 Answers an invitation
- 14 Incursion
- 15 Phone bug
- 19 Cartoon frame
- 20 Rap's Dr. —
- 21 Desolate spots
- 23 Beach crawler
- 24 Drilling platforms
- 25 Mentalist's claim
- 26 Invigorating
- 28 Salsa singer Cruz
- 29 Borneo ape, for short
- 30 "Mack the Knife" singer
- 31 "This — outrage!"
- 32 Pigs' digs
- 34 Teen hangout
- 35 Grand Ole —

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 13 of 77

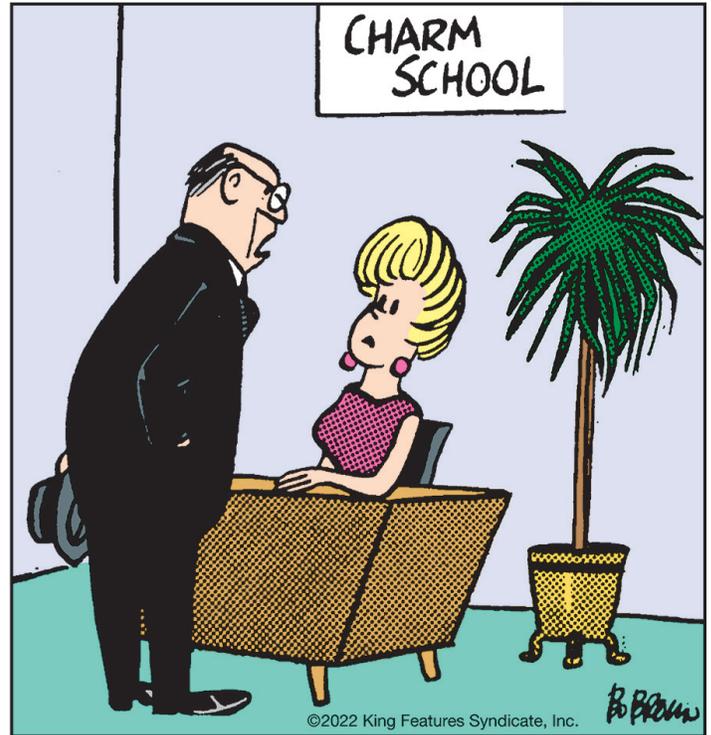
— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.



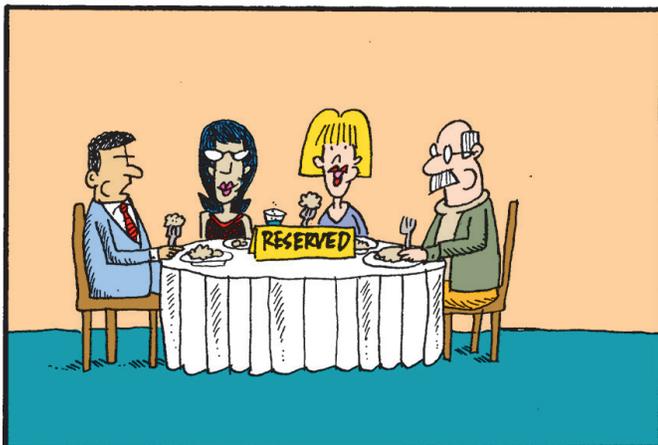
LAFF - A - DAY



"I want to see my wife's attendance record."

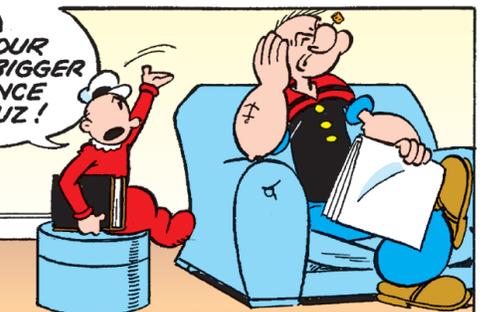
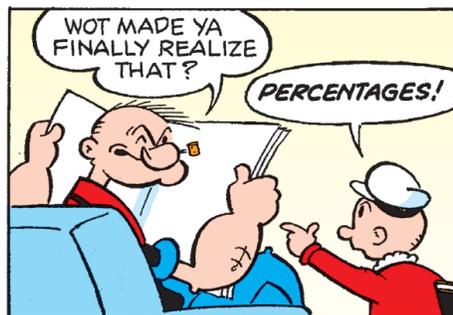
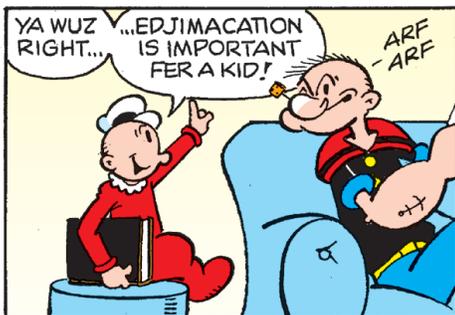
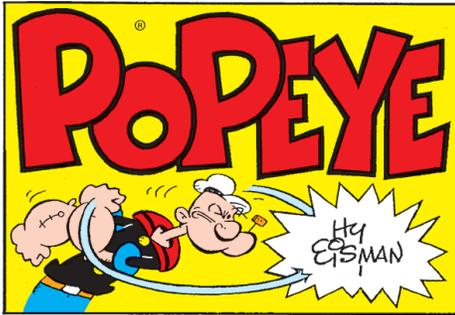
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



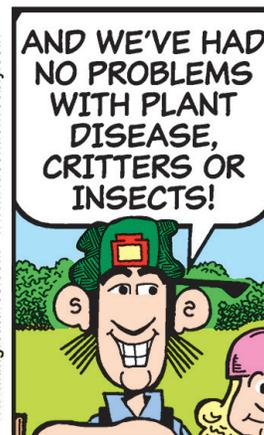
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 14 of 77



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 15 of 77

Hal Foster's
Prince Valiant
IN THE DAYS OF
KING ARTHUR
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ

MALDUBH SHOWS DRACO ITEMS STOLEN FROM ALETA. "WITH THESE I SHALL CONJURE HER DESTRUCTION."

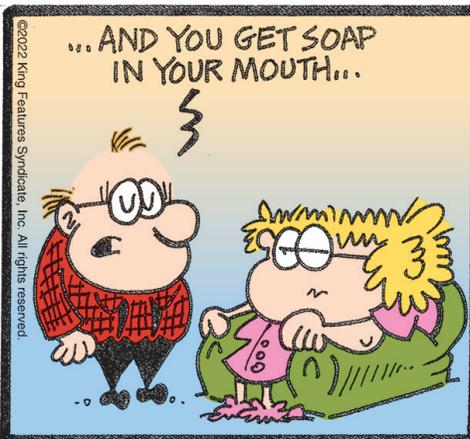
BUT ALETA IS NOT ONE TO IDLY AWAIT DESTRUCTION. MIDNIGHT FINDS HER AND VAL ALONE WITHIN AN ANCIENT WOOD.

OR MAYBE NOT SO ALONE - A BRANCH SNAPS AND VAL UNSHEATHES THE SINGING SWORD...



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

A Trip to the Museum

A local art museum, lacking many patrons because people are still avoiding crowds due to COVID, came up with a great idea: open the place to seniors. Those of us who've been locked down for too long, turning up our noses at proposed activities at the senior center, thought this was a swell idea.

We did, however, decline the offer of a van. Instead, we all drove in our individual vehicles to avoid being breathed on by others.

The museum was ... lovely. So excited was staff to have real and actual patrons that they pulled out all the stops for us. Young docents-in-training hovered, but not too closely, as we spread out in the large, high-ceilinged rooms clutching our brochures. Spend more than 10 seconds in front of a display of Mediterranean antiquities, and a docent would appear, many steps away, to tell us about the artifacts. Squint at the detail of a Winslow Homer painting, and there would be a docent offering a magnifying glass and talking about brush work. Look

at the artistry of the Native American baskets and wonder how they got all those varied colors, and a docent would know.

It didn't hurt our feelings at all to be told later that these docents-in-training were students at a local art school and would get extra credit for their participation. They did a fine job.

The senior center staff did too, surprising us with a bagged lunch on the museum grounds after our visit. There were enough picnic benches for us to spread out in the sunshine, and a male spouse was commandeered to tote around a cooler of iced drinks to hand out, along with a wide variety of chips for us to trade like school children.

It's a good thing I had my checkbook in my purse. Before I left, I purchased a membership as a Friend of the Museum. I'll be back.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 17 of 77

1. In 1981, Chili Davis became the first player in Major League Baseball history to hail from what island nation?

2. Name the TV sports anthology series, first airing in 1961, that brought viewers “The thrill of victory ... and the agony of defeat.”

3. In 2012, who broke Candace Parker’s NCAA women’s basketball career record for dunks with her eighth slam?

4. Who was selected No. 1 overall by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the 1986 NFL Draft? (Hint: He was drafted again by the Los Angeles Raiders in 1987.)

5. Who was head coach of the University of Florida Gators men’s basketball team that won back-to-back NCAA championships in 2006-07?

6. Which two German professional football clubs compete in a rivalry match known as “Der Klassiker”?



by Ryan A. Berenz

7. The 1970 film “The Super Fight” was a computer-decided fantasy boxing match between what two heavy-weight champions?

Answers

1. Jamaica.
2. ABC’s “Wide World of Sports.”
3. Baylor’s Brittney Griner.
4. Bo Jackson.
5. Billy Donovan.
6. Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund.
7. Muhammad Ali and Rocky Marciano.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Pet's First Visit to the Veterinarian

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I'm planning to adopt a cat soon. This is my first pet, and I'm looking forward to caring for it. The local shelter gave me a few instructions to follow, pre-adoption, including making an appointment for a veterinary checkup. Is there anything I should know about my cat's first vet visit? — Kara L., Buffalo, N.Y.

DEAR KARA: Congratulations on deciding to accept a cat into your life! It will be a rewarding experience. I'm also glad that you're doing your homework ahead of time to give your cat the best start on a new life.

Here are a few tips that will help with your first veterinary visit:

- Research local clinics ahead of time. Is there one that specializes in cats?

- Purchase a cat carrier that best fits your cat (in terms of size, not decor). This will make transporting the cat from the shelter and to and from the vet much easier and safer.

- Keep all paperwork from the shelter in a folder and bring it with you.

- You should be able to be present during the exam. It's a great time to ask questions about caring for your cat. Be ready to take notes.

- Listen to the vet as he or she gives you information about your cat's general health. Vets or their assistants often talk to you throughout the process, telling you what they're checking for and the result.

- Follow the vet's instructions. If a follow-up visit or more tests are needed, make sure you do it. Write down special instructions like how much and what type of food to feed your cat, or instructions on giving medication. And don't be afraid to ask for clarification if you don't understand something.

Send your tips, questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* President William McKinley always wore a red carnation for good luck, but sometimes gave it away as a memento. When greeting a crowd in 1901, he handed a 12-year-old girl named Myrtle the bloom off his lapel, saying, "I must give this flower to another little flower." While it's not known if the gesture proved lucky for Myrtle, just minutes later McKinley was fatally shot by a man in the crowd.

* The larger an animal's brain, the longer it will yawn.

* Smoking has long been banned by airlines, but ashtrays are mandatory on every plane, for safe disposal in case someone breaks the law.

* A Chinese farmer named Wang Englin, who quit school in the third grade, spent 16 years teaching himself law in order to sue a chemical company that was polluting his village. Unable to buy all the books he needed, he paid a local bookstore with bags of corn to let him sit and read, copying information by hand and using a dictionary when necessary. He finally won his case in 2017.

* During World War II, a Dutch warship was disguised as a tropical island to escape detection by the Japanese.

* Convinced that stomach ulcers were caused by H. pylori bacteria, although no one else seemed to believe it, Dr. Barry Marshall drank the bacteria himself (testing it on humans was illegal), developed ulcers within days, treated them with antibiotics, and ended up winning a Nobel Prize.

* On average, professional soccer players run as far as 9 miles in a match.

Thought for the Day: "Life is like arriving late for a movie, having to figure out what was going on without bothering everybody with a lot of questions, and then being unexpectedly called away before you find out how it ends." -- Joseph Campbell

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 20 of 77

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

FOOD FACTS—SEVENTY-FIVE DIFFERENT THINGS TO EAT AT THE SMORGASBORD and YOU GET A MINI-SIZED PLATE—BON APPÉTIT—

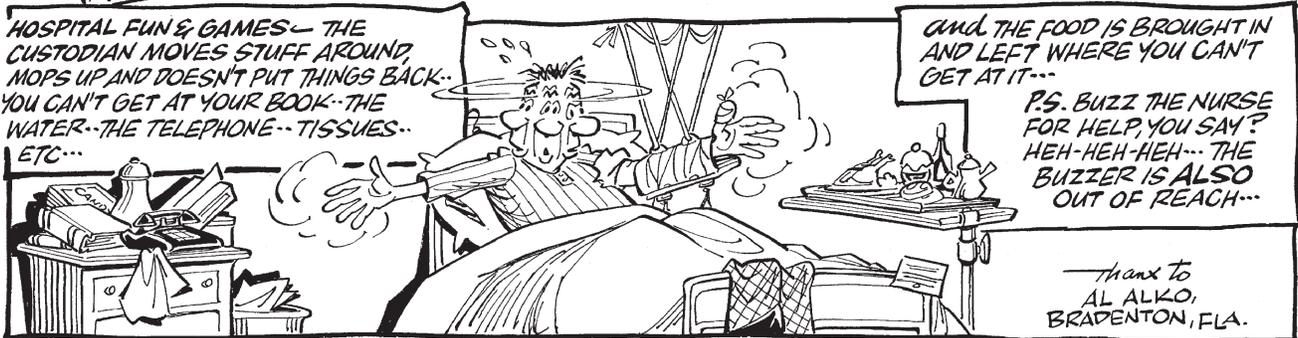


BY AL SCADUTO

HOW DO YOU KNOW WIFEY'S BEEN DRIVING THE CAR? WHEN YOU LOWER THE SUN VISOR and GET A LAPFUL OF HER AUTO CACHE...



HOSPITAL FUN & GAMES— THE CUSTODIAN MOVES STUFF AROUND, MOPS UP AND DOESN'T PUT THINGS BACK... YOU CAN'T GET AT YOUR BOOK--THE WATER--THE TELEPHONE--TISSUES... ETC...



and THE FOOD IS BROUGHT IN AND LEFT WHERE YOU CAN'T GET AT IT---

P.S. BUZZ THE NURSE FOR HELP, YOU SAY? HEH-HEH-HEH... THE BUZZER IS ALSO OUT OF REACH---

The Garden Bug

Dandelion



All parts of the dandelion are edible and healthful. Its roots contain inulin and levulin (which balance blood sugar) and taraxacin (which helps digestion) and can be eaten raw or cooked. Its leaves are rich in potassium, antioxidants, and vitamins A and C, and can be eaten raw, steamed, boiled, sautéed or braised. The flowers can be added to salads, made into jellies or used to make wine.

Sources:

www.motherearthnews.com - Brenda Weaver
en.wikipedia.org

VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

10-Foot Stack of Mail Sits Unopened at VA

Imagine a pile of mail heaped 10 feet high sitting unopened for 10 months. That's what was found in the basement of a rented Department of Veterans Affairs facility in Atlanta. When investigated, the stack was determined to contain 17,660 pieces of mail that included claims, correspondence from veterans, 10,020 medical records and \$207,000 in checks, some of which had already expired.

The problems began when a health care arm of the VA wanted to commandeer the basement space being used by a VA payments group. They came to a verbal agreement that the new group would take over dealing with the mail if the payment group left. A handshake later, it was done. Except nobody asked the new group if they even knew how to process correspondence, records and checks. And, apparently,

nobody did.

So, although the new people took a stab at dealing with the mail, for the most part the pile sat and grew as more mail came in. And sat and grew some more. The new group asked the old group for help. The old group said no. Enterprising souls in the new group sent off some of the mail to other facilities — 14 boxes to one facility alone — which sent it right back. They tried again, sending another 13 boxes.

What happens when payment requests are ignored? Veterans can't go to that outside provider and treatment is delayed or denied. Appeals can be denied if not received in time. Veterans with bad test results may not be notified.

Within a short period of time after the report came out, the VA acted and got the backlog cleared up.

The worrisome part of this is that with a coming consolidation of 82 claims processing groups at the VA, this can happen again if steps aren't taken to ensure that mail is handled correctly.

To learn more, go to www.va.gov and search for "unopened mail backlog."

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 22 of 77



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



Honoring Those Who Serve

Our nation's Armed Forces know the weight of sacrifice. Each servicemember sacrificed something to protect our freedoms and fight for America's values.

Memorial Day is often associated with weekend trips, picnics, pools, and parades. But this day was created to be a solemn reflection to remember our heroes who didn't make it home.

May is also Military Appreciation Month, a time to recognize, honor, and thank all who serve. This Memorial Day, as we collectively mourn the loss of those servicemembers who have died, set aside time to honor and thank those in your life who have served in our Armed Forces.

Our veterans and military families have made tremendous sacrifices to protect our freedoms. They deserve the highest care and support we can provide.

In March, the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) VISN 23 Director and the Biden Administration of recommended in-patient service closures that would close the Wagner Community-Based Outpatient Clinic and reduce Emergency Room capacity to an urgent care in Sioux Falls. The recommendation also called for relocating the psycho-social rehab from Hot Springs to Rapid City and limiting the Hot Springs and Fort Meade campuses to out-patient care, relocating in-patient services to Rapid City.

There are a number of these recommended closures and service reductions I do not support. We need to do everything we can to support our veterans. Ensuring access to high quality care is an important piece of serving those who served our country.

Not every American hero makes it home. It's my priority to support the ones who do.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 23 of 77

South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Their Sacrifice is a Call for Us to Serve

If you ever visit South Dakota's State Capitol, I hope you take the time to visit the veterans' memorial down by Capitol Lake. While this memorial is dedicated to all veterans who have served, there is a portion specifically dedicated to the more than 300 South Dakotans killed in the Korean and Vietnam wars. To one side there is an inscription: May we ever protect the freedoms for which they fought.

As we approach Memorial Day, we are reminded of our bravest South Dakotans — 3,073 service members killed in action since World War I.

The original idea for this holiday was first created 154 years ago by a Union General, John Logan, who in 1868 designated May 30th as "Decoration Day." It is said that Logan welcomed about 5,000 patriots to Arlington National Cemetery to decorate the graves of 20,000 Civil War soldiers.

100 years after Logan's first Decoration Day, the U.S. Congress officially designated the last Monday of May as Memorial Day. This year marks the first time in two decades that the U.S. has not been at war during Memorial Day. But we are far from the pain of mourning and loss for those 36 South Dakotans killed in action since the 9/11 attacks.

President Abraham Lincoln once said, "Honor to the Soldier, and Sailor, everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause ... who braves, for the common good, the storms of heaven and the storms of battle." Sadly, there are many soldiers who succumb to the storm. And while they were not lost on a battlefield, we must remember the 22 veterans or active-duty soldiers each day who take their lives because they could not escape the storm when they came home. Their mental wounds are as real and as deadly as any physical wounds. And their tragic deaths deserve to be tallied in the costs of war.

Honor. Courage. Sacrifice. Bravery. These are all words that apply generously to the men and women we honor on Memorial Day. But this holiday should be more than a remembrance of those we have lost. It should be an annual call to action. As the memorial says: May we ever protect the freedoms for which they fought.

In his famous Gettysburg Address, Lincoln was dedicating a new National Cemetery at the site where a decisive victory had been won by the Union Army just four months earlier. The president spoke few words, yet each weighed the heavy cost born by Americans on both sides. More than 7,000 soldiers from the North and South died in the Pennsylvania fray. "In a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 24 of 77

consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground,” Lincoln said in his address. “The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract.”

In this moment, Lincoln cemented in our heritage that we must remember and respect those who fought and died to protect our freedoms. Not just on Memorial Day. We should carry their sacrifice with us daily.

Lincoln ended his address by reminding us why such sacrifice matters: “It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion ... that a government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.”

I hope you will take this Memorial Day to reflect on those we have lost. Use this time to also talk about their lives outside of service. Talk about the joy they brought and the laughter shared by telling stories of the life they lived, as well as the sacrifice they made. Speak loudly and proudly about our bravest South Dakotans.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Hometown Values

I was recently back in Murdo, the small town of around 500 people, right off I-90 – my hometown. Being home is always a trip down memory lane. When I think back to my childhood, my first memories are of my parents, Pat and Harold Thune, and of growing up with my three brothers and sister. And boy, we were lucky kids to have my parents at the helm.

My mom was a wonderful, loving, eternally optimistic mother, who spent most of my growing up years as our high school librarian. She was responsible for making sure we Thune kids got some culture – whether we wanted it or not. She insisted that we all learn to play the piano, encouraged me to join the swing choir, and in the summers, she even made us come inside for an hour every day to read.

My dad was our hero – a Division I basketball star and World War II combat pilot. He was a teacher at my high school, a coach, the athletic director, and the bus driver. Between him and my mom as the librarian, we Thune kids were practically never away from our parents' watchful eyes. I am so grateful to have had my dad's coaching – in sports and in life. On the court, my dad taught us players to play as a team. He didn't like ball hogs or people who were in it for personal glory. He believed your job as a member of a team was to make the people around you better. If somebody else was in a better position to take the shot, you always made the extra pass. It's an attitude I've tried to carry with me throughout my life.

Being back in Murdo also made me reflect on just how lucky I was to grow up in a small town – and small-town South Dakota in particular. The values I saw growing up in Murdo are reflected in towns all across our state. In Murdo I learned the character of South Dakotans – the work ethic, the commitment to freedom coupled with a belief in personal responsibility, and a sense of responsibility to the broader community.

South Dakotans cherish their freedoms – and they also believe that with freedom comes responsibility. They have a deep appreciation for the Founders' vision that has allowed us to enjoy such freedom – and for the sacrifices that have been required to secure it. With that, of course, comes an expectation that each generation has to do its part to pay freedom's price and protect all that we have been given.

The South Dakota values I learned growing up helped shape my political philosophy: my belief that government should be limited and that it is best when it's closest to the people. If a matter can be handled at the state or local level, it should be. I learned that the legacy of the past is something to be cherished and preserved – while leaving room for change and adaptation when needed – and that freedom is a sacred gift, and one that must be defended. And, finally, while government is necessary, government is not where we should look for salvation.

The legacy of growing up in South Dakota is a precious one. I am deeply grateful for those years in Murdo and for the privilege of living in the Mount Rushmore State. South Dakota is the best state in the world to live, work, and raise a family. From Sioux Falls to Rapid City and every town in between, the communities and families that make up our great state are truly one-of-a-kind. I am proud to call South Dakota my home, and it is my great honor to represent the people of South Dakota in the United States Senate.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 26 of 77



It Was Another Amateur Run at Chillin

There are a few things that I am good at, but I can't recollect them at this point. But I will say there are many things I'm not good at. I think I probably am the king of Amateurism.

That being said, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is just the opposite. If there is something she isn't good at, I have not yet discovered it, and neither has she. So that's what makes our marriage so wonderful. What I don't have, she has.

One thing I'm not very good at is Chillin'. It is something that's beyond my personal experience. I have a hard time just quieting down and Chillin' for the day. I have more important things to do, so I think.

The last few months have been rather hectic. Every day seemed to have been challenging, but I somehow got through it without taking one day off.

I was thinking it would be a nice time to sit back and chill for a day. I just did not know how to do it or when. Then, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage opened the door for me.

On a particular Monday, she planned to go on one of her BOGO adventures. She had been saving up for this for quite a while, and suddenly it became possible. I love it when a plan comes together.

She asked me if I wanted to join her on this BOGO adventure, but I kindly declined the offer. I told her she could go and enjoy that day, and I would stay home and do some Chillin'.

Looking at me strangely, she said, "Are you sure you want to do that?"

I nodded my head with a smile all over my face and said, "Oh, yes, dear, I sure do."

I could not wait for that day to arrive so I could practice some Chillin' moves like never before.

The day finally arrived. As my wife went through the front door, she looked at me and said, "Are you sure you can take care of yourself today? Are you sure you can get your own lunch?"

I assured her that I would be absolutely okay and she needn't worry about me. As she shut the door behind her, I sat back in my easy chair and just smiled. This was going to be a day to remember for a long time.

I began to think about the day before me as I was sitting there. I planned to do absolutely nothing for the entire day. I was going to chill out the best I knew how.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 27 of 77

Immediately I began thinking about some projects I could work on, then I called a halt to that and said to myself very sternly, "Today, you are just going to chill."

I got a cup of coffee and then sat down in my easy chair and did the best I could to turn my brain off. I thought the best thing I could do would be to watch a little TV. Nothing is more boring in this world than watching TV.

At lunchtime, I decided to get my own lunch. I went to the refrigerator and saw a freshly baked blueberry pie. Then in the freezer was some strawberry ice cream. Nothing is more exciting for lunch than fruit.. Blueberries and strawberries would be my fruit choice of the day. A day without vegetables is what I call Chillin'. As long as someone in the house doesn't find out.

Everything was going just fine because I wasn't doing anything. Once in a while, I had a thought that snuck into my head, but I firmly chased it out and resumed my Chillin' attitude.

As the TV was running, I soon, in the late afternoon, fell asleep. Oh, what a joy it was to sleep and not have anything on your mind.

Suddenly, I heard the door open. In walked The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage with her arms full of BOGO stuff she purchased that day.

I was a little groggy, but I did hear her say, "What are you watching?"

Not knowing what time of the day it was, and since my brain had not been functioning all day, I simply said to her, "I'm watching some political debate on TV. This is the first time I have understood what these politicians are saying."

As she put the bags on the kitchen table, she looked at me rather stunningly and said, "You do know you're watching a Three Stooges movie, don't you?"

Trying to motivate some gray cells, I looked at the TV, and much to my surprise, my wife was right as usual. So there they were, the Three Stooges on my TV screen.

Looking back at my wife, I said with a sour grin on my face, "I guess these guys make more sense than the politicians." She just laughed and went back to the kitchen.

As my wife was sorting out her BOGO stuff I couldn't help but think about one of my favorite Bible verses. "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord" (Psalm 27:14).

Spiritual Chillin' is simply giving God time to do His work, His way. That is the most strengthening process and I plan to exercise this on a daily basis.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 28 of 77

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that a tree seed shortage is jeopardizing reforestation efforts across the American West following so many bad wildfire seasons in a row? If so, what can everyday people do to help?

-- Helen

K., Barre, VT

Wildfires have been a mainstay on the news of late, and in the United States and across the world we are witnessing fires that are more intense than ever before. With warmer and drier conditions brought on by climate change, scientists project a 33 percent increase in wildfires by 2050 and a 57 percent increase by the end of the century. The Western U.S. is seeing the worst drought on record in the past 1,200 years, causing wildfires to spark earlier and more often.



Tree seed shortages compounded by decades of drought and recent extreme wildfire seasons mean the future of our forests could be in jeopardy. Credit: Yamanaka

Tamaki, FlickrCC.

As a result, public interest in reforestation efforts has skyrocketed. If a deforested area is left unattended to, the wrong species of trees might grow back, disrupting the ecosystem. Trees use carbon dioxide (CO₂) as they grow, so they are crucial tools in fighting climate change, functioning as what is called a "carbon sink" by capturing and "sequestering" the carbon. Not only is there bipartisan support for more tree planting, but corporations are also showing interest in mass tree plantings to sequester carbon to offset pollution. Companies are willing to invest not only in tree planting, but in the long-term survival of the trees once they are planted.

Increasing investment in tree planting and maintaining the trees as they mature is a great step forward for ecological restoration and carbon sequestration, but there is one flaw with this plan: There is a shortage of seeds. According to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), nurseries will need to more than double their production of seedlings to keep up with the current demand for trees. While it may seem like a simple solution, as the climate changes, the behavior of seed-producing trees changes as well.

Seed scarcity is linked with temperature increases and drought conditions brought on by climate change. In periods of extended drought, trees respond by stopping the production of seeds. Additionally, especially at lower elevations, the warmer weather results in more insects that will eat away at the remaining viable seeds. Harvesting seeds is a sensitive process; to ensure the long-term success of a tree, the seeds that are collected have to come from the same geographic region as well as the same elevation that you plan to plant the tree. Another piece to this puzzle is the wildfires: Hotter, drier conditions are exacerbating the frequency and severity of wildfires, reducing the number of seed producing trees in the ecosystem. This, in turn is putting more stress on nurseries to provide not just seeds but trees themselves.

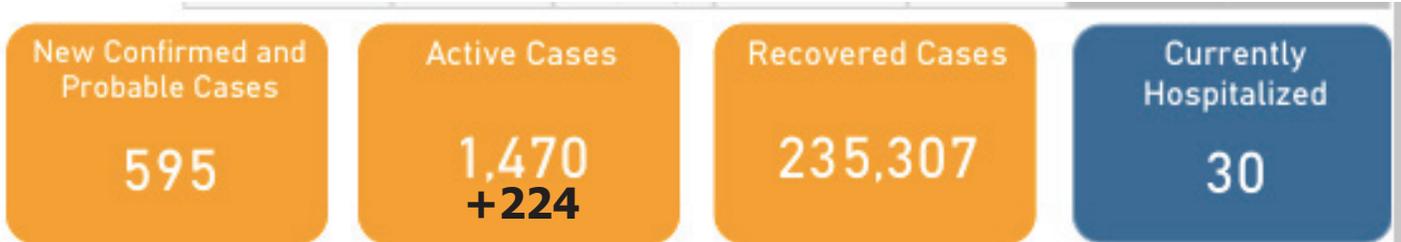
Even though you may not have the knowledge to collect seeds yourself, you can be part of the solution! Increasing seedling production is an expensive task, and donating to organizations like the National Forest Foundation or The Arbor Day Foundation can be invaluable in supporting reforestation. Volunteering with the U.S. Forest Service is another way to make a difference.

• EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

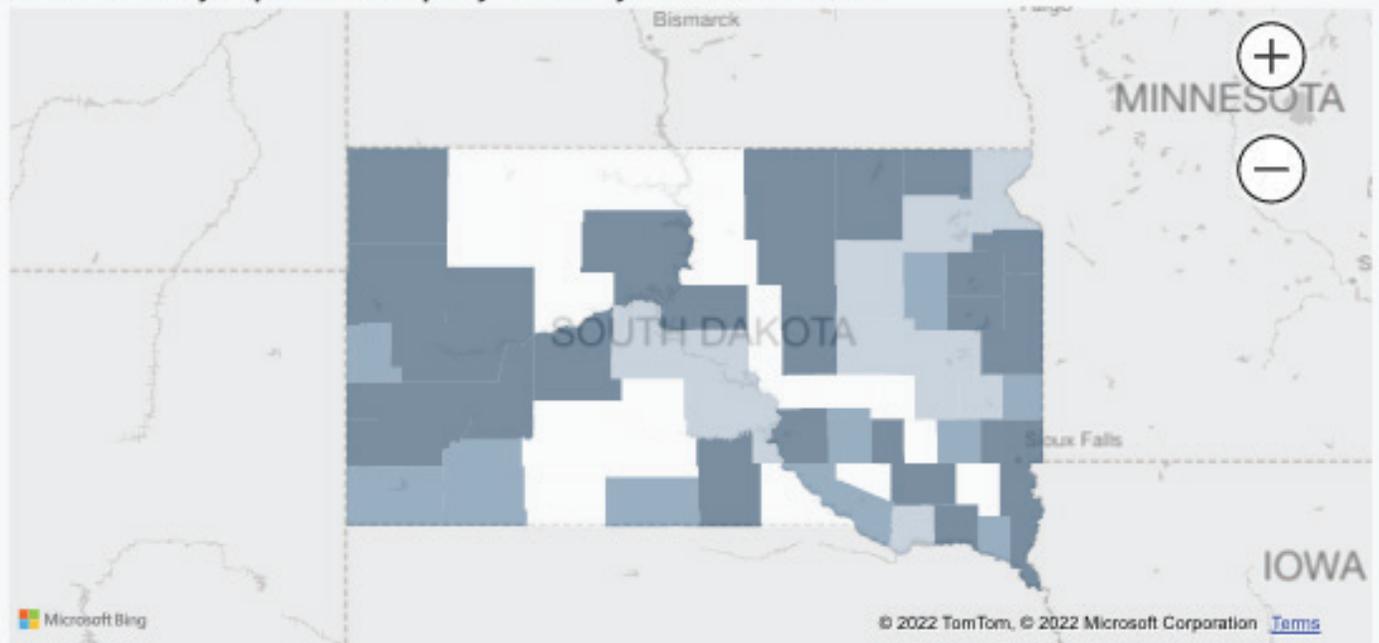
Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 29 of 77

South Dakota COVID-19 Report

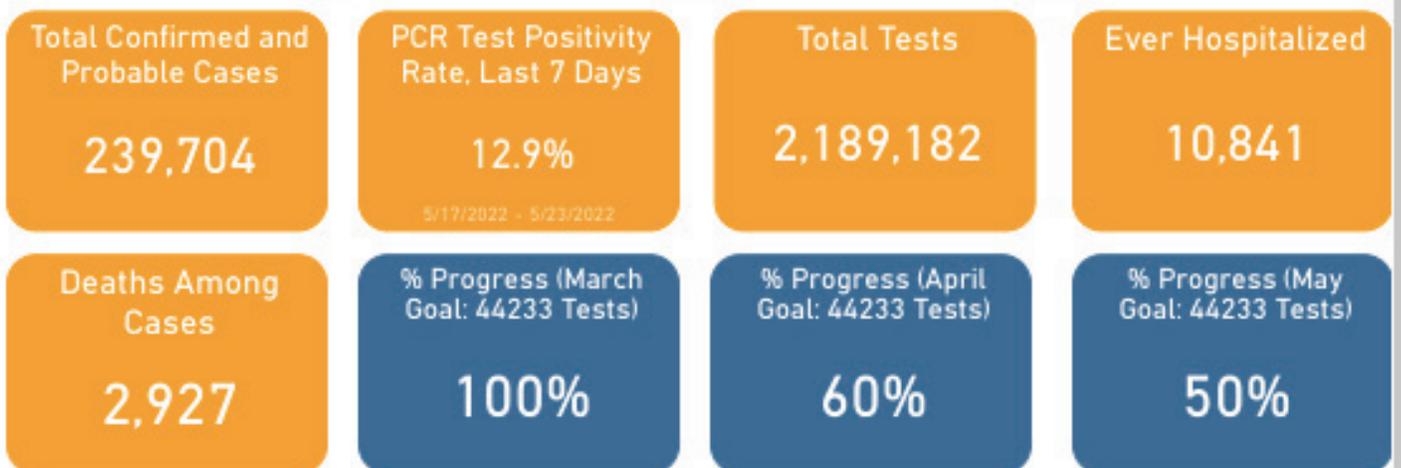


Community Spread Map by County of Residence



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

More information on U.S COVID-19 Community levels can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>



Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 30 of 77

Brown County COVID-19 Report

New Confirmed and Probable Cases

24

Active Cases

55
+16

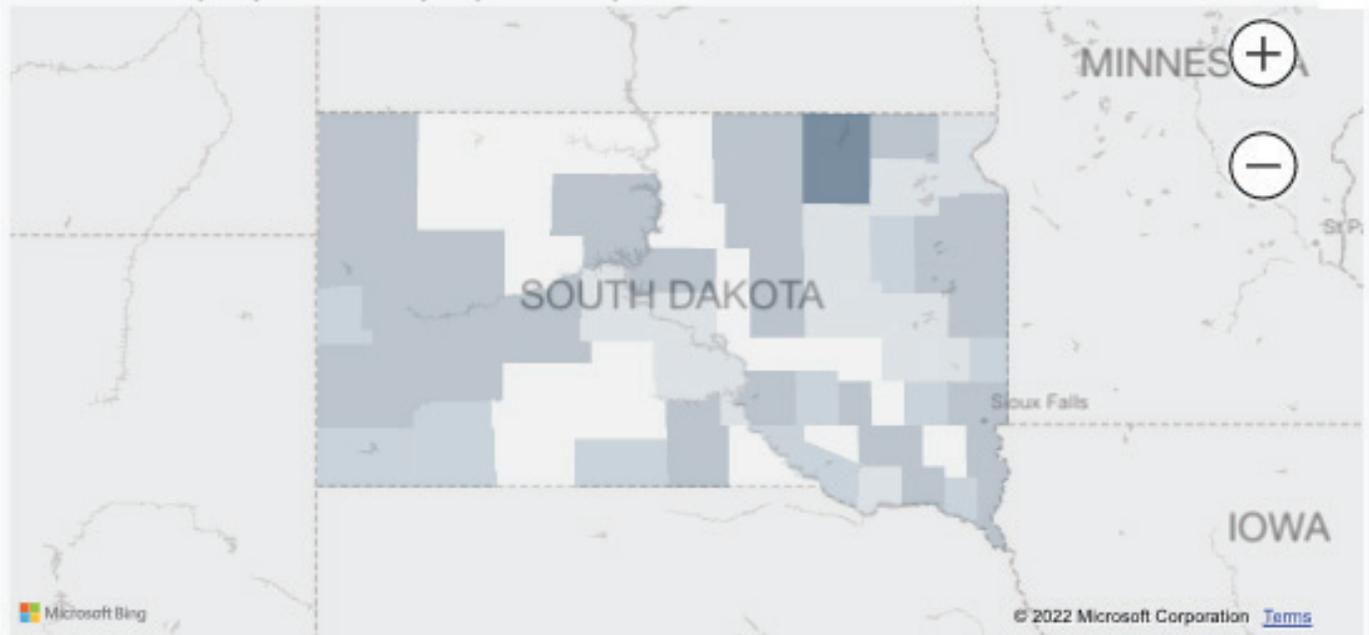
Recovered Cases

10,207

Currently Hospitalized

30

Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread Low Moderate Substantial High

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

More information on U.S COVID-19 Community levels can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Total Confirmed and Probable Cases

10,383

PCR Test Positivity Rate, Last 7 Days

20.2%

5/17/2022 - 5/23/2022

Total Tests

105,018

Ever Hospitalized

536

Deaths Among Cases

121

% Progress (March Goal: 44233 Tests)

100%

% Progress (April Goal: 44233 Tests)

60%

% Progress (May Goal: 44233 Tests)

50%

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 31 of 77

Day County COVID-19 Report

New Confirmed and Probable Cases

2

Active Cases

7
-3

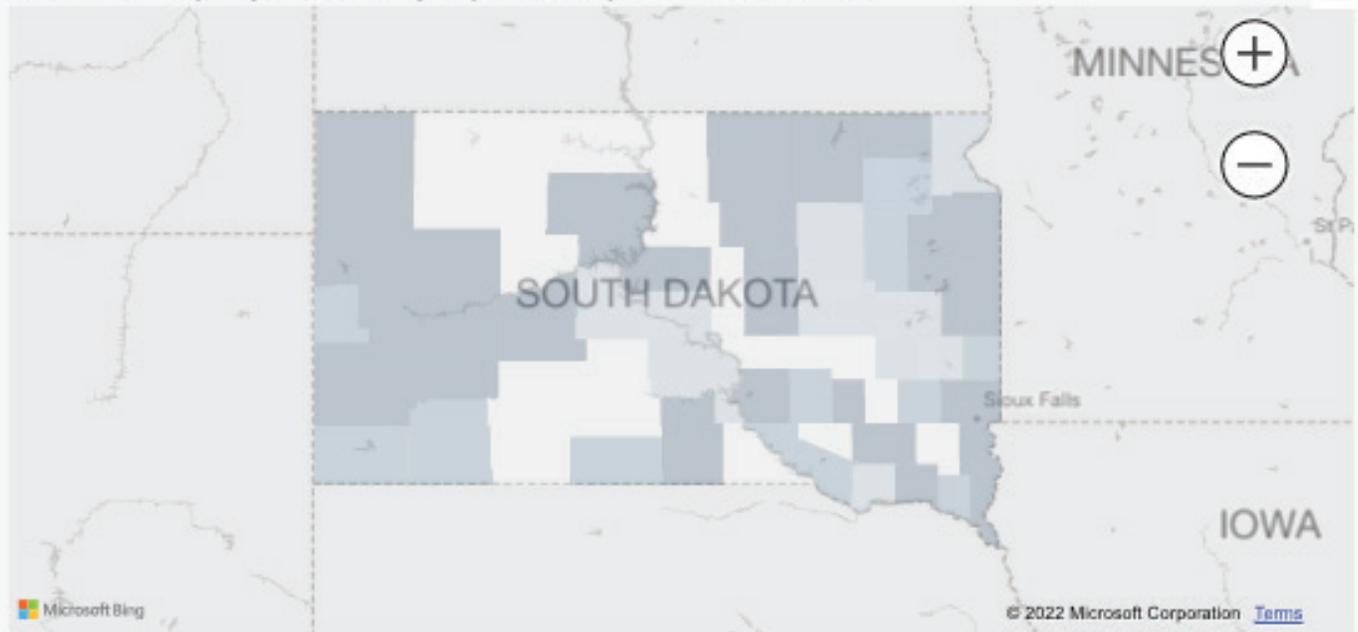
Recovered Cases

1,257

Currently Hospitalized

30

Community Spread Map by County of Residence



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

More information on U.S COVID-19 Community levels can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Total Confirmed and Probable Cases

1,299

PCR Test Positivity Rate, Last 7 Days

13.3%

5/17/2022 - 5/23/2022

Total Tests

17,156

Ever Hospitalized

70

Deaths Among Cases

35

% Progress (March Goal: 44233 Tests)

100%

% Progress (April Goal: 44233 Tests)

60%

% Progress (May Goal: 44233 Tests)

50%

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 32 of 77

COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Currently Hospitalized	-3	30
Active Cases		1,470
Deaths Among Cases	+8	2,927
Ever Hospitalized		10,841
Recovered Cases		235,307
Total Cases		239,704

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths Among Cases
Female	126,804	1,330
Male	112,900	1,597

VARIANT CASES OF COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

COVID-19 Variant	# of Cases
Delta (B.1.617.2 & AY lineages)	1,720
Omicron (B.1.1.529 & BA lineages)	1,166
Alpha (B.1.1.7)	176
Omicron (BA.2)	34
Gamma (P.1)	4
Beta (B.1.351)	2

AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range with Years	# of Cases	# of Deaths Among Cases
0-9 years	16,070	3
10-19 years	28,985	2
20-29 years	41,949	14
30-39 years	40,638	52
40-49 years	33,535	88
50-59 years	30,799	226
60-69 years	25,507	476
70-79 years	13,448	685
80+ years	8,773	1,381

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian / Pacific Islander	3,302	1%
Black	5,888	2%
Hispanic	10,287	4%
Native American	30,452	13%
Other	1,997	1%
Unknown	4,523	2%
White	183,255	76%

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 33 of 77

COVID-19 Update by Marie Miller

Many things are getting worse, and in some places they're getting worse fast. On the other hand, while not one state is moving to a lower level of transmission, several of the early adopters in this last surge are now trending downward, places like much of the Northeast and some of the Midwest, even as the northern Great Plains, Mountain West, and Southwest are looking much worse. This is pretty much the same pattern we've seen across the country from the first days of this pandemic. Here are the details.

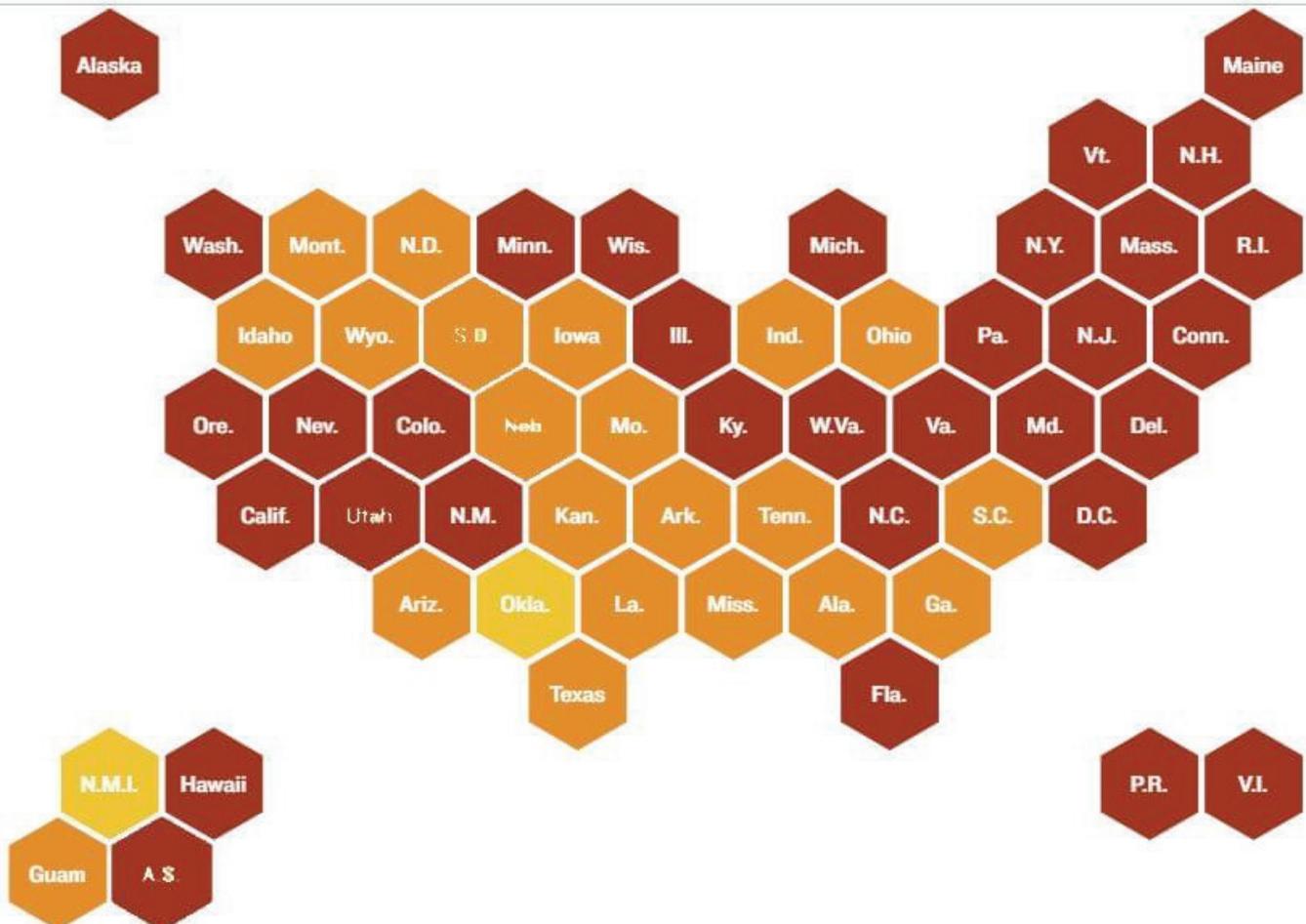
Moving from orange to red are California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, Kentucky, and West Virginia. Moving from yellow to orange are Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Arkansas, and Alabama. Twelve are stepping up to higher levels; none are stepping down. Only two left in yellow; no one in green--no one for a long time now, although the Northern Marianas are getting closer.

I would expect Guam, Arizona, Ohio, and South Carolina to move to red soon; I don't see anyone coming down to orange from red anytime soon. We have 33 states and territories with unchecked transmission right now. Oklahoma looks poised to move from yellow to orange in the next few days, which would leave the Northern Marianas all alone in yellow. There are 21 states and territories in orange.

I am seeing decreasing new case numbers in 16 states and territories, which is a good sign. Only six are doubling or close to doubling every two weeks, but 16 more are still increasing at a rate over 50 percent in two weeks. That's still a whole lot of trouble.

I'd recommend sitting tight a while longer.

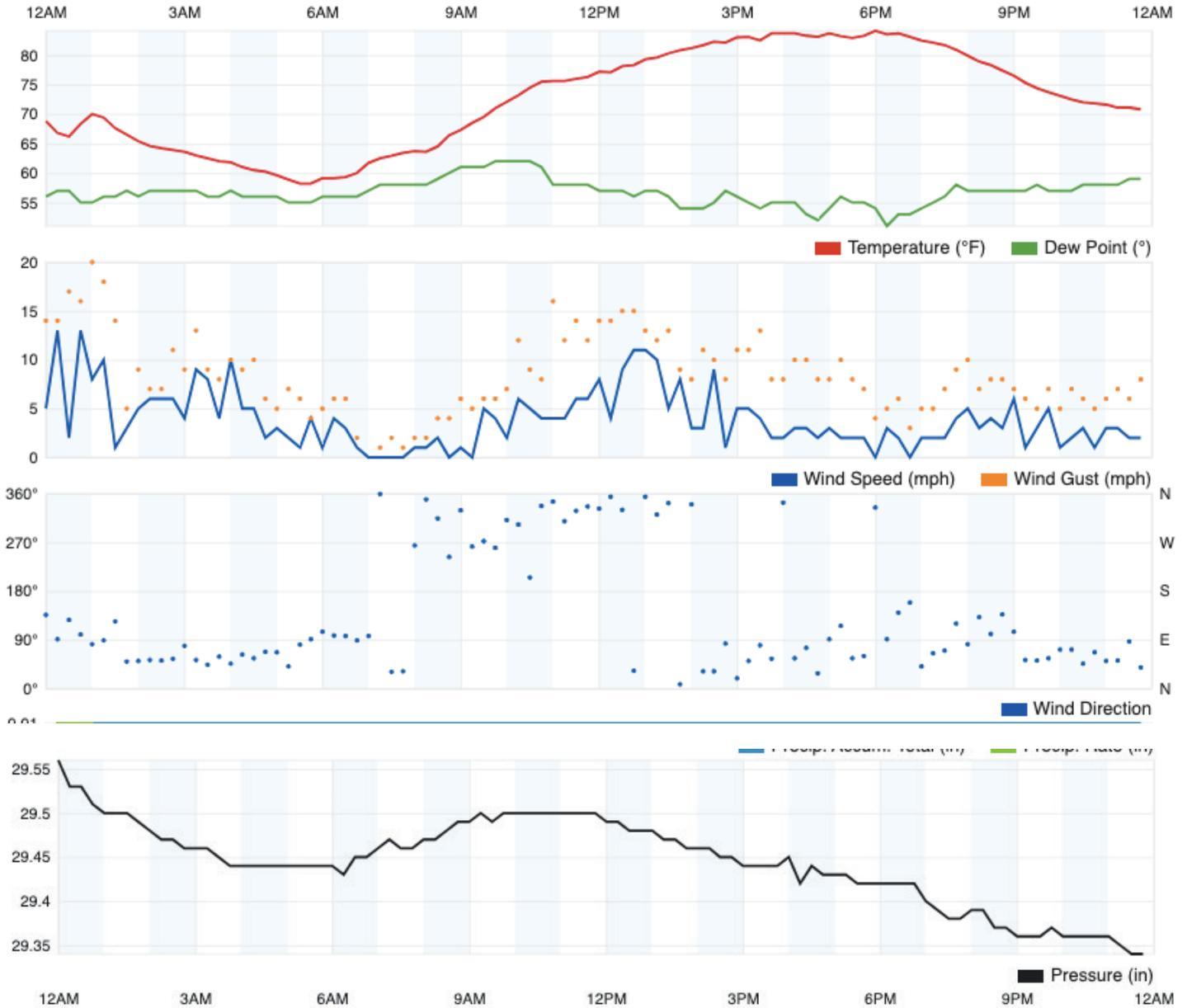
The original template for this heat map is from NPR; I have modified it to show changes since NPR's last update. Red designates "unchecked spread," orange is "escalating spread," yellow is "potential spread," and green is "close to containment." (For the record, NMI is the Northern Mariana Islands, AS is American Samoa, and VI is the US Virgin Islands, all US territories.)



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 34 of 77

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 35 of 77

Today	Tonight	Memorial Day	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
20%	40%	50% → 90%	70% 70%	30%
Partly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms then T-storms	T-storms Likely then Showers Likely	Chance Showers and Breezy
High: 84 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 72 °F	Low: 51 °F	High: 61 °F



Sunday Severe Outlook

May 29, 2022
5:47 AM

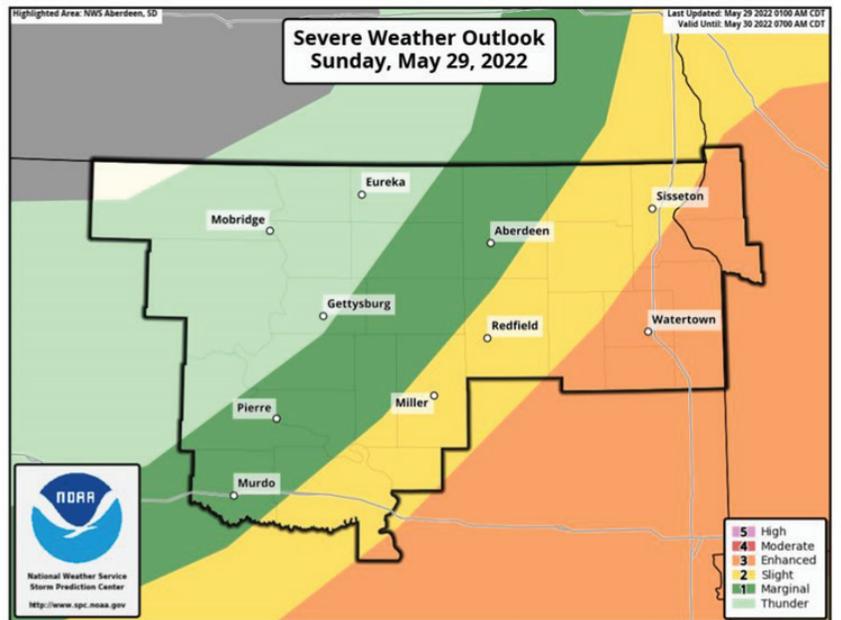
Today's Synopsis: There is a small probability that storms can initiate early in the afternoon, however the better probability is for storms across south and southeast South Dakota by mid-late evening tracking into northeast South Dakota and western Minnesota through the overnight.

Threats



Wind, hail and tornadoes are possible threats.

Severe Threats	Lo	Med	Hi
Tornado	Lo	Med	Hi
Hail	Lo	Med	Hi
Wind	Lo	Med	Hi
Flooding	Lo	Med	Hi



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

The severe weather threat continues. Today, there is a small probability that storms can initiate early in the afternoon, however the better probability is for storms across south and southeast South Dakota by mid-late evening tracking into northeast South Dakota and western Minnesota through the overnight. Monday, the potential for a significant severe storm setup is possible. Any storms that develop Monday afternoon may be intense, especially across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Keep up to date on the latest forecasts!

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 36 of 77

Today in Weather History

May 29, 1953: An auditorium was almost entirely unroofed, and barns, along with outbuildings were destroyed in McLaughlin by a tornado. Seven businesses and two homes were also damaged. Estimate of property damage at \$100,000. This tornado was estimated to have F2 strength.

May 29, 2004: Hail, with the largest a quarter sizes, fell in many parts of north-central South Dakota. Lightning struck a house in Veblen and caused some damage. Glass from a broken window hit a man, and some debris from the ceiling hit a woman. They were taken to the hospital and treated for minor injuries. The torrential rains of 3 to 6 inches fell between Westport and Columbia with cropland and many roads flooded. Also, some basements were flooded. Four, weak F0 tornadoes, also were reported. The first two touched down near Bath causing no damage. The other two occurred near Ipswich, also causing no damage.

1947: An unprecedented late-spring snowstorm blasts portions of the Midwest from eastern Wyoming to eastern Upper Michigan. The heavy snow caused severe damage to power and telephone lines and the already-leafed-out vegetation.

1951 - A massive hailstorm, from Wallace to Kearney County in Kansas, caused six million dollars damage to crops. (David Ludlum)

1953 - A tornado, 600 yards wide at times, killed two persons on its 20 mile path from southwest of Fort Rice ND into Emmons County. Nearly every building in Fort Rice was damaged. The Catholic church was leveled, with some pews jammed four feet into the ground. (The Weather Channel)

1982: Two significant tornadoes ripped through southern Illinois. The most severe was an F4 that touched down northeast of Carbondale, Illinois then moved to Marion. The twister had multiple vortices within the main funnel. Extensive damage occurred at the Marion Airport. A total of 10 people were killed, and 181 were injured. 648 homes and 200 cars were damaged or destroyed, with total damages around \$100 million.

1986: Hailstones over 3 inches in diameter pounded South Shore in Montreal, Quebec Canada causing over \$65 million in damage.

1987 - Thunderstorms in West Texas produced softball size hail at Lamesa, and hail up to twelve inches deep east of Dimmitt. Thunderstorms also spawned seven tornadoes in West Texas, including one which injured three persons at Wolfforth. Thunderstorms deluged the Texas Hill Country with up to eleven inches of rain. Severe flooding along the Medino, Hondo, Seco, Sabinal and Frio rivers caused more than fifty million dollars damage. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A powerful cold front brought snow and high winds to parts of the western U.S. Austin, NV, was blanketed with ten inches of snow, and winds gusted to 75 mph at the Mojave Airport in California. Strong southerly winds and unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Glasgow, MT, equalled their record for the month of May with a high of 102 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Wintry weather gripped parts of the northwestern U.S. for the second day in a row. Great Falls, MT, was blanketed with 12 inches of snow, which pushed their total for the winter season to a record 117.4 inches. Six inches of snow whitened the Cascade Mountains of Oregon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather from north central Colorado to the northern half of Texas. Severe thunderstorms spawned four tornadoes, and there were seventy reports of large hail or damaging winds. Midday thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 90 mph at Hobart, OK, and produced up to three and a half inches of rain in eastern Colorado in four hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 37 of 77

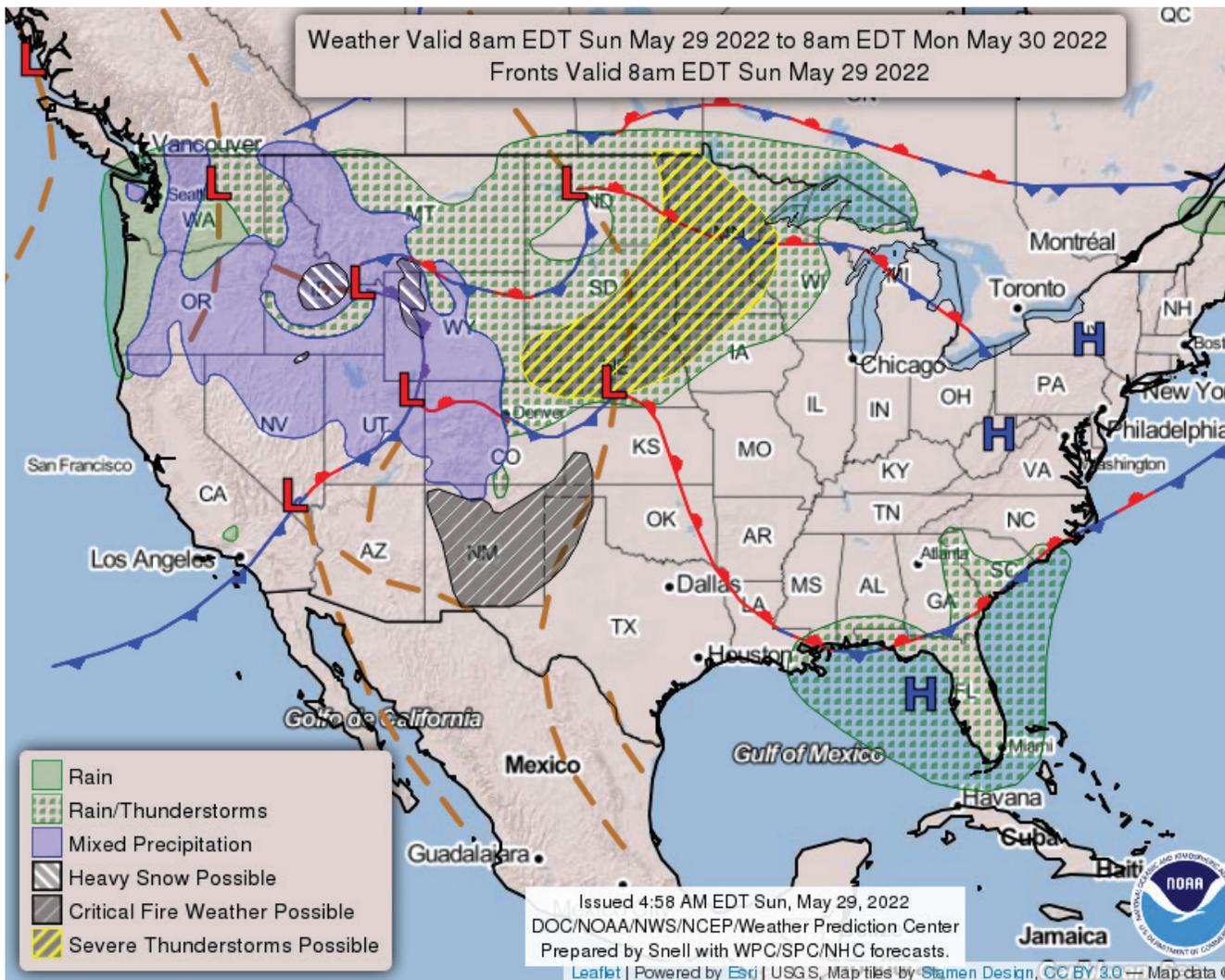
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 85 °F at 6:02 PM
Low Temp: 58 °F at 5:41 AM
Wind: 20 mph at 12:54 AM
Precip: 0.00 (Since Midnight: 0.52)

Day length: 15 hours, 25 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 99 in 1934
Record Low: 23 in 1947
Average High: 75°F
Average Low: 50°F
Average Precip in May.: 3.07
Precip to date in May.: 2.48
Average Precip to date: 7.04
Precip Year to Date: 8.98
Sunset Tonight: 9:12:37 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:46:25 AM



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 38 of 77



FINALLY FREE

A clerk in Birmingham, England was placing a package on a shelf in a post office. As he was lifting it from a cart, it broke open and out fell what appeared to be a pair of "heavy-duty" handcuffs that were unlocked.

Jokingly, he said to an associate, "I dare you to try these on for size."

"I'll take the dare," he said, put them on and locked them. After a few laughs, they went to the box to locate the key to unlock them. To their surprise, there was no key.

They hurried to the police station to get a key to release the lock. They inserted it properly, but when they turned the key, it broke. What was once comical now became serious. The broken key either had to be drilled from the cuffs or the thick, heavy handcuffs sawed apart.

But it was Sunday, and no one could be found to help them out of their predicament. Finally, they went to the police chief who said, "Well, this looks like a good time to teach you a lesson. You'll have to go to Derby, explain your problem to the person who made the handcuffs and then come back, and we'll remove them. You need to learn a lesson about playing with things that can harm you."

What a picture of sin. At first, it promises to bring pleasure and enjoyment - a time of fun and laughter. Then, it takes one "captive," and one is no longer free. But we know there is one who can free us: Christ our Savior. "The Lord sets prisoners free," proclaimed the Psalmist.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to accept the freedom that can be ours through Your Son. May we place our trust in You! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: The Lord sets prisoners free. Psalm 146:7c

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 39 of 77

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

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 40 of 77

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 41 of 77

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

02-05-17-30-35

(two, five, seventeen, thirty, thirty-five)

Estimated jackpot: \$44,000

Lotto America

07-20-40-42-52, Star Ball: 4, ASB: 2

(seven, twenty, forty, forty-two, fifty-two; Star Ball: four; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$14,010,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: 170,000,000

Powerball

02-39-50-61-66, Powerball: 15, Power Play: 2

(two, thirty-nine, fifty, sixty-one, sixty-six; Powerball: fifteen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$157,000,000

Russian troops storm city amid eastern Ukraine bombardments

By ELENA BECATOROS and RICARDO MAZALAN Associated Press

POKROVSK, Ukraine (AP) — Russian and Ukrainian troops engaged in close-quarter combat in an eastern Ukraine city Sunday as Moscow's soldiers, supported by intense shelling, attempted to gain strategic footholds in the region while facing fierce Ukrainian resistance.

Ukrainian regional officials reported that Russian forces were "storming" the eastern city of Sievierodonetsk, where the fighting has knocked out power and cellphone services and terrorized civilians who haven't fled.

Sievierodonetsk, a manufacturing center, has emerged as an epicenter of Russia's quest to conquer Ukraine's industrial Donbas region. Russia also stepped up its efforts to take nearby Lysychansk, where Ukrainian officials reported constant shelling.

The two cities, with a combined prewar population of around 200,000, are the last major areas under Ukrainian control in Luhansk province, which makes up the Donbas together with neighboring Donetsk. Russia is focused on capturing parts of both not already controlled by pro-Moscow separatists.

Russian forces made small advances in recent days as bombardments chewed away at Ukrainian positions and kept civilians trapped in basements or desperately trying to get out safely. Attacks to destroy military targets throughout the country also caused casualties in civilian areas.

In his Saturday night video address, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the situation in the east as "very complicated" and "indescribably difficult." The "Russian army is trying to squeeze at least some result" by concentrating its attacks there, he said.

Sievierodonetsk Mayor Oleksandr Striuk said there was fighting at the city's bus station on Saturday. A humanitarian center couldn't operate due to the danger, Striuk said, and cellphone service and electricity were knocked out. Residents risked exposure to shelling to get water from a half-dozen wells, he said.

Some supply routes were functioning, and evacuations of the wounded were still possible, Striuk said. He estimated that 1,500 civilians in the city, which had a prewar population of around 100,000, have died from the fighting as well as from a lack of medicine and diseases that couldn't be treated.

Haidai, the regional governor, claimed that the Russians had retreated "with losses" around the village of Bobrove, around 20 kilometers (12 miles) southeast of Sievierodonetsk, but were carrying out airstrikes

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 42 of 77

in a nearby village on the strategic Siverskiy Donetsk river.

"The situation in Lysychansk is severe due to constant shelling by the occupiers, there are fatalities and wounded people," he wrote on Telegram, without elaborating.

On Saturday, he said, one civilian died and four were injured after a Russian shell hit a high-rise apartment building. A local cinema and 22 more residential buildings were also damaged, he said.

The Ukrainian military said Sunday morning that Russian forces were trying to strengthen their positions around Lyman, a small city that serves as a key rail hub in the Donetsk region.

"The enemy is reinforcing its units," the Ukrainian armed forces' General Staff said in an operational update. "It is trying to gain a foothold in the area."

Moscow claimed Saturday to have taken Lyman, but there was no acknowledgement of that from Kyiv authorities.

The Ukrainian army said that heavy fighting was ongoing around Donetsk, the provincial capital.

It also said that Russia launched an offensive Saturday night around the city of Bakhmut, in the neighboring Luhansk region, but had been pushed back.

In the same operational update, the military hinted at high levels of casualties sustained by Moscow, claiming that civilians were no longer admitted to hospitals in Russia-annexed Crimea as beds were needed by injured troops.

It was not immediately possible to verify the accuracy of these claims.

More widely, Russia launched renewed airstrikes overnight on Ukraine's northern Kharkiv and Sumy regions, Ukrainian state agencies said.

The State Emergency Service of Ukraine emergency service said Sunday morning that Russian shelling caused fires around Kharkiv, the country's second-largest city. Russia has kept up a bombardment of Kharkiv, located in northeastern Ukraine, after Ukrainian fighters pushed its forces back from positions near the city several weeks ago.

The Kharkiv regional prosecutors' office said a Russian shell broke through the roof of a house and wounded a 50-year-old man and a 62-year-old woman early Sunday in the town of Zolochiv, around 40 kilometers (20 miles) northwest of Kharkiv.

The Ukrainian Border Guard Service said border areas in the Sumy region, east of Kharkiv, were hit with six unguided missiles. The agency did not mention reports of any casualties.

Unrest erupts at Jerusalem site ahead of nationalist march

By JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Nearly 2,000 Jewish pilgrims visited Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site early Sunday ahead of a nationalist parade through the Old City, prompting Palestinians barricaded inside the Al Aqsa Mosque to throw rocks and fireworks at the visitors and nearby Israeli police.

Some 3,000 Israeli police were deployed throughout the city ahead of Sunday's march, in which flag-waving Israeli nationalists planned to walk through the heart of the Old City's main Palestinian thoroughfare.

Israel says the march is meant to celebrate Israel's capture of east Jerusalem, including the Old City, in the 1967 Mideast war. Israel has annexed east Jerusalem in a move that isn't internationally recognized, and it claims all of the city as its capital.

But Palestinians, who seek east Jerusalem as the capital of a future state, see the march as a provocation. Last year, the parade helped trigger an 11-day war between Israel and Gaza militants.

Ahead of the march, some 1,800 Jewish pilgrims visited the contested hilltop compound where the Al Aqsa Mosque is situated, according to Israeli police.

Al Aqsa is the third-holiest site in Islam and serves as a powerful symbol for the Palestinians. The compound also is the holiest site for Jews, who call it the Temple Mount and revere it as the home of the biblical Temples. The competing claims to the site lie at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and have triggered numerous rounds of violence.

Dozens of Palestinians barricaded themselves inside the mosque early Sunday and began throwing ob-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 43 of 77

jects and fireworks when the Jewish visitors began to arrive.

Among the visitors was Itamar Ben-Gvir, leader of a small ultranationalist opposition party and a follower of the late racist rabbi, Meir Kahane, who entered with dozens of supporters under heavy police guard.

Palestinians shouted "God is great" as Ben-Gvir, accompanied by Israeli police, shouted "the Jewish people live." Police said they locked the gates of the mosque and said they made several arrests. There were no reports of injuries.

Without explanation, Israeli police took the rare step of barring Palestinian journalists, including an Associated Press photographer, from entering the compound.

Police also said dozens of visitors in one of the Jewish groups "violated visitation rules." It said the group was removed and some people were detained.

The police statement gave no further details. But under longstanding arrangements known as the "status quo," Jewish visitors to the compound are not allowed to pray. In recent years, however, the number of Jewish visitors has grown significantly, including some who have been spotted quietly praying.

Such scenes have sparked Palestinian fears that Israel is plotting to take over or divide the area. Israel denies such claims, saying it remains committed to the status quo.

Israel's national police chief, Kobi Shabtai, said his forces were prepared for "every scenario" and had taken "immediate and professional" action when needed.

"We will not allow any inciter or rioter to sabotage today's events and to disrupt law and order," he said. By midday, the visits had temporarily halted, and the situation had quieted.

Jordan condemned Ben-Gvir's visit to the site and warned that the "provocative and escalating march" could make things deteriorate further. Jordan controlled east Jerusalem until Israel captured it in 1967 and it remains the custodian over Muslim holy sites.

Sunday's march comes at a time of heightened tensions. Israeli police have repeatedly confronted stone-throwing Palestinian demonstrators in the disputed compound in recent months, often firing rubber bullets and stun grenades.

At the same time, some 19 Israelis have been killed by Palestinian attackers in Israel and the occupied West Bank in recent weeks, while over 35 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli military operations in the occupied West Bank. Many of those killed were Palestinian militants, but several civilians were also among the dead, including Shireen Abu Akleh, a well-known correspondent for the Al Jazeera satellite channel.

Jerusalem police were criticized internationally for beating mourners at Abu Akleh's funeral two weeks ago.

Champions League chaos: Tear gas fired at Liverpool fans

By ROB HARRIS and STEVE DOUGLAS AP Sports Writers

PARIS (AP) — Riot police fired tear gas and pepper spray at Liverpool supporters forced to endure lengthy waits to get into the Champions League final amid logistical chaos and an attempt by UEFA and French authorities to blame overcrowding at turnstiles on people trying to access the stadium with fake tickets on Saturday.

The start of the showpiece game of the European football season, which Liverpool lost 1-0 to Real Madrid, was delayed for 37 minutes and kicked off as security was still struggling with the flow of frustrated supporters into the Stade de France.

UEFA claimed there were thousands of ticketless fans trying to gain access to the 80,000-plus capacity French national stadium but it did not identify where they were from.

French Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin claimed stewards for assaulted by Britons who forced entry without tickets or with counterfeit tickets. French Sports Minister Amélie Oudéa-Castéra also overlooked any shortcomings by authorities by claiming thousands of English fans "complicated the work of stewards and police forces" and tweeting: "Violence has no place in the stadiums."

Liverpool said it was "hugely disappointed" with the security issues experienced by its fans.

Angry Liverpool fans held in the lines were seen hanging onto railings and heard shouting: "Let us in. We've got tickets."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 44 of 77

There were many instances of fans breaking through security and attempting to get into the stadium. The Associated Press saw two fans — one was wearing Liverpool attire — wrestled to the ground by stewards and bundled out of the gates.

Three more fans were seen evading stewards and sprinting through the concourse and into the bottom level of the stadium. Other people, wearing no obvious club attire, climbed the fences instead as Liverpool fans shouted at them to get down.

The final kicked off despite fans still trying to get through ticket checks. Fresh rounds of tear gas were fired by riot police from inside the security perimeter at people outside the fences. Police and stewards were seen falling to the ground, impacted by the eye-irritating substances.

There was anger in the Liverpool squad after losing the final.

"Pretty much all of our families were affected, I think," Liverpool defender Andy Robertson said. "Obviously my tickets were through the club and somehow somebody told one of my mates that he's got a fake ticket which I can assure you definitely wasn't because it was obviously through me.

"So then obviously the French police decided to throw tear gas on fans and families. It's not been well-organized."

Merseyside Police, the force covering Liverpool, tweeted that the "behavior of the fans at the turnstiles was exemplary in shocking circumstances."

Supporter Colm Lacey saw "children crying, people trapped" outside the entrances.

"People started jumping the queue, then they ripped the gate open and then there was a push," Lacey said.

About 15 minutes before the scheduled kickoff of 9 p.m. local time, an announcement was made that there would be a delay, blaming the late arrival of fans to the stadium. It was greeted by jeers inside the stadium, given those fans had already endured long queues. The game eventually started at 9.37 p.m.

"We've been stood at this gate since 6:15," Liverpool fan Angela Murphy told the AP through a fence. "I've got really bad asthma and I've been tear gassed twice. I'm really struggling."

Asked what provoked the tear gassing, Murphy replied: "Nothing, we're stood here. There was nothing. It's just been horrendous. We have been well behaved."

Police officers with batons and riot shields ran from gate to gate to prevent pockets of fans forcing their way into the stadium without showing tickets. One policeman collapsed to the ground and had to be helped by other officers. Officers used tear gas on Liverpool fans on repeated occasions.

One Liverpool fan kissed his ticket and looked to the sky after finally getting through security.

Liverpool supporter Joe Moorcroft complained about being treated like animals.

"It's a disgrace. We've seen this before, it's a risk to health," he said. "We've seen this and it's going to happen all again. I feel it now. They threw tear gas in the fans."

UEFA said it was "sympathetic to those affected" and it announced an urgent review by French police and authorities along with the French Football Federation.

"In the lead-up to the game, the turnstiles at the Liverpool end became blocked by thousands of fans who purchased fake tickets which did not work in the turnstiles," UEFA said in a statement.

"This created a buildup of fans trying to get in. As a result, the kickoff was delayed by 35 minutes to allow as many fans as possible with genuine tickets to gain access. As numbers outside the stadium continued to build up after kickoff, the police dispersed them with tear gas and forced them away from the stadium."

Liverpool wants a formal investigation.

"We are hugely disappointed at the stadium entry issues and breakdown of the security perimeter that Liverpool fans faced," the club said in a statement. "This is the greatest match in European football and supporters should not have to experience the scenes we have witnessed tonight."

The scenes were reminiscent of the chaos outside Wembley Stadium before the European Championship final last year. That was largely due to England fans aggressively trying to get into their home stadium for the game that Italy won.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 45 of 77

UK to hold days-long bash to celebrate queen's 70-year reign

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain is getting ready for a party featuring mounted troops, solemn prayers — and a pack of dancing mechanical corgis.

The nation will celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years on the throne this week with four days of pomp and pageantry in central London. But behind the brass bands, street parties and a planned appearance by the aging queen on the balcony of Buckingham Palace lies a drive to show that the royal family still remains relevant after seven decades of change.

"The monarchy is not elected, so the only way in which a monarch can demonstrate consent is not through the ballot box, but through people turning out on the streets," said Robert Lacey, the historical adviser on "The Crown" series. "And if the monarch turns up on the balcony and waves and there's no one there, that's a pretty definitive judgment on the monarchy."

"Well, when it comes to Elizabeth, the opposite has been the case. People can't wait to mass and cheer together," he added.

And the royals, sometimes criticized as out of touch with modern Britain, want to show that their support comes from all parts of a society that has become more multicultural amid immigration from the Caribbean, South Asia and Eastern Europe.

As part of the jubilee pageant, dancers from London's African-Caribbean community will don costumes of giant flamingos, zebras and giraffes to re-imagine the moment in 1952 when Princess Elizabeth learned she had become queen while visiting a game park in Kenya. Another group will recall the queen's 1947 marriage to Prince Philip and celebrate weddings around the Commonwealth with Bollywood-style dancing.

The jubilee is an opportunity for the royals to demonstrate their commitment to change and diversity, something the queen has embodied as she traveled the world over the last 70 years, said Emily Nash, royal editor of HELLO! magazine.

"She's been everywhere and she has engaged with people from all walks of life, from all creeds and colors and faiths," Nash said. "I think it's easy to see, in the sort of pomp and pageantry, perhaps more of a lack of diversity. But if you look at what the royal family actually do, the people they engage with, the places they go to, I think it's perhaps a little unfair to say that it's not as diverse as it could be."

If the depleted stock at the Cool Britannia gift shop is any indication, the jubilee has caught public attention. The shop around the corner from Buckingham Palace has run out of Platinum Jubilee tea towels. Spoons are sparse. Mugs are in short supply.

And it's not just foreign tourists who are buying all things Elizabeth. Visitors from around the U.K. are also hunting for jubilee mementos, said Ismayil Ibrahim, the man behind the counter.

"It's a very special year," he said. "They're celebrating it as a big event."

The question for the House of Windsor is whether the public will transfer their love for the queen to her son and heir, Prince Charles, when the time comes.

It is a problem that stems, in part, from the queen's unprecedented reign, the longest in British history. The only monarch most people have ever known, she has become synonymous with the monarchy itself.

Since assuming the throne after the death of her father on Feb. 6, 1952, Elizabeth has been a symbol of stability as the country negotiated the end of Empire, the birth of the computer age and the mass migration that transformed Britain into a multicultural society.

The shy woman with a small handbag, a trailing corgi and passion for horses presided over an era that spawned Monty Python, the Beatles and the Sex Pistols. People who thought they knew her thought wrong — as evidenced by her star turn as a Bond Girl at the 2012 London Olympics.

Yet through it all, the queen has built a bond with the nation through a seemingly endless series of public appearances as she opened libraries, dedicated hospitals and bestowed honors on deserving citizens.

Susan Duddridge feels that connection. The administrator from Somerset will dance in the Platinum Jubilee pageant, 69 years after her father marched in the queen's coronation parade.

"I think it's amazing that the country always comes together when there's a wedding, a royal jubilee,

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 46 of 77

whatever the royals are involved in," she said. "We love the queen!"

The past two years have highlighted the monarchy's strengths as the queen alternately consoled a nation isolated by COVID-19 and thanked doctors and nurses battling the disease.

But its frailties were also on display as the 96-year-old monarch buried her husband and was slowed by health problems that forced her to turn over important public duties to Charles. That came amid the all-too-public tensions with Prince Harry and his wife, the Duchess of Sussex, who made allegations of racism and bullying in the royal household, and the sordid allegations about Prince Andrew's links to the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Against this backdrop, the jubilee is also part of the effort to prepare the public for the day when Charles takes the throne. Now 73, Charles has spent much of his life preparing to be king and battling a somewhat stuffy image that wasn't helped by his ugly divorce from the still-adored Princess Diana.

Charles reportedly may play a key role during the first event of the jubilee weekend, taking the salute of passing soldiers during the annual military review known as Trooping the Colour. The queen will attend the more than 400-year-old ceremony that marks her official birthday if she feels ok, but will decide on the day.

Elizabeth, who only recently recovered from COVID-19 and has begun using a walking stick, has given Charles an increasingly important role as the public face of the monarchy. Earlier this month, he stood in for his mother when what the palace describes as "episodic mobility problems" prevented her from presiding over the state opening of Parliament.

Still, in the days afterward, she turned up at a horse show, opened a subway line and toured the Chelsea Flower Show in a chauffeur-driven royal buggy — a sort of luxurious golf cart.

"There is no blueprint for a reign of this length and, subsequently, I think the palace and courtiers are having to improvise all the time," said Ed Owens, a royal historian and author of "The Family Firm: Monarchy, Mass Media and the British Public 1932-1953."

"In the case of Elizabeth II, we haven't had a monarch this elderly who has reigned for so long and is so meaningful to so many people having to essentially transfer her role to the next in line."

But don't expect the queen to leave the scene any time soon.

Robert Hardman, biographer and author of "Queen of Our Times: The Life of Elizabeth II" said he expects to see an even bigger party four years from now when Elizabeth turns 100.

"A 100th birthday raises the intriguing prospect: Will she send a card to herself?" Hardman mused, referencing the queen's tradition of sending a personal birthday card to anyone who reaches that milestone. "I'm looking forward to that debate in 2026."

Severe water shortages strain wheat harvest in Iraq

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Salah Chelab crushed a husk of wheat plucked from his sprawling farmland south of Baghdad and inspected its seeds in the palm of one hand. They were several grams lighter than he hoped.

"It's because of the water shortages," he said, the farm machine roaring behind him, cutting and gathering his year's wheat harvest.

Chelab had planted most of his 10 acres (4 hectares) of land, but he was only able to irrigate a quarter of it after the Agriculture Ministry introduced strict water quotas during the growing season, he said. The produce he was growing on the rest of it, he fears, "will die without water."

At a time when worldwide prices for wheat have soared due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Iraqi farmers say they are paying the price for a government decision to cut irrigation for agricultural areas by 50%.

The government took the step in the face of severe water shortages arising from high temperatures and drought — believed to be fueled by climate change — and ongoing water extraction by neighboring countries from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. All those factors have heavily strained wheat production.

Wrestling with the water shortage, Iraq's government has been unable to tackle other long-neglected issues.

Desertification has been blamed as a factor behind this year's relentless spate of sandstorms. At least 10

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 47 of 77

have hit the country in the past few months, covering cities with a thick blanket of orange dust, grounding flights and sending thousands to hospitals.

"We need water to solve the problem of desertification, but we also need water to secure our food supplies," said Essa Fayadh, a senior official at the Environment Ministry. "We don't have enough for both."

Iraq relies on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers for nearly all of its water needs. Both flow into Iraq from Turkey and Iran. Those countries have constructed dams that have either blocked or diverted water, creating major shortages in Iraq.

Water Resources Minister Mahdi Rasheed told The Associated Press that river levels were down 60% compared to last year.

For Chelab, less water has meant a smaller grain size and lower crop yields.

In 2021, Chelab produced 30,000 tons of wheat, the year before that 32,000, receipts from Trade Ministry silos show. This year, he expects no more than 10,000.

His crops are both rain-fed and irrigated via a channel from the Euphrates. Due to low precipitation levels, he has had to rely on the river water during the growing season, he said.

Government officials say change is necessary.

The current system has been inefficient and unsustainable for decades. Water scarcity is leaving them no choice but to push to modernize antiquated and wasteful farming techniques.

"We have a strategic plan to face drought considering the lack of rain, global warming, and the lack of irrigation coming from neighboring countries as we did not get our share of water entitlements," said Hamid al-Naif, spokesman at the Agriculture Ministry.

The ministry took measures to devise new types of drought-resistant wheat and introduce methods to increase crop yields.

"We are still dealing with irrigation systems of the 1950s. It has nothing to do with the farmers," he said. "The state must make it efficient, we must force the farmer to accept it."

Iraqi farmers have historically been heavily dependent on the state in the production of food, a reliance that policymakers and experts said drains government funds.

The Agriculture Ministry supports farmers by providing everything from harvesting tools, seeds, fertilizers and pesticides at a subsidized rate or for free. Water diverted from rivers for irrigation is given at no cost. The Trade Ministry then stores or buys produce from farmers and distributes it to markets.

Wheat is a key strategic crop, accounting for 70% of total cereal production in the country.

Planting starts in October and harvest typically begins in April and extends to June in some areas. Last year, the Agriculture Ministry slashed subsidies for fertilizers, seeds and pesticides, a move that has angered farmers.

Local demand for the staple is between 5-6 million tons a year. But local production is shrinking with each passing year. In 2021, Iraq produced 4.2 million tons of wheat, according to the Agriculture Ministry. In 2020, it was 6.2 million tons.

"Today we might get 2.5 million tons at best," said al-Naif. That would require Iraq to drive up imports.

Most of the wheat harvest is usually sold to the Trade Ministry. In a sign of the low harvest, so far there are currently only 373,000 tons of wheat available in Trade Ministry storehouses, al-Naif said.

To meet demands amid the recent global crisis in the grain market, the government recently changed a policy to allow all Iraqi farmers to sell their produce to the Trade Ministry silos. Previously, this was limited to farmers who operated within the government plan.

Back in Chelab's farm, the wheat is ready to be transported to the silo.

"It's true we need to develop ourselves," he said. "But the change should be gradual, not immediate."

Chinatowns more vibrant after pandemic, anti-Asian violence

By TERRY TANG Associated Press

The last week of April was a whirlwind for San Francisco's Chinatown.

The storied neighborhood debuted the "AAPI Community Heroes Mural," a mostly black and white

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 48 of 77

depiction of 12 mostly unsung Asian American and Pacific Islander figures on the wall of a bank. Three days later "Neon Was Never Brighter," the first ever Chinatown contemporary arts festival, took over the streets throughout the night. Traditional lion and dragon dances, a couture fashion show and other public "art activations" were featured in the block party-like event.

Cultural and arts organizations in Chinatowns across North America have worked for decades on bringing greater appreciation and visibility to these communities. But they faced an unprecedented one-two punch when the pandemic caused shutdowns and racist anti-Asian attacks increased — and continue. As painful as those events are, they also indelibly influenced the reemergence of various Chinatowns as close-knit hubs of vibrancy and culture.

Cynthia Choi, co-founder of the Stop AAPI Hate reporting center, is still "blown away" to be one of the heroes painted in the San Francisco mural. But being at the festival was equally touching for her.

"I got really emotional because it's been so long since I'd seen so many people come out to Chinatown, especially at night. I had heard so many of my friends or family saying, 'I don't want to go to Chinatown,'" she said. "I knew it was going to be fun and exciting, but I was really moved."

There has been renewed attention from cities, companies and younger Asian Americans from outside these historic Chinatowns. Wells Fargo partnered with the Chinatown Media & Arts Collaborative on the "heroes" mural. Everyone wanted to "really address anti-Asian hate and to uplift Asian American voices," said Jenny Leung, executive director of the Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco, which is part of the Collaborative. Youths voted on who to put on the mural.

"Frequently the way that Chinatown looks is imported as a tourist kind of attraction and fantasy for visitors to see," Leung said. "It's never really about celebrating the community's perspective and voice."

The idea for the "Neon" festival was briefly discussed pre-pandemic. But the events of the last two years lent urgency to it.

"We wanted to kind of push that deadline a little bit earlier in order to be able to address the 20, 30, 40, empty storefronts that are increasingly rising in the community," said Leung, who characterizes Chinatown as a "museum without walls."

Josh Chuck, a local filmmaker behind the documentary "Chinatown Rising," has noticed younger generations dining or participating in events in Chinatowns. A friend who works in tech began last year picking up orders for friends who wanted to support Chinatown restaurants. Soon he was making spreadsheets to track 400 deliveries.

"Honestly, there's no way I could have imagined something that would galvanize these people that I know. Even myself, like, I feel much more connected and committed," Chuck said. "It's a silver lining."

In New York, the first of five summer night markets start next month in the city's Chinatown. It will be the biggest event to date for Think!Chinatown. The 5-year-old nonprofit has done numerous projects like artists-in-residency programs and oral histories. But last year after a series of verbal and physical assaults against Asians, they partnered with Neighborhoods Now, a local pandemic relief initiative, on Chinatown Nights.

It was a small-scale gathering of less than 10 artist booths and food trucks in Forsyth Plaza park. Despite a "crazy" two-month prep window, there was a collective feeling of "we just need to be together," said Yin Kong, Think!Chinatown co-founder and director. And there was a "tectonic shift" with philanthropy focusing on equity.

"It reprioritized these other organizations that traditionally would have funded other things to focus on how to support communities of color in a different way," Kong said.

The expanded event next month will have 20 booths and sponsorships, and will be scheduled when most Chinatown restaurants are closed so owners can participate.

"The mechanisms that got us there would not have happened without the pandemic," said Kong, who feels Think!Chinatown is now seen as more "legit" with better funding, full-time staff and the possibility of an office space instead of her dining table.

In Vancouver's Chinatown, the pandemic only exacerbated ongoing issues of vandalism, graffiti and other crimes. But within the last year, the Canadian city managed to launch cultural projects planned before

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 49 of 77

COVID-19.

Last month, the Chinatown Mural Project showed off a series of pastoral murals painted by a local artist on six roller shutters of a tea shop. In November, the interactive Chinatown Storytelling Centre with relics and recorded oral histories opened.

"We would have done this anyway (regardless of the pandemic)," said Carol Lee, chair of the Vancouver Chinatown Foundation, which oversees the Centre. "But you know, in some ways, it makes you feel like you have more purpose because it's more necessary."

Jordan Eng, president of the Vancouver Chinatown Business Improvement Association, agreed that there's more collaboration and "a lot more youth interest than there was five, 10 years ago."

There are fewer than 50 Chinatowns across the U.S. with some more active than others.

Many Chinatowns took shape in the 19th century as Chinese laborers arrived to mine for gold out West or work on the railroad. They lived there because of blatant discrimination or self-preservation. Their housing was single-room-occupancy units, or SROs, with communal kitchens and bathrooms, said Harvey Dong, a lecturer in ethnic studies and Asian American studies at University of California, Berkeley. Many older Chinese Americans and immigrants in Chinatown reside in these units still.

Another constant in Chinatowns: development—from the sales of no longer affordable SROs in San Francisco to a light rail expansion in Seattle to a proposed new jail in New York City. Chinatowns elsewhere have shrunk to a block or disappeared altogether because of gentrification. It's a tricky juxtaposition for a city to tout Chinatowns to tourists yet offer few resources to its residents.

"So you have these huge festivals to bring in businesses. You have these parades and all this stuff. But definitely, it's important that the needs of the community, especially the working class and the poor, are addressed," Dong said.

Meanwhile, excited arts and culture advocates are moving forward to put their own stamp on Chinatown. Chinatown Media & Arts Collaborative in San Francisco is designing Edge on the Square, a \$26.5 million media and arts center set to open in 2025. In New York, Think!Chinatown plans to lease a space with a kitchen for art exhibitions and cooking classes. The hope is to keep engaging with Asian Americans inside and outside of Chinatown.

"What draws them to Chinatown is that cultural connection," Kong said. "It's something you can't really put your finger on. ... But it's really the soul of Chinatown. And we need to keep protecting it and make sure it can grow."

'Now I am a beggar': Fleeing the Russian advance in Ukraine

By ELENA BECATOROS Associated Press

POKROVSK, Ukraine (AP) — As Russian forces press their offensive to take the eastern Ukrainian cities of Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk, civilians who have managed to flee say intensified shelling over the past week left them unable to even venture out from basement bomb shelters.

Despite the attacks, some managed to make it to the town of Pokrovsk, 130 kilometers (80 miles) to the south, and boarded an evacuation train Saturday heading west, away from the fighting.

Fighting has raged around Lysychansk and neighboring Sievierodonetsk, the last major cities under Ukrainian control in the Luhansk region. Luhansk and the Donetsk region to its south make up the Donbas, Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland which is the focus of Russia's current offensive. Moscow-backed separatists have controlled parts of the Donbas for eight years and Russian forces are now trying to capture at least the whole Donbas.

Bouncing her 18-month-old son on her lap, Yana Skakova choked back tears as she described living in a basement under relentless bombing, and having to leave her husband behind when she fled with her baby and 4-year-old son.

Initially after the war broke out, there were quiet times when they could come out of the basement to cook in the street and let the children play outdoors. But about a week ago, the bombing intensified. For

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 50 of 77

the past five days, they hadn't been able to venture out of the basement at all.

"Now the situation is bad, it's scary to go out," she said.

It was the police who came to evacuate them Friday from the basement where 18 people, including nine children, had been living for the past two and a half months.

"We were sitting there, then the traffic police came and they said: 'You should evacuate as fast as possible, since it is dangerous to stay in Lysychansk now,'" Skakova said.

Despite the bombings and the lack of electricity, gas and water, nobody really wanted to go.

"None of us wanted to leave our native city," she said. "But for the sake of these small children, we decided to leave."

She broke down in tears as she described how her husband stayed behind to take care of their house and animals.

"Yehor is 1 1/2-years old, and now he's without a father," Skakova said.

Oksana, 74, who was too afraid to give her surname, said she was evacuated from Lysychansk on Friday by a team of foreign volunteers along with her 86-year-old husband. There were still other people left behind in the city, she said, including young children.

Sitting on the same evacuation train as Skakova, she broke down and cried. The tears came hard and fast as she described leaving her home for an uncertain future.

"I'm going somewhere, not knowing where," she wept. "Now I am a beggar without happiness. Now I have to ask for charity. It would be better to kill me."

She had worked for 36 years as an accountant, a civil servant, she said, and the thought of now having to rely on others was unbearable.

"God forbid anyone else suffers this. It's a tragedy. It's a horror," she cried. "Who knew I would end up in such a hell?"

Biden called again to mourn with a city stricken by grief

By ZEKE MILLER and ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

UVALDE, Texas (AP) — President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden are hoping to console a city stricken by grief and anger when they meet with families affected by the mass shooting at a Texas elementary school that killed 19 students and two teachers.

The visit to Uvalde on Sunday is Biden's second trip in as many weeks to comfort a community in mourning after staggering loss. On May 17, he was in Buffalo, New York, to meet with victims' families and condemn white supremacy after a shooter espousing the racist "replacement theory" killed 10 Black people at a supermarket.

The shootings in Texas and New York and their aftermath have put a spotlight on the nation's entrenched divisions and its inability to forge consensus on actions to reduce gun violence.

"Evil came to that elementary school classroom in Texas, to that grocery store in New York, to far too many places where innocents have died," Biden said Saturday in a commencement address at the University of Delaware. "We have to stand stronger. We must stand stronger. We cannot outlaw tragedy, I know, but we can make America safer."

Biden was to visit the makeshift memorial outside Robb Elementary School before attending Mass at a local Catholic church. He was also scheduled to meet with family members at a community center and then with first responders at the local airport before returning to Washington, the White House said. He was not expected to deliver formal remarks.

Mckinzie Hinojosa, whose cousin Elishana Torres was killed Tuesday, said she respected Biden's decision to mourn with the people of Uvalde.

"It's more than mourning," she said. "We want change. We want action. It continues to be something that happens over and over and over. A mass shooting happens. It's on the news. People cry. Then it's gone. Nobody cares. And then it happens again. And again."

"If there's anything if I could tell Joe Biden, as it is, just to respect our community while he's here, and

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 51 of 77

I'm sure he will," she added. "But we need change. We need to do something about it."

The Bidens' visit to Uvalde comes amid mounting scrutiny of the police response to the shooting. Officials revealed Friday that students and teachers repeatedly begged 911 operators for help even as a police commander told more than a dozen officers to wait in a hallway. Officials said the commander believed that the suspect was barricaded inside an adjoining classroom and that there was no longer an active attack.

The revelation prompted fresh anguish and questions about whether more lives were lost because officers did not act faster to stop the gunman, who was ultimately killed by Border Patrol tactical officers.

On Wednesday, before details about the delayed officer response were known, Biden had praised their efforts, saying, "brave local officers and Border Patrol agents intervened to save as many children as they could."

Authorities have said the shooter legally purchased two guns not long before the school attack: an AR-style rifle on May 17 and a second rifle on May 20. He had turned 18 just days earlier, permitting him to buy the weapons under federal law.

Speaking on Saturday, Biden said something had to change in response to the attack.

"I call on all Americans at this hour to join hands and make your voices heard, to work together to make this nation what it can and should be," Biden said. "I know we can do this. We've done it before."

Hours after the shooting, Biden delivered an impassioned plea for additional gun control legislation, asking: "When in God's name are we going to stand up to the gun lobby? Why are we willing to live with this carnage? Why do we keep letting this happen?"

With Jill Biden standing by his side in the Roosevelt Room, the president, who has suffered the loss of two of his own children — though not to gun violence — spoke in visceral terms about the grief of the loved ones of the victims and the pain that will endure for the students who survived.

"To lose a child is like having a piece of your soul ripped away," Biden said. "There's a hollowness in your chest. You feel like you're being sucked into it and never going to be able to get out."

Over the years, Biden has been intimately involved in the gun control movement's most notable successes, such as the 1994 assault weapons ban, and its most troubling disappointments, including the failure to pass new legislation after the 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

In the White House, Biden has tried to chip away at gun violence through executive orders. He faces few new options now, but executive action might be the best the president can do, given Washington's sharp divisions on gun control legislation. Lawmakers restarted long-stalled negotiations on expanding background check requirements and encouraging "red flag" laws meant to keep guns out of the hands of those with mental health issues, but the talks face an uphill battle on Capitol Hill.

Uvalde a mix of pride and anger as it grieves school attack

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

UVALDE, Texas (AP) — Days after a local man burst into an elementary school and killed 19 children and two teachers before officers managed to kill him, the signs of grief, solidarity and local pride are everywhere in Uvalde.

Many are wearing maroon, the color for Uvalde's school district. And light blue ribbons adorn the giant oaks that shade the city's central square, where mourners come to lay flowers around a fountain and write messages on wooden crosses that bear the victims' names. In front of a day care center on one of the city's main streets, 21 wooden chairs sit empty.

Everyone in the predominantly Latino city of roughly 16,000 people seems to know someone whose life has been turned upside down by losing a family member or close friend in the attack at Robb Elementary School, which was one of the deadliest of its kind.

Joe Ruiz, pastor of Templo Cristiano, said a teacher who is friends with his wife — herself a former Uvalde teacher — summed up the community's mood best by saying people have "cried out everything" they could and are now just tired and needing rest.

Police have come under heavy criticism for waiting more than 45 minutes to confront the 18-year-old

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 52 of 77

gunman, Salvador Ramos, inside the adjoining classrooms where he unleashed carnage.

As the investigation into the attack continues, including Ramos' reasons for carrying it out, some residents have expressed anger toward the police. Among them is 24-year-old carpenter Juan Carranza, who said he watched the attack unfold from across the street from the school. The next day, he called the officers cowards.

Steven McCraw, who heads the Texas Department of Public Safety, said Friday that the school district's police chief, Pete Arredondo, made the "wrong decision" to wait so long before sending officers into the locked classrooms. He said Arredondo, who was in charge of the law enforcement response during the siege, believed Ramos was barricaded inside the two adjoining classrooms and that children were no longer at risk. Arredondo, who graduated from Uvalde High School and was recently elected to the City Council, hasn't spoken publicly since McCraw criticized his decision-making, and his house now has a police guard.

Oasis Outback, where Ramos bought his guns, has stayed open and its barbecue restaurant did its usual brisk Friday night business. The gun shop at the back of its sporting goods section was temporarily closed out of respect to victims' families, according to a posted sign.

An Oasis employee who declined to give her full name said the store has been getting angry calls blaming it for the attack, but the callers' phone numbers were not from the area.

Support for gun rights is strong in Uvalde, which is roughly halfway between San Antonio and the border city of Del Rio. But some parents and relatives of victims are calling for change.

"I just don't know how people can sell that type of gun to a kid 18 years old. What is he going to use it for but for that purpose?" said Siria Arizmendi, a fifth grade teacher whose niece, Eliahna Garcia, was killed. She spoke in her dining room shortly before Eliahna's great-grandparents, also Uvalde residents, arrived.

Javier Carranza, a 43-year-old gun owner and Army veteran whose daughter, Jacklyn, was killed, said it was "kind of ridiculous" to sell such firepower to an 18-year-old and that better background checks are needed.

Uvalde sits amid flat fields of cabbages, onions, carrots, corn and peppers, but mechanized farming replaced many jobs. Construction material companies are among its most coveted employers.

The city is home to a Border Patrol station that operates a highway checkpoint and monitors freight trains in what has suddenly become one of the busiest corridors for illegal crossings. A massive camp of Haitian migrants that sprang up under a bridge in Del Rio last year made headlines around the world.

Many residents can trace their family's presence in Uvalde through three or four generations, creating a cherished sense of community. On one Friday night each month, stores stay open late and food vendors occupy the central square outside a neoclassical courthouse.

"Uvalde Strong" messages adorn store windows, T-shirts and lawn signs. Curbs and sidewalks are less common the farther one gets from the central square, with roosters walking on cracked pavement near Robb Elementary School.

Ruiz, the Templo Crisitano pastor whose children and grandchildren live in Uvalde, asks new parishioners about their ancestry to get to know them better.

Before Tuesday, occasional traffic deaths were the biggest tragedies to befall Uvalde.

"We've had individuals murdered, but not on a mass scale like this," said Tony Gruber, pastor at Baptist Temple Church.

Madrid wins Champions League final marred by crowd chaos

By STEVE DOUGLAS AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Yet another Champions League title for Real Madrid, the undisputed king of Europe.

Yet another showpiece European soccer game tarnished by chaotic crowd issues and disorder.

Madrid became European champion for a record-extending 14th time — double the number of any other team on the continent — after beating Liverpool 1-0 in a final that started 37 minutes late because of disturbing scenes outside the Stade de France on Saturday. It evoked memories of the violence that marred the European Championship final at Wembley Stadium 10 months ago.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 53 of 77

Brazil winger Vinícius Júnior was the match-winner, applying a close-range finish in the 59th minute from Federico Valverde's drive across the face of goal, while goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois took just as many plaudits by making breathtaking saves by Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah.

"Today nobody was going to get in my way," Courtois said. "I was going to win a Champions League no matter what."

It gave Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti a fourth European Cup title, the most ever for a manager in the competition's history, and completed the Champions League-La Liga double for a Spanish giant for whom winning titles is ingrained in its culture.

And this time, there was no need for the kind of stirring comeback that Madrid had to produce in getting past Paris Saint-Germain, defending champion Chelsea and Manchester City in the knockout stage. It might go down as the most grueling run to the title in the long history of the competition.

"We are the best," Madrid striker Karim Benzema said. "It was a very difficult competition for us and we deserved to win this final. With all the history this team has, we showed everyone that we are always here."

Liverpool's players finished a season that promised so much — a week ago, it was in contention for an unprecedented quadruple of major trophies — with just the two domestic cups in England to show for their efforts. They lost out on the Premier League title by one point last weekend and the Champions League to a Madrid team that had one shot on target in the final.

Playing its 64th game of the season, Liverpool just couldn't find a way past Courtois, who tipped Mane's first-half shot onto the post and produced an even better save to turn away Salah's effort in the 81st.

It's unfathomable that Liverpool, which owns one of the most devastating attacks in world soccer, has failed to score a single goal in its three cup finals this season. The Reds won the FA Cup and League Cup via penalty shootouts after 0-0 draws after extra time.

"In the dressing room, nobody feels it was a great season at the moment," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said.

Liverpool's players stayed on the field to watch Marcelo, Madrid's serial winner of trophies who didn't even play a minute of the final, given the honor of lifting the trophy to a backdrop of fireworks and tickertape.

Marcelo is one of a slew of Madrid players to capture a fifth Champions League title, just one off the record held by Francisco Gento, a Madrid great from the 1950s and '60s.

For many, especially Liverpool fans, pre-match crowd problems overshadowed this final, though, and are sure to be the focus of an investigation by UEFA and authorities in the coming days.

Riot police fired tear gas and pepper spray at Liverpool supporters forced to wait in long lines to get into the biggest club game of the European season, whose kickoff was delayed.

UEFA blamed the chaos on people trying to get into the stadium without legitimate tickets.

"In the lead-up to the game, the turnstiles at the Liverpool end became blocked by thousands of fans who purchased fake tickets which did not work in the turnstiles," UEFA said in a statement.

Some fans climbed fences surrounding the stadium to get in. Others barged their way past security and sprinted onto the concourse before getting wrestled to the ground.

Riot police with batons and riot shields ran from gate to gate to prevent pockets of fans forcing their way into the stadium.

"I've got really bad asthma and I've been tear gassed twice," Liverpool fan Angela Murphy told The Associated Press through a fence. "I'm really struggling."

About 15 minutes before the scheduled kickoff of 9 p.m. local time, an announcement was made that there would be a delay. It was greeted by jeers inside the stadium.

Liverpool said it was "hugely disappointed" with the security issues experienced by its fans which were reminiscent of last summer outside Wembley before the Euro 2020 final between England and Italy. That was largely due to England fans aggressively trying to get into their home stadium.

"I know families had real struggles to get into the stadium," Klopp said. "We will leave it for the investigation to figure out ... Obviously it was pretty tricky out there."

VP Harris tells Buffalo mourners: 'We will come together'

By SUSAN HAIGH and PATRICK SEMANSKY Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Mourners laid to rest the last of 10 Black people killed in a racist attack at a Buffalo supermarket with a service on Saturday that became a call to action and an emotional plea to end the hate and violence that has wracked the nation.

The funeral for 86-year-old Ruth Whitfield — the oldest of the 10 people killed in the attack two weeks ago — included an impromptu speech by Vice President Kamala Harris. She attended the service at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Buffalo with second gentleman Doug Emhoff.

Harris told the mourners this is a moment in time for "all good people" to stand up to the injustice that happened at the Tops Friendly Market on May 14, as well as at the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, and in other mass shootings.

"This is a moment that requires all good people, all God-loving people to stand up and say we will not stand for this. Enough is enough," said Harris, who wasn't scheduled to speak and came to the microphone at the urging of the Rev. Al Sharpton. "We will come together based on what we all know we have in common, and we will not let those people who are motivated by hate separate us or make us feel fear."

Following the funeral, Harris and Emhoff visited a memorial outside the supermarket. The vice president left a large bouquet of white flowers, and the pair paused to pray for several minutes. President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden had placed flowers at the same memorial on May 17 and had visited with the victims' families. Biden is expected to head to Texas for a visit this weekend with the families of victim's of Tuesday's school shooting.

Harris later told reporters that the administration is not "sitting around waiting to figure out what the solution looks like" to the nation's gun violence problem.

"We know what works on that," she said, reiterating support for background checks and a ban on assault weapons.

"Let's have an assault weapons ban," she said. "An assault weapon is a weapon of war with no place, no place in civil society. Background checks: Why should anyone be able to buy a weapon that can kill other human beings without at least knowing: Hey, that person committed a violent crime before, are they a threat against themselves or others?"

Harris said the nation has to come together, as well.

"We have to agree that if we are to be strong as a nation, we must stand strong, identifying our diversity as our unity," she said.

It's been a sad week of goodbyes for family and friends of the Buffalo shooting victims, a group that includes a restaurant worker who went to the market to buy his 3-year-old's birthday cake; a father and die-hard Buffalo Bills fan who worked as a school bus aide; and a 32-year-old sister who moved to the city to help a brother battling leukemia.

Whitfield, a grandmother and mother of four, had been inside the supermarket after visiting her husband of 68 years in a nursing home when a gunman identified by police as 18-year-old Payton Gendron began the deadly onslaught.

Authorities said Gendron, who is white, targeted the store three hours from his home in Conklin because it is in a predominantly Black neighborhood.

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump, who delivered a fiery tribute to Whitfield at the beginning of the funeral service, called for all "accomplices" who aided and abetted "this monster" who opened fire in the supermarket to be held accountable, from the gun manufacturers and distributors to the parents of the suspect.

Crump said those those who "instructed and radicalized this young, insecure individual" should also be held to account for taking Whitfield from her family, the Buffalo community and the planet. He called her "one of the most angelic figures that we have ever known."

"It is a sin that this young depraved man, not a boy, went and killed Ruth Whitfield and the 'Buffalo 10,'" Crump said, referring to the victims.

Sharpton described being floored to learn the shooter live-streamed his assault on Twitch, noting how his mother had grown up in Alabama, where hooded members of the Ku Klux Klan once killed Black people.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 55 of 77

Today, he said, white supremacists "are proud to practice racism."

Sharpton made a pitch for gun control measures during his eulogy, saying all communities need to come together and "disarm the haters."

"There is an epidemic of racial violence that is accommodated by gun laws that allow people to kill us," he said. "You ain't got to love us, but you shouldn't have easy access to military weapons to kill us."

In all, 13 people were shot in the attack which federal authorities are investigating as a hate crime. Three people survived.

Whitfield was the mother of former Buffalo Fire Commissioner Garnell Whitfield.

Gendron is charged with first-degree murder and is being held without bail. His attorney has entered a plea of not guilty on his behalf.

'Triangle of Sadness' wins Palme d'Or at Cannes Film Fest

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

CANNES, France (AP) — Swedish director Ruben Ostlund's class warfare comedy "Triangle of Sadness" won the Palme d'Or at the 75th Cannes Film Festival on Saturday, giving Ostlund one of cinema's most prestigious prizes for the second time.

Ostlund, whose art-world send-up "The Square" took the Palme in 2017, pulled off the rare feat of winning Cannes' top award for back-to-back films. "Triangle of Sadness," featuring Woody Harrelson as a Marxist yacht captain and a climactic scene with rampant vomiting, pushes the satire even further.

"We wanted after the screening (for people) to go out together and have something to talk about," said Ostlund. "All of us agree that the unique thing with cinema is that we're watching together. So we have to save something to talk about but we should also have fun and be entertained."

The awards were selected by a nine-member jury headed by French actor Vincent Lindon and presented Saturday in a closing ceremony inside Cannes' Grand Lumière Theater.

The jury's second prize, the Grand Prix, was shared between the Belgian director Lukas Dhont's tender boyhood drama "Close," about two 13-year-old boys whose bond is tragically separated after their intimacy is mocked by schoolmates; and French filmmaking legend Claire Denis' "Stars at Noon," a Denis Johnson adaptation starring Margaret Qualley as a journalist in Nicaragua.

The directing prize went to South Korean filmmaker Park Chan-wook ("Oldboy," "The Handmaiden") for his twisty noir "Decision to Leave," a romance fused with a police procedural.

Korean star Song Kang Ho was named best actor for his performance in Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda's film "Broker," about a Korean family seeking a home for an abandoned baby.

"I'd like to thank all those who appreciate Korean cinema," said Song, who also starred in Bong Joon Ho's Palme d'Or winning film "Parasite" in Cannes three years ago.

Best actress went to Zar Amir Ebrahimi for her performance as a journalist in Ali Abbasi's "Holy Spider," a true-crime thriller about a serial killer targeting sex workers in the Iranian religious city of Mashhad. Violent and graphic, "Holy Spider" wasn't permitted to shoot in Iran and instead was made in Jordan. Accepting the award, Ebrahimi said the film depicts "everything that's impossible to show in Iran."

The jury prize was split between the friendship tale "The Eight Mountains," by Charlotte Vandermeersch and Felix Van Groeningen, and Polish director Jerzy Skolimowski's "EO," about a donkey's journey across a pitiless modern Europe.

"I would like to thank my donkeys," said Skolimowski, who proceeded to thank all six donkeys used in the film by name.

The jury also awarded a special award for the 75th Cannes to Belgian directors Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, two-time Palme-winners and long a regular presence at the festival, for their immigrant drama "Tori and Lokita." Swedish-Egyptian filmmaker Tarik Saleh took best screenplay at Cannes for "Boy From Heaven," a thriller set in Cairo's Al-Azhar Mosque.

The award for best first film, the Camera d'Or, went to Riley Keough and Gina Gammell for "War Pony," a drama about the Pine Ridge Reservation made in collaboration with Oglala Lakota and Sicangu Lakota

citizens.

Saturday's closing ceremony brought to a close a Cannes that attempted to fully resuscitate the annual France extravaganza that was canceled in 2020 by the pandemic and saw modest crowds last year. This year's festival also unspooled against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine, which sparked red-carpet protests and a dialogue about the purpose of cinema in wartime.

Last year, the French body horror thriller "Titane" took the top prize at Cannes, making director Julia Ducournau only the second female filmmaker ever to win the Palme. In 2019, Bong Joon Ho's "Parasite" triumphed in Cannes before doing the same at the Academy Awards.

This year, the biggest Hollywood films at Cannes — "Elvis," "Top Gun: Maverick," "Three Thousand Years of Longing" — played outside Cannes' competition lineup of 21 films. But their presence helped restore some of Cannes' glamour after the pandemic scaled down the festival for the last two years.

Children among 31 killed at church fair stampede in Nigeria

By CHINEDU ASADU Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — A stampede Saturday at a church charity event in southern Nigeria left 31 people dead and seven injured, police told The Associated Press, a shocking development at a program that aimed to offer hope to the needy. One witness said the dead included a pregnant woman and many children.

The stampede at the event organized by the Kings Assembly Pentecostal church in Rivers state involved people who came to the church's annual "Shop for Free" charity program, according to Grace Iringe-Koko, a police spokeswoman.

Such events are common in Nigeria, Africa's largest economy, where more than 80 million people live in poverty, according to government statistics.

Saturday's charity program was supposed to begin at 9 a.m. but dozens arrived as early as 5 a.m. to secure their place in line, Iringe-Koko said. Somehow the locked gate was broken open, creating a stampede, she said.

Godwin Tepikor from Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency said first responders were able to evacuate the bodies of those trampled to death and bring them to the morgue. Security forces cordoned off the area.

Dozens of residents later thronged the scene, mourning the dead and offering any assistance they could to emergency workers. Doctors and emergency workers treated some of the injured as they lay in the open field. Videos from the scene showed the clothing, shoes and other items meant for the beneficiaries.

One witness who only identified himself as Daniel said "there were so many children" among the dead. Five of the dead children were from one mother, he told the AP, adding that a pregnant woman also lost her life.

Some church members were attacked and injured by relatives of the victims after the stampede, according to witness Christopher Eze. The church declined to comment on the situation.

The police spokeswoman said the seven injured were "responding to treatment."

The "Shop for Free" event was suspended while authorities investigated how the stampede occurred. Nigeria has seen similar stampedes in the past.

Twenty-four people died at an overcrowded church gathering in the southeastern state of Anambra in 2013, while at least 16 people were killed in 2014 when a crowd got out of control during a screening for government jobs in the nation's capital, Abuja.

Indy 500 waves green flag on sustainability with lofty goals

By MARK LONG AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Parked a few feet from the iconic pagoda at Indianapolis Motor Speedway is a reimagined E-Z-Go golf cart that's essentially filled with garbage. Plastic bottles tossed into recycling bins months ago are now neatly stacked in rows — and they're for sale.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 57 of 77

Going fast, too.

The electric cart houses hundreds of Indy 500 T-shirts made from waste. The clothes are as soft as anything on the shelves in the regular merchandise stores and cost roughly the same. And it's no coincidence they're getting prime retail space, essentially located at the front door to the famed racetrack.

They're the centerpiece of IndyCar's latest push to go green, dubbed "The Penske Initiative." The series is taking more and more steps – some bigger than others – toward holding carbon-neutral races by 2050. No, really.

What may have been considered a laughable endeavor just a few years ago now seems like a reasonable goal despite IndyCar's truckloads of fuel and tires, as well as countless pollutants like emissions, chemicals and petroleum products. And that doesn't include the waste that will come with hosting nearly 300,000 fans for the 106th running of the Indy 500 on Sunday.

"It's baby steps," longtime IMS President Doug Boles said. "It's like hundredths of a second for the cars. It doesn't seem like much, but when you add up four or five changes, then all of sudden you've got a tenth of a second. That's where we are. It's lots of little things that at the end of the day hopefully make a big impact."

That includes putting the traditional balloon release on pause because of environmental and wildlife impact concerns.

Here's a look at some of the more notable ventures Penske Entertainment has undertaken to help combat global warming and do its part to wave the green flag on sustainability:

RENEWABLE FUEL

IndyCar will become the first North American racing series to use 100% renewable fuel in its race cars.

Shell, the longtime fuel sponsor for the open-wheel series, announced plans Friday to switch to a low-carbon fuel beginning in 2023. The new fuel will be a blend of second-generation ethanol derived from sugarcane waste and other biofuel, and it will create a fuel that is 100% composed of feedstocks categorized as renewable under the applicable regulatory frameworks. The oil giant says the fuel will decrease greenhouse gas emissions by 60% compared with fossil-based gasoline.

"You've got to be part of the solutions, and the way there is through these really potent partners who bring technology," said Penske Entertainment President and CEO Mark Miles. "Carbon reductions come from great technology and innovators. We have both."

RENEWABLE TIRES

Firestone has been working on a renewable tire since 2012 and is nearing the finish line to getting it on track.

The tire manufacturer created a research center in Mesa, Arizona, a decade ago and hired hundreds of biologists, chemists and botanists to help develop the guayule shrub. The guayule produces natural rubber and appears to be the future of racing tires.

Roughly 90% of the world's rubber comes from *Hevea brasiliensis* in Southeast Asia. Harvesting those trees and getting the rubber back to North America is expensive and creates a heavy carbon footprint. It's also subject to geopolitical instability.

The guayule is a cheaper, more sustainable alternative that renews itself in about three years and needs about 50% less water than other crops.

Guayule tires, distinguished by green-painted sidewalls, made their IndyCar debut during the Pit Stop Challenge on Friday. They will get a more significant test at the Music City Grand Prix in Nashville, Tennessee in August, when IndyCar will use tires made partially of guayule rubber.

"You don't want to go straight to the Indianapolis 500," said Cara Krstolic, director of race tire engineering for Bridgestone Americas Motorsports. "You want to get there in stages. One of the fun things about racing is every once and a while you get to showcase something that ends up in the car you and I will drive."

ELECTRIC TRUCKS

Penske Truck Leasing used two fully electric tractor-trailers to haul all the race tires used in May from Firestone's distribution center. IndyCar installed a high-speed charging station at IMS that can get a truck close to fully charged in about three hours. The trucks made six trips to relocate 12 trailers filled with tires.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 58 of 77

The expansion of electric tractor-trailers and the installation of more charging stations could be the next carbon-saving steps for a series that crosses the country regularly.

COMPOSTING/DONATING

IMS installed a pilot program in May for collecting food waste and sending it to an off-site composting facility. Prepped and unused food, which in previous years would have gone in trash bins, is now being stored in a refrigerated trailer to be taken daily to food banks.

MOBILE MERCHANDISE

The electric golf cart filled with clothes made from recycling, though, has gotten the most attention at Indy this week. The cart has remained in one spot for the last two weeks, but officials plan to make it a rolling marketplace moving forward. It has a 50-mile range and comes equipped with an electric generator than runs LED lights and a point-of-sale device.

Each shirt is made partially from 6½ plastic bottles and uses water-based inks. There are five designs ranging in price between \$32 and \$35.

"When people get up there and feel the shirt, they can't believe this is made out of plastic bottles," said Raeann Suggs, senior buyer of merchandise for IMS and IndyCar. "I would have been like, 'I'm not buying a shirt made out of plastic bottles. That's going to be garbage!' But it literally is garbage that feels amazing."

Police inaction moves to center of Uvalde shooting probe

By STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

The actions — or more notably, the inaction — of a school district police chief and other law enforcement officers have become the center of the investigation into this week's shocking school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

The delay in confronting the shooter — who was inside the school for more than an hour — could lead to discipline, lawsuits and even criminal charges against police.

The attack that left 19 children and two teachers dead in a fourth grade classroom was the nation's deadliest school shooting in nearly a decade, and for three days police offered a confusing and sometimes contradictory timeline that drew public anger and frustration.

By Friday, authorities acknowledged that students and teachers repeatedly begged 911 operators for help while the police chief told more than a dozen officers to wait in a hallway at Robb Elementary School. Officials said he believed the suspect was barricaded inside adjoining classrooms and that there was no longer an active attack.

The chief's decision — and the officers' apparent willingness to follow his directives against established active-shooter protocols — prompted questions about whether more lives were lost because officers did not act faster to stop the gunman, and who should be held responsible.

"In these cases, I think the court of public opinion is far worse than any court of law or police department administrative trial," said Joe Giacalone, a retired New York police sergeant. "This has been handled so terribly on so many levels, there will be a sacrificial lamb here or there."

As the gunman fired at students, law enforcement officers from other agencies urged the school police chief to let them move in because children were in danger, two law enforcement officials said.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they had not been authorized to talk publicly about the investigation.

One of the officials said audio recordings from the scene capture officers from other agencies telling the school police chief that the shooter was still active and that the priority was to stop him. But it wasn't clear why the school chief ignored their warnings.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, who at a news conference earlier in the week lauded the police for saving lives, said he had been misled about the initial response and promised there would be investigations into "exactly who knew what, when, who was in charge" and what they did.

"The bottom line would be: Why did they not choose the strategy that would have been best to get in there and to eliminate the killer and to rescue the children?" Abbott said.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 59 of 77

Criminal charges are rarely pursued against law enforcement in school shootings. A notable exception was the former school resource officer accused of hiding during the 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, that left 17 people dead. New York City defense attorney Paul Martin and Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum in Washington, both said Saturday that they did not know of any other officers who have been criminally charged for failing to act in a mass shooting.

Martin, who has represented police officers charged with murder, assault and other crimes, said he thinks what happened in Uvalde differs from Parkland because the officers who waited to confront the assailant were following orders. Martin said he doesn't think they can be charged based on decisions from their command.

As for the school district police chief who decided to wait, Martin said it would be a "very high bar" to charge him criminally because police officers are given latitude to make tactical decisions.

"The families can sue the police department for failing to act. ... They can clearly be found civilly liable," he said. "I think it's very doubtful that they could be criminally charged."

In terms of civil liability, the legal doctrine called "qualified immunity," which shields police officers from lawsuits unless their actions violate clearly established laws, could also be at play in future litigation. Potential administrative punishments — meted out by the department itself — could range from a suspension or docked pay to forced resignation or retirement, or outright termination.

The families of most of those killed or wounded in Parkland reached a \$127.5 million settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice over the FBI's failure to stop the gunman, even though it had received information he intended to attack. Former Broward County Deputy Scot Peterson is scheduled to go to trial in September on charges of child neglect resulting in great bodily harm, culpable negligence and perjury. He has said he did the best he could at the time.

A federal judge threw out all but one of the lawsuits against the school district and sheriff's office after the massacre at Columbine High School in 1999, ruling that the gunmen were responsible. The daughter of a teacher who bled to death reached a \$1.5 million settlement in her lawsuit against the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in 2002. Police were heavily criticized at the time for not going into the school sooner.

"What Columbine taught us is, when you have an active shooter situation, waiting for additional resources will result in people losing their lives," Wexler said. "Here we are, 20 years post-Columbine and that's the same issue that continues to challenge law enforcement."

He said every department should clearly spell out in their policies that a gunman must be immediately confronted in these situations.

The Uvalde School District police chief, Pete Arredondo, decided that the group of officers should wait to confront the assailant, on the belief that the active attack was over, according to Steven McCraw, the head of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

The crisis ended shortly after officers used keys from a janitor to open the classroom door, entered the room and shot and killed Ramos.

Arredondo could not be reached for comment Friday, and Uvalde officers were stationed outside his home, but they would not say why.

Maria Haberfeld, a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, said the police department's policies, procedures and training will be scrutinized to see whether the officers on the ground in Uvalde followed them.

If they did, and criminal charges are still brought, she said it would send a chilling message to police nationwide. "If you follow your procedures, you're still brought up on charges. So what's the point of having procedures?" she said.

But Jorge Colina, a former Miami police chief, wants to know more about what was going through the minds of the officers inside the school as the chief told them to wait in the hall.

"Did someone challenge the decision there?" he said. "Did someone raise an objection at least?"

Deaths of 3 women in early heat wave raise questions, fears

By DON BABWIN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Temperatures barely climbed into the 90s and only for a couple of days. But the discovery of the bodies of three women inside a Chicago senior housing facility this month left the city looking for answers to questions that were supposed to be addressed after a longer and hotter heat wave killed more than 700 people nearly three decades ago.

Now, the city — and the country — is facing the reality that because of climate change, deadly heat waves can strike just about anywhere, don't only fall in the height of summer and need not last long.

"Hotter and more dangerous heat waves are coming earlier, in May ... and the other thing is we are getting older and more people are living alone," said Eric Klinenberg, a New York University sociologist, who wrote "Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago." about the 1995 heat wave. "It's a formula for disaster."

The Cook County Medical Examiner's office has yet to determine the causes of death for the three women whose bodies were found in the James Sneider Apartments on May 14. But the victims' families have already filed or plan to file wrongful death lawsuits against the companies that own and manage the buildings.

The City Council member whose ward includes the neighborhood where the building is located said she experienced stifling temperatures in the complex when she visited, including in one unit where heat sensors hit 102 degrees.

"These are senior residents, residents with health conditions (and) they should not be in these conditions," Alderman Maria Hadden said in a Facebook video shot outside the apartments.

Part of the problem, experts say, is that communities nationwide are still learning how deadly heat can be. It took the sight of refrigerated trucks being filled with dead bodies after Chicago's 1995 heat wave to drive home the message that the city was woefully unprepared for a silent and invisible disaster that took more than twice as many lives as the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

That realization led to a system in which city workers call the elderly and frail and turn city buildings into 24-hour cooling centers when temperatures become oppressive.

What happened this month is a reminder that the safeguards in place to make sure people don't freeze to death because they have not paid their heating bills often do not exist to prevent people from overheating in their homes.

"We have nothing for air conditioning," Hadden said.

One expert isn't surprised.

"We recognize people need heating in cold weather and set up programs, financial assistance, to enable that but we don't do that for cooling," said Gregory Wellenius, a Boston University professor of environmental health who has studied heat-related deaths. "But subsidies for cooling are really controversial (because) for many people cooling is seen as a luxury item."

In Chicago, Hadden said the building's management company believed it was not allowed to turn off the heat and turn on the air conditioning until June 1, because of the city's heat ordinance. But while she said the ordinance has no such requirement, the explanation may at least be a signal that the ordinance should be amended to better protect vulnerable people from heat.

Wellenius said statistics show that while well over 80% of homes in cities such as Dallas and Phoenix have air conditioning, the percentage is far lower in cities like Boston and New York.

And in the Pacific Northwest, the percentage is even lower, something that came into stark relief in Oregon, Washington and western Canada last June, when temperatures climbed as high as 118 degrees Fahrenheit, killing 600 people or more.

There is encouraging news.

"More people have air conditioning and we are more aware of the health risks of heat waves," Klinenberg said.

Still, there is evidence that people don't appreciate or even know just how dangerous the heat can be.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 61 of 77

In a study published in 2020, Wellenius and other researchers estimated that nationwide about 5,600 deaths a year could be attributed to high heat — eight times more than the 700 heat-related deaths that the study found were officially reported each year.

Wellenius said the reasons for what he called a “gross miscalculation” begin with the fact that official statistics only count death certificates that list heat as the sole cause of death. In some cases, heat is not listed as a cause even though it may have led to death in people with other conditions.

He said the same thing happened in the earliest days of the coronavirus pandemic when people who died in nursing homes in Europe “were not tested for COVID so they were not counted as COVID deaths.”

In Cook County, which includes Chicago, the medical examiner’s office reported two heat-related deaths last year, and seven the year before.

Just how many deaths in the U.S. are heat related today is unclear. Wellenius’ study, published in 2020, is the result of research from 1997 to 2006. And Klinenberg said the issue has been complicated by the pandemic because the people at greatest risk of being killed by COVID-19 are also at the greatest risk of being killed by extreme heat.

“It’s hard to distinguish excess heat deaths from COVID deaths,” he said.

Still, Hadden knows something must be done to deal with heat that can hit earlier and later in the year than it once did.

“We have to plan for this,” she said.

Klinenberg wonders if cities will follow up on such talk.

“Heat never feels like the most important thing in cities and by the time it feels like the most important thing it is too late to do anything about it,” he said.

Russia test-fires its latest hypersonic Zircon missile

MOSCOW (AP) — The Russian navy on Saturday conducted another test of a prospective hypersonic missile, a demonstration of the military’s long-range strike capability amid the fighting in Ukraine.

The Defense Ministry said the Admiral Gorshkov frigate of the Northern Fleet in the White Sea launched the Zircon cruise missile in the Barents Sea, successfully hitting a practice target in the White Sea about 1,000 kilometers (540 nautical miles) away.

The launch was the latest in a series of tests of Zircon, which is set to enter service later this year.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that Zircon is capable of flying at nine times the speed of sound and has a range of 1,000 kilometers (620 miles). Putin has emphasized that its deployment will significantly boost the capability of Russia’s military.

Zircon is intended to arm Russian cruisers, frigates and submarines and could be used against both enemy ships and ground targets. It is one of several hypersonic missiles under development in Russia.

Russian officials have boasted about Zircon’s capability, saying that it’s impossible to intercept with existing anti-missile systems.

Putin, who has sternly warned Western allies against interfering in Ukraine, has warned in the past that Russian warships armed with Zircon would give Russia a capability to strike “decision-making centers” within minutes if deployed in neutral waters.

FBI records on search for fabled gold raise more questions

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM Associated Press

A scientific analysis commissioned by the FBI shortly before agents went digging for buried treasure suggested that a huge quantity of gold could be below the surface, according to newly released government documents and photos that deepen the mystery of the 2018 excavation in remote western Pennsylvania.

The report, by a geophysicist who performed microgravity testing at the site, hinted at an underground object with a mass of up to 9 tons and a density consistent with gold. The FBI used the consultant’s work to obtain a warrant to seize the gold — if there was any to be found.

The government has long claimed its dig was a bust. But a father-son pair of treasure hunters who

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 62 of 77

spent years hunting for the fabled Civil War-era gold — and who led agents to the woodland site, hoping for a finder's fee — suspect the FBI double-crossed them and made off with a cache that could be worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

The newly revealed geophysical survey was part of a court-ordered release of government records on the FBI's treasure hunt at Dent's Run, about 135 miles (220 kilometers) northeast of Pittsburgh, where legend says an 1863 shipment of Union gold was either lost or stolen on its way to the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia.

Dennis and Kem Parada, who co-own the treasure-hunting outfit Finders Keepers, successfully sued the Justice Department for the records after being stonewalled by the FBI. Finders Keepers provided the FBI records to The Associated Press. The FBI subsequently posted them on its website.

The technical survey data collected by geophysical consulting firm Enviroscan gave credence to the treasure hunters' own extensive fieldwork at the site — and prompted the FBI to excavate in a massive, secretive operation that lasted for several frigid days in late winter of 2018.

John Louie, a geophysics professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, unconnected to the dig, reviewed Enviroscan's report at the request of the AP and said the firm's "methods were very good," and "their conclusions represent a physically reasonable hypothesis" that gold was buried at the site.

But he cautioned the subsurface gravity anomaly that Enviroscan identified did not definitively establish the presence of gold. There are other technical reasons why Enviroscan's data could have turned out the way it did, Louie said.

"Thus, it is also entirely reasonable that the FBI did not find anything at the site, because there was not really any gold there," he said via email.

Enviroscan co-founder Tim Bechtel declined to comment about his work at Dent's Run, saying the FBI has not given him permission to talk. The FBI would not discuss Bechtel this week but said that after the dig, agents "did not take any subsequent steps to reconcile the geophysical-survey findings with the absence of gold or any other metal."

Other documents in the just-released FBI case file raise still more questions.

A one-paragraph FBI report, dated March 13, 2019 — exactly one year after the dig — asserted agents found nothing at Dent's Run. No "metals, items, and/or other relevant materials were found," the report said. "Due to other priority work ... the FBI will close the captioned case."

Anne Weismann, a lawyer for Finders Keepers, cast doubt on the FBI report's credibility. She cited its brevity, as well as its timing — it was written after Finders Keepers began pressing the government for records.

"It does not read like one would expect," said Weismann, a former Justice Department lawyer. "If that is the official record in the file of what they did and why they did it, it says almost nothing, and it's crazy."

She added that if the government does not produce a fuller, more contemporaneous accounting of its search for the gold, it "will heighten my view that this is not an accurate record and this was created as a cover-up. And I don't say that lightly."

In response, the FBI said the single-page document "is representative of the standard summaries filed when formally closing an FBI investigation."

The agency has consistently denied it found anything.

Agents acted on information that Dent's Run "may have been a cultural heritage site containing gold belonging to the United States government," the FBI said in a statement, but "that possibility was not borne out by the excavation. The FBI continues to unequivocally reject any claims or speculation to the contrary."

The trove of documents turned over to Finders Keepers also included nearly 1,000 photos, in grainy black-and-white, that show some — but certainly not all — of what the FBI was doing at the dig site, according to the treasure hunters.

Residents have previously told of hearing a backhoe and jackhammer overnight between the first and second days of the dig — when the work was supposed to have been paused — and seeing a convoy of FBI vehicles, including large armored trucks.

The FBI denied any work took place at the site after hours, saying the "only nighttime activity was ATV patrols by FBI Police personnel, who secured the site around the clock for the duration of the excavation."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 63 of 77

Parada suspects the FBI retrieved the gold in the middle of the night and then showed the treasure hunters an empty hole on the afternoon of the second day.

"It's very curious why the FBI is going to such an extent to misdirect and be so obstructionist on this," said Warren Getler, who has worked closely with the treasure hunters. "They worked that night under cover of darkness to evade, escape our knowledge of something we're supposed to be partners in."

Many of the FBI photos are seemingly irrelevant, including the hundreds of images of random trees and a woodland road leading to the dig site, while others simply don't add up or raise additional questions, assert Parada and Getler, author of "Rebel Gold," a book exploring the possibility of buried Civil War-era caches of gold and silver.

FBI agents are shown standing around the hole in photos that appear earlier in the series, but they are absent from nearly all of the later images at the dig site.

Getler and Parada say the lead FBI agent told them the hole was filled with water the morning of the second day, but the low-quality images released by the government show only a small puddle or perhaps a bit of snow. They said that same agent spent most of the second day at base camp — where Getler and the treasure hunters say they were largely confined to their car — and not at the dig site.

The FBI said it's standard for photos to "document site conditions before, during, and after FBI operations," Parada claims it all points to a clandestine overnight dig and a second-day excavation that was just for show.

"I think we were expecting a couple hundred photos of the night dig, and I think we were expecting pictures of metal coins or bars," Parada said. "I think there were pictures, but they disappeared."

The FBI records also show that several weeks before the excavation, an agent with the agency's art crime team approached Wells Fargo to ask whether it shipped gold by stagecoach for the U.S. Mint in 1863.

Wells Fargo historians turned up no evidence of it but said records from the era are incomplete. Wells Fargo did ship gold by stagecoach, a corporate archivist wrote in an email to the FBI, but large quantities of the precious metal, as well as gold that had to be carried long distances, were "better transported by ship or train."

Getler said the gold might have been transported by wagon, not stagecoach.

Additional FBI releases are expected over the coming months.

Judge gives initial OK to \$1B deal in Florida condo collapse

By CURT ANDERSON Associated Press

A Florida judge on Saturday gave initial approval to a settlement of more than \$1 billion to families who lost loved ones in the collapse last year of a Florida beachfront condominium building in which 98 people died.

The quick settlement of the unprecedented collapse of the 12-story Champlain Towers South building in the early morning hours of June 24, 2021, means that potentially years of court battles will be avoided.

Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Michael Hanzman, who is overseeing the lawsuits filed after the collapse, said during a hearing held remotely it was the best possible outcome given the loss of life and property in the disaster.

"It is a great result," Hanzman said before giving preliminary approval to the agreement, which was announced Friday. "This was a very contested deal."

Rachel Furst, co-chair of the attorney group representing victim families, said the agreement also means defendants — insurance companies, developers, the city of Surfside and others — will have "complete peace" that they won't be sued again. Still, some people may decide to opt out of the deal and pursue their own independent claims.

"This was heavily negotiated," Furst said. "We believe this is an outstanding settlement."

Under the agreement, people involved in the settlement directly will have until June 16 to file a notice they intend to opt out. A week later on June 23, Judge Hanzman will have a fairness hearing to allow anyone objecting to the settlement to be heard.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 64 of 77

Attorney Michael Goldberg, the court-appointed receiver handling in the case for the judge, said notice will go out to all the family members of those who died, will be posted on the Champlain Towers South website and also will be put into the Miami Herald.

"We will begin immediately," Goldberg said.

The total for the families who lost loved ones in the collapse is about \$1.02 billion. Separately, people whose condos were destroyed and lost property such as furnishings and mementos will share about \$96 million.

Families of victims will have to file claims, as the money will not be split evenly. The goal is to begin distributing money by September.

The money comes from several sources, including insurance companies, engineering companies and a luxury condominium that had recently been built next door. None of the parties are admitting wrongdoing. A billionaire developer from Dubai is set to purchase the 1.8-acre (1-hectare) beachside site for \$120 million, contributing to the settlement.

Only three survivors were found despite around-the-clock efforts by rescuers who dug through a 40-foot (12-meter) high pile of rubble for two weeks. Another three dozen people were able to escape from the portion of the building that remained standing. All 135 units were ultimately demolished, leaving a gaping hole along Surfside's beachfront.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology is investigating the cause of the collapse, a process expected to take years. Champlain South had a long history of maintenance problems and questions have been raised about the quality of its original construction and inspections in the early 1980s.

Sri Lanka police tear gas protesters opposed to president

By ERANGA JAYAWARDENA Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Police in Sri Lanka used tear gas and a water cannons Saturday to disperse demonstrators trying to approach the president's office to demand he resign over the country's ongoing economic crisis.

The demonstrators were rallying to mark the 50th day of protests in which they have camped outside President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's office. Police broke up the rally and briefly detained three people before releasing them.

Sri Lanka is nearly bankrupt, having defaulted on its foreign loans, and is battling acute shortages of essential goods like cooking gas, fuel and medicines. People have been forced to wait for hours in long lines to try to buy goods and many still go empty handed.

The country's foreign currency reserves have also dwindled to only enough to purchase two weeks of needed imports.

Authorities announced last month that they are suspending repayment of nearly \$7 billion foreign debt to be repaid this year. Sri Lanka has to pay up \$25 billion through 2026. Total foreign debt of the Indian Ocean island nation is \$51 billion.

The protesters say the primary responsibility for the economic crisis rests with Rajapaksa and his family, who they accuse of corruption and mismanagement.

Violence erupted countrywide on May 9, when Rajapaksa supporters attacked peaceful protesters. Nine people including a governing party lawmaker were killed and homes of sitting ministers were burnt down. It nearly dismantled the Rajapaksa dynasty after the president's brother, then Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, resigned amid the violence.

Three of president's siblings and a nephew had already resigned from their Cabinet posts.

New Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has said that he will have a economic reform plan ready within two weeks to seek approval from the International Monetary Fund for a bailout package.

As US mourns shootings, NRA in turmoil but influence remains

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST, BRIAN SLODYSKO and JUAN LOZANO Associated Press

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 65 of 77

HOUSTON (AP) — For a brief moment in 2012, it seemed like a national stalemate over guns was breaking. Adam Lanza, a 20-year-old gunman, had forced his way into a Connecticut elementary school and massacred 26 people, mostly children, with an AR-15-style rifle. Flags flew at half-staff. A sporting goods chain suspended sales of similar weapons. And longtime gun-rights supporters from both parties in Congress said they were willing to consider new legislation. The issue was complex, then-President Barack Obama said, but everyone was obligated to try.

Then, one week after the bloodshed at Sandy Hook elementary, the most powerful gun lobby in the U.S. made its public position known and the effort unraveled.

"The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun," National Rifle Association CEO Wayne LaPierre said in a defiant speech that blamed video games, cowardly lawmakers, the media and a perverted society for the carnage, while calling for armed guards at schools across the U.S.

Nearly a decade later, the nation is at another crossroads. A gunman killed at least 19 children with a similar weapon at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, on Tuesday in the nation's second mass killing this month. This time, however, LaPierre didn't need to address the bloodshed — the organization's Republican allies in Congress did.

"The problem starts with people. Not with guns." Alabama Sen. Tommy Tuberville, who holds an A-rating and an endorsement from the NRA, told reporters Wednesday, bluntly summing up the position of many in the GOP, especially considering the party's recent turn further right. "I'm very sorry it happened. But guns are not the problem, OK. People are the problem. That's where it starts. And we've had guns forever, and we're gonna continue to have guns."

Much has changed since Sandy Hook. The NRA is on the ropes after a series of costly financial scandals and lawsuits. And an ascendant gun control movement has poured tens of millions of dollars into political campaigns to counter their message. The group Moms Demand Action, for example, was founded the day after the Sandy Hook shooting.

"How many more children have to die?" founder Shannon Watts said this week. "How many parents, teachers, shoppers and worshippers, and lives must be taken for our leaders to do something? Any senator who sides with the gun lobby, who blocks life-saving change, is choosing carnage and gun industry profits over the precious lives of our children."

But even as mass shootings continue unabated, in Washington one thing remains the same: Republicans and Democrats both agree there is little chance that legislation tightening gun laws will be passed by a narrowly divided Congress. The gridlock, which remains even as public opinion supports some tighter gun laws, offers testament to the enduring influence of gun rights groups, which have spent \$171 million lobbying the federal government since 1989.

"I want to be more optimistic. But I don't think it will change," said Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del.

The NRA isn't the same powerhouse it once was, and in its wake other, further right gun groups have gained, like the Gun Owners of America, which bills itself as the "no compromise" gun lobby. There are multiple gun rights alliances operating at state levels wielding enormous influence in legislatures as well. But in 40 years of working to loosen gun laws, the NRA has largely set the cultural tone on the right and is still the most prominent.

"You don't need the NRA, really, to take the lead anymore because opposition to gun laws is so much now a litmus test of conservatism and the Republican Party that it has its own momentum," said Robert Spitzer, a political science professor at the State University of New York at Cortland and the author of five books on gun policy.

"As we've seen it stumble in recent years, it's not that gun culture has overall become weakened," adds David Yamane, a sociology professor at Wake Forest University who studies American gun culture. "There's other membership organizations that have arisen or grown to fill some of the gap that the NRA used to serve."

The NRA has built a well of goodwill by disbursing more than \$70 million to further the political ambitions of Republicans who currently serve in Congress, often by running ads attacking Democrats, according to an analysis of data from the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics, which tracks political spending.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 66 of 77

They've spent a comparatively small \$171,000 helping pro-gun Democrats who are currently in the House or Senate, the analysis shows.

The NRA's gold-standard endorsements are also sought after by Republican candidates, particularly in primary elections, where they serve as a cultural shorthand for what it means to be a conservative. Receiving a poor letter grade from the organization can be a major source of concern.

Still, as the NRA gathered this past week in Houston for its first convention since 2019, current and former board members say the secretive organization must confront a growing crisis.

The New York Attorney General's office filed a lawsuit seeking to dissolve the organization. Court proceedings have revealed how LaPierre and others diverted tens of millions of dollars for lavish personal trips and no-show contracts for associates, among other questionable expenditures.

That led the organization to file for bankruptcy in 2021. But a judge dismissed the case, which was brought by LaPierre without the consent of the NRA board, ruling it was not filed in good faith.

The financial difficulties have led to mass layoffs, a reduction in programs and a sharp drop in political spending, which had reached an apex in 2016 when the organization spent \$54 million, most of it helping Donald Trump win the White House.

NRA contributions have dropped sharply in the past two years, according to campaign finance data compiled by the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics, which tracks money in politics.

"The NRA is becoming really a shell of its former self," said former NRA board member Rocky Marshall. "It cannot carry out the mission of the NRA because all the money is being spent on attorneys."

Marshall is backing a push to replace LaPierre with Allen West, the former chairman of the Texas GOP party. Marshall is also hoping to pull back from the culture wars and find common ground with gun-safety advocates. "Instead of being antagonistic or defensive, we need to have a dialogue because we can do a lot more to prevent gun violence like this."

One area where the NRA remains formidable is its lobbying of the federal government. In 2021, the organization nearly tied its past records set in 2017 and 2018, spending over \$4.8 million, records show. Firearms themselves are part of the culture as well. Gun purchases grew enormously during the pandemic, and a 2021 National Firearms Survey found that 81 million Americans are gun owners. While the NRA only claims a fraction of that, about 5 million, as members, they tend to be vocal.

NRA spokesman Andrew Arulanandam said that declarations of the group's demise are "wishful thinking on the part of our detractors."

"The reality is significantly different and the results speak for themselves," he said.

Still, an NRA brand that some view as toxic has presented an opportunity for other gun-rights groups, including some that strike a more measured tone.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation, which represents gun sellers, spent over \$4.8 million on lobbying last year, reaching parity with the NRA. It's avoided heated partisan rhetoric and has a growing influence as the NRA star has waned.

"We are not going to approach those who disagree with our viewpoints or our industry in a denigrating manner," said Mark Oliva, the managing director of public affairs for NSSF.

The gun rights movement also continues to have success at the state level, where it has focused on repealing laws requiring a permit to carry a concealed handgun. Roughly half the states in the U.S. have rolled back such laws, with Texas, Indiana and Tennessee all doing so in the past year.

The Supreme Court, meanwhile, is expected to soon issue its biggest gun ruling in more than a decade, one expected to make it easier to carry guns in public in some of the nation's largest cities.

For gun owners who traveled from around the country for the convention, the NRA remains a lodestar. Barbara Galis, 75, of Racine, Wisconsin, said she is concerned about the allegations of mismanagement but isn't sure another organization "has the influence to support gun rights."

"What other avenue do we have? Where do we go?" she said.

UN human rights chief asks China to rethink Uyghur policies

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 67 of 77

By KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The top U.N. human rights official said Saturday that she raised concerns with Chinese officials about the impact of the broad application of counterterrorism and deradicalization measures on the rights of Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim groups in China's Xinjiang region.

Michelle Bachelet, who visited the northwestern region as part of a six-day trip to China, said the visit was not an investigation but a chance to have direct talks with senior Chinese leaders and pave the way for more regular interactions to support China in fulfilling its obligations under international human rights law.

"It provides an opportunity for me to better understand the situation in China, but also for the authorities in China to better understand our concerns and to potentially rethink policies that we believe may impact negatively on human rights," she said in a video news conference before leaving the country.

Bachelet's measured words, while expected, did not satisfy activists and likely will not sit well with governments such as the United States, which have been critical of her decision to visit Xinjiang. China's ruling Communist Party, which has vehemently denied all reports of human rights violations and genocide in Xinjiang, showed no sign of being open to change in a government statement on the trip.

The statement, attributed to Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu, accused some Western countries and anti-China elements of fabricating sensational lies about Xinjiang under the guise of human rights. It said that the government had adopted lawful measures to combat violent terrorism and brought security, stability and prosperity to the region in China's northwest.

"The Chinese side pointed out that essentially, Xinjiang is not at all a human rights issue, but a major issue concerning upholding national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity," the statement said. "All ethnic groups of Xinjiang belong to the family of the Chinese nation."

Agnes Callamard, the secretary general of Amnesty International, said that Bachelet should condemn human rights violations in Xinjiang, and call on China to release people arbitrarily detained and end systematic attacks on ethnic minorities in the region.

"The high commissioner's visit has been characterized by photo opportunities with senior government officials and manipulation of her statements by Chinese state media, leaving an impression that she has walked straight into a highly predictable propaganda exercise for the Chinese government," Callamard said in a news release.

Bachelet, making the first visit by a U.N. high commissioner for human rights to China in 17 years, said she raised the lack of independent judicial oversight for a system of internment camps that swept up a million or more Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities, according to estimates by experts.

China, which describes the camps as vocational training and education centers to combat extremism, says they have been closed. The government has never publicly said how many people passed through them.

Bachelet, who visited a prison and a former center in the Xinjiang city of Kashgar, noted the reliance by police on 15 indicators to determine "tendencies towards violent extremism" that could result in detention, the allegations of use of force and reports of unduly severe restrictions on religious practices.

"It is critical that counterterrorism responses do not result in human rights violations," she said. "The application of relevant laws and policies, and any mandatory measures imposed on individuals, need to be subject to independent judicial oversight, with greater transparency of judicial proceedings. All victims must be able to seek redress."

Bachelet described as "deeply worrying" the arrest of lawyers, activists, journalists and others under Hong Kong's national security law, noting the semi-autonomous Chinese city's reputation as a center for human rights and independent media in Asia.

She said it is important to protect the linguistic, religious and cultural identity of Tibetans and that they be allowed to participate fully and freely in decisions about their religious life. "I ... stressed the importance of children learning in their language and culture in the setting of their families or communities," she said.

Before her trip, Bachelet heard from Uyghur families living abroad that have lost contact with their relatives. In her meetings in China, she said she appealed to authorities to make it a priority to take steps to provide information to families.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 68 of 77

"To those who have sent me appeals asking me to raise issues or cases with the authorities, I have heard you," she said. "Your advocacy matters and my visit was an opportunity to raise a number of specific situations and issues of concern with the government."

The U.N. and China agreed to set up a working group to hold follow-up discussions on a range of issues, including the rights of minorities, counterterrorism and human rights, and legal protection, Bachelet said.

In Georgia, 2 Black candidates to compete for Senate seat

By SUDHIN THANAWALA and JEFF AMY Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ga. (AP) — Wayne Black was one of the few African Americans in the crowd as about 100 people gathered recently at the Republican Party headquarters near Columbus, Georgia, to hear from U.S. Senate candidate and football legend Herschel Walker.

A member of the Muscogee County Republican Executive Committee, Black said he found a certain promise in Walker's candidacy, a GOP voice who could appeal to African Americans and others in Georgia who have traditionally voted Democratic.

"They identify with him from the standpoint of the American dream," Black said. "You can start from nothing and if you work hard, you can achieve the American dream."

But that optimism ran into headwinds about 100 miles to the north. As she left an Atlanta polling site, Wyvon Carter said her choice in what might be the most competitive Senate race this year was not particularly complicated.

"You know I'm Black, right?" the 84 year-old said. "I'm a Democrat. That's it."

In this Deep South state where the painful history of slavery, segregation and racial injustice is ever-present, voters for the first time have selected two Black candidates to represent the major parties in a Senate race. After handily winning their respective primaries on Tuesday, Walker will take on Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock in a general election campaign that could help decide control of the Senate.

The race will test whether Democratic gains in 2020 were a blip or the start of a political realignment in a rapidly changing state. In November 2020, Joe Biden was the first Democratic presidential candidate to carry the state in 28 years, and just two months later, Warnock and fellow Democrat Jon Ossoff flipped two longtime Republican Senate seats, handing their party a narrow majority in the Senate.

Black voters were crucial in helping Democrats secure those victories and will likely be decisive again this year.

The issue is less about whether Walker will break the bond that Black voters have had with Democratic candidates. It is more about whether Black voters, frustrated by a lack of progress in Washington on issues ranging from a policing overhaul to voting rights, simply sit this election out. In a close election, even a small change in voting patterns could be decisive.

Republicans hope Walker's candidacy can at least neutralize the issue of race in the campaign.

"In this race, Black Georgians will not have to contend with the race issue," said Camilla Moore, chair of the Georgia Black Republican Council. "And I really do believe by culture, we're socially conservative. I think Herschel just has to be Herschel and tell his conservative message."

But in interviews in recent weeks, many Black voters said they would not give Walker a second look because of his race. They said they were driven by policy considerations, and Walker, who was backed by former President Donald Trump and is generally in line with GOP orthodoxy, does not address their needs.

Louis Harden, a 58-year-old Black voter in Atlanta, said he is backing Warnock because of the senator's support for Medicaid expansion.

"It doesn't matter about the color," he said. "It's just the issues, who's going to get the job done."

There are only a few modern instances in which two Black people have emerged as the nominees in a Senate race.

Democrat Barack Obama faced Republican radio host and former diplomat Alan Keyes in his 2004 Senate campaign in Illinois. More recently, South Carolina's Tim Scott, the Senate's only Black Republican, was unsuccessfully challenged in 2016 by Thomas Dixon, a North Charleston pastor.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 69 of 77

But the Warnock-Walker matchup is unique because it is playing out in a far more competitive state than Illinois, a Democratic stronghold, or South Carolina, where Republicans are dominant. Also, the candidates in Georgia are already well known, representing two institutions that are revered in the South: church and football.

Walker, among Georgia's most well-known sports figures, won a championship and the Heisman Trophy while at the University of Georgia in the 1980s. Warnock is the senior pastor at the Atlanta church where Martin Luther King Jr. preached.

"This is going to be a historic matchup," said Stan Deaton, a scholar at the Georgia Historical Society.

But to make a dent in Warnock's support among Black voters, Walker will need to do more to appeal to the Black community, said Leah Wright Rigueur, a political historian at Johns Hopkins University who has written about efforts by Black Republicans to broaden the party's largely white base.

Republican candidates who do well among African American voters have the ability to craft a political identity that is independent from the party, something she said Walker has not done so far. Black voters also consider how a candidate treats his or her community and may view African American candidates who stick to Republican talking points more harshly than their white counterparts, Wright Rigueur said.

"And the reason why is because it's viewed as a betrayal," she said. "It's viewed as community betrayal."

Walker has largely hewed to Republican messaging about race. He has defended Trump against criticism that Trump was racist, he has accused Black Lives Matter of wanting to destroy the country and he has said "Black-on-Black crime" is far worse than violence by police. Walker has come under scrutiny over allegations that he threatened his ex-wife's life and dramatically inflated his record as a businessman.

Warnock, the pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church, has embraced King's legacy of racial justice and equal rights. After the killing of George Floyd by police in May 2020, Warnock expounded on the country's struggle with a "virus" he called "COVID-1619" for the year when some of the first slaves arrived in what is now the United States. On Capitol Hill, he has attacked Republicans' push for tighter voting rules as "Jim Crow in new clothes."

Warnock "has a record of fighting to improve the lives of all Georgians," Warnock campaign manager Quentin Fulks said in a statement, citing as examples Warnock's efforts to forgive student loan debt and address the high rates of maternal mortality.

"The people of Georgia, no matter their race, will make the decision about who is up for the job and best able to represent the people of Georgia," he said.

A spokesperson for Walker's campaign, Mallory Blount, said all Georgians, regardless of race, are facing problems created by Democrats and that Walker is "sick and tired of politicians constantly dividing people based on the color of their skin."

Walker told a House subcommittee last year while testifying against reparations for slavery that "Black power" is used to "create white guilt."

In his memoir, "Breaking Free," Walker said his mother taught him that "color was invisible" and doing right or wrong was what mattered.

"I never really liked the idea that I was to represent my people," he wrote. "My parents raised me to believe that I represented humanity — people — and not black people, white people, yellow people, or any other color or type of person."

Still, Black Republicans in Georgia expect Walker to try hard to woo the African American community during the general election. They also believe his personal story about overcoming obstacles to reach the top ranks of college football and then the NFL will find an audience among Black voters.

"Self-determination has always been a big thing in the Black community since we got out of slavery," said Leonard Massey, who is Black and is chairman of the Chatham County Republican Party in eastern Georgia. "He actually shows how to get to the next level."

Ex-Proud Boys leader to stay jailed until Capitol riot trial

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 70 of 77

The former top leader of the Proud Boys will remain jailed while awaiting trial on charges that he conspired with other members of the far-right extremist group to attack the U.S. Capitol and stop Congress from certifying Joe Biden's presidential victory, a federal judge has ruled.

Henry "Enrique" Tarrío poses a danger to the public that cannot be mitigated by home detention and banning him from using social media, U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly said in an order issued late Friday.

Tarrío, a South Florida resident, has been jailed since his arrest on March 8, a day after his indictment on charges including conspiracy. A federal magistrate in Miami previously ordered his pretrial detention.

Tarrío and other Proud Boys leaders used encrypted channels, social media and other electronic communications to plan and carry out a plot to storm the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, and interfere with the congressional certification of the Electoral College vote, according to the indictment.

Tarrío asked Kelly to order his release on bond, but the judge rejected the request. Kelly said the evidence against Tarrío is "very strong" despite Tarrío's argument that authorities essentially do not have "a smoking gun" against him, "perhaps in the form of direct evidence of an order from Tarrío to other Proud Boys to storm the Capitol."

Tarrío was not in Washington when the insurrection took place. Police had arrested Tarrío in the District of Columbia two days before the riot and charged him with vandalizing a Black Lives Matter banner at a historic Black church during a protest in December 2020. A judge ordered Tarrío to stay out of the nation's capital.

Before he left Washington, Tarrío met with Oath Keepers founder and leader Elmer "Stewart" Rhodes and others in an underground parking garage for approximately 30 minutes, authorities say. Rhodes and several other members or associates of the anti-government Oath Keepers militia group are charged with seditious conspiracy in the Capitol attack.

A documentary filmmaker recorded part of the garage meeting.

"But not much about the substance of the meeting can be gleaned from the clips — at one point, Tarrío and others motion for the filmmaker to stop," Kelly noted in his order.

Tarrío claims to have stepped down as Proud Boys' national chairman.

Five other men linked to the Proud Boys — Ethan Nordean, Joseph Biggs, Zachary Rehl, Charles Donohoe and Dominic Pezzola — were charged in the same March 7 indictment as Tarrío.

Donohoe, 34, of Kernersville, North Carolina, pleaded guilty in April to conspiracy and assault charges and has agreed to cooperate in the Justice Department's cases against other Proud Boys members.

Nordean, Biggs, Rehl and Pezzola also remain jailed while awaiting a trial scheduled for August.

Nordean, of Auburn, Washington, was a Proud Boys chapter president. Biggs, of Ormond Beach, Florida, has described himself as a Proud Boys organizer. Rehl was president of the Proud Boys chapter in Philadelphia. The indictment describes Pezzola, of Rochester, New York, as a member of his local Proud Boys chapter.

Tarrío tried to communicate with Nordean and Biggs by telephone while the two men were moving in and out of the Capitol, the indictment says.

Ex-rebel frontrunner in Colombian vote, could shake US ties

By MANUEL RUEDA Associated Press

BOGOTÁ, Colombia (AP) — Fabian Espinel last year helped organize concerts in the streets of Bogotá, as young people protested against police violence and government plans to increase taxes on lower income Colombians. Now, as his country heads into its presidential election Sunday, he walks the streets of the capital's working-class sectors handing out flyers and painting murals in support of Gustavo Petro, the front-runner candidate who could become Colombia's first leftist head of state.

"Young people in this country are stuck. We hope Petro can change that," said Espinel, who lost his job as an event planner during the pandemic and received no compensation from his company. "We need an economic model that is different than the one that has been failing us for years."

Colombians will pick from six candidates in a ballot being held amid a generalized feeling the country is

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 71 of 77

heading in the wrong direction. The latest opinion polls suggest Petro, a former rebel, could get 40% of the votes, with a 15-point lead over his closest rival. But the senator needs 50% to avoid a runoff election in June against the second-place finisher.

Should Petro win outright Sunday or the possible runoff contest next month, the leftist anti-establishment candidate would usher in a new era of presidential politics in Colombia. The country has always been governed by conservatives or moderates while the left was sidelined due to its perceived association with the nation's armed conflict.

"The left has been quite marginalized due to the weight of the armed conflict in Colombia, to the very recent existence of a guerrilla that claimed to be leftist like the FARC," Yann Basset, a political analyst and professor at the Universidad del Rosario, said referring to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. "The change occurs with the peace agreement, which lifts this mortgage for the left a little and promotes a different agenda with social issues suspended by the conflict."

His main rival through most of the campaign has been Federico Gutierrez, a former mayor of Medellin who is backed by most of Colombia's traditional parties and is running on a pro-business, economic growth platform.

But populist real estate tycoon Rodolfo Hernández has been rising fast in polls and could challenge for the second spot in Sunday's vote. He has few connections to political parties and says he will reduce wasteful government spending and offer rewards for Colombians who denounce corrupt officials.

Petro promises to make significant adjustments to the economy as well as change how Colombia fights drug cartels and other armed groups. His agenda largely centers on fighting inequalities that have affected the South American nation's people for decades and became worse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He has promised government jobs to people who can't get work, free college tuition for young Colombians and subsidies for farmers who are struggling to grow crops, which he says he will pay for by increasing taxes on wealthy individuals and corporations.

His agenda also touches on issues that could shake up Colombia's tight-knit relationship with the United States.

Adam Isacson, an expert on defense policy at the Washington Office on Latin America, a think tank, said if Petro wins the election "there will be more disagreement and distance" between both countries.

Petro wants to renegotiate a free trade agreement with the U.S. that has boosted imports of American products like powdered milk and corn. and instead favor local producers.

He also promises to change how Colombia fights drug cartels that produce around 90% of cocaine currently sold in the U.S. The senator often criticizes U.S. drug policy in the hemisphere, saying it "has failed" because it focuses too much on eradicating illegal crops and arresting kingpins. He wants to boost help for rural areas, to give farmers alternatives to growing coca, the plant used to make cocaine.

Isacson said coca eradication targets could become less of a priority for the Colombian government under a Petro administration, as well as the pace at which drug traffickers who are arrested are sent to the U.S. to face charges,

The election comes as Colombia's economy struggles to recover from the pandemic and frustration grows with political elites.

A Gallup poll conducted earlier this month said 75% of Colombians believe the country is heading in the wrong direction and only 27% approve of conservative President Ivan Duque, who cannot run for re-election. A poll last year by Gallup found 60% of those questioned were finding it hard to get by on their household income.

Sergio Guzmán, a political risk analyst in Bogota, said the pandemic and the 2016 peace deal with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia rebel group have shifted voters' priorities.

"Whereas previous elections centered around issues like how to deal with rebel groups, now the main issue is the economy," Guzmán said. "Voters are concerned about who will tackle issues like inequality or the lack of opportunities for youth."

If Petro or Hernández should win the presidency, they would join a group of leftist leaders and outsiders

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 72 of 77

who have been taking over Latin American governments since the pandemic started in 2020.

In Chile, leftist legislator Gabriel Boric won the presidential election last year, leading a progressive coalition that promised to change the country's constitution and make public services like energy and education more affordable.

In Peru, voters elected rural school teacher Pedro Castillo to the presidency although he had never held office. Castillo defied political parties that have been mired in bribery scandals and presidential impeachment trials and bungled the nation's response to the coronavirus pandemic. Ecuadorians bucked the leftist trend last year, but still elected an outsider opposition candidate, Guillermo Lasso.

In regional affairs, Petro is looking to re-establish diplomatic relations with the socialist government of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. Colombia cut diplomatic ties with Venezuela in 2019 as part of a U.S.-led effort to isolate Maduro and pressure him with sanctions into holding new elections.

Some observers think Petro could be in a position to mend bridges between Maduro and some sectors of Venezuela's opposition.

"Solving Venezuela's political and economic crisis is in Colombia's interest," said Ronal Rodríguez, a professor at Bogota's Rosario university.

Sandra Borda, a professor of international relations at the University of Los Andes in Bogota, said Petro may not have enough leverage to make significant changes to Colombia's foreign policy.

Efforts to renegotiate the free trade agreement with the United States could be thwarted by legislators in both countries, she said. And when it comes to security, the Colombian military will be reluctant to give up on cooperation agreements with the U.S. that include joint exercises, intelligence sharing and jobs for Colombian military instructors in U.S.-financed courses in other Latin American countries.

Borda said Petro's ability to change Colombia's foreign policy could hinge on whether he wins the first round outright. If he has to go to a run-off, she said, he will have to make deals with parties in the center, which might support his domestic reforms in exchange for more control over security and international relations.

"His priority will be to carry out domestic reforms aimed at reducing inequality and overcoming poverty," Borda said. "Petro understands that if he does that he has a greater chance of consolidating his political movement."

Pandemic has lingering toll on smaller National Spelling Bee

By BEN NUCKOLS Associated Press

Dev Shah's dream of returning to the Scripps National Spelling Bee ended in a soccer stadium, of all places.

On a cool, windy February day with occasional rain showers, Dev spent five miserable hours spelling outdoors at Exploria Stadium, the home of Major League Soccer's Orlando City club, ultimately finishing fourth in a regional bee that he was forced to compete in for the first time.

"My regional was hard enough to win when it wasn't encompassing Orlando," said Dev, a 13-year-old seventh-grader. "The fact that it's basically representing a third of Florida, that was stressful and I started studying extra, but it didn't work out in the end, unfortunately."

While the National Spelling Bee is back — fully in person at its usual venue outside Washington for the first time since 2019 — Dev's experiences illustrate how the pandemic continues to affect kids who've spent years preparing to compete for spelling's top prize. Schools and sponsors have dropped out of the bee pipeline, regions have been consolidated and the bee has fewer than half the spellers it had three years ago.

"There is a sense that COVID marks a significant break between the bee that used to be and the spelling bee that is now," said Grace Walters, a former speller who coached the 2018 champion and three of the eight 2019 co-champs. "And I don't know if that's a bad thing or not, but I'm trying to keep a positive attitude about it."

Another huge change: Cincinnati-based Scripps broke with longtime partner ESPN and will broadcast the competition on its own networks, ION and Bounce. Actor and literacy advocate LeVar Burton was hired as

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 73 of 77

host and will interview spellers and their families backstage, and last year's champion, Zaila Avant-garde, will be part of the broadcast as an analyst.

Scripps had 245 regional sponsors in 2020 for the bee that was ultimately canceled because of the pandemic. That number is down to 198 for this year's bee, which runs from Tuesday to Thursday.

"Many of our sponsors who are still with us, even, have expressed the concerns and the challenges brought forth by the pandemic," said J. Michael Durnil, the bee's executive director. "Some of our sponsors realigned what their missions were and maybe the bee didn't fit. Maybe they lost person power and had to rethink their core business and the bee was not part of it. There's been a great reset in a lot of areas."

Newspapers historically sponsored most regional bees, but as the print media business cratered, the sponsors became a hodgepodge of companies, nonprofits and government entities. Polk County Tourism and Sports Marketing, which sponsored the regional bee that Dev won in 2020 and '21, was among those that dropped out. That forced Dev to travel two hours from his home in Seminole, Florida, to Orlando, where the open-air competition dragged on as judges shivered.

"They even switched to vocabulary for like 20 minutes and they realized that we kept getting them right, so they switched back to spelling," he said. "You know, you start losing your concentration after like five hours. You start losing your stamina."

Pro sports franchises have filled the sponsor void. The NFL's Carolina Panthers host a massive regional bee that sends four spellers from North Carolina and two from South Carolina. The Tennessee Titans do the same for most of their state. And Scripps ran five of its own regional bees for kids who lived in places with no sponsor.

Scripps is encouraging sponsors of larger regions to send multiple kids to the bee. The price tag for sponsoring one speller is \$3,900. For two, it's \$7,500, and for three, it's \$10,000.

The drop in sponsors isn't the main reason the bee is smaller this year. The 2018 and 2019 bees had a wild-card program designed as an alternative pathway to the bee for spellers in tough regions. Karthik Nemmani, a student of Walters' and a wild card from the talent-rich Dallas area, won the bee in the program's first year.

But in 2019, more than half of the 562 spellers in the bee were wild cards, many of them younger kids who weren't competitive at the national level. Scripps had planned to scale back the program in 2020. Then the bee's longtime executive director departed and her replacement, Durnil, scrapped the wild cards altogether.

"It got dinged as a pay-for-play kind of opportunity, which is at odds with the mission and the heart of the bee, quite frankly," Durnil said.

That leaves this year's bee with 234 spellers, all of whom qualified on merit. There are plenty of familiar faces. Akash Vukoti, a 13-year-old from San Angelo, Texas, who initially qualified as a first-grader, is competing for the fifth time. Fourteen-year-old Maya Jadhav of Fitchburg, Wisconsin, and 14-year-old Harini Logan of San Antonio, Texas, are each making their fourth appearances.

Spellers age out of the competition when they reach ninth grade, meaning those who qualified as sixth-graders in 2019 never got to experience another "Bee Week." Only the top 11 spellers competed in person last year in a mostly empty arena at Walt Disney World.

"It's a privilege, I think, for all the eighth-graders in the 2022 bee to get to have that opportunity that the last two years, we didn't have," Harini said. "Getting to experience that as our finale, we're very, very fortunate for that."

Kansas equity efforts bring little change after George Floyd

By ANDY TSUBASA FIELD Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — First she saw the graphic cellphone video showing Ahmaud Arbery's shooting death in Georgia, then news that Breonna Taylor had been shot in her Kentucky home during a botched drug raid. But when Teresa Parks watched videos of the white Minneapolis police officer pressing his knee onto a Black man's neck, and heard George Floyd cry out for his mother as his life drained away, she was

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 74 of 77

spurred not just to tears, but also to action.

After Floyd's May 2020 death, Parks and a friend formed a Black Lives Matter group in their hometown of Manhattan, Kansas, a largely white city that had elected no Black leaders since 1969. Parks' activism led to her appointment to a task force that city leaders said was designed to make the community more welcoming to people from diverse backgrounds.

That task force issued a report in December 2021 with more than 60 recommendations, but so far the city commission hasn't discussed them. And that's not unusual. All over Kansas, elected leaders convened task forces or held town hall meetings to gather community input on racial justice and diversity issues after demonstrators in more than a dozen communities protested Floyd's death. But almost two years later, the passion and energy evident in those protests hasn't translated into widespread change.

One of the most common results has been formalizing changes that had already been made. Topeka and Lawrence police banned "no-knock" search warrants, for example, but police in both cities had already discontinued the practice. In several Kansas cities including Wichita and Kansas City, police have put into writing the practices they said they had already adopted.

Lauren Bonds, the legal director for a New Orleans-based group of lawyers, legal workers and law students called the National Police Accountability Project, said local leaders sometimes form working groups when they want to appear to be on the right side of an issue but lack the political will to make real change.

"You'll put some people of color on it, and then you'll be able to point to that when someone says you didn't respond to this egregious situation, but then you don't actually have to change anything," said Bonds, who is based in Kansas City, Kansas.

The Hispanic population in Kansas has more than quadrupled over the last 30 years, largely because of immigrants attracted to jobs in the meatpacking industry in the southwest of the state, and the Black population grew 15% between 1990 and 2020. But Kansas remains largely white and non-Hispanic; 72% of residents self-identified as such in the 2020 census and the Kansas Legislature was 92% white that year according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Proposals pushed by advocacy groups on behalf of racial justice in Kansas typically stall. After the Floyd protests, for example, Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly appointed a committee on racial equity and justice, saying "communities of color do not have the luxury of time for leaders to address these issues." But neither the panel nor the governor pushed the Legislature to adopt the group's recommendations.

And this year, the momentum in the Republican-controlled Legislature swung away from racial justice toward limiting what public schools teach about racism and tightening voting laws.

Kevin Willmott, a University of Kansas film professor who in 2019 won the best adapted screenplay Oscar for "BlackKkKlansman," said that when elected officials create task force groups, they often face little opposition, giving people hope that they can bring change.

"But then the task force doesn't change anything," Willmott said. "So it appears on the surface like you're being brought to water, but you're not allowed to drink."

"They know that you just allow the focus to drift away and then you get to go back to normal. Until the next George Floyd, which might be in Kansas. You never know," he said.

Post-Floyd racial justice efforts in other Kansas cities have seen mixed results.

In Wyandotte County, which includes Kansas City, then-Mayor David Alvey created a task force in 2020 to discuss policing practices, but he told task force members not to advocate for specific changes during meetings.

"It was such a politically charged atmosphere," Alvey said. "I wanted to keep the politics out of it as much as possible."

About a quarter of Wyandotte County's population is Black and voters have elected a similar percentage of Black commissioners since 2005. Alvey narrowly lost reelection last year to Tyrone Garner, who became the community's first Black mayor. Garner, who previously served as deputy police chief, ran for office on a police reform platform. He also announced a new committee to look into policing practices, which he said would — unlike his predecessor's group — craft proposals for the city to vote on. The committee held introductory meetings last month.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 75 of 77

Garner's views of the community and policing have been shaped by his years as a police officer. Early in his career, a Black police major told him about how minority officers previously weren't allowed to arrest or interact with white residents. Stories like that prompted Garner to pay attention to how colleagues talked about minority police leaders and officers.

Among other things, Garner hopes his new task force will consider requiring an outside law enforcement agency to conduct police misconduct investigations.

Discussions are in progress in other Kansas communities. In Topeka, a task force set up by a former mayor is reviewing police policies in response to proposals to ban chokeholds, prohibit officers from firing at fleeing suspects and create an independent citizen panel to investigate allegations of police misconduct. The group has met for almost two years and hasn't made any recommendations to the City Council.

City commissioners in Salina approved a 2020 proposal to create a new citizens review board, but advocates were disappointed that it didn't give the board authority to investigate complaints.

In the affluent Kansas City suburb of Prairie Village, where Black residents make up about 1% of the population, the city's budget this year included \$10,000 for a diversity committee that is using some of the funds to celebrate Martin Luther King Day and Juneteenth, which commemorates the end of slavery in the United States.

After rallies in the southwestern Kansas community of Liberal following Floyd's death, the city held a town hall where attendees discussed their experiences with racism. Latinos make up almost two-thirds of Liberal's population.

About a month after the meeting, Liberal city commissioners passed an ordinance calling for similar public forums as needed, but so far no other meetings have occurred.

Racial justice advocate Kathleen Alonso pushed for the ordinance, but told the AP that she had shifted focus to increasing voter turnout. In November, Liberal elected two Hispanic members to the city commission, including its first Latina city commissioner.

In Manhattan, Parks, the local Black Lives Matter founder, is hopeful instead of frustrated that the city hasn't yet taken up the task force's more than 60 recommendations. Many of them are outside the city government's control, but some are in its purview, including the hiring of a diversity, equity and inclusion officer to work across city-sponsored organizations.

Through her involvement, Parks has gained a line of communication with police that enables her to share information with other residents when they're worried about something they're hearing or seeing on social media. That's leading to a better relationship between police and Black residents, who make up about 6% of the community, and that was one of Parks' main goals.

Shortly before her Black Lives Matter group's 2020 demonstration, Parks met an officer to contact with concerns. That new line of communication was tested that year when a witness made a video recording of a man who appeared to be having a seizure while he was detained in handcuffs. Parks contacted the officer and learned from police that they had kept him in handcuffs to prevent him from injuring himself.

"They answered every single question that we had and we were able to bring that back and kind of give people a little bit of clarity about the situation," Parks said.

It's all aimed at meeting Parks' goal of avoiding a high-profile police killing like George Floyd's in Manhattan.

"To hear that grown man call out for his mother — I just couldn't — I can't even talk about it," Parks said, her voice shaking. "That is just something I would never want to see for my kids."

Today in History: May 29, Reagan and Gorbachev meet

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, May 29, the 149th day of 2022. There are 216 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 29, 1988, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev opened their historic summit in Moscow.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 76 of 77

On this date:

In 1765, Patrick Henry denounced the Stamp Act before Virginia's House of Burgesses.

In 1790, Rhode Island became the 13th original colony to ratify the United States Constitution.

In 1848, Wisconsin became the 30th state of the union.

In 1914, the Canadian ocean liner RMS Empress of Ireland sank in the St. Lawrence River in eastern Quebec after colliding with the Norwegian cargo ship SS Storstad; of the 1,477 people on board the Empress of Ireland, 1,012 died. (The Storstad sustained only minor damage.)

In 1953, Mount Everest was conquered as Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tensing Norgay of Nepal became the first climbers to reach the summit.

In 1977, Janet Guthrie became the first woman to race in the Indianapolis 500, finishing in 29th place (the winner was A.J. Foyt).

In 1985, 39 people were killed at the European Cup Final in Brussels, Belgium, when rioting broke out and a wall separating British and Italian soccer fans collapsed.

In 2009, a judge in Los Angeles sentenced music producer Phil Spector to 19 years to life in prison for the murder of actor Lana Clarkson. (Spector remained in prison until his death in January 2021.)

In 2014, Starbucks closed thousands of stores for part of the day to hold training sessions for employees on unconscious bias, in response to the arrests of two Black men in Philadelphia at one of its stores.

In 2015, the Obama administration formally removed Cuba from the U.S. terrorism blacklist.

In 2019, in his first public remarks on the Russia investigation, special counsel Robert Mueller said charging President Donald Trump with a crime was "not an option" because of federal rules, but he emphasized that the investigation did not exonerate the president.

In 2020, fired Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was arrested and charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter in the death of George Floyd. (He would be convicted in April 2021 on those charges as well as second-degree unintentional murder.) Thousands of protesters in Minneapolis angered by Floyd's death ignored a curfew as unrest again overwhelmed authorities; fires burned unchecked in cars and businesses. In a tweet, President Donald Trump called protesters in Minneapolis "thugs" and added that "when the looting starts, the shooting starts." (The tweet was flagged by Twitter for "glorifying violence.") Protests over Floyd's death spread to dozens of cities. Hundreds of protesters gathered outside the White House, some throwing rocks and tugging at barricades; officials later said Secret Service agents rushed Trump to an underground bunker.

Ten years ago: Mitt Romney clinched the Republican presidential nomination with a win in the Texas primary. Serena Williams lost in the first round of a major tournament for the first time, falling to Virginie Razzano of France 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-3 at the French Open. Doc Watson, the Grammy-award winning folk musician whose lightning-fast style of flatpicking influenced guitarists around the world, died in North Carolina at age 89.

Five years ago: In his first Memorial Day remarks as president, Donald Trump expressed the nation's "boundless and undying" gratitude to Americans who had fallen in battle and to the families they left behind, hailing as heroes the hundreds of thousands buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Manuel Noriega, a onetime U.S. ally who was ousted as Panama's dictator by an American invasion in 1989, died at age 83.

One year ago: Television actor Gavin MacLeod, best known for his roles on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and "The Love Boat," died at his home in Palm Desert, California, at the age of 90. Grammy-winning singer B.J. Thomas, who hit the charts with songs including "Hooked on a Feeling" and "Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head," died at his Texas home from complications of lung cancer; he was 78.

Today's Birthdays: Former Baseball Commissioner Fay Vincent is 84. Actor Helmut Berger is 78. Actor Anthony Geary is 75. Actor Cotter Smith is 73. Singer Rebbie (ree-bee) Jackson is 72. Movie composer Danny Elfman is 69. Singer LaToya Jackson is 66. Actor Ted Levine is 65. Actor Annette Bening is 64. Actor Rupert Everett is 63. Actor Adrian Paul is 63. Singer Melissa Etheridge is 61. Actor Lisa Whelchel is 59. Actor Tracey Bregman is 59. Rock musician Noel Gallagher is 55. Actor Anthony Azizi is 53. Rock musician Chan Kinchla (Blues Traveler) is 53. Actor Laverne Cox is 50. Rock musician Mark Lee (Third Day) is 49. Cartoonist Aaron McGruder ("The Boondocks") is 48. Singer Melanie Brown (Spice Girls) is 47. Latin singer

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 29, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 326 ~ 77 of 77

Fonseca is 43. Actor Justin Chon (TV: "Deception"; "Dr. Ken") is 41. NBA player Carmelo Anthony is 38. Actor Billy Flynn is 37. Actor Blake Foster is 37. Actor Riley Keough is 33. Actor Brandon Mychal Smith is 33. Actor Kristen Alderson is 31. Actor Lorelei Linklater is 29.