

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 1 of 62

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- Groton Memorial Day Ad](#)
- [2- Groton Garden Club](#)
- [3- These are the veterans that are buried at Groton Union Cemetery](#)
- [7- Legion Auxiliary plants flags](#)
- [8- Prairie Doc: It Helps to Share Your Story](#)
- [9- Weekly Vikings Roundup: Free Agent Chatter](#)
- [10- Weather Pages](#)
- [15- Daily Devotional](#)
- [16- 2022 Community Events](#)
- [17- Subscription Form](#)
- [18- News from the Associated Press](#)

From the National Weather Service
Today is different than your typical severe weather day.

Storms will start early in the afternoon. They will be intense. They will be moving fast.

Hail larger than golf balls, winds in excess of 75 mph and multiple tornadoes are possible.

Take the time to prepare now! Keep up to date on the latest forecasts!

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

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.



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



Groton Post #39 Memorial

Day Schedule

Huften 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.

Groton Garden Club

The Groton Garden club met at the home of Laurie Mitchell. She opened the meeting with roll call answered by 10 members with what they love about spring. The group will start their year in January instead of June Arbor Day was celebrated on Tuesday May 24th at 1:00 pm at the city park to plant the tree. Members cleaned the circle on May 19th, at 9am. The next meeting will be with Deb McKiver on June 20th at 6:30 pm, and she will give the program. Following the meeting Eunice McColister gave the program "How to keep your flowers from Wilting."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 3 of 62

These are the veterans that are buried at Groton Union Cemetery

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Chas. Rathbum | 41 Helen Raecke |
| 2 J.C. Luce | 42 Ed Samuelson |
| 3 David Hatton | 43 Alfred Paetznick |
| 4 John Hatton | 44 Wm. Schaller |
| 5 Laverne Naeve | 45 John P. Fry |
| 6 Robert Rosenberg | 46 Bernhardt Miller |
| 7 Ernest Watkins | 47 Donald Sandve |
| 8 Isaac Ritter | 48 John Fry |
| 9 August Voy | 49 Roy Hamilton |
| 10 F.C. Adams | 50 Wm. Maske |
| 11 J.W. Curry | 51 Robert Harms |
| 12 M.A. Heath | 52 Joeseeph J. Udelhofen |
| 13 S.W. Cook | 53 Olaf B. Quandahl |
| 14 Chas. Snell | 54 George Amsden |
| 15 B.F. Dickerson | 55 Jason Waage |
| 16 George Mereness | 56 Daniel Clemensen |
| 17 Walter Mcfarlane | 57 Hubert Paepke |
| 18 J.J. Parker | 58 Wm. Daniel Spilmaher |
| 19 Herman Kuehnert | 59 Edward Schultz |
| 20 Zack Lyons | 60 Ernest Odland |
| 21 F.C. Smith | 61 Wm. Stange |
| 22 T.J. Robinson | 62 Harold Feser |
| 23 Emerson Baily | 63 Herman Karnopp |
| 24 S.F. Brott | 64 Carl Perkins |
| 25 LT. Cole | 65 Harold Kludt |
| 26 Joe Williams | 66 Arthur Mehaffey |
| 27 Joseph M. Paulson | 67 Robert Mehaffey |
| 28 John Kepke | 68 James Johnson |
| 29 John Albert | 69 Hjalmer Gilyard |
| 30 Isaac Fellows | 70 John Berry |
| 31 Joe Kaufman | 71 Leon Cassels |
| 32 S.H. Chilton | 72 Fred McGee |
| 33 Wm. Veitsch | 73 Frank McGee |
| 34 Art Rock | 74 John Rohwer |
| 35 J.H. Van Riper | 75 H.C. Dobson |
| 36 Emmet Cole | 76 Fred Arndt |
| 37 George Dickens | 77 Earl Mueller |
| 38 Dwight Zeller | 78 Jake Knoll |
| 39 Jesse Dixon | 79 W.L. Van Riper |
| 40 Wm. Curry | 80 Fred Peterson |

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 4 of 62

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 81 Bernard Wockenfuss | 123 Hans Fangen |
| 82 Louis Eske | 124 Herbert Belden |
| 83 Olive Hood | 125 Eileen Pulfrey Hawthorn |
| 84 Blane Sippel | 126 Wm. J. Paetznick |
| 85 Otto Zoellner | 127 Wm.Wood |
| 86 Henry Wockenfuss | 128 George Berg |
| 87 Joe Cain | 129 Paul Benz |
| 88 Charles Lietz | 130 Ronald Hubbard |
| 89 S. Pavek | 131 Fred O. Zoellner |
| 90 James Pavek | 132 Lester Sperry |
| 91 Lyman Amsden | 133 John J. Johnson |
| 92 Oliver Wilburg | 134 Harley Pop Bristol |
| 93 DeWayneJorgensen | 135 Carl Anderson |
| 94 Al Breitzkreutz | 136 Carl Liebel |
| 95 Clarence Tewksbury | 137 Rix Hinkley |
| 96 Bert Blackmun | 138 Lars Larson |
| 97 Harry Sammuel | 139 Joe E. Volk |
| 98 Gust Davidson | 140 Margaret Rogers |
| 99 Donald Knapp | 141 Lyle Blair |
| 100 John Whiteaker | 142 Clayton Kelly Gibbs |
| 101 Otto Hoops | 143 Dean Kurtz |
| 102 Dale Meister | 144 James Murray |
| 103 Frank Muth | 145 Wm. A.Johnson |
| 104 Carl Davidson | 146 Ed Paeth |
| 105 Howard Ives | 147 Pellman Thede |
| 106 Donald Lindert | 148 Ralph Peterson |
| 107 Edwin Abeln | 149 Orylin Sippel |
| 108 Bartley Archer | 150 Hildegard B. Brown |
| 109 Loyal Spilloway | 151 Marvin Erdman |
| 110 Robert Haire | 152 Gerald Micko |
| 111 James Fry | 153 Royal Hanson |
| 112 Charles Fuller | 154 Erwin Wilmsen |
| 113 Eva Mary Fuller | 155 Myron Erickson |
| 114 James W. Hagin | 156 John Murray |
| 115 William E. Pasch | 157 Bradley Micko |
| 116 Earl J. Meredith | 158 Vance Weaver |
| 117 Arthur Radke | 159 Donald Craig |
| 118 Vernon Tuthill | 160 Elmer Knudson |
| 119 Fred Nehls | 161 Clemens Geffre |
| 120 Kenneth Ott | 162 Herman Schinkel |
| 121 Wm. Rock | 163 Dustan Matthews |
| 122 Ed Fredrickson | 164 Lyle Dean Ives |

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 5 of 62

165 Nicholas Carl Arndt
166 Ronald Hoffman
167 Daryl Danielson
168 Oscar Paetznick
169 Paul Kaufman
170 Ulic Henihan
171 John Westby
172 Edwin Dobberpuhl
173 John 5. Hall
174 Clarence Abeln
175 Thomas Chick Blair
176 Floyd A. Rix
177 Robert Zimney
178 Darrel K. Hagen
179 Walter Boehmer
180 Arnold Klemenson
181 Walter Biondo
182 Jerrold Koehler
183 Elliot Mallett
184 Leonard Witt
185 Milton Jensen
186 Robert Sletten
187 Robert Zoellner
188 Marvin May
189 Henry Huffman
190 Gervis Fred Musel
191 Richard Severson
192 Gary R. Pulfrey
193 Alvin Abeln
194 Richard Knoll
195 Enos Hostetter
196 Hiran Kolbo
197 Duane Ferguson
198 Ervin H. Locke Jr.
199 Donald Waage
200 Roland Rusty Tullis
201 George C. Rowbotham
202 James Des Camps
203 Darrel Bingham
204 Ruben Henry Paul
205 Robert Richmond

206 Juel Arthur Kolbo
207 Larry Allen Wegner
208 Merrill Rix
209 Joyce Johnson
210 Arthur Totzke
211 Ed Sundberg
212 James Wockenfuss
213 Dwight Campbell Jr.
214 Delbert Sanderson
215 Alfred Bennet
216 Donald Bowles
217 Dennis D. Larson
218 Tom Benda
219 Charles Eide Rehfuss
220 Wayne Quiggle
221 DeWain Peterson
222 Clayton Farmen
223 Donald Simonson
224 Myrna Pulfrey
225 John Gibbs
226 Robert Wegner Sr.
227 Robert L Olson
228 Fred L. Harvey
229 Alan Mcfarlane
230 Irvin Fliehs
231 James McKittrick
232 Mathieu Rock
233 Walter Schaller
234 Bill Brotherton
235 Rachel Haire Dye
236 Arthur Padfield
237 Robert J. Olson
238 Neil Bredberg
239 Vern Siefkes
240 Joyce Sundling Sogn
241 William Tewksbury
242 Gary Odland
243 Don Miller
244 Leland Vold
245 Laverl McLaughlin
246 Alnor P. Schauer

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 6 of 62

247 Eugene Barber
248 Norman Thurston
249 Clara Rix
250 Otis Belden
251 Robert Schuelke
252 Jeanette Reid
253 Richard O Kroll Jr.
254 Elmer Nash
255 Roland (Bill) Sieh
256 Arthur Lange
257 Eugene Abeln
258 John Carr
259 Robert Hood
260 Howard Jones
261 Homer Mydland
262 Robert Matheny
263 Carrol Bingham
264 Walter Kroll
265 Eugene Cassels
266 Berthold A. Pigors
267 Richard Jones
268 Clayton Sternhagen
269 Dale McGannon
270 Don Hinrichs
271 Robert Blair
272 Myron Johnson
273 Darrel Fliehs
274 Clifford Hoops
275 James Feist
276 Harvey Dorfschmidt
277 Winston Odland
278 Howard Peterson
279 Steve Fredrickson
280 Rod Hinrichs
281 Orville Huffman
282 John Thede
283 Dennis A. Larson
284 Delbert Leonhardt

285 Eugene Luce
286 Robert McGannon
287 Edward Neff
288 Donley Raines
289 John Sieh
290 John Blair
291 Charles Meister
292 Robert Snyder
293 Robert Wehde
294 Jack Berry
295 Loy Lowary
296 Larry Ragels
297 Duwayne Coon
298 Lyle Reder
299 Gerald Osterman
300 Jerroll Erdmann
301 Waldemar Fischer
302 Jacky McKiver
303 Donald Protas
304 James Torguson
305 Duane Neuman
306 John (Jack) Walter
307 Clarence "C.C." Dye
308 Edward Opp
309 Wayne Cutler
310 Rodney Buffington
311 Dennis Davies
312 Robert Pray Sr.
313 Terry Olson
314 Kenneth Schneider
315 Dennis Meister
316 Dale Wolter
317 Carroll "Spike" Nehls
318 Charles Blair

BURIED AT SEA

Wallace Karnopp
Verne Insley

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 7 of 62



Members from Groton Unit 39 of the American Legion Auxiliary and one veteran's family placed flowers and staked 319 flags at the Groton cemetery. Please join us and the American Legion on Memorial Day to honor and remember our deceased veterans. (Photos by Jan Seibel)

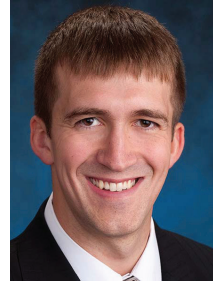


Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 8 of 62

It Helps to Share Your Story

With the storm approaching, my wife texted me after work to come home right away. Within minutes, after I left the clinic, she called me again to tell me NOT to come home and to seek shelter immediately. At first, I thought I could make it home, but then the wall of wind hit, and a tree fell onto the road in front of me. I turned around and another tree blocked the way. Then it got so dark. It was disorienting and I turned on my windshield wipers using the fluid to try to clear the dust and mud off my windshield. That did not help. Thankfully, I made it safely to a friend's house.



Andrew Ellsworth, MD

Recently many communities in our region suffered from storms with strong winds that blasted through rural and urban areas in numerous states. Thousands of trees were uprooted, communities went without power, some lost their homes, and unfortunately lives were also lost. While some people were visibly injured, others hurt psychologically.

In my community there were warnings of a storm coming, but it came sooner than expected and most people were surprised at its power. Because of timing of the storm, many people were still on the roads coming home from work. I saw them on the roads with me. Others were trying to secure possessions outside their homes. Many were hit by flying debris and fallen trees. I saw them in the emergency department after the storm. This was a reminder for me to be prepared ahead of time, heed warnings, and seek shelter before the storm comes, not when it comes.

For the last few weeks following the event, I heard people share their experiences during the storm. Some had conversations with me, but I also witnessed many other conversations going on at work, outside with neighbors, and at the grocery store.

If you have been through something difficult or traumatic, there are benefits of sharing your story. It does not help to hold it inside. Talk to someone who can listen, whether it is a friend, family member, counselor, your doctor, or an anonymous person on a helpline. Consider writing or drawing. Find ways to process what you have been through.

Many communities are healing through neighbors helping neighbors and people sharing their stories. This is what our grandparents did when they experienced terrible blizzards, drought, and war, and this is what their ancestors did before them. They helped each other through hardships, and they shared their stories.

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

Weekly Vikings Roundup: Free Agent Chatter

By Duane & Jack Kolsrud

It's that time of year when NFL teams start filling holes with free agents that are still available. In previous years, the Vikings were not usually suitors but with the new regime in place, let's look at a few of the players they may have an interest.

The player most often mentioned in the social channels seems to be center JC Tretter. Tretter was drafted by the Packers in 2013 in the fourth round and later moved to Cleveland in 2017. The Browns released him earlier this year with one year left on his contract. One of the weakest links on the offensive line has been at the center position. Not since Matt Birk have the Vikings had a pro bowl type center, and getting a veteran in this position could help shore up the line. It is the hottest rumor, but it seems the staff is happy with their current roster, at least until OTA evaluations are complete.

Next on the list may be Akiem Hicks. The Bears massive defensive lineman stands at 6'4" and 335 pounds. Hicks was drafted by the Saints in 2013, moved to the Patriots in 2015 and eventually the Bears in 2016. Like many players that fans become enamored with when they have big games against the home team, Hicks is the poster child for Viking fans. He totally dominated the Viking offensive line, but that could have been the ineptitude at the right tackle position for the Vikings. His career stats are not impressive, and with O'Connell as the new head coach, there may not be any pre-concieved views on Hicks. Hicks would be an upgrade from Dalvin Tomlinson but probably not enough for Kwesi to pull the trigger.

The next player could be a stretch but could be a late season insurance policy just in case the Vikings experience an injury at the wide reciever position. Odell Beckham Jr. is coming off a revival season of sort after departing the Browns and went on to help the Rams get to the Super Bowl. OBJ was having an great game, scored a touchdown early in the game but later tore his ACL and watched the second half from the sidelines. Coach O'Connell saw the good side of Beckham, and he'd bring a pair of hands we haven't seen in purple since Moss and Carter. It would intriguing to add OBJ to the Jefferson and Thielen duo, but it is unlikely that Vikings could get him in under the salary cap restraints.

The final two free agents have a history with the Vikings but no history with the new regime.

Anthony Barr is still out there and played some of his best football at the end of last season. He was healthy and was making plays we were missing for the better part of the last past two seasons. Nobody is quite sure why he has not signed yet, but speculation is that the nagging injuries that kept him off the field over the past three seasons are enough for teams to pass on him now at 30 years old.

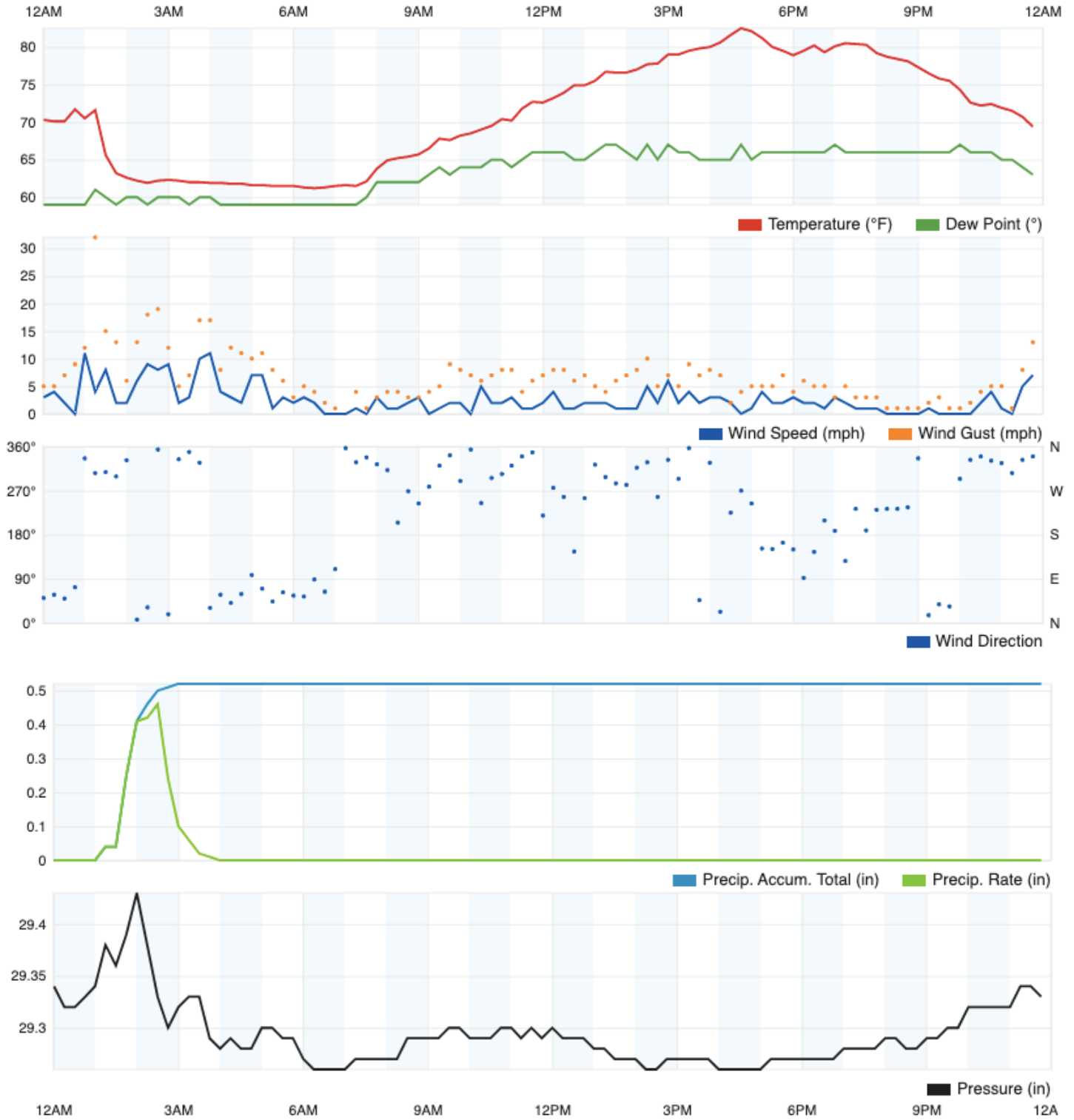
The other player is Riley Reiff. Reiff signed a one year deal with the Bengals last season only to miss out on their run to the Super Bowl due to a season ending injury in Week 12. Reiff loved playing for the Vikings, is from South Dakota but was a salary cap casualty in 2021 that sent him to a new team.

It's anyone's guess if the Vikings make an move on any of these players. Some could fit and help the Vikings in 2022, but it comes down to need and salary cap. The new regime has been pretty quiet since the draft, and after a couple of weeks of OTA's, they may be feeling good at what they are seeing and the positivity coming from both the veteran and younger players.

Groton Daily Independent



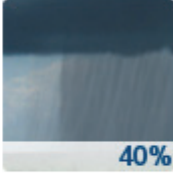
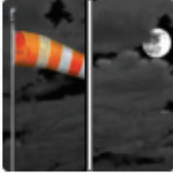

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 10 of 62

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Broton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 11 of 62

Memorial Day	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
				
100%	80% → 50%	40%		
Severe Thunderstorms and Breezy	Breezy. T-storms then Chance T-storms	Chance Showers and Windy	Mostly Cloudy and Breezy then Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 72 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 55 °F	Low: 43 °F	High: 67 °F




Today's Severe Weather Outlook

May 30, 2022
5:38 AM

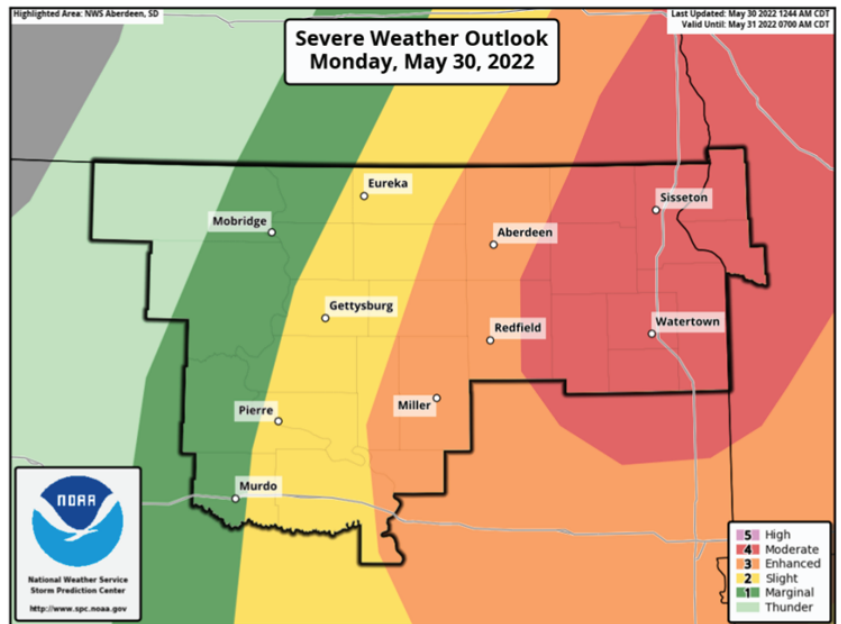
Today

A significant severe storm threat exists. Any storms that develop will be intense. The severe threat exists from early afternoon through late afternoon/early evening.

Threats

 Hail larger than golf balls, winds in excess of 75 mph and multiple tornadoes are possible. Storms will be moving very fast.

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



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

A significant severe storm threat exists. Any storms that develop will be intense. The severe threat exists from early afternoon through late afternoon/early evening. Hail larger than golf balls, winds in excess of 75 mph and multiple tornadoes are possible. Storms will be moving very fast! Be prepared now!

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 12 of 62

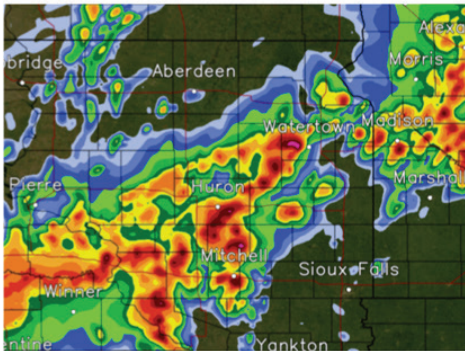


Severe Weather Timing

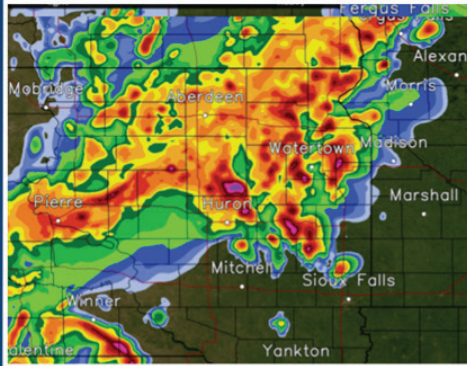
May 30, 2022
5:38 AM

One model simulation of storm timing/coverage

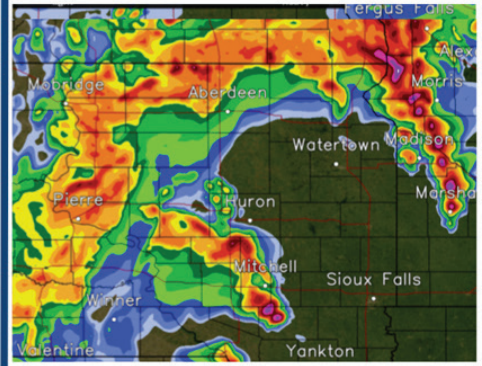
1 PM CDT



3 PM CDT



5 PM CDT



Note - Storms will be moving very fast, in some cases over 50 mph. The severe threat decreases quickly this evening.



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

A significant severe storm threat exists. Any storms that develop will be intense. The severe threat exists from early afternoon through late afternoon/early evening. Hail larger than golf balls, winds in excess of 75 mph and multiple tornadoes are possible. Storms will be moving very fast! Be prepared now!

Severe Weather can escalate quickly.

While the possibility of tornadoes can be forecast ahead of time, they can form in minutes, day or night. Will you be prepared?



Set up a way to get weather warnings any time of day



When alerted to a tornado, quickly get to a storm shelter or basement



If underground shelter isn't available, get to an interior hall away from windows



weather.gov

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 13 of 62

Today in Weather History

May 30, 1998: An F4 tornado moved through southeast South Dakota, killing six people and injuring another 150. The tornado crossed into McCook County at approximately 7:38 pm, CST and moved through downtown Spencer at about 7:39 pm, CST. The total cost of damage was more than \$18 million with an additional half million in crop damage.

1879: A significant outbreak of severe weather occurred in Kansas and western Missouri. In Kansas, tornadoes killed eighteen persons at Delphos and thirty persons at Irving. Two tornadoes struck the town of Irving within a few minutes time virtually wiping the small Kansas community off the map. The second tornado was perhaps two miles wide and exhibited multiple vortices.

1927: The Kentucky River peaks during a massive flood that killed 89 people and left thousands homeless. Torrential rains caused this unprecedented flood. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

1948 - A railroad bed acting as a dam gave way during a flood along the Columbia River destroying the town of Vanport, OR. The nearly 19,000 residents escaped with little more than the clothes on their backs. (David Ludlum)

1948 - Twenty carloads of glass were needed in Denver, CO, to replace that destroyed by a severe hail-storm. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the eastern U.S. Eighteen cities, from Virginia to Ohio and Michigan, reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 97 degrees at Baltimore, MD, and Washington, DC, and 98 degrees at Newark, NJ, were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Memorial Day heralded heavy snow in some of the mountains and higher passes of Wyoming, closing roads in Yellowstone Park. McDonald Pass, MT, was blanketed with eight inches of snow, while the temperature at Miles City, MT, soared to 94 degrees. A "supercell" thunderstorm in west Texas produced baseball size hail in Bailey and Lamb counties, and up to five inches of rain in less than an hour. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Upper Mississippi Valley to the Upper Ohio Valley during the day. A powerful (F-4) tornado injured three persons and caused a million dollars damage at New Providence, IA. Baseball size hail was reported at Blue Earth, MN. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing along a warm front spawned fourteen tornadoes in northeastern Texas during the late afternoon and evening hours. The thunderstorms also produced baseball size hail near Marshall, wind gusts to 77 mph at Commerce, and up to five inches of rain. Thunderstorms over southwestern Kansas produced up to six inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 14 of 62

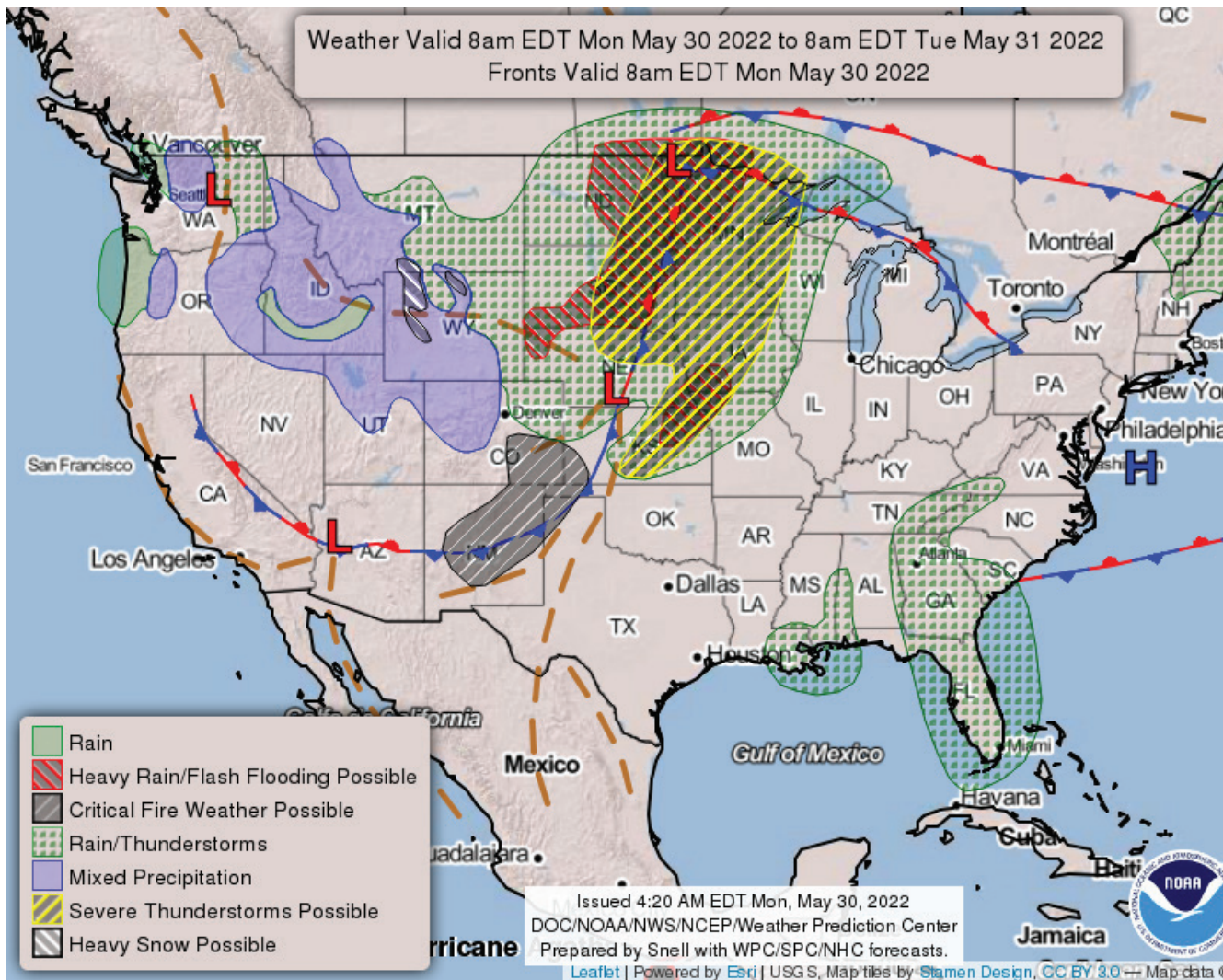
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 83 °F at 4:51 PM
Low Temp: 61 °F at 6:21 AM
Wind: 32 mph at 1:06 AM
Precip: 0.52 (Since Midnight: 0.32)

Day length: 15 hours, 27 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 110 in 1934
Record Low: 27 in 1947
Average High: 76°F
Average Low: 50°F
Average Precip in May.: 3.17
Precip to date in May.: 3.00
Average Precip to date: 7.14
Precip Year to Date: 9.50
Sunset Tonight: 9:13:33 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45:49 AM



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 15 of 62



OPENED EYES, CLOSED MIND

Sir Isaac Newton is generally recognized as the most original and influential theorists in history. His impact on physics and mathematics was profound, and he is the one who also discovered gravity.

One day a visitor to his study remarked, "Sir Isaac, I don't understand: you seem to believe the Bible like a little child. I have tried, but I can't. Many of the statements mean nothing to me. I can't believe, and I can't understand why."

Sir Isaac replied, "Sometimes I come to my study, and in my absentmindedness, I attempt to light my candle when the extinguisher is over it. I fumble about trying to light it but cannot. But when I remove the extinguisher, then I am able to light the candle."

"I am afraid the extinguisher in your case is your love for sin. It is deliberate unbelief that is in you. Turn to God in repentance, be prepared to let the Spirit of God reveal His truth to you, and it will be His joy to show the glory of the grace of God shining in the face of Jesus Christ."

It is unbelief that keeps the truth of God's Word from entering our minds, hearts, and lives. Reading and doubting are the opposite of reading and accepting. If we expect God to speak to us from His Word, we must first take Him at His Word, and the truth that is in His Word: "For by grace are you saved through faith."

"The Lord," said the Psalmist, "gives sight to the blind." He will open our eyes if we open our hearts.

Prayer: Lord, open our hearts to the grace You offer us through Christ and our eyes to see the truth in Your Word. Deepen our understanding so we can walk in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: The Lord gives sight to the blind. Psalm 146:8a

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 16 of 62

2022 Community Events

- 01/30/2022 84th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
01/30/2022 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed, 10am – 1pm, Groton Community Center, 109 N 3rd St, Groton,
04/07/2022 Groton CDE
04/09/2022 Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)
04/09/2022 Dueling Pianos Baseball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39 6-11:30pm
04/23/2022 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
04/24/2022 Princess Prom 4:30-8pm (Sunday after GHS Prom)
05/07/2022 Lions Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sales 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)
St John's Lutheran Church VBS 9-11am
05/30/2022 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
Transit Fundraiser at the Community Center 4-7pm (Thursday Mid-June)
06/17/2022 SDSU Alumni & Friends Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 12pm Start
06/18/2022 Groton Triathlon
Ladies Invitational at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Registration 10am Start
07/04/2022 Firecracker Couples Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Registration, 10am Start
(4th of July)
07/10/2022 Lions Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)
Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar 11am-1pm at the Groton Legion
Baseball Tourney
07/21/2022 Pro Am Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
Ferney Open Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start
How can we... "Love Groton"? United Methodist Church 9:30am
Moonlight Swim at the Swimming Pool 9-11pm for 9th grade to age 20
Golf Fundraiser Lunch at Olive Grove Golf Course 11a-1pm
08/05/2022 Wine on Nine at Olive Grove Golf Course 6pm
08/12/2022 GHS Basketball Golf Tournament
United Methodist Church VBS 5-8pm
Groton Firemen Summer Splash Day 4-5pm GHS Parking Lot
09/10/2022 Lions Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
6th Annual Doggie Day at the Swimming Pool 3:30-5pm
09/11/2022 Couples Sunflower Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 12pm
Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
10/14/2022 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am (2nd Friday in October)
10/01/2022 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
10/31/2022 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm (working day on or closest to Halloween)
10/31/2022 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
11/12/2022 Legion Post #39 Turkey Party 6:30pm (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
11/24/2022 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm (Thanksgiving)
12/03/2022 Tour of Homes & Holiday Party at Olive Grove Golf Course
Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9am-12pm
01/29/2023 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 17 of 62

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News from the Associated Press

Governors diverge on gun control, school security efforts

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

As the U.S. mourns the victims of its latest mass shooting — 19 elementary school students and two teachers gunned down in Texas — Democratic governors are amplifying their calls for greater restrictions on guns.

Many Republican governors are emphasizing a different solution: more security at schools.

The divide among the nation's governors mirrors a partisan split that has stymied action in Congress and many state capitols over how best to respond to a record-high number of gun-related deaths in the U.S. The political differences tap deep into the country's roots, highlighting the tensions between life, liberty and the constitutional rights spelled out in the nation's founding documents.

After the massacre Tuesday at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, The Associated Press asked governors across the U.S. whether they believed their states have an obligation to reduce mass shootings and violence committed with guns and, if so, how to do that.

About half the governor's offices responded to the AP. There was agreement that they had a responsibility to try to do something. Democrats and Republicans alike mentioned the need to invest in mental health services and training to try to help people potentially prone to a violent outburst.

But the commonality generally ended after that.

Should people younger than 21 be prohibited from buying semi-automatic guns? Should ammunition magazines be limited to no more than 10 bullets?

Many Democratic governors said "yes."

"If you're not serious about guns, you're not serious about crime prevention. I think that's more true today than ever before," said Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont of Connecticut, where 20 students and six adults were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School a decade ago.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf said he supports limits on both bullet capacities and the purchase of semi-automatic weapons. He rallied Friday with gun-control advocates in Philadelphia while denouncing his state's Republican-led Legislature for not passing his gun proposals.

"They would rather cave in cravenly to the gun manufacturing lobby than pass commonsense legislation that would keep children from dying," Wolf said.

Among Republican governors who responded to the AP, only Vermont Gov. Phil Scott expressed support for such gun control efforts. Scott signed a law in 2018 limiting the capacity of firearm magazines and raising the general age to buy guns to 21, with exceptions for 18- to 20-year-olds who undergo a firearms safety course.

Other Republican governors either sidestepped the AP's questions about specific gun-control measures or said they opposed them. Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy was a firm "no" on setting bullet limits or age restrictions that could infringe on constitutional rights.

"Stricter gun laws are not a solution to this problem — we must focus our attention on the status of mental health in our communities," Dunleavy's office said in email.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine said he would not endorse such gun-control proposals, because he believes they have no chance of passing in the state's GOP-led Legislature. DeWine, a Republican, instead proposed spending "a significant amount of money" on efforts to ensure schools are protected against potential attacks. He didn't outline exactly what that security would entail.

Republican governors were more likely to support efforts to strengthen security at schools. The AP asked about proposals to arm teachers and staff with firearms, add security guards or secure schools with such things as metal detectors and fencing.

During a speech Friday to the National Rifle Association convention in Houston, Republican Gov. Kristi Noem of South Dakota denounced calls for gun-control as "garbage" and embraced greater school security

measures

"Why do we protect our banks, our stores and celebrities with armed guards but not our children? Are they not truly our greatest treasure?" Noem said.

Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds of Iowa also laid out a variety of potential school safety steps while talking to reporters Friday.

"It's looking for ways to harden schools, it's talking about having conversations about state resource officers," she said, later adding: "Maybe a single entrance into the school system and making sure educators are trained."

While dismissing proposals to restrict gun ownership, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb said the solution is to "focus on the individual problems" and to continue providing grants to schools for security upgrades.

"You might call it hardening them when children are in their classroom," said Holcomb, a Republican.

Some Democrats also support funding for specially trained police known as school resources officers, or improving the security of buildings. But none of the Democratic governors who responded to the AP's questions supported arming teachers or staff to deter or stop attacks.

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers — a Democrat who is a former teacher, school superintendent and state education chief — said he's concerned that arming teachers would make schools more dangerous. Placing additional security guards or police at every school building could be both impractical and counterproductive, he said.

"There's not enough people to do it," Evers said, "and I'm not sure we want to turn our learning institutions into armed camps."

Man accused of causing double fatality crash, fleeing

WAHPETON, N.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man is facing charges of leaving the scene of a double fatality crash after his pickup rear-ended a motorcycle with two people aboard in southeastern North Dakota.

The North Dakota Highway Patrol said the crash happened at 11 p.m. Saturday on a highway about 6 miles west of Hankinson and 6 miles east of Lidgerwood.

The two people on the motorcycle, a 45-year-old man and 40-year-old woman, died at the scene. Both of them are residents of Wyndmere, North Dakota.

The patrol said the pickup driver, a 41-year-old man from Veblen, South Dakota, fled on foot and was apprehended a few hours later. He was not injured in the crash.

The suspect has not been formally charged with fleeing. The patrol says other charges are possible once the investigation is complete.

Crowd confronts cleric at Iran tower collapse that killed 32

By JON GAMBRELL and ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Protesters angry over a building collapse in southwestern Iran that killed at least 32 people shouted down an emissary sent by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, sparking a crackdown that saw riot police club demonstrators and fire tear gas, according to online videos analyzed on Monday.

The demonstration directly challenged the Iranian government's response to the disaster a week ago as pressure rises in the Islamic Republic over rising food prices and other economic woes amid the unraveling of its nuclear deal with world powers.

While the protests so far still appear to be leaderless, even Arab tribes in the region seemed to join them Sunday, raising the risk of the unrest intensifying. Already, tensions between Tehran and the West have spiked after Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard on Friday seized two Greek oil tankers seized at sea.

Ayatollah Mohsen Heidari AleKasir tried to address upset mourners near the site of the 10-story Metropal Building but hundreds gathered Sunday night instead booed and shouted.

Surrounded by bodyguards, the ayatollah, in his 60s, tried to continue but couldn't.

"What's happening?" the cleric stage-whispered to a bodyguard, who then leaned in to tell him something.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 20 of 62

The cleric then tried to address the crowd again: "My dears, please keep calm, as a sign of respect to Abadan, its martyrs and the dear (victims) the whole Iranian nation is mourning tonight."

The crowd responded by shouting: "Shameless!"

A live broadcast on state television of the event then cut out. Demonstrators later chanted: "I will kill; I will kill the one who killed my brother!"

The Tehran-based daily newspaper Hamshahri and the semiofficial Fars news agency said the protesters attacked the platform where state TV had set up its camera, cutting off its broadcast.

Police ordered the crowd not to chant slogans against the Islamic Republic and then ordered them to leave, calling their rally illegal. Video later showed officers confronting and clubbing demonstrators as clouds of tear gas rose. At least one officer fired what appeared to be a shotgun, though it wasn't clear if it was live fire or so-called "beanbag" rounds designed to stun.

It wasn't immediately clear if anyone was injured or if police made any arrests.

The details in the videos corresponded to known features of Abadan, located some 660 kilometers (410 miles) southwest of the capital, Tehran. Foreign-based Farsi-language television channels described tear gas and other shots being fired.

Independent newsgathering remains extremely difficult in Iran. During unrest, Iran has disrupted internet and telephone communications to affected areas, while also limiting the movement of journalists inside of the country. Reporters Without Borders describes the Islamic Republic as the third-worst country in the world to be a journalist — behind only North Korea and Eritrea.

Following the tower collapse in Abadan last Monday, authorities have acknowledged the building's owner and corrupt government officials had allowed construction to continue at the Metropol Building despite concerns over its shoddy workmanship. Authorities have arrested 13 people as part of a broad investigation into the disaster, including the city's mayor.

Rescue teams pulled three more bodies from the rubble on Monday, bringing the death toll in the collapse to 32, according to the state-run IRNA news agency. Authorities fear more people could be trapped under the debris.

The deadly collapse has raised questions about the safety of similar buildings in the country and underscored an ongoing crisis in Iranian construction projects. The collapse reminded many of the 2017 fire and collapse of the iconic Plasco building in Tehran that killed 26 people.

In Tehran, the city's emergency department warned that 129 high-rise buildings in the capital remained "unsafe," based on a survey in 2017. The country's prosecutor-general, Mohammad Javad Motazeri, has promised to address the issue immediately.

Abadan has also seen disasters in the past. In 1978, an intentionally set fire at Cinema Rex — just a few blocks away from the collapsed building in modern Abadan — killed hundreds. Anger over the blaze triggered unrest across Iran's oil-rich regions and helped lead to the Islamic Revolution that toppled Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Abadan, in Iran's oil-rich Khuzestan province, is home to Iran's Arab minority, who long have complained about being treated as second-class citizens in the Persian nation. Arab separatists in the region have launched attacks on pipelines and security forces in the past. Videos and the newspaper Hamshahri noted that two tribes had come into the city to support the protests.

Meanwhile, one of the two Greek tankers seized by Iran on Friday turned on its tracking devices for the first time since the incident. The oil tanker Prudent Warrior gave a satellite position Monday off Bandar Abbas, a major Iranian port, according to data from MarineTraffic.com analyzed by The Associated Press.

In an earlier message on its website, the ship's manager Polembros Shipping said the vessel remains held by Iranian forces and its crew "are in good health and are treated well."

It remains unclear where the second ship, the Delta Poseidon, is.

Man in wig throws cake at glass protecting Mona Lisa

PARIS (AP) — A man seemingly disguised as an old woman in a wheelchair threw a piece of cake at

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 21 of 62

the glass protecting the Mona Lisa at the Louvre Museum and shouted at people to think of planet Earth.

Videos posted on social media appear to show a young man in a wig and lipstick who had arrived in a wheelchair. The man, whose identity was unknown, was also seen throwing roses in the museum gallery on Sunday.

The cake attack left a conspicuous white creamy smear on the glass but the famous work by Leonardo da Vinci wasn't damaged.

Security guards were filmed escorting the wig-wearing activist away as he called out to the surprised visitors in the gallery: "Think of the Earth. There are people who are destroying the Earth. Think about it. Artists tell you: think of the Earth. That's why I did this."

Guards were then filmed cleaning the smeared cream from the glass. Officials at the Louvre weren't immediately available for comment.

The 16th-century Renaissance masterpiece has been targeted before.

The painting was stolen in 1911 by a museum employee, an event which increased the painting's international fame.

It was also damaged in an acid attack perpetrated by a vandal in the 1950s, and has since been kept behind glass.

In 2009, a Russian woman who was angry at not being able to get French citizenship threw a ceramic cup at it, smashing the cup but not harming the glass or the painting.

Live updates | Russia floats new foreign debt payment system

By The Associated Press undefined

MOSCOW — Russia says it may use an arrangement similar to that used for payments for its gas supplies to pay its dollar-denominated foreign debts.

The Vedomosti business daily on Monday quoted Finance Minister Anton Siluanov as saying that Russia will offer the holders of its Eurobond obligations a payment system bypassing Western financial infrastructure.

Russia previously has offered natural gas customers to establish an account in dollars or euros at Gazprombank, then a second account in rubles. The importer would pay the gas bill in euros or dollars and direct the bank to exchange the money for rubles.

The system aims to avoid a risk of payments for gas being frozen as part of Western sanctions against Russia for its actions in Ukraine.

Siluanov told Vedomosti that a similar mechanism will be set for Eurobond holders, with an offer to open foreign currency and ruble accounts at a Russian bank.

"In payments for gas, we are credited with foreign currency and it's converted into rubles," Siluanov was quoted as saying. "The Eurobond settlement mechanism will work in the same way, just in the other direction."

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR:

- Russian troops entering Sievierodonetsk in eastern Ukraine
- EU wrestles with Russia oil embargo as leaders gather
- War in Ukraine adds to food price hikes, hunger in Africa

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

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS:

LVIV, Ukraine — The mayor of a Ukrainian city at the epicenter of the Russian offensive says that fierce street battles are going on there.

Sieverodonetsk Mayor Oleksandr Striuk told The Associated Press in a telephone interview Monday that "Russian troops have entered the city and street fighting is going on." He added that the Ukrainian defenders were fighting to push the Russians out.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 22 of 62

Striuk added that "the Russian troops have advanced a few blocks toward the city center."
He said that "we have no power and no communications. The city has been completely ruined."
The mayor said that 12,000-13,000 civilians left in the city are sheltering in basements and bunkers to escape relentless Russian bombardment. He said that "the number of victims is rising every hour, but we are unable to count the dead and the wounded amid the street fighting."
Striuk said that 1,500 residents of the city have died since the start of the war.

KYIV, Ukraine -- The Ukrainian band that won the Eurovision Song Contest says it has sold the trophy at auction to raise funds to buy equipment for the Ukrainian military.

Kalush Orchestra said on social media that the trophy was sold in the online auction late Sunday for \$900,000 to a cryptocurrency group during a live-streamed fundraising event.

"Friends, you are unreal," Kalush Orchestra said in an Instagram post. "Thanks to everyone who donated."

Serhiy Prytula, a Ukrainian TV presenter who hosted the auction, said on Twitter that a further 11 million hryvnia (\$370,000) was raised in an online raffle for the pink bucket hat which Kalush Orchestra front-man Oleh Psiuk wore during the Eurovision performance. He said the hat was won by a man in the Czech Republic. Prytula said the funds would be used to buy a drone.

MOSCOW — Pro-Russian authorities in southern Ukraine say that two civilians were wounded by an explosion that they blamed on Ukraine.

Halyna Danylchenko, who was appointed mayor of the city of Melitopol after its takeover by Russian troops, said that Monday's explosion wounded two local volunteers who were involved in deliveries of humanitarian assistance to city residents. She said that they were hospitalized.

No one has claimed responsibility for the explosion, which Danylchenko blamed on Ukraine and denounced as a "cynical terror attack by the Kyiv regime" in remarks broadcast by Russian state television.

Melitopol was captured by Russian forces early in the campaign.

MOSCOW — Authorities in a Russia-backed separatist region in eastern Ukraine say at least five civilians have been killed in new Ukrainian shelling.

The separatist authorities said those killed during the shelling of the city of Donetsk included a 13-year old boy. They said another 13 civilians have been wounded in shelling Monday that damaged three schools in the city.

Donetsk Mayor Alexei Kulemzin said that the Ukrainian forces apparently used U.S.-supplied artillery systems in the attack.

An official installed by Russia in the Kherson region of southern Ukraine says grain from the area is being sent to Russia.

Kirill Stremousov, the deputy head of the Russia-backed administration for the Kherson region, told Russia's Tass state news agency on Monday that grain from last year's harvest was being delivered to Russian buyers.

"There is space for storing (the next crop) although obviously there is a lot of grain here," Stremousov was quoted as saying. "Now people are partially exporting, having reached agreements with those who are buying from the (Russian) side."

Tass also reported that Stremousov said sunflower seeds could be sent to Russian processing plants to make sunflower oil.

Ukraine has accused Russia of looting grain and farm equipment from territories held by its forces and the U.S. has alleged Russia is jeopardizing global food supplies by preventing Ukraine from exporting its harvest.

Russian troops overran most of the Kherson region in the early weeks of the war and have tightened their grip on the area since. Deputy Prime Minister Marat Khusnullin visited the region earlier this month

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 23 of 62

and suggested it could become part of "our Russian family."

MOSCOW — The Russian military says it has struck a shipbuilding factory in Ukraine's south.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said Monday that a Russian artillery strike on the shipyard in the port of Mykolaiv destroyed Ukrainian armored vehicles parked on its territory.

Konashenkov said that Russian artillery hit 593 areas of concentration of Ukrainian troops and equipment and 55 artillery batteries over the last 24 hours.

He added that the Russian air force hit three command posts and 67 troop locations.

KYIV, Ukraine — A regional governor says an intense battle is going on for the key city of Sievierodonetsk in eastern Ukraine.

Luhansk governor Serhiy Haidai said that Russian forces have entered the outskirts and were pushing toward nearby Lysychansk. He said Monday that two civilians were killed and another five were wounded in the latest Russian shelling.

The Ukrainian military also said that Russian forces were reinforcing their positions on northeastern and southeastern outskirts of Sievierodonetsk and bringing additional equipment and ammunition into the area to press their offensive.

Sieverodonetsk has been a key target of the Russian offensive in Ukraine's eastern Donbas industrial heartland. The city has served as the administrative center for the Luhansk region, which makes up Donbas together with the neighboring Donetsk region.

BRUSSELS — European Union leaders will gather Monday in a new show of solidarity with Ukraine but divisions over whether to target Russian oil in a new series of sanctions are exposing the limits of how far the bloc can go to help the war-torn country.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who will address the 27 heads of state and government by videoconference in the evening, has repeatedly demanded that the EU target Russia's lucrative energy sector and deprive Moscow of billions of dollars each day in supply payments.

But Hungary is leading a group of countries – along with Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria – that rely on Russian oil and can't afford to take such steps.

The EU has already slapped five rounds of sanctions on Russia over its actions in Ukraine. A sixth package was announced on May 4, but the hold up over oil is embarrassing the bloc. Ahead of the summit, officials suggested that a solution might be found by targeting oil transported by ships and holding fire on the pipeline oil so valuable to Hungary.

BERLIN -- Germany's governing parties and the main opposition party have reached a deal to move ahead with a big increase in defense spending that Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced three months ago.

Scholz told German lawmakers three days after the Russian invasion of Ukraine started that the country would commit 100 billion euros (\$107 billion) to a special fund for its military and raise its defense spending above 2% of GDP -- a measure on which it had long lagged.

Scholz wanted to anchor the special fund in the constitution. That requires a two-thirds majority in both houses of parliament, meaning that the chancellor needed support from the center-right opposition Union bloc.

Talks on the issue became mired in details, but the two sides reached an agreement Sunday night that clears the way to bring the fund to parliament. Among other things, funding for cyberdefense and support for partner countries will come from Germany's regular budget, not the special fund.

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Families across Africa are paying about 45% more for wheat flour as Russia's war in Ukraine blocks exports from the Black Sea.

Some countries like Somalia get more than 90% of their wheat from Russia and Ukraine. That's forcing many people to substitute wheat for other grains. But the United Nations is warning that the price hikes

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 24 of 62

are coming as many parts of Africa are facing drought and hunger.

The U.N. already had warned that an estimated 13 million people were already facing severe hunger in the wider Horn of Africa region as a result of a persistent drought. The World Food Program chief says Russia's war on Ukraine is "piling catastrophe on top of catastrophe" for the world's poor.

EU wrestles with Russia oil embargo as leaders gather

By LORNE COOK and SAMUEL PETREQUIN Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union leaders will gather Monday in a new show of solidarity with Ukraine, but divisions over whether to target Russian oil in a new series of sanctions are exposing the limits of how far the bloc can go to help the war-torn country.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who will address the 27 heads of state and government by videoconference in the evening, has repeatedly demanded that the EU target Russia's lucrative energy sector and deprive Moscow of billions of dollars each day in supply payments.

But Hungary is leading a group of countries — along with Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria — that rely on Russian oil and can't afford to take such steps. Hungary gets more than 60% of its oil from Russia and 85% of its natural gas. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has insisted that an oil embargo should not be discussed at the summit.

The EU has already imposed five rounds of sanctions on Russia over its war in Ukraine. The bloc has targeted more than 1,000 people, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and top government officials, as well as pro-Kremlin oligarchs, banks, the coal sector and more.

A sixth package was announced on May 4, but the holdup over oil is embarrassing the bloc. Before the summit, officials suggested that a solution might be found by targeting oil transported by ships and holding fire on the pipeline oil so valuable to Hungary.

"If we target the oil arriving by sea, we'll hit at least two thirds of exports, perhaps more," a senior EU official said on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the negotiations. Hungary and Slovakia depend on Russian oil they receive through the Soviet-era Druzhba pipeline.

The problem with hitting sea transported oil is that countries like Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands most reliant on that form would suffer a surge in oil prices, distorting competition because Hungary would still be purchasing cheaper Russian oil. Experts failed to reach agreement on such a move over the weekend, but continued their talks before the summit.

The two-day summit in Brussels will also focus on continued EU financial support to Ukraine — probably the endorsement of a 9 billion-euro (\$9.7 billion) tranche of assistance — and on military help and war crimes investigations.

The issue of food security will be on the table Tuesday, with the leaders set to encourage their governments to speed up work on "solidarity lanes" to help Ukraine export grain and other produce.

A small group of protesters gathered outside EU buildings before the summit, with some holding signs like "No to Russian oil and gas."

China falls short on big Pacific deal but finds smaller wins

By AILEEN TORRES-BENNETT and NICK PERRY Associated Press

SUVA, Fiji (AP) — China fell short Monday on a bold plan to have 10 Pacific nations endorse a sweeping new agreement covering everything from security to fisheries as some in the region expressed deep concerns.

But there have been plenty of smaller wins for China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi as he continues an island-hopping tour of the region.

Wang was in Fiji to co-host a key meeting with the foreign ministers from the 10 island nations.

At an unusual news conference afterward, Wang and Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama spoke for about 30 minutes and then abruptly left the stage as reporters tried to shout out questions. That left many details of what transpired at the meeting undisclosed.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 25 of 62

But it was clear the nations hadn't endorsed China's plan.

"As always, we put consensus first among our countries throughout any discussion on new regional agreements," Bainimarama said.

While there have been growing international concerns about Beijing's military and financial ambitions in the region, many Fijians see a benefit in foreign investment wherever it comes from, so long as it uplifts the people.

Georgina Matilda said that working for Chinese infrastructure company China Railway meant that she could put food on the table for her children.

Another Fijian, Miliane Rokolita, said China's increased presence had benefited people.

"They bring us bigger houses. They bring money in Fiji. They're good people," Rokolita said.

Documents obtained by The Associated Press indicate Wang had hoped to get the 10 nations to endorse a pre-written agreement as part of a joint communique after the meeting.

But Wang was unable to get the consensus he'd sought.

David Panuelo, president of the Federated States of Micronesia, told other Pacific leaders he wouldn't endorse the plan, warning them in a letter that it would needlessly heighten geopolitical tensions and threaten regional stability.

Panuelo called it "the single most game-changing proposed agreement in the Pacific in any of our lifetimes" and said it "threatens to bring a new Cold War era at best, and a World War at worst."

During the news conference Monday, Wang listed some areas where the countries had been able to find agreement and said he'd keep working on others.

"After the meeting, China will release its own position paper on our own positions, propositions, and co-operation proposals with Pacific Island countries," Wang said through an interpreter. "And going forward, we will continue to have ongoing and in-depth discussions and consultations to shape more consensus."

While China may have fallen short on its plans for a grand multilateral agreement, it has been signing smaller bilateral agreements with the Pacific nations every day during Wang's tour.

For instance, on Friday Wang visited Kiribati, where a key fishing ground the size of California is at stake. Kiribati's government said afterwards the two nations had signed 10 agreements ranging from cooperating on economic goals to building a specific bridge.

Kiribati's government did not immediately respond to a request by the AP to provide details of the agreements.

In his news conference, Wang said "some have been questioning why China has been so active in supporting Pacific Island countries."

He said China had long championed other developing nations both in the Pacific and around the world, something it had started doing in the 1960s when it helped African nations build railways.

"My advice for those people is: Don't be too anxious and don't be too nervous," Wang said.

After the news conference, China's ambassador to Fiji Qian Bo took a few questions from reporters, saying there had been "some concerns on specific issues" from some of the 10 nations about the proposed agreement.

"We never impose anything on other countries, let alone to our developing friends and small island countries," Qian said.

He said China would try to release the position paper mentioned by Wang within about a week. He said parts of the agreement were simply an offer from China to provide assistance to the nations.

A draft of the proposed multilateral agreement obtained by the AP shows that China wants to train Pacific police officers, team up on "traditional and non-traditional security" and expand law enforcement cooperation.

China also wants to jointly develop a marine plan for fisheries — which would include the Pacific's lucrative tuna catch — increase cooperation on running the region's internet networks, and set up cultural Confucius Institutes and classrooms. China also mentions the possibility of setting up a free trade area with the Pacific nations.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a speech Thursday that China posed an even more serious

long-term threat than Russia.

"China is the only country with both the intent to reshape the international order — and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to do it," he said. "Beijing's vision would move us away from the universal values that have sustained so much of the world's progress over the past 75 years."

China hit back, saying the U.S. was spreading disinformation. The aim of Blinken's speech was to "contain and suppress China's development and uphold U.S. hegemony," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said. "We strongly deplore and reject this."

China says that in the Pacific, cooperation between Beijing and the island nations has been expanding in a development that's welcomed by those countries.

In Fiji, the economy was hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic. The vital tourism industry shut down overnight and GDP shrank by more than 15%. As the world reopens, Fiji is trying to bounce back, and many are happy to see China write the checks.

China's involvement in the region doesn't come completely out of the blue. There has been a long history of Chinese immigration in Fiji, with many Chinese Fijians running corner stores and other businesses.

"There's a good side and a bad side," said Nora Nabukete, a student at the University of the South Pacific. "We get more money into the economy, being pumped in and stuff, but then there's also a side where they bring in a lot of new things that are new to the Fijian culture."

Nabukete worries about the seedier side that has been associated with Chinese investment in Fiji — a supposed influx of gambling, gangs and drugs.

She said that aligning with China could mean that Fiji creates tension with the United States and other Western nations, and for that reason, she hoped that Fiji wouldn't endorse Wang's agreement.

"There's so much more to lose in the future than what we're experiencing now if Fiji does sign," she said.

Russian troops entering Sievierodonetsk in eastern Ukraine

By YURAS KARMANAU and ELENA BECATOROS Associated Press

KRAMATORSK, Ukraine (AP) — The Russian-battered eastern Ukrainian city of Sievierodonetsk appeared to be on the brink of becoming another Mariupol on Monday as the mayor told The Associated Press that Russian troops have entered, power and communications have been cut and "the city has been completely ruined."

Moscow seeks to capture all of Ukraine's industrial Donbas region, and Sievierodonetsk is key to that. Fierce street fighting is underway in the city as Ukrainian defenders are trying to push the Russians out, Mayor Oleksandr Striuk told the AP in a phone interview. Russian troops have advanced a few blocks toward the city center, he said.

"The number of victims is rising every hour, but we are unable to count the dead and the wounded amid the street fighting," the mayor added. He said 12,000-13,000 civilians left in the city that once held more than 100,000 are sheltering in basements and bunkers to escape the Russian bombardment.

Russian forces stormed Sievierodonetsk after trying unsuccessfully to encircle it, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has described the situation as "indescribably difficult." A Russian artillery barrage has destroyed critical infrastructure and damaged 90% of buildings. The mayor has estimated that 1,500 civilians in the city have died since the war began, from Russian attacks as well as from a lack of medicine or treatment.

Sievierodonetsk, 143 kilometers (89 miles) south of the Russian border, has emerged in recent days as the epicenter of the Donbas fighting. Mariupol is the city on the Sea of Azov that spent nearly three months under Russian siege before the last Ukrainian fighters surrendered.

The Ukrainian military said Russian forces were reinforcing their positions on the northeastern and southeastern outskirts of Sievierodonetsk and bringing additional equipment and ammunition to press their offensive.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 27 of 62

Luhansk regional Gov. Serhiy Haidai said the Russians also are pushing toward nearby Lysychansk. He said two civilians were killed and another five were wounded in the latest Russian shelling in the war.

Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk span the strategically important Siverskiy Donetsk River. They are the last major areas under Ukrainian control in Luhansk, which makes up the Donbas together with the adjacent Donetsk region.

The Institute for the Study of War, a think tank based in Washington, questioned the Kremlin's strategy of assembling a huge military effort to take Sievierodonetsk, saying it was proving costly for Russia and would bring few returns.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told French TF1 television Sunday that Moscow's "unconditional priority is the liberation of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions," adding that Russia sees them as "independent states." He also suggested other regions of Ukraine should be able to establish close ties with Russia.

The Ukrainian army reported heavy fighting around Donetsk, the regional capital, as well as Lyman to the north, a small city that serves as a key rail hub in the region. "The enemy is reinforcing its units," the Ukrainian armed forces' General Staff said. "It is trying to gain a foothold in the area."

Authorities in a Russia-backed separatist region said at least five civilians were killed in the latest Ukrainian shelling of Donetsk city including a 13-year-old boy.

Zelenskyy on Monday will address European Union leaders gathering in a new show of solidarity with Ukraine amid divisions over whether to target Russian oil in a new series of sanctions. He has repeatedly demanded that the EU target Russia's lucrative energy sector and deprive Moscow of billions of dollars each day in supply payments.

Zelenskyy on Sunday visited soldiers in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, where Ukrainian fighters pushed Russian forces back from nearby positions several weeks ago. Russia has kept up bombardment of the northeastern city, and explosions could be heard shortly after Zelenskyy's visit. Shelling and airstrikes have destroyed more than 2,000 apartment buildings since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, according to the regional governor, Oleh Syniehubov.

In the wider Kharkiv region, Russian troops still held about one-third of the territory, Zelenskyy said.

Russian pressure also continued in the south on Monday. Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said an artillery strike on the shipyard in the southern port of Mykolaiv destroyed Ukrainian armored vehicles parked on its territory.

In the Kherson region, the Russia-installed deputy head of the regional administration, Kirill Stremousov, told Russia's Tass state news agency that grain from last year's harvest is being delivered to Russian buyers, adding that "obviously there is a lot of grain here." Ukraine has accused Russia of looting grain from territories its forces hold, and the U.S. has alleged Moscow is jeopardizing global food supplies by preventing Ukraine from exporting its harvest.

In Mariupol on Sunday, an aide to its Ukrainian mayor alleged that after Russia's forces gained complete control of the city, they piled the bodies of dead people inside a supermarket. Petro Andryushchenko, posted a photo on the Telegram messaging app showing bodies stacked alongside closed supermarket counters. It wasn't immediately possible to verify his claim.

Plane wreckage found in Nepal mountains; 17 bodies recovered

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Rescuers searching a mountainside in Nepal on Monday recovered the bodies of 17 of the 22 people who were on board a plane that crashed a day earlier, officials said.

A search is continuing for the remaining people, airline spokesperson Sudarshan Bartaula said.

Bartaula said rescuers believe some bodies are pinned under the plane's wreckage. Rescuers working with their bare hands have not been able to move the metal debris, he said.

The Tara Air turboprop Twin Otter lost contact with the airport tower on Sunday while flying on a scheduled 20-minute flight in an area of deep river gorges and mountaintops.

Four Indians and two Germans were on the plane, Tara Air said. The three crew members and other

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 28 of 62

passengers were Nepali nationals, it said.

The wreckage was located by villagers who had been searching in the area for the Yarsagumba fungus, which is commonly referred to as Himalayan Viagra, according to local news reports.

The Setopati news website quoted a villager, Bishal Magar, as saying that they heard about the missing plane on Sunday but were only able to reach the site on Monday morning after following the smell of fuel.

Magar said it appeared the plane may have clipped the top of a smaller mountain and then slammed into a bigger mountain.

Local news reports said the passengers included two Nepali families, one with four members and the other with seven.

Aerial photos of the crash site showed aircraft parts scattered on rocks and moss on the side of a mountain gorge.

The army said the plane crashed in Sanosware in Mustang district close to the mountain town of Jomsom, where it was heading after taking off from the resort town of Pokhara, 200 kilometers (125 miles) west of Kathmandu.

According to tracking data from flightradar24.com, the 43-year-old aircraft took off from Pokhara at 9:55 a.m. and transmitted its last signal at 10:07 a.m. at an altitude of 12,825 feet (3,900 meters).

The plane's destination is popular with foreign hikers who trek on its mountain trails, and with Indian and Nepalese pilgrims who visit the revered Muktinath temple.

The Twin Otter, a rugged plane originally built by Canadian aircraft manufacturer De Havilland, has been in service in Nepal for about 50 years, during which it has been involved in about 21 accidents, according to aviationnepal.com.

The plane, with its top-mounted wing and fixed landing gear, is prized for its durability and its ability to take off and land on short runways.

Production of the planes originally ended in the 1980s. Another Canadian company, Viking Air, brought the model back into production in 2010.

1 billion pills seized: East, SE Asia hits ominous drug peak

By GRANT PECK Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — The number of methamphetamine tablets seized in East and Southeast Asia exceeded a billion last year for the first time, highlighting the scale of illegal drug production and trafficking in the region and the challenges of fighting it, the U.N. said Monday.

The 1.008 billion tablets — which would weigh about 91 tons altogether — were part of a regionwide haul of almost 172 tons of methamphetamine in all forms, and was seven times higher than the amount seized 10 years earlier, the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime said in a report.

"I think the region is literally swimming in methamphetamine," said Jeremy Douglas, Southeast Asia regional representative for the U.N. agency, at a news conference in the Thai capital Bangkok unveiling the report on "Synthetic Drugs in East and Southeast Asia."

"So there's going to have to be a radical policy shift by East Asia to address this problem or it's just going to continue to grow," Douglas said.

The drugs are largely consumed in Southeast Asia but also exported to New Zealand and Australia, Hong Kong, Korea and Japan in East Asia, and increasingly to South Asia.

"Production and trafficking of methamphetamine jumped yet again as supply became super concentrated in the Mekong (River region) and in particular Thailand, Laos and Myanmar," Douglas told The Associated Press in an email.

The increased production makes the drug cheaper and more accessible, creating greater risk to people and their communities, the report said. According to Douglas, when he first worked in the region in 2002-2007, a meth tablet cost five to six times what it costs now.

Methamphetamine is easy to make and has supplanted opium and its derivative heroin to become the dominant illegal drug in Southeast Asia for both use and export.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 29 of 62

The Golden Triangle area, where the borders of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand meet, was historically a major production area for opium and hosted many of the labs that converted it to heroin. Decades of political instability have made Myanmar's frontier regions largely lawless, to be exploited by drug producers and traffickers.

Douglas said at Monday's news conference that there is a fundamental need to refocus law enforcement efforts against the drug trade.

"There's lots and lots of seizures being made and no impact being made on the business itself. Organized crime just keep cranking out the volume, replacing seizures with more product," Douglas said.

"The chemical situation is highly complex and there's no essential chemicals being seized and they just continue to flow unabated, primarily through Laos into (Myanmar's) Shan State," Douglas added. "We also have huge money laundering operations at play in the region. We have no attempt fundamentally at the end of the day to address demand which is seemingly growing and can continue to grow because of the price point of the drug is so cheap."

Given the problem of limited governance and low attention to the issue, the U.N. agency said organized crime syndicates have the means to continue to produce more meth and to sell it to a growing population of young people with increased spending power.

The political landscape has also served to ramp up production.

In Myanmar, the military seized power from an elected government last year and is now engaged in an armed struggle against foes of military rule.

Drug production in Myanmar is often associated with armed ethnic minority groups that sometimes battle the government and each other.

"Every group denies involvement in drug production and trafficking and point at other groups as responsible, but the drug economy is arguably the largest part of the economy in most or many parts of Shan and border areas of Myanmar and there is plenty of intel connecting groups to labs and shipments," Douglas said.

The report also called Laos one of the countries most impacted by methamphetamine trafficked out of Myanmar. One of Asia's biggest-ever drug busts was made in Laos last October, with police there seizing more than 55.6 million methamphetamine pills in a single raid. They also seized about 1,500 kilograms (3,300 pounds) of crystal methamphetamine, state media reported.

The U.N. agency said it was concerned that criminal enterprises were targeting Cambodia as a drug production site. One covert laboratory dismantled there last year was an industrial-scale facility set up to produce ketamine and potentially other drugs, the report said.

Ketamine is used legitimately as an anesthetic, but its non-medical use and clandestine manufacture was concerning to the U.N. agency.

Many nations tried to halt meth production by choking supplies of precursors, usually ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, best known for being used in decongestant medicines. But the U.N. agency said some methamphetamine producers have clearly learned to make these precursors from non-controlled substances that can be freely and legally traded.

Uvalde tells Biden to 'do something'; he pledges 'we will'

By ZEKE MILLER and ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

UVALDE, Texas (AP) — President Joe Biden grieved with the shattered community of Uvalde on Sunday, mourning privately for three hours with anguished families of the 19 schoolchildren and two teachers killed by a gunman. Faced with chants of "do something" as he departed a church service, Biden pledged: "We will."

At Robb Elementary School, Biden visited a memorial of 21 white crosses — one for each of those killed — and first lady Jill Biden added a bouquet of white flowers to those already placed in front of the school sign. The couple then viewed individual altars erected in memory of each student, the first lady touching the children's photos as they moved along the row.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 30 of 62

After visiting the memorial, Biden attended Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, where several victims' families are members, and one of the families was in attendance.

Speaking directly to the children in the congregation, Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller tried to assuage the fears of the youngsters, some appearing about the same age as the victims.

"You have seen the news, you have witnessed the tears of your parents, friends," he said, encouraging them not to be afraid of life. "You are the best reminders to us that the lives of the little ones are important."

As Biden departed church to meet privately with family members, a crowd of about 100 people began chanting "do something." Biden answered, "We will," as he got into his car. It was his only public comment during roughly seven hours in Uvalde.

Biden later tweeted that he grieves, prays and stands with the people of Uvalde. "And we are committed to turning this pain into action," he said.

The visit to Uvalde was Biden's second trip in as many weeks to console a community in loss after a mass shooting. He traveled to Buffalo, New York, on May 17 to meet with victims' families and condemn white supremacy after a shooter espousing the racist "replacement theory" killed 10 Black people at a supermarket.

Both shootings and their aftermath put a fresh 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 also met with first responders before the trip back to his home in Delaware. It was not clear if the group included officers who were involved in the immediate response to the shooting.

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

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

The Justice Department announced Sunday that it will review the law enforcement response and make its findings public.

"It's easy to point fingers right now," said Ronnie Garza, a Uvalde County commissioner, on CBS' "Face the Nation," before adding, "Our community needs to focus on healing right now."

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

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 just turned 18, permitting him to buy the weapons under federal law.

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?"

Over the years, Biden has been intimately involved in the gun control movement's most notable successes, such as the 1994 assault weapons ban, which expired in 2004, and its most troubling disappointments, including the failure to pass new legislation after the 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 31 of 62

School in Newtown, Connecticut.

As president, Biden has tried to address 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.

In Congress, a bipartisan group of senators talked over the weekend to see if they could reach even a modest compromise on gun safety legislation after a decade of mostly failed efforts.

Encouraging state "red flag" laws to keep guns away from those with mental health issues, and addressing school security and mental health resources were on the table, said Sen. Chris Murphy, who is leading the effort.

While there is nowhere near enough support from Republicans in Congress for broader gun safety proposals popular with the public, including a new assault weapons ban or universal background checks on gun purchases, Murphy, D-Conn., told ABC's "This Week" that these other ideas are "not insignificant."

The group will meet again this coming week under a 10-day deadline to strike a deal.

"There are more Republicans interested in talking about finding a path forward this time than I have ever seen since Sandy Hook," said Murphy who represented the Newtown area as a congressman at the time of the Sandy Hook shooting. "And while, in the end, I may end up being heartbroken, I am at the table in a more significant way right now with Republicans and Democrats than ever before."

Jubilee: Balcony moment tells UK monarchy's story over years

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — As a 9-year-old girl, Princess Elizabeth appeared with her family on Buckingham Palace's balcony to mark her grandfather George V's Silver Jubilee, an excited grin on her face as she gazed at the crowds below.

The better part of a century later, the former princess — now 96-year-old Queen Elizabeth II — is expected to take to the same balcony this week to smile and wave at millions celebrating her 70 years on the throne.

The balcony appearance is the centerpiece of almost all royal celebrations in Britain, a chance for the public to catch a glimpse of the family assembled for a grand photo to mark weddings, coronations and jubilees. Every June, the extended royal family put on their finest uniforms, hats and frocks and gather to mark the queen's birthday, celebrated with an extravagant military parade known as Trooping the Color and concluding with the balcony moment after the Royal Air Force flies past.

Balcony images through the decades chronicle the changing faces of the monarchy, and offer snapshots of many milestones in Elizabeth's life. As a young woman, the princess donned her military uniform and stood alongside Winston Churchill to celebrate the end of World War II in 1945.

Eight years later, she wore the Imperial State Crown and regal robes to greet a sea of ecstatic subjects after her own coronation.

This Thursday, the family's Platinum Jubilee balcony appearance will be notable for those who will be absent. Palace officials announced earlier this month that "after careful consideration," the queen decided that only working members of the royal family and their children will gather on the balcony.

That means that Prince Harry and his wife Meghan, who stepped away from frontline royal duties and moved to California in 2020, and their young children will be excluded. So will Prince Andrew, who has been disgraced by a sex scandal and his links to the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

"I think the decision to only have current working members of the royal family on the balcony was a very sensible one because it avoids any awkward situations," said Emily Nash, royal editor at HELLO! magazine.

"People are watching the family dynamic to see if there are tensions, and there would be a huge outcry, I think, if we see Prince Andrew on the balcony. So it resolves all those issues in one fell swoop," Nash added. "But the palace had made it clear throughout that Harry and Meghan remain very much loved members of the family and they will be here."

Harry and Meghan, known as the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, have said they will fly to the U.K. with

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 32 of 62

their two young children and that they look forward to joining the long weekend of festivities. The trip will be the family's first visit to Harry's home country, and any appearance they make at Jubilee events — including a service at St. Paul's Cathedral and a possible second balcony gathering on Sunday — will be closely watched.

Andrew, meanwhile, will be kept out of the public spotlight after he recently reached a multimillion-pound settlement with a woman who filed a U.S. lawsuit accusing him of sexual assault when she was 17 years old. The queen's second son was stripped of his honorary military titles in January amid the scandal.

Some royal watchers say the limited balcony lineup this Thursday is also consistent with a longstanding desire by Prince Charles to slim down the monarchy.

The decision means the queen will be flanked Thursday on the balcony by her 73-year-old heir, Charles, and his wife Camilla; Prince William, the second in line to the throne, with his wife Kate and their three children; and Charles' siblings, Princess Anne and Prince Edward, along with their spouses.

Several other less recognizable working royals will join the group, including the queen's cousin, the Duke of Gloucester and his wife, as well as the Duke of Kent and Princess Alexandra.

While some past balcony gatherings have included a large contingent of royals — including the queen's distant cousins — the Diamond Jubilee celebration in 2012 saw the queen accompanied by just five close family members: Charles, Camilla, William, Kate and Harry.

"It was making a point, it's saying -- this is the future, folks," said Robert Hardman, the monarch's biographer and author of "Queen of Our Times: The Life of Elizabeth II."

For this week, "it's not a case of Andrew or Harry or Meghan being barred from the balcony," Hardman added. "They have withdrawn from royal duties, so they're not part of the operational unit. That's what it's all about."

The tradition of a balcony appearance began with Queen Victoria, who transformed Buckingham Palace into the monarch's official residence and a royal family home in the 19th century. Victoria made the first royal balcony appearance during celebrations marking the opening of the 1851 Great Exhibition.

It's a symbolic moment of the crown and people coming together, said Ed Owens, a royal historian and author of "The Family Firm: Monarchy, Mass Media and the British Public 1932-1953."

"It was popularized as this moment where the nation came to look up to the royals," Owens said.

It's a formal occasion, though mischievous royal children often steal the scene. Harry, at 3 and still in his mother Diana's arms, made an impression when he stuck his tongue out at photographers.

Royal watchers are hopeful that the queen, who has trouble getting around now and recently missed out on several major public engagements, will be present for Thursday's balcony moment and at least one or two of the events planned for the four-day Platinum Jubilee weekend. But there are no promises.

"We can't take anything for given at this point — at the age of 96, you have good days and bad days," said Joe Little, managing editor of Majesty magazine. "The palace is very much taking it one day at a time."

War in Ukraine adds to food price hikes, hunger in Africa

By OMAR FARUK and KRISTA LARSON Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — It now costs Ayan Hassan Abdirahman twice as much as it did just a few months ago to buy the wheat flour she uses to make breakfast each day for her 11 children in Somalia's capital.

Nearly all the wheat sold in Somalia comes from Ukraine and Russia, which have halted exports through the Black Sea since Moscow waged war on its neighbor on Feb. 24. The timing could not be worse: The U.N. has warned that an estimated 13 million people were facing severe hunger in the Horn of Africa region as a result of a persistent drought.

Abdirahman has been trying to make do by substituting sorghum, another more readily available grain, in her flatbread. Inflation, though, means the price of the cooking oil she still needs to prepare it has skyrocketed too — a jar that once cost \$16 is now selling for \$45 in the markets of Mogadishu.

"The cost of living is high nowadays, making it difficult for families even to afford flour and oil," she says.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 33 of 62

Haji Abdi Dhiblawe, a businessman who imports wheat flour into Somalia, fears the situation will only worsen: There is also a looming shortage of shipping containers to bring food supplies in from elsewhere at the moment.

"Somalis have no place to grow wheat, and we are not even familiar with how to grow it," he says. "Our main concern now is what will the future hold for us when we currently run out of supplies."

Another 18 million people are facing severe hunger in the Sahel, the part of Africa just below the Sahara Desert where farmers are enduring their worst agricultural production in more than a decade. The U.N. World Food Program says food shortages could worsen when the lean season arrives in late summer.

"Acute hunger is soaring to unprecedented levels and the global situation just keeps on getting worse. Conflict, the climate crisis, COVID-19 and surging food and fuel costs have created a perfect storm — and now we've got the war in Ukraine piling catastrophe on top of catastrophe," WFP Executive Director David Beasley warned earlier this month.

Even the cost of therapeutic food for malnourished children could rise 16% over the next six months because of the war in Ukraine and disruptions related to the pandemic, UNICEF says.

African countries imported 44% of their wheat from Russia and Ukraine between 2018 and 2020, according to U.N. figures. The African Development Bank is already reporting a 45% increase in wheat prices on the continent, making everything from couscous in Mauritania to the fried donuts sold in Congo more expensive for customers.

"Africa has no control over production or logistics chains and is totally at the mercy of the situation," said Senegalese President Macky Sall, the African Union chairperson, who has said he will travel to Russia and Ukraine to discuss the price woes.

Russian President Vladimir Putin pressed the West last week to lift sanctions against Moscow over the war in Ukraine, seeking to shift the blame from Russia to the West for a growing world food crisis that has been worsened by Ukraine's inability to ship millions of tons of grain and other agricultural products while under attack.

Putin told Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi that Moscow "is ready to make a significant contribution to overcoming the food crisis through the export of grain and fertilizer on the condition that politically motivated restrictions imposed by the West are lifted," according to the Kremlin.

Western officials have dismissed the Russian claims. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has noted that food, fertilizer and seeds are exempt from the sanctions imposed by the U.S. and many others on Russia.

In Cameroon, baker Sylvester Ako says he's seen his daily clientele drop from 300 customers a day to only 100 since bread prices jumped 40% because of the lack of wheat imports. He's already let three of his seven employees go, and worries that he will have to shutter his Yaounde business entirely unless something changes.

"The price of a 50-kilogram (110-pound) bag of wheat now sells at \$60 — up from about \$30 — and the supply is not regular," Ako said.

Along with the shortfall in wheat imports, the African Development Bank is also warning of a potential 20% decline in food production on the continent because farmers are having to pay 300% more for their imported fertilizer.

The organization says it plans to address the issues through a \$1.5 billion plan that will provide farmers in Africa with certified seeds, fertilizer and other help. Reducing dependence on foreign imports is part of the strategy, but those economic transitions are likely to take years, not months.

Senegal's president says appetites can pivot more quickly. He's encouraging Africans to consume local grains that were once the staples of their diets.

"We must also change our eating habits," Sall said. "We dropped millet and started importing rice from Asia. Now we only know how to eat rice and we don't produce enough. We only know how to eat bread. We do not produce wheat."

'Real Housewives' franchise takes its drama to flashy Dubai

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 34 of 62

By ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The camera pans across a vast expanse of desert before careening toward an artificial island lined with luxury homes in the Persian Gulf. Eerie chords ring out, as though warning viewers: This is not your “Real Housewives of Orange County.”

For the first time in its 16-year history, the American franchise that has become an institution of reality television will take its glamor and soap opera abroad — specifically, to the skyscraper-studded sheikhdom of Dubai. While the franchise has sold countless global spinoffs from Lagos to Vancouver, none have been produced by the Bravo network before.

“The Real Housewives of Dubai” debuts on Wednesday, inducting six new women into network’s crown jewel of catfights and marital meltdowns that is beloved, binged and hate-watched around the world.

Dubai might be some 13,000 kilometers (8,000 miles) away from the California gated community where the reality-show empire premiered in 2006, which a cameo by camels in the series’ teaser makes clear.

But as Dubai’s “housewives” gossip over lavish lunches, bicker while sipping from stem glasses and arrive at casual gatherings engulfed in designer logos, it turns out they’re not so far from Orange County after all.

That’s a message the women want to convey. Cast members say showing off their extravagant, party-hard lives on screen debunks stereotypes about the United Arab Emirates, a Gulf Arab federation where Islam is the official religion.

“This is an opportunity for me to show the Western world, or the world in general, how a modern Arab woman can be,” Sara Al Madani, a serial entrepreneur and single mom, told The Associated Press from her quirky villa adorned with portraits of her favorite non-fungible tokens and a room full of trophies commemorating her career.

Instead of the traditional black abaya, Al Madani sported a wide-brimmed suede hat. With a nose ring, tongue piercing and arm tattoo that reads “Rebel,” she was the first to admit: “I’m not your typical Arab or Emirati.”

Al Madani is the only Emirati cast member — a ratio that comes as no surprise in a country where expatriates outnumber locals nearly nine to one.

The other “housewives” found Dubai’s glitz from far afield. Caroline Stanbury, a reality star who stirred up drama in Bravo’s “Ladies of London” series moved to Dubai with her kids after getting divorced and remarrying a former soccer player.

Caroline Brooks, an Afro-Latina businesswoman from Massachusetts, rose to success in Dubai’s cutthroat real estate industry. “It’s very expensive to cheat on me,” she tells viewers in the trailer. “Ask my exes.”

Nina Ali, an ultra-glam Lebanese mother of three, founded Fruit Cake, a fruitcake business. Lesa Hall, a Jamaican designer of luxury maternity clothes and former beauty queen, recently posted on Instagram an ice-cream cone — with a 24-karat-gold-leaf on top.

Chanel Ayan, a breezy Kenyan-born model who overcame prejudices in the UAE to walk for top-tier European fashion houses, is now developing a makeup line. She described herself in an interview with the AP as “outgoing, funny, crazy and insanely hot.”

Like American stars of the franchise, the women in Dubai are not housewives in the traditional sense but rather socialite business owners trying to define their brands. And Dubai, a city ceaselessly trying to market itself on the world stage, provides a fitting backdrop.

With zero income taxes, gleaming skyscrapers and countless malls, the emirate was engineered to be a global destination for the ultra-wealthy. Fortune-seekers, rich and poor, flock to Dubai from around the world, including migrant laborers from South Asia, Africa and the Philippines who work long hours for low pay. The franchise, however, takes as its focus just a tiny subset of wealthy womanhood.

The cast members described Dubai as a Westernized playground where women are free to have fun and do what they want.

“You have glitz, you have glamor, you have fashion,” Stanbury said, cradling her black Pomeranian named Taz against her sequined Prada crop top. On her coffee table was F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “The Beautiful and Damned.”

“You don’t understand how much it’s worth to live in a country like this,” she added.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 35 of 62

But in the UAE, women are legally obligated to obey their husbands under the nation's Islamic law. Despite major legal changes, cursing, drinking and kissing in public can still land you in trouble. Homosexuality remains forbidden, as does crossdressing. Authorities stamp out hints of political dissent.

Executives insisted that the UAE's traditional values and speech restrictions, which had long hampered the oil-rich country's efforts to become a regional entertainment hub, did not hold the housewives back.

Fans can still expect alcohol-soaked gatherings and dramatic confrontations, said Sezin Cavusoglu, the Bravo executive in charge of the series. But there will be no drink-throwing, table-flipping, hair-pulling or otherwise ostentatious fighting in public.

"They live there. They know what's acceptable, and what's not acceptable," Cavusoglu said. "They still gave us amazing content just by being who they are and having really honest and difficult conversations."

Dubai's government-run media office did not respond to AP requests for comment. Dubai's Tourism Board and Film Commission approved the series and facilitated its production.

That's already a stark shift from over a decade ago, when the Dubai government cited moral concerns in rejecting the producers of the "Sex and the City" movie sequel.

Not everyone in the UAE is glad of the "Real Housewives" limelight. Aghast at the foul-mouthed, bikini-clad women in the trailer, Emirati social media influencer Majid Alamry lambasted the series on Instagram last week.

"We are a tolerant country, but that does not mean that others can walk all over our morals," he said in a viral clip. Local media also profiled more-down-to-earth homemakers in the UAE who were "demanding a more accurate representation."

But the reality franchise always was escapist fare, cast and executives say, split off from the reality of ordinary viewers.

"It's meant to be just entertainment," Stanbury said from her pristine kitchen, where on a clear day she can see elephants stalking a nature preserve and the world's tallest tower rising over the desert. "You guys get insight into all of our crazy lives."

Ukraine, Russia battle in the east as Zelenskyy visits front

By ELENA BECATOROS and RICARDO MAZALAN Associated Press

POKROVSK, Ukraine (AP) — Russian and Ukrainian troops traded blows in fierce close-quarter combat Sunday in an eastern Ukrainian city as Moscow's soldiers, supported by intense shelling, attempted to gain a strategic foothold to conquer the region. Ukraine's leader also made a rare frontline visit to Kharkiv, the country's second-largest city, to assess the strength of the national defense.

In the east, Russian forces stormed Sievierodonetsk after trying unsuccessfully to encircle the strategic city, Ukrainian officials said. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the situation there as "indescribably difficult," with a relentless Russian artillery barrage destroying critical infrastructure and damaging 90% of the buildings.

"Capturing Sievierodonetsk is a principal task for the occupation force," Zelensky said, adding that the Russians don't care about casualties.

The city's mayor said the fighting had knocked out power and cellphone service and forced a humanitarian relief center to shut down because of the dangers.

The deteriorating conditions raised fears that Sievierodonetsk could become the next Mariupol, a city on the Sea of Azov that spent nearly three months under Russian siege before the last Ukrainian fighters surrendered.

Sieverodonetsk, located 143 kilometers (89 miles) south of the Russian border, has emerged in recent days as the epicenter of Moscow's quest to capture all of Ukraine's eastern industrial Donbas region. Russia also stepped up its efforts to capture the nearby city of Lysychansk, where civilians rushed to escape persistent shelling.

The two eastern cities span the strategically important Siverskiy Donetsk River. They are the last major areas under Ukrainian control in Luhansk province, which makes up the Donbas together with the adjacent

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 36 of 62

Donetsk region.

Zelenskyy, meanwhile, visited soldiers in Kharkiv, where Ukrainian fighters pushed Russian forces back from nearby positions several weeks ago.

"I feel boundless pride in our defenders. Every day, risking their lives, they fight for Ukraine's freedom," Zelenskyy wrote on the Telegram messaging app after the visit.

Russia has kept up its bombardment of the northeastern city from afar, and explosions could be heard shortly after Zelenskyy's visit. Shelling and airstrikes have destroyed more than 2,000 apartment buildings in the city since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, according to the regional governor, Oleh Syniehubov.

In a video address later Sunday, Zelenskyy praised Kharkiv regional officials but said he had fired the regional head of the country's top security agency, the SBU, for his poor performance. In the wider Kharkiv region, Russian troops still held about one-third of the territory, Zelenskyy said.

After failing to seize Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, Russia is focused on occupying parts of Donbas not already controlled by pro-Moscow separatists.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told French TF1 television Sunday that Moscow's "unconditional priority is the liberation of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions," adding that Russia sees them as "independent states."

He also suggested other regions of Ukraine should be able to establish close ties with Russia.

In Luhansk, constant Russian shelling has created what provincial governor Serhiy Haidai called a "severe situation."

"There are fatalities and wounded people," he wrote on Telegram. On Saturday, he said, one civilian died and four were injured after a Russian shell hit a high-rise apartment building.

But some Luhansk supply and evacuation routes functioned Sunday, he said. He claimed the Russians had retreated "with losses" around a village near Sievierodonetsk but conducted airstrikes on another nearby river village.

Civilians who reached the eastern city of Pokrovsk, 130 kilometers (80 miles) south of Lysychansk, said they held out as long as they could before fleeing the Russian advance.

Yana Skakova choked back tears as she described leaving with her 18-month and 4-year-old sons while her husband stayed behind to take care of their house and animals. The family was among 18 people who lived in a basement for the past 2 1/2 months until police told them Friday it was time to evacuate.

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

Oksana, 74, who was too afraid to give her surname, was evacuated from Lysychansk by a team of foreign volunteers along with her 86-year-old husband.

"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."

Sieverodonetsk Mayor Oleksandr Striuk said there was fighting at the city's bus station on Saturday. Residents remaining in the city, which had a prewar population of around 100,000, risked exposure to shelling just to get water from a half-dozen wells, and there was no electricity or cellphone service. Striuk estimates that 1,500 civilians in the city have died since the war began, from Russian attacks as well as from a lack of medicine or treatment.

The Institute for the Study of War, a think tank based in Washington, questioned the Kremlin's strategy of assembling a huge military effort to take Sievierodonetsk, saying it was proving costly for Russia and would bring few returns.

"When the battle of Sievierodonetsk ends, regardless of which side holds the city, the Russian offensive at the operational and strategic levels will likely have culminated, giving Ukraine the chance to restart its operational-level counteroffensives to push Russian forces back," the institute said late Saturday.

In Mariupol on Sunday, an aide to its Ukrainian mayor alleged that after Russia's forces gained complete control of the city, they piled the bodies of dead people inside a supermarket. The aide, Petro Andryushchenko, posted a photo on the Telegram messaging app of what he described as a "corpse dump" in the

occupied city. It showed bodies stacked alongside closed supermarket counters.

"Here, the Russians bring the bodies of the dead, which were washed out of their graves during attempts to restore the water supply, and partially exhumed. They just dump them like garbage," he wrote.

It was not immediately possible to verify his claim.

Regions across Ukraine were pummeled overnight by renewed Russian airstrikes. On the ground in the eastern Donetsk region, fighters battled back and forth for control of villages and cities.

The Ukrainian army reported heavy fighting around Donetsk, the provincial capital, as well as Lyman to the north, a small city that serves as a key rail hub in the Donetsk region. Moscow claimed Saturday to have taken Lyman, but Ukrainian authorities said their fighters remained engaged in combat in parts of the city.

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

Celtics reach NBA Finals, hold off Heat 100-96 in Game 7

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Not this time. After being thwarted on the doorstep of the NBA Finals three other times in the previous five seasons, the Boston Celtics have broken through.

The beasts of the East, again.

And now a chance at an NBA title awaits.

Eastern Conference finals MVP Jayson Tatum led the way with 26 points, Jaylen Brown and Marcus Smart each added 24 and the Celtics beat the Miami Heat 100-96 on Sunday night to earn a berth in the NBA Finals against the Golden State Warriors.

"This is amazing," Smart said. "We finally got over the hump."

It was Boston's first Game 7 win on another team's home floor since topping Milwaukee for the 1974 NBA title; technically, the Celtics were the "road" team when they beat Toronto in a Game 7 two years ago at the restart bubble, but that was at Walt Disney World.

Tatum — wearing a purple-and-gold armband bearing the number "24" of Los Angeles Lakers Hall of Famer Kobe Bryant, his favorite player — had lost two East finals in his young career. Brown and Smart were part of Boston's East finals losses in 2017, 2018 and 2020. And this one was slipping away, a frantic Miami run in the final moments casting what looked like a sure-fire Celtics win into serious doubt.

But they would hold on. Jimmy Butler — brilliant again for Miami — missed what would have been a go-ahead 3-pointer with about 17 seconds left, and the Celtics never trailed.

On to San Francisco.

"To get over the hump with this group, it means everything," Tatum said.

Butler, who willed Miami into Game 7 by scoring 47 points on Friday in Boston, led the Heat with 35 points in what became their season finale. Bam Adebayo added 25 for the Heat, who were down 11 with under 3 minutes to go before trying one last rally.

An 9-0 run, capped by a 3-pointer from Max Strus with 51 seconds left, got the Heat within 98-96. They got no closer. Boston would not be denied, and now is 2-0 in Game 7s in these playoffs after ousting defending champion Milwaukee in the East semis.

"It's just one of those really tough moments," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "You can't prepare for it. ... It's one of the worst feelings into the world to address your locker room after a game like this."

Kyle Lowry scored 15 for the Heat. Grant Williams finished with 11 for the Celtics.

The notion of Boston being finals bound would have been considered an unlikely proposition two or three months ago.

Ime Udoka's first season as coach of the Celtics was not without immense challenges. Boston got off to a 2-5 start, lost to Milwaukee on Christmas Day to fall below .500 and was still saddled with a losing record as recently as late January.

Through 50 games, the Celtics were 25-25. No team had that sort of record through 50 games and

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 38 of 62

made the NBA Finals since 1981, when the Houston Rockets started 22-28 and wound up making the title series — where they fell to Boston.

Now the Celtics will look to do the Rockets one better. That Rockets team got into the playoffs at 40-42. This Celtics team roared to life down the stretch and is still roaring.

“Our focus is getting four more,” Udoka said.

They went 26-6 down the stretch of the regular season, and had an uncanny ability to bounce back. Boston is now 13-1 after losses over the last four-plus months.

“The road that we took to get here, not a lot of people believed in us,” Tatum said. “We took the toughest route. It looked out.”

Boston’s lead was 32-17 after one quarter — the largest ever by a road team after 12 minutes of a Game 7, four points bigger than Golden State’s lead over the Los Angeles Lakers back in the 1977 playoffs.

The tone was set, and the lead was never relinquished.

Miami ended the half on an 11-2 run, the burst sparked by 3s from Strus and Butler, then capped by four free throws from Lowry in the final 29 seconds. Butler was up to 24 points at the break and Miami had gotten within 55-49 going into the third.

Miami thought it had gotten within 56-54 when Strus rattled in a corner 3 early in the third. But the Celtics answered with a 9-1 run, which was even worse — the NBA replay center in Secaucus, New Jersey decided that Strus had stepped out of bounds, his 3 came off the board while the game was going, and a 56-54 game became 65-52.

“The Boston Celtics did what they came out here to do in this series,” Butler said.

The Heat kept clawing back, all the way to the end. They just couldn’t catch Boston.

“It’s heartbreaking when it ends like this,” Spoelstra said. “You certainly have to credit the Boston Celtics organization and their team and their coaching staff. ... We tip our hats off to them. They are a heck of a basketball team.”

And now, the Celtics are off to the finals.

“Today was the biggest test,” Brown said. “Not just of the year, but of our careers.”

They passed.

TIP-INS

Celtics: Derrick White had to leave early in the fourth quarter because he was bleeding after his head got struck by Adebayo under a basket. ... The Celtics became the first team to get three road wins over Miami in the same playoff series.

Heat: Butler was the second NBA player this season to play every second of a game. The other was Oklahoma City’s Georgios Kalaitzakis, in a 50-point loss to the Los Angeles Clippers. ... Sixth Man of the Year Tyler Herro returned from a three-game absence because of a groin injury, but went scoreless in seven minutes.

GAME 7 HISTORY

Boston improved to 26-9 in Game 7s. Miami fell to 6-5 in such games, and lost for the first time in five Game 7s at home under Spoelstra.

HOME DOGS

Miami was a 2.5-point underdog at tipoff according to FanDuel Sportsbook, marking the second time in the last 20 Game 7s — excluding the bubble restart in 2020, when all the games were at Walt Disney World — that the home team wasn’t favored. The other was Houston in the 2018 Western Conference finals; the injury-plagued Rockets were 6.5-point underdogs and lost to Golden State 101-92.

Season’s 1st hurricane aims heavy hit at Mexico tourist zone

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Hurricane Agatha, the season’s first, headed for a stretch of tourist beaches and fishing towns on Mexico’s southern Pacific coast Monday amid warnings of dangerous storm surge and flooding from heavy rains.

After forming on Sunday, Agatha quickly gained power, and it was predicted to make landfall as a power-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 39 of 62

ful Category 3 hurricane Monday afternoon or evening, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said.

It was moving toward the area near Puerto Escondido and Puerto Angel in the southern state of Oaxaca — a region that includes the laid-back tourist resorts of Huatulco, Mazunte and Zipolite.

The hurricane center said Agatha could “bring an extremely dangerous storm surge and life-threatening winds.”

Late Sunday, Agatha had maximum sustained winds of 110 mph (175 kph) — just 1 mph under the threshold for a Category 3, the hurricane center said. The storm’s center was about 140 miles (225 kilometers) southwest of Puerto Angel and heading to the northeast at 6 mph (9 kph).

A hurricane warning was in effect between the port of Salina Cruz and the Lagunas de Chacahua.

The civil defense office in Oaxaca said the hurricane’s outer bands were already hitting the coast Sunday. The office published photos of fishermen hauling their boats up on beaches to protect them from the storm.

Municipal authorities in Huatulco ordered “the absolute closure” of all the resort’s beaches and its famous “seven bays,” many of which are reachable only by boat. They also closed local schools and began setting up emergency storm shelters.

To the east in Zipolite, long known for its clothing-optional beach and bohemian vibe, personnel at the small Casa Kalmar hotel gathered up outdoor furniture and put up wooden storm shutters to prevent strong winds from blowing out glass windows and doors.

“The biggest worry here is the wind,” hotel manager Silvia Ranfagni said.

With only one guest — and plenty of cancellations due to the hurricane — Ranfagni planned to ride out Agatha at the property, which is three or four blocks from the beach.

“I’m going to shut myself in here with my animals,” she said, referring to her dog and cats.

The government’s Mexican Turtle Center — a former slaughterhouse turned conservation center in Mazunte — announced it was closed to visitors until further notice because of the hurricane.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said the storm was expected to drop 10 to 16 inches (250 to 400 millimeters) of rain on parts of Oaxaca, with isolated maximums of 20 inches (500 millimeters), posing the threat of flash floods and mudslides.

Ex-rebel, businessman to vie in Colombia presidential runoff

By ASTRID SUAREZ and REGINA GARCIA CANO Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombian voters opted for a dramatic change in presidential politics, choosing a leftist former rebel and an outsider populist businessman to advance to a runoff election in June amid hopes a new face can pull them out of the economic damage from the pandemic.

Leftist Sen. Gustavo Petro led the field of six candidates Sunday with just over 40% of the votes, while real estate tycoon Rodolfo Hernández, who has no close ties to any political parties, finished second with more than 28%, election officials reported.

Both are far from the conservatives and moderates that have long governed the South American country.

Petro, the front-runner throughout the campaign, could become Colombia’s first head of state from the left, which for years has been marginalized for its perceived association with the nation’s armed conflict. Hernández, whose showing surprised many, has been compared to former U.S. President Donald Trump for his anti-establishment rhetoric.

They will face off June 19 amid the same polarized environment and growing discontent over increasing inequality and inflation that shadowed the election’s first round. A candidate needed 50% of the votes to win outright in the opening round.

There has been a series of leftist political victories in Latin America as people seek change at a time of dissatisfaction with the economic situation. Chile, Peru and Honduras elected leftist presidents in 2021, and in Brazil, former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is leading the polls for this year’s presidential election. Mexico elected a leftist president in 2018.

Looking at areas where Hernández won in some of Colombia’s most traditional heartland departments, “the rejection of the status quo even among many of the most conservative Colombians ... really does

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 40 of 62

show a disgust with the traditional workings of Colombian politics," said Adam Isacson, an expert on Colombia at the Washington Office on Latin America think tank.

Petro's main rival for most of the campaign had been Federico Gutierrez, a former mayor of Medellin who was seen as the continuity candidate and ran on a pro-business, economic growth platform. But Hernández began to move up strongly in recent polls heading into the election.

Petro has promised to make significant adjustments to the economy, including tax reform, and to change how Colombia fights drug cartels and other armed groups. Hernández has few connections to political parties and promises to reduce wasteful government spending and to offer rewards for people who report corrupt officials.

"What is in dispute today is change. The political parties allied to the government of (incumbent Ivan) Duque, his political project, has been defeated in Colombia," Petro told his supporters as they celebrated at his campaign headquarters in Bogotá. "Colombia's total vote launches that message to the world: A period is ending; an era is ending."

Hernández, in a livestream after early results showed he advanced to the runoff, said he remains firm on his commitment to end "corruption as a system of government."

"Now, we enter the second period, and these next few days will be decisive in determining the future of the country," he said.

This was the second presidential election held since the government signed in 2016 a peace agreement with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as FARC for its initials in Spanish. But the divisive agreement was not a main issue during the campaign, which focused on poverty, inflation and other challenges exacerbated by the pandemic.

It is Petro's third attempt to become president. He was defeated in 2018 by Duque, who was not eligible to seek re-election.

In a sign of the resistance to a leftist government, Gutierrez endorsed Hernández shortly after he failed to advance to the runoff.

"Knowing that our position is decisive for the future of Colombia, we have made a decision ... we do not want to lose the country," Gutierrez said, adding that he would support Hernández because he does not want to put Colombia "at risk."

Petro was once a rebel with the now-defunct M-19 movement and was granted amnesty after being jailed for his involvement with the group.

Hernández, the former mayor of the north-central city of Bucaramanga, surged in recent polls with promises to "clean" the country of corruption and to donate his salary. Some see a partial connection between him and Trump.

"They share that they have speeches against the establishment, against that traditional policy, not only seen from the government, but from the traditional opposition," said Johan Caldas, a political analyst at Universidad de la Sabana. "They are far from any type of structure, from formalisms, from partisan thoughts that end up precisely convincing people, who find an option for change, that is just far from the traditional left or right."

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 Duque.

The pandemic set back the country's anti-poverty efforts by at least a decade. Official figures show that 39% of Colombia's 51.6 million residents lived on less than \$89 a month last year, which has a slight improvement from 42.5% in 2020.

Inflation reached its highest levels in two decades last month, hitting 9.2%.

"The vote serves to change the country and I think that this responsibility falls a lot on young people who want to reach standards that allow us to have a decent life," said Juan David González, 28, who voted for the second time in a presidential election.

Duque's successor will also have to decide whether to resume peace talks the Duque suspended with the National Liberation Army, a guerrilla group founded in the 1960s. The president will also have to deal with

violence from FARC dissidents who rejected the peace accord as well as the Gulf Clan cartel.

And corruption is on many Colombians' minds.

"Corruption in state entities is the main problem in the country," said voter Édgar González in Bogotá. "... A very big change is taking place in the country's politics and if we all exercise the right we are going to achieve that change."

How Biden, cops and advocates forged deal on police and race

By CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jim Pasco, the executive director for the Fraternal Order of Police, was watching football on a Sunday afternoon when he got a call from Susan Rice, the top domestic policy adviser at the White House.

Negotiations over an executive order to address racism and policing were in danger of breaking down after a draft was leaked that law enforcement groups believed was too harsh toward officers. Now Rice was looking to get things back on track.

"She said they wanted to start over," Pasco said as he looked back on that day earlier this year. "And they wanted to deal with us in total confidence."

He agreed. The result was the executive order that President Joe Biden signed last week during a ceremony that, improbably, brought together law enforcement leaders, civil rights activists and families of people who had been killed by police.

"This is a moment where we have come together for something that is not perfect, but it's very good," Rice said. "And it moves the needle substantially."

No one who believes that American policing needs to be overhauled — including the president himself — thinks the final order goes far enough. It does not directly affect local departments, which have the most interactions with citizens, nor does it necessarily represent permanent change. The next administration could swiftly undo it.

However, many civil rights advocates consider it an important step forward, and maybe even a building block toward more expansive legislation that has so far been elusive.

"We have to keep the dialogue going," said Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League. "And I think this helps create the sense that we can talk, and if we do talk, we'll find some common ground."

A NEW STRATEGY

Biden's original hope was for Congress to pass bipartisan legislation named for George Floyd, the Black man who was murdered by Minneapolis police during an arrest in 2020.

However, the first anniversary of Floyd's death passed last year without a deal, and negotiations eventually broke down. White House officials began focusing on a potential executive order.

Previous presidents, too, have attempted to make improvements to America's law enforcement system, but Biden faced particular pressure to find the right balance.

During his campaign, Biden met with Floyd's family and pledged to make racial justice a core part of his administration.

He also had longstanding relationships with police and their unions. And he didn't want to be at odds with law enforcement when crime was a growing concern for the country, not to mention an issue ahead of this year's midterm elections.

After preliminary meetings, a draft of the order took shape, and it was circulated among various federal agencies. Then a leaked copy was posted online by the Federalist, a conservative website, in January.

"Everyone went ballistic," Pasco said. Not only did law enforcement groups dislike various parts of the draft, they felt like the administration hadn't adequately listened to their perspective.

Rice worked the phones to calm nerves, opening a new chapter in the negotiations.

In addition to Rice's team, Justice Department officials and the White House counsel's office under Dana Remus worked through the details. Rep. Karen Bass, D-Calif., Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., and Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., were involved as well.

Senior administration officials described a sort of shuttle diplomacy, and they met separately with civil

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 42 of 62

rights advocates and law enforcement groups while trying to keep everyone on the same page. Long days were fueled by Hershey's Kisses, M&Ms and whatever else that could be scrounged from White House desks.

Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum, an independent policy organization, said that in Washington, "people give you lip service." But in this case, "we had hours of discussions, very substantive discussions, about some of the issues in there."

REACHING A DEAL

One sensitive part of the leaked draft didn't change. The final version still says the country should "acknowledge the legacy of systemic racism in our criminal justice system and work together to eliminate the racial disparities that endure to this day."

Ebonie Riley, a senior vice president at the National Action Network, a civil rights organization led by Rev. Al Sharpton, said it was important to leave that in.

"If we continue to hide in the shadows conversations that we need to have out loud, that becomes part of the problem," she said.

To balance the tone, more language was added about "rising rates of violent crime" and how "reinforcing the partnership between law enforcement and communities is imperative for combating crime and achieving lasting public safety."

A phrase about how deadly force should only be used as "a last resort when there is no reasonable alternative" was cut. However, the executive order requires federal law enforcement officers to prioritize de-escalation and then intervention if they see another officer using excessive force.

A significant portion of the order is dedicated to collecting information, such as creating a database to track misconduct by federal officers and expanding tools for analyzing the use of force.

"When we talk about what a fair criminal justice system looks like, a big part of that is understanding what the data is," said Danielle Conley, the White House deputy counsel.

As an executive order, the new policies are limited to federal agencies. But administration officials plan to attach strings to federal funding to persuade local police departments to adopt similar rules.

"Simply having these words on paper is not going to save lives," said Udi Ofer, deputy national political director at the American Civil Liberties Union.

On May 15, Biden attended an annual memorial for officers killed in the line of duty. After Biden posed for photos with people at the memorial, Pasco stuck around for a private conversation.

There wasn't much time left until the second anniversary of Floyd's death, May 25, and no one at the White House wanted the day to pass without an agreement.

"We gave everything we had to give," Pasco recalled telling Biden. "And your staff made a lot of concessions, too. So as long as it remains the way it is, we're good with it."

Pasco said Biden responded, "I'm going to take a look at it, and if I see any problems, I'll let you know about it."

But there weren't any, and the deal was done.

THE CEREMONY

Officials began inviting key players to the signing ceremony just a few days before, and some were only notified the previous day. A process that had nearly been unraveled by a leak reached the finish line without disruption.

In addition to Floyd's family, the audience included relatives of other Black people — Michael Brown, Elijah McClain, Amir Locke, Atatiana Jefferson and Breonna Taylor — who had been killed by law enforcement over the years.

Not everyone was mollified. The Movement for Black Lives issued a statement calling Biden's executive order "a poor excuse for the transformation of public safety that he promised." But Derrick Johnson, president of the NAACP, argued that the order represented progress.

"If we refuse to sit at the table, or allow for the political climate to overshadow public policy opportunities, we all suffer as a result," he said.

In his speech, Biden said Congress still needed to pass legislation, but he described the executive order

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 43 of 62

as "the most significant police reform in decades."

"Let me say there are those who seek to drive a wedge between law enforcement and the people they serve, those who peddle the fiction that public trust and public safety are in opposition to one another," Biden said.

He added, "We know that's not true."

When Biden finished, Floyd's 8-year-old daughter, Gianna, approached. "You're getting so big," Biden told her.

She sat down at the desk where the president had signed the order. Vice President Kamala Harris handed her the pen that Biden had used.

"You know what she told me when I saw her when she was a little girl two years ago?" Biden said. "Seriously, she pulled me aside and she said, 'My daddy is going to change the world.'"

Agency: 1 dead, 7 injured in Oklahoma festival shooting

TAFT, Okla. (AP) — Authorities said a 26-year-old man was in custody after one person was killed and seven people were injured in a shooting early Sunday at an outdoor festival in eastern Oklahoma, where witnesses described frantic people running for cover amid gunfire.

An arrest warrant was issued for Skyler Buckner and he turned himself in to the Muskogee County sheriff's office Sunday afternoon, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation said in a statement. OSBI said that those shot at the Memorial Day event in Taft, located about 45 miles (72 kilometers) southeast of Tulsa, ranged in age from 9 to 56.

A 39-year-old woman was killed, OSBI said. The injuries of those wounded were considered non-life-threatening.

OSBI had earlier said two juveniles were injured in the shooting but said Sunday afternoon that only one juvenile was injured.

Witnesses said an argument preceded the gunfire just after midnight, the agency said.

"We heard a lot of shots and we thought it was firecrackers at first," said Sylvia Wilson, an owner of Taft's Boots Cafe, which was open at the time to serve a surge of visitors to the small town for the gathering. "Then people start running and ducking. And we were yelling at everyone... 'Get down! Get down!'" Wilson said to The Associated Press by telephone from the café on Sunday morning.

About 1,500 people attended the event in Taft, which usually has a population of just a few hundred people. Members of the Muskogee County Sheriff's Office were in attendance and immediately began rendering aid, OSBI said.

"Bullets were literally flying everywhere," Jasmayne Hill, who was working at a food truck during the event, told the Tulsa World.

Hill said she and Tiffany Walton, the owner of the food truck, dove to the truck's floor to avoid the bullets.

"We're thinking we're safe and the bullets are like going through the bottom of the food truck," Hill said. "They didn't hit us, thank God."

Neicy Bates and her husband were operating another food truck when the shots rang out. She told the Tulsa World that most people "were just going to the ground trying to get out of the way."

"People were just screaming. Some were trying to run away. There were cars leaving, trying not to hit each other," she said.

Walton, who lives in Taft, said for decades the town has held a multi-day festival over Memorial Day weekend.

Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt said on Twitter that he was grateful for the OSBI's "swift response to assist local police."

Wilson estimated her café is about 100 feet (30 meters) from where the shooting broke out. She said law enforcement had been on the scene to help with security earlier and that officers reacted quickly to the shooting.

"We are upset," Wilson said, adding: "But everything is getting back to normal... The danger has passed."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 44 of 62

Buckner was being held Sunday in Muskogee County jail. Jail records did not have an attorney listed for him.

1st hurricane of 2022, Agatha heads for Mexico tourist towns

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The first hurricane of the season formed off Mexico's southern Pacific coast Sunday and rapidly gained power ahead of an expected strike along a stretch of tourist beaches and fishing towns as a major storm.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Agatha was expected to make landfall as a powerful Category 3 hurricane Monday afternoon or evening in the area near Puerto Escondido and Puerto Angel in the southern state of Oaxaca — a region that includes the laid-back tourist resorts of Huatulco, Mazunte and Zipolite.

The center warned that the hurricane could deliver a dangerous storm surge.

By late Sunday, the recently formed hurricane had maximum sustained winds of 110 mph (175 kph) — just 1 mph under the threshold for a Category 3, the hurricane center said. Agatha was centered about 140 miles (225 kilometers) southwest of Puerto Angel and heading to the northeast at 6 mph (9 kph).

The center said Agatha could have winds of 120 mph (193 kph) when it makes landfall.

A hurricane warning was in effect between the port of Salina Cruz and the Lagunas de Chacahua.

The civil defense office in Oaxaca said the hurricane's outer bands were already hitting the coast. The office published photos of fishermen hauling their boats up on beaches to protect them from the storm.

Municipal authorities in Huatulco ordered "the absolute closure" of all the resort's beaches and its famous "seven bays," many of which are reachable only by boat. They also closed local schools and began setting up emergency storm shelters.

To the east in Zipolite, long known for its clothing-optional beach and bohemian vibe, personnel at the small Casa Kalmar hotel gathered up outdoor furniture and put up wooden storm shutters to prevent strong winds from blowing out glass windows and doors.

"The biggest worry here is the wind," hotel manager Silvia Ranfagni said.

With only one guest — and plenty of cancellations due to the hurricane — Ranfagni planned to ride out Agatha at the property, which is three or four blocks from the beach.

"I'm going to shut myself in here with my animals," she said, referring to her dog and cats.

The government's Mexican Turtle Center — a former slaughterhouse turned conservation center in Mazunte — announced it was closed to visitors until further notice because of the hurricane.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center warned of dangerous coastal flooding as well as large and destructive waves near where Agatha makes landfall.

The storm was expected to drop 10 to 16 inches (250 to 400 millimeters) of rain on parts of Oaxaca state, with isolated maximums of 20 inches (500 millimeters), posing the threat of flash floods and mudslides.

Because the storm's current path would carry it over the narrow waist of Mexico's isthmus, the hurricane center said there was a chance the storm's remnants could reemerge over the Gulf of Mexico.

In northern Guatemala, a woman and her six children died Saturday when a landslide hit their home, but the accident did not appear to be related to Agatha.

Sweden's Ericsson gives Ganassi another Indy 500 victory

By JENNA FRYER AP Auto Racing Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Marcus Ericsson, once a Formula One backmarker, is now an IndyCar frontrunner. And an Indianapolis 500 champion.

Ericsson became the second Swede to win the Indy 500 on Sunday when he held off some of the biggest names in North American auto racing in front of the largest crowd of his life.

"It's the biggest race in the world," said Ericsson, who called it his biggest victory "by a million miles."

The 31-year-old showed up in IndyCar something of a mystery in 2019 following five unremarkable seasons in Formula One. He'd worked his entire life to make it to the top level of motorsports then washed out winless — not even a single podium finish — over 97 starts.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 45 of 62

He didn't exactly dazzle in his first season in North America, either. Ericsson was cut loose from his first IndyCar team after just one year, then bought a seat at Chip Ganassi Racing — he made sure to note it when he said "winning the Indy 500, it's not bad for a pay driver" — and has made steady strides in his 36 races with Ganassi since 2020.

"It's been tough. I did five years in Formula One, almost a hundred grand prix, running for small teams, towards the back most of it. You don't get a lot of credit running in the back. People think you are not very good," Ericsson said. "I came over here, and people probably didn't think much of that. I had to work my way here as well, learning American racing.

"Moved here, put my whole life into trying to become an IndyCar and mainly Indianapolis 500 champion. It's been not easy. It feels good to show that hard works pay off."

Ericsson took control of the race late — largely because of teammate Scott Dixon's speeding penalty — and had the win in reach until a crash by Ganassi teammate Jimmie Johnson with four laps remaining brought out a rare red-flag stoppage at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

IndyCar is among the purest forms of motorsports and rarely throws artificial cautions or issues stoppages that might change the outcome. But the crowd of more than 300,000 — only a few thousand shy of a sellout and the largest sporting event since the start of the pandemic — roared when IndyCar called the cars to pit road.

The stoppage gave Pato O'Ward and the rest of the challengers almost 12 minutes on pit road to strategize how to pass Ericsson. Ericsson was agonizing his own plans.

"Those 10 minutes sitting there in the pit lane during that red flag was some of the hardest 10 minutes of my life," he said, "thinking what to do, thinking that I'm leading the biggest race in the world, and I'm that close to win it."

There were two laps remaining when the race resumed and Ericsson got the jump on O'Ward. The Mexican got one final look for the lead that Ericsson defended and O'Ward knew not to force the issue.

"Nah, he was going to put me in the wall if I had gone for it," O'Ward said.

Sage Karam crashed and brought out another caution on the final lap, allowing Ericsson to coast to the victory podium under yellow. Karam was transported to a hospital for evaluation of muscular soreness.

"When that caution came out, I thought it was going to be another restart. I was like, 'I can't believe it, another one,'" Ericsson said. "First I was angry, then I just realized that won me the race. It's an explosion of emotions from that point."

It was Ericsson's third IndyCar victory in 52 starts. But he arrived in Indianapolis convinced he could win the 500 based in part to the work he'd put into learning ovals and a third-place finish at Texas Motor Speedway in the warm-up for "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing."

It is the fifth Indy 500 win for team owner Chip Ganassi, who caught a ride to the podium on the side of Ericsson's car. Ericsson is the first Swede to win the Indy 500 since Kenny Brack in 1999 and the second in 106 runnings of the race.

Ericsson poured his jug of milk all over his face, then handed the bottle to Ganassi so the boss could take his own swig. Ganassi had not won the 500 in 10 years and sent five legitimate contenders to Indy to end the drought.

The win seemed to belong to Dixon, the six-time IndyCar champion who went more than 234 mph in qualifying to win the pole. The New Zealander led 95 of the 200 laps, and his Honda was easily the fastest in the field — so fast that Dixon didn't slow down enough on his final pit stop.

The penalty took Dixon out of contention for the win.

That left Ericsson and Tony Kanaan still in the mix for Ganassi. Kanaan, at 47 the oldest driver in the field, thought he was in perfect position sitting fourth on the restart.

O'Ward wouldn't relent, though. He signed a contract extension with Arrow McLaren SP on Friday and desperately wanted the win to celebrate his status as McLaren's star. But O'Ward finished second, falling just short as he tried to give Mexico a banner celebration on the biggest day in motorsports; Sergio Perez opened Sunday with a win in the Monaco Grand Prix.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 46 of 62

Kanaan was third, followed by Felix Rosenqvist, another Swede, who drives for McLaren. Rosenqvist is in a contract year with McLaren and fighting for his job, but the McLaren group carried the Chevrolet banner at Indy as Juan Pablo Montoya finished 11th.

American drivers Alexander Rossi and Conor Daly finished fifth and sixth, Rossi for Andretti Autosport and Daly for Ed Carpenter Racing.

Helio Castroneves, last year's winner, finished seventh and one spot ahead of Meyer Shank Racing teammate Simon Pagenaud. Reigning IndyCar champion Alex Palou finished 10th in another Ganassi entry.

Dixon faded to 21st after the speeding penalty, and although he visited Ericsson on the victory podium, he was consoled by his wife on pit road after the race. Johnson finished 28th in his Indy 500 debut.

"It's one team, everybody roots for everybody else, everybody works together and everybody is an open book," Ganassi said. "You're going to have things happen in these 500-mile races and they're not always going to fall your way. So, you know, we were lucky to have five good cars and five good drivers."

San Diego Bishop McElroy named by Pope Francis as a cardinal

By DAVID CRARY Associated Press

Bishop Robert McElroy of San Diego, one of Pope Francis' ideological allies who has often sparred with more conservative U.S. bishops, was named by the pope on Sunday as one of 21 new cardinals.

The San Diego diocese said McElroy will be installed by Pope Francis on August 27 at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Among his notable stances, McElroy, 68, has been one of a minority of U.S. bishops harshly criticizing the campaign to exclude Catholic politicians who support abortion rights from Communion.

"It will bring tremendously destructive consequences," McElroy wrote in May 2021. "The Eucharist is being weaponized and deployed as a tool in political warfare. This must not happen."

In selecting McElroy, Francis passed over the higher-ranking archbishop of San Francisco, Salvatore Cordileone. Earlier this month, Cordileone said he will no longer allow U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to receive Communion because of her support for abortion rights.

McElroy, in a statement, said he was "stunned and deeply surprised" by the news of his appointment.

"My prayer is that in this ministry I might be of additional service to the God who has graced me on so many levels in my life," he said. "And I pray also that I can assist the Holy Father in his pastoral renewal of the Church."

Cordileone issued a brief statement noting that McElroy is a native San Franciscan and offering congratulations on the appointment. The statement made no mention of the two clerics' differences.

Los Angeles Archbishop José Gomez, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops who has worked with McElroy for many years, also offered congratulations — adding that the new cardinal "will serve the global Church well."

"By naming Bishop Robert McElroy as a cardinal, Pope Francis has shown his pastoral care for the Church in the United States," Gomez said in a written statement.

McElroy received a bachelor's degree in history from Harvard in 1975 and a master's in history from Stanford in 1976.

He studied at St. Patrick Seminary in Menlo Park, California, and in 1985 received a theology degree at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley. He obtained a doctorate in moral theology at the Gregorian University in Rome the following year and a Ph.D in political science at Stanford in 1989.

He was ordained a priest in 1980 and assigned to the San Francisco diocese, where he served in a parish before becoming personal secretary to Archbishop John Quinn. Other California parish assignments included Redwood City and San Mateo.

He became an auxiliary bishop in San Francisco in 2010. In 2015, early in Francis' pontificate, he was named bishop of San Diego.

Over recent years, McElroy has been among the relatively few U.S. bishops who questioned why the bishops' conference insisted on identifying abortion as its "preeminent" priority. He has questioned why

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 47 of 62

greater prominence was not given to issues such as racism, poverty, immigration and climate change.

"The death toll from abortion is more immediate, but the long-term death toll from unchecked climate change is larger and threatens the very future of humanity," he said in a speech in 2020.

Last year, he was among a small group of bishops signing a statement expressing support for LGBT youth and denouncing the bullying often directed at them.

The bishops' statement said LGBT youth attempt suicide at much higher rates, are often homeless because of families who reject them and "are the target of violent acts at alarming rates."

"We take this opportunity to say to our LGBT friends, especially young people, that we stand with you and oppose any form of violence, bullying or harassment directed at you," it read. "Most of all, know that God created you, God loves you and God is on your side."

Francis DeBernardo, executive director of New Ways Ministry, which advocates for greater LGBTQ acceptance in the Catholic church, hailed McElroy's appointment.

"He represents the kind of prelate our church needs, one who will stretch out a hand, not a fist, to the LGBTQ community," DeBernardo said. "As an elector of future popes, McElroy can play a role in making sure that the next papacy will continue in the welcoming spirit of Pope Francis."

The Diocese of San Diego runs the length of California's border with Mexico and serves more than 1.3 million Catholics in San Diego and Imperial counties. It includes 98 parishes, 49 elementary and secondary schools, and, through Catholic Charities of the Diocese of San Diego, various social service and family support organizations throughout the region.

Pelosi's husband arrested on suspicion of DUI in California

NAPA, Calif. (AP) — Paul Pelosi, the 82-year-old husband of U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, was arrested this weekend on suspicion of DUI in Northern California, police records showed Sunday.

Paul Pelosi was taken into custody late Saturday in Napa County north of San Francisco, according to a sheriff's office online booking report.

He could face charges including driving under the influence and driving with a blood alcohol content level of 0.08 or higher, the report said.

Pelosi's bail was set for \$5,000 for the two misdemeanors, records showed.

No other details were immediately available. California Highway Patrol Officer Andrew Barclay said more information would be released later Sunday.

Drew Hammill, spokesperson for Nancy Pelosi, told The Associated Press: "The Speaker will not be commenting on this private matter which occurred while she was on the East Coast."

The House speaker was in Providence, Rhode Island, on Sunday, where she delivered the commencement address at Brown University.

Pelosi's arrest was first reported by TMZ.

Paul and Nancy Pelosi have been married since 1963.

Rocker Ronnie Hawkins, dies at 87, patron of Canadian rock

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

Ronnie Hawkins, a brash rockabilly star from Arkansas who became a patron of the Canadian music scene after moving north and recruiting a handful of local musicians later known as the Band, has died.

His wife Wanda confirmed to The Canadian Press that Hawkins died Sunday morning after an illness. He was 87.

"He went peacefully and he looked as handsome as ever," she said by telephone.

Born just two days after Elvis Presley, the Huntsville native friends called "The Hawk" (He also nicknamed himself "The King of Rockabilly" and "Mr. Dynamo") was a hell-raiser with a big jaw and a stocky build.

He had minor hits in the 1950s with "Mary Lou" and "Odessa" and ran a club in Fayetteville, Arkansas, where acts included such early rock stars as Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis and Conway Twitty.

"Hawkins is the only man I ever heard who can make a nice sexy song like 'My Gal is Red Hot' sound

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 48 of 62

sordid," Greil Marcus wrote in his acclaimed book about music and American culture, "Mystery Train," adding that "The Hawk" was alleged to "know more back roads, back rooms and backsides than any man from Newark to Mexicali."

Hawkins didn't have the gifts of Presley or Perkins, but he did have ambition and an eye for talent.

He first performed in Canada in the late '50s and realized he would stand out far more in a country where homegrown rock still barely existed. Canadian musicians had often moved to the U.S. to advance their careers, but Hawkins was the rare American to try the reverse.

With drummer and fellow Arkansan Levon Helm, Hawkins put together a Canadian backing group that included guitarist-songwriter Robbie Robertson, keyboardists Garth Hudson and Richard Manuel and bassist Rick Danko. They became the Hawks, educated in the Hawkins school of rock.

"When the music got a little too far out for Ronnie's ear," Robertson told Rolling Stone in 1978, "or he couldn't tell when to come in singing, he would tell us that nobody but Thelonious Monk could understand what we were playing. But the big thing with him was that he made us rehearse and practice a lot. Often we would go and play until 1 a.m. and then rehearse until 4."

Robertson and friends backed Hawkins from 1961-63, putting on raucous shows around Canada and recording a howling cover of Bo Diddley's "Who Do You Love" that became one of Hawkins' signature songs.

But Hawkins wasn't selling many records and the Hawks outgrew their leader. They hooked up with Bob Dylan in the mid-'60s and by the end of the decade were superstars on their own who had renamed themselves the Band.

Hawkins, meanwhile, settled in Peterborough, Ontario, and had a handful of top 40 singles there, including "Bluebirds in the Mountain" and "Down in the Alley."

He admittedly didn't keep up with the latest sounds — he was horrified the first time he heard Canadian Neil Young — but in the late 1960s he befriended John Lennon and his wife, Yoko Ono. They stayed with Hawkins and his wife, Wanda, and three children while they were visiting Canada.

"At that particular time, I thought I was doin' them a favor," he later told the National Post. "I thought the Beatles were an English group that got lucky. I didn't know a lot about their music. I thought Yoko's was (silly). To this day, I have never heard a Beatle album. For 10 billion dollars, I couldn't name one song on 'Abbey Road.' I have never in my life picked up a Beatle album, and listened to it. Never. But John was so powerful. I liked him. He wasn't one of those hotshots, you know."

Hawkins also kept in touch with the Band and was among the guests in 1976 for the all-star, farewell concert that was the basis for Martin Scorsese's documentary "The Last Waltz."

For a few moments he was back in charge, grinning and strutting under his Stetson hat, calling out "big time, big time" to his former underlings as they tore through "Who Do You Love."

Besides "The Last Waltz," Hawkins also appeared in Dylan's film "Renaldo and Clara," the big-budget fiasco "Heaven's Gate" and "Hello Mary Lou." A 2007 documentary about Hawkins, "Alive and Kickin,'" was narrated by Dan Aykroyd and featured a cameo from another famous Arkansan, Bill Clinton.

Hawkins' albums included "Ronnie Hawkins," "The Hawk" and "Can't Stop Rockin,'" a 2001 release notable for Helm and Robertson appearing on the same song, "Blue Moon in My Sign." Helm and Robertson were no longer speaking, having fallen out after "The Last Waltz," and recorded their contributions in separate studios.

Over time, Hawkins mentored numerous young Canadian musicians who went on to successful careers, including guitarist Pat Travers and future Janis Joplin guitarist John Till.

He received several honorary awards from his adopted country, and, in 2013, was named a member of the Order of Canada for "his contributions to the development of the music industry in Canada, as a rock and roll musician, and for his support of charitable causes."

Fire, looming ruling don't stop new Wyoming abortion clinic

By MEAD GRUVER Associated Press

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) — When organizers earlier this year settled on a summer opening for a new women's

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 49 of 62

health clinic in Wyoming, they felt upbeat about their plans even as they knew they would face opposition to what will be the only such clinic to offer abortions in the state.

There were the expected protests and harassing messages. Things got more tense after a leaked draft of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that, if finalized, would likely make abortions illegal in Wyoming and half of the states.

Then last week, their building was damaged by a fire police believe was deliberately set.

None of it has derailed plans to open the clinic — a rarity in heavily Republican parts of the United States where most abortion providers at the moment are fighting just to stay in business, let alone expand services.

"We can't be bullied into submission," Julie Burkhart, the clinic founder, said as she watched from across the street as Casper police and firefighters investigated the blaze.

For years, Wyoming prided itself on live-and-let-live Western conservatism that took a hands-off approach to setting social policy in government, abortion included. That's changing, however.

In March, Gov. Mark Gordon, a Republican, signed a bill that put Wyoming among the states that would outlaw abortion should the Supreme Court overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that made abortion legal nationwide. The only exceptions would be in the event of rape or incest, to save the mother's life or to save the mother from severe, non-mental health problems.

Gordon, who's running for re-election this year, hasn't made abortion and other culture war issues a feature of his campaigns or time in office. But a recent rightward shift of both the Supreme Court and state Legislature has elevated abortion into an issue in Wyoming.

The planned clinic stands in stark defiance of that trend.

Its backers include Riata Little Walker, a Casper resident who recently spoke out at a rally in support of the clinic. In an interview, Little Walker described herself as pro-life until two years ago, when fetal heart and chromosomal abnormalities doctors said would likely cause her to miscarry prompted her to get an abortion five months into her pregnancy.

Had she not been able to get an abortion at a hospital in Colorado, Little Walker said she may have had to face a traumatic miscarriage at home.

"Not all aborted babies are unwanted," Little Walker said. "This needs to be available for people when they need it, even if they wanted their baby and they have to make the hardest decision that any parent could possibly make."

Her opinion is probably not the majority view in Casper, a working-class city of 58,000 people that is Wyoming's second-biggest after the capital, Cheyenne.

Known as the "Oil City," Casper has a long history as a hub of oil drilling and cattle ranching, with more recent activity in uranium mining and wind energy. The city sprawls at the base of Casper Mountain with a skyline dominated by a 180-foot (54-meter) concrete spire built in the 1960s.

After the clinic fire, one minister and clinic supporter, the Rev. Leslie Kee of the local Unitarian Universalist church, called for tolerance by all.

"All this does is fan the flames of division and fear and helplessness and sense that things are spinning out of control," Kee said. "Somebody's got to step up and call for calm and love and peace. That comes from the human heart."

No one was injured in the blaze, which left the stucco house being renovated for the clinic with broken windows and smoke damage. Authorities are investigating whether the fire is linked to a person seen running away from the building carrying what appeared to be a gas can and a bag.

After surveying the damage, Burkhart said she expects the previously planned mid-June opening to be delayed by "at least several weeks."

Burkhart has faced daunting odds against opening abortion clinics before.

She worked closely with Dr. George Tiller, a Wichita, Kansas, abortion doctor who was assassinated at church in 2009. Four years after his murder, Burkhart helped to reopen Tiller's clinic.

The Wichita clinic, much like the one planned in Casper, enabled women to get abortions without driving hundreds of miles to other cities and states.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 50 of 62

Colorado, which codified the right to abortion in state law in April, has long been the primary destination for abortions for many Wyoming women.

"Colorado has been the saving grace for everyone," said one Casper woman who got an abortion in Boulder when she was a 17-year-old in foster care in a small Wyoming town in 1989.

She declined to be identified, citing concerns for her safety and employment prospects that were shared by her daughter, a Casper woman who went to Colorado to get the drugs required for her own abortion 20 years later, at age 21.

While abortions have continued in Wyoming — there were 98 in the state last year and 91 the year before, according to state figures — only a couple medical providers at most now do abortions regularly. The state doesn't track who the providers are and they seldom publicize their services.

The Casper clinic will be far more open with its services, which in addition to abortions will include women's, family planning and gender-affirming health care. It will help fill a gap left when the city's Planned Parenthood clinic, which didn't provide abortions, closed for financial reasons in 2017.

One outspoken local opponent of the clinic, Ross Schriftman, expressed disappointment about the fire. Still he said everybody should oppose abortion and noted the goal isn't necessarily to make abortion illegal but "unthinkable."

"I don't have a uterus. But I do have a heart, a mind and a First Amendment. And I have every right to speak about how I feel about an issue," said Schriftman, a member of the Jewish Pro-Life Foundation.

Little Walker said her abortion was both heartbreaking and beautiful.

At the Denver hospital, Little Walker and her husband, Ian, got to hold their daughter, whom they'd named Riana, after she died. They maintain her memory in a box with items including her ashes in heart-shaped container, prints of her tiny hands and feet and a baby blanket.

"I feel like it's Riana's legacy to share her story and help people understand that abortion is much bigger than what the propaganda would have you believe. It's much more complicated. It's very, very gray. And it can affect anybody," Little Walker said.

"When you find yourself in a difficult position, you just want to have choices."

Israeli nationalists chant racist slogans in Jerusalem march

By JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Thousands of Israeli nationalists, some of them chanting "Death to Arabs," paraded through the heart of the main Palestinian thoroughfare in Jerusalem's Old City on Sunday, in a show of force that risked setting off a new wave of violence in the tense city.

The crowds, who were overwhelmingly young Orthodox Jewish men, were celebrating Jerusalem Day -- an Israeli holiday that marks the capture of the Old City in the 1967 Mideast war. Palestinians see the event, which passes through the heart of the Muslim Quarter, as a provocation. Last year, the parade helped trigger an 11-day war with Gaza militants, and this year's march drew condemnations from the Palestinians and neighboring Jordan.

Israel said it deployed thousands of police and security forces for the event, and violent scuffles between Jewish and Palestinian groups erupted inside the Old City before the parade began.

As the march got underway, groups of Orthodox Jewish youths gathered outside Damascus Gate, waving flags, singing religious and nationalistic songs, and shouting "the Jewish nation lives" before entering the Muslim Quarter. One large group chanted "Death to Arabs," and "Let your village burn down" before descending into the Old City.

Police cleared Palestinians out of the area, which is normally a bustling Palestinian thoroughfare. At one point, a drone flying a Palestinian flag flew overhead before police intercepted it.

Ahead of the march, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said that "flying the flag of Israel in the capital of Israel is an obvious thing," but also urged participants to celebrate in a "responsible and respectful manner."

Bennett later issued a statement instructing police to show "no tolerance" toward the racist groups. He described them as a "minority that came to set the area on fire" and vowed to prosecute violent extrem-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 51 of 62

ists — a step that few Israeli governments have taken in the past. Foreign Minister Yair Lapid called the racist groups “a disgrace.”

Thousands of people normally take part in the march through the Muslim Quarter, including some who shout out nationalistic or racist slogans toward the Palestinians, before making their way to the Western Wall in the Jewish Quarter on the other side of the Old City.

Last year, after weeks of Israeli-Palestinian unrest in Jerusalem, authorities changed the route of the march at the last minute to avoid the Muslim Quarter. But it was too late by then, and Hamas militants in Gaza fired a barrage of rockets toward Jerusalem as the procession was getting underway. That set off 11 days of heavy fighting.

Sunday’s march came 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. Some were armed, while others were shot while allegedly throwing stones or firebombs at troops. But several appear appear to have been uninvolved in any violence, 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. Despite the recent unrest, Israeli leaders decided to allow this year’s parade to take place along its traditional route through the Muslim Quarter. Ahead the march, there were small scuffles between Israeli nationalists and Palestinians, who threw chairs and bottles and shouted “God is great” at the marchers. Some marchers sprayed pepper spray at Palestinians and journalists. In one video shared on social media, a young Jewish man kicked and sprayed an older Palestinian woman in the face, sending her crumbling to the ground.

Police also fired rubber-tipped bullets and used clubs and pepper spray to disperse Palestinian protesters from the area.

The Palestinian Red Crescent rescue service said 62 people were injured, including 23 who needed hospitalization.

Israeli police said they arrested over 50 suspects suspected of disorderly conduct or assaulting police officers. It said five officers were injured.

Ahead of the march, over 2,500 Jews visited Jerusalem’s most sensitive holy site inside the Old City, as Palestinians barricaded inside the Al Aqsa Mosque threw rocks and fireworks.

Al Aqsa is situated on a hilltop compound revered by Muslims and Jews. The mosque is the third-holiest site in Islam, and the Palestinians are fiercely protective over what they consider to be a potent symbol of their national aspirations.

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.

Police also said one of the Jewish groups “violated visitation rules” and was removed. Israeli media said the group had unfurled Israeli flags in the compound.

Under longstanding arrangements known as the “status quo,” Jews are allowed to visit the compound but not 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.

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 18 arrests.

Nabil Abu Rdeneh, spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, accused Israel of “playing with

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 52 of 62

fire irresponsibly and recklessly.”

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.

Israel captured 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 claims all of the city as its capital. The Palestinians seek east Jerusalem as the capital of a future state.

Gaza’s Hamas rulers praised what they called “the great heroism” shown by Palestinians at Al Aqsa earlier Sunday. “The Islamic Palestinian Arab identity of the Al Aqsa Mosque will be protected by our people and their valiant resistance with all their might,” said Hazem Qassem, a spokesman for the group.

The group, however, may be wary of getting involved in another round of fighting. Gaza was hard hit in last year’s war, and the territory is still struggling to repair the damage. In addition, some 12,000 Gazan laborers are now permitted to work inside Israel as part of efforts to maintain calm between the enemies. Renewed fighting could risk losing those jobs, which have given a small boost to Gaza’s devastated economy.

Justice Dept. to review response to Texas school shooting

By ZEKE MILLER and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

UVALDE, Texas (AP) — The Justice Department said Sunday it will review the law enforcement response to the Texas school shooting, an unusual federal look back prompted by questions about the shifting and at times contradictory information from authorities that have enraged a community in shock and sorrow.

Department spokesman Anthony Coley said the review would be conducted in a fair, impartial and independent manner and the findings would be made public. The announcement came as President Joe Biden was visiting Uvalde, where he and first lady Jill Biden paid their respects at a memorial to the 19 students and two teachers killed at Robb Elementary School on Tuesday.

The goal of the review, which the mayor requested, is “to provide an independent account of law enforcement actions and response that day, and to identify lessons learned and best practices to help first responders prepare for and respond to active shooter events,” Coley said in a statement.

Handling the review is the department’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. It was not immediately clear how the review would be conducted, whether law enforcement officials could be compelled to cooperate in the review and when it might be completed.

Such a review is somewhat rare and most after-action reports that come after a mass shooting are generally compiled by local law enforcement agencies or outside groups. The Justice Department conducted similar reviews after 14 people were killed in a terrorist attack in San Bernardino, California, in 2015, and after the mass shooting at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida, the deadliest attack on the LGBTQ community in U.S. history that left 49 people dead and 53 people wounded.

The frustration, anger and questions about the response from police grew deeper on Friday after authorities revealed that despite repeated 911 calls from students and teachers, the school district’s police chief had told more than a dozen officers to wait in a school hallway. Officials said he believed the suspect was barricaded inside adjoining classrooms and that there was no longer an active attack.

The revelation caused more grief and raised new 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.

Biden has not spoken publicly about the police response to the shooting.

‘Top Gun: Maverick’ wins Tom Cruise 1st \$100 million opening

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

Forget breaking the sound barrier: Tom Cruise just flew past a major career milestone.

The 59-year-old superstar just got his first \$100 million opening weekend with “Top Gun: Maverick.” In its first three days in North American theaters, the long-in-the-works sequel earned an estimated \$124 million in ticket sales, Paramount Pictures said Sunday. Including international showings, its worldwide

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 53 of 62

total is \$248 million.

It's a supersonic start for a film that still has the wide-open skies of Memorial Day itself to rake in even more cash. According to projections and estimates, by Monday's close, "Top Gun: Maverick" will likely have over \$150 million.

"These results are ridiculously, over-the-top fantastic," said Chris Aronson, Paramount's president of domestic distribution. "I'm happy for everyone. I'm happy for the company, for Tom, for the filmmakers."

Though undeniably one of the biggest stars in the world — perhaps even "the last movie star," according to various headlines — Cruise is not known for massive blockbuster openings.

Before "Maverick," his biggest domestic debut was in 2005, with Steven Spielberg's "War of the Worlds," which opened to \$64 million. After that it was "Mission: Impossible — Fallout" with \$61 million in 2018. It's not that his films don't make money in the long run: They just aren't enormously frontloaded.

"Top Gun: Maverick" had an extremely long journey to get to the theaters. The sequel to the late Tony Scott's "Top Gun," which was released in 1986, was originally slated to open in the summer of 2020. Its marketing campaign technically started back in July 2019. The pandemic got in the way of those plans, however, and it was delayed several times. Directed by Joseph Kosinski, produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and co-produced and co-financed by Skydance, the sequel reportedly cost \$152 million to make.

But even as the months, and years, went by and many other companies chose to compromise on hybrid releases, Cruise and Paramount didn't waver on their desire to have a major theatrical release. A streaming debut was simply not an option.

"That was never going to happen," Cruise said in Cannes.

And it is major, with 4,735 North American theaters (a record) showing "Top Gun: Maverick." It also opened in 23,600 locations in 62 international markets.

"This is one of the longest runways for a marketing campaign for any film ever. And it only served to create more excitement around the movie," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "This movie literally waited for the movie theater to come back."

The build up has been just as flashy, with fighter-jet-adorned premieres on an aircraft carrier in San Diego and at the Cannes Film Festival, where Cruise was also given an honorary Palme d'Or, and a royal premiere in London attended by Prince William and his wife Kate.

"The feeling you get when you watch this film with an audience, it's pretty special," Aronson said. "The first big screening we had, there was spontaneous applause during the movie."

Reviews have been stellar, too, with the film notching a 97% on Rotten Tomatoes. Audiences, who were 58% male, gave it an A+ CinemaScore, according to exit polls.

The new film has Cruise reprising the role of Maverick, who returns to the elite aviation training program to train the next generation of flyers, including Miles Teller, Glen Powell, Monica Barbaro, Greg Tarzan Davis, Danny Ramirez, Lewis Pullman and Jay Ellis. Jennifer Connelly, Jon Hamm and Val Kilmer, reprising his role from the original, also star.

"This solidifies the notion that the movie theater is a singular and a vitally important outlet for people," Dergarabedian said. "People are looking for a great escape from everything that's going on in the world right now."

"Maverick" is now among the top pandemic era openings, still led by "Spider-Man: No Way Home" with \$260 million, followed by "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" with \$187 million and "The Batman" with \$134 million.

Notably, "Top Gun: Maverick" is the only non-superhero movie in the bunch. It also attracted a wide swath of age groups to the theater. An estimated 55% of the audience was over 35.

"Superhero movies aren't for everybody. This movie is for everyone and that's what sets it apart," Aronson said. "The theatrical exhibition business has challenges ahead of it, but this is a shot in the arm for that."

"The Bob's Burgers Movie" was the only new release that dared go up against "Top Gun." Released by 20th Century Studios and Disney, the animated pic earned \$12.6 million from 3,425 locations. It opened in third place, behind "Doctor Strange 2," which earned \$16.4 million in its fourth weekend in theaters.

"Top Gun" will continue to essentially have the skies to itself until "Jurassic World: Dominion" opens on

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 54 of 62

June 10.

"It has a really nice, open marketplace to play," Dergarabedian said. "Tom Cruise has always been about consistency. His movies are about the marathon. This is the first movie of his that is sprinting to big box office numbers. Here, he gets the sprint and the marathon."

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

1. "Top Gun: Maverick," \$124 million.
2. "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness," \$16.4 million.
3. "The Bob's Burgers Movie," \$12.6 million.
4. "Downton Abbey: A New Era," \$5.9 million.
5. "The Bad Guys," \$4.6 million.
6. "Sonic the Hedgehog 2," \$2.5 million.
7. "Everything Everywhere All At Once," \$2.5 million.
8. "The Lost City," \$1.8 million.
9. "Men," \$1.2 million.
10. "F3: Fun and Frustration," \$1 million.

Concerns over police aggression toward Champions League fans

By ROB HARRIS AP Global Soccer Writer

PARIS (AP) — Tear gas fired indiscriminately around children and the elderly. Pepper spray unleashed at close-range on frustrated fans. Ticket holders blamed for delaying kickoff when they'd spent hours trying to enter the stadium in bottlenecks in tight spaces.

Liverpool supporters have been defending themselves against accusations by French authorities they were responsible for the unrest at the Champions League final amid overcrowding outside the Stade de France caused by operational failings on Saturday.

The British government called the treatment of the fans "deeply concerning."

UEFA officials spent the hours after Liverpool lost 1-0 to Real Madrid in talks about the chaotic scenes that delayed the start of the final for 37 minutes in the biggest club match of the year.

Even as the final started, riot police were firing rounds of tear gas immediately outside the stadium doors into wide open spaces to disperse any lingering people around Gate U.

The French ministers for the interior and sports blamed ticketless Liverpool fans trying to force their way into the stadium, contrary to the scenes witnessed by reporters of people who appeared to be local youths climbing over fences. "Get down," Liverpool supporters could be heard shouting.

"The stigma around English fans is being used by the French public authorities for cheap political gain," Ronan Evain, executive director of Football Supporters Europe, told The Associated Press on Sunday.

The closing of gates sparked concerns among hundreds of fans outside the Liverpool section but little obvious aggression from them. Hostility by police appeared to inflame frustrations.

Problems had been encountered even before getting to the final turnstiles with entry points into the wider perimeter blocked off, forcing fans through narrow passages that caused bottlenecks.

While UEFA blamed fans arriving late for delaying kickoff in stadium announcements greeted by jeers, thousands from Liverpool were seen arriving hours before the game to be greeted by organizational disarray in the heat of the late afternoon.

The congestion was partly caused by fans being diverted to a small entrance rather than a bigger one 150 meters away, said Evain, who advises UEFA on supporter issues.

"There have always been mobility problems around the Stade de France," Evain said.

"We are appalled by the communication by the French public authorities. Liverpool and Real Madrid fans are the victims of yesterday's fiasco and are not the culprits here.

"Tear gassing people trying to enter the stadium is insane."

The British government called on UEFA to launch a formal investigation into what went wrong with officials from the stadium and French authorities.

"The footage and accounts from Liverpool fans and the media on their entry to the Stade de France last night are deeply concerning," Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries said.

"It is in the interests of everyone involved to understand what happened and to learn lessons from these events."

Pope names 21 new cardinals, from Asia, Africa, elsewhere

By FRANCES D'EMILIO Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis named 21 new cardinals Sunday, most of them from continents other than Europe — which dominated Catholic hierarchy for most of the church's history — and further putting his mark on the group of people who might someday elect the next pontiff.

Sixteen of those who will receive the prestigious red cardinal's hat from Francis in a consistory ceremony at the Vatican on Aug. 27 are younger than 80 and thus would be eligible to vote for his successor if a conclave — in which pontiffs are secretly elected — were to be held.

Francis read out the names of his choices after delivering traditional Sunday remarks from an open window of the Apostolic Palace to the public in St. Peter's Square.

Among those tapped by the pontiff to receive the prestigious red hat will be two prelates from India and one each from Ghana, Nigeria, Singapore, East Timor, Paraguay, and Brazil, in keeping with Francis' determination to have church leaders reflect the global face of the Catholic church.

With church growth largely stagnant or at best sluggish in much of Europe and North America, the Vatican has been attentive to its flock to developing countries, including in Africa, where the number of faithful has been growing in recent decades. Only one new cardinal was named from the United States: Robert Walter McElroy, bishop of San Diego, California.

This is the eighth batch of cardinals that Francis has named since becoming pontiff in 2013. A sizeable majority of those who are eligible to vote in a conclave were appointed by him, increasing the likelihood that they will choose as his successor someone who shares his papacy's priorities, including attention to those living on society's margins and to environmental crises.

A total of 131 cardinals would be young enough to elect a pope once the new batch are included, while the number of cardinals too old to vote will rise to 96.

Pontiffs traditionally have chosen their closest advisors and collaborators at the Vatican from among the ranks of cardinals, who have been dubbed the "princes of the church."

These are the churchmen named by Francis:

— Jean-Marc Aveline, archbishop of Marseille, France; Peter Okpaleke, bishop of Ekwulobia, Nigeria; Leonardo Ulrich Steiner, archbishop of Manaus, Brazil; Filipe Neri Antonio Sebastao di Rosario Ferrao, archbishop of Goa and Damao, India; Robert Walter McElroy, bishop of San Diego, California; Virgilio Do Carmo Da Silva, archbishop of Dili, East Timor; Oscar Cantoni, bishop of Como, Italy; Anthony Poola, archbishop of Hyderabad, India; Paulo Cezar Costa, archbishop of Brasilia, Brazil; Richard Kuuia Baawobr, bishop of Wa, Ghana; William Goh Seng Chye, archbishop of Singapore; Adalberto Martinez Flores, archbishop of Asuncion, Paraguay; and Giorgio Marengo, apostolic prefect of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

In addition to those churchmen, also under 80 and eligible to vote in a conclave are three prelates who work at the Vatican: Arthur Roche of Britain, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments; Lazzarro You Heung-sik of South Korea, prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy; and Fernando Vergez Alzaga of Spain, president of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State and president of the Vatican City State's Governorate.

Francis in his choices kept up a tradition of naming some who are too old to vote in a conclave, but whose long decades of dedication to the Catholic church is honored by bestowing cardinal's rank on them. In this latest batch of nominations, they are Jorge Enrique Jimenez Carvajal, emeritus archbishop of Cartagena, Colombia; Lucas Van Looy, emeritus archbishop of Ghent, Belgium; Arrigo Miglio, emeritus archbishop of Cagliari, Sardinia; the Rev. Gianfranco Ghirlanda, a Jesuit professor of theology; and Fortunato Frezza, canon of St. Peter's Basilica.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 56 of 62

Presiding over the consistory this summer adds to an already ambitious schedule in the months ahead for Francis, who has taken to using a wheelchair or a cane of late due to a knee ligament problem. On Saturday, the Vatican released details of the 85-year-old pontiff's pilgrimage, from July 2 to 7, to Congo and South Sudan. He is also scheduled to make a pilgrimage to Canada later in July to apologize in person for abuse committed by churchmen and church institutions against Indigenous people in that country.

Almost as significant as those chosen to be cardinals are those who were not chosen, despite holding posts that in the past would have traditionally earned them the red hat.

In Francis' selection on Sunday, he passed over the prominent archbishop of San Francisco, Salvatore Cordileone. Earlier this month, Cordileone said he will no longer allow U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to receive Communion because of her support for abortion rights.

While Francis hasn't publicly weighed in on the soon-expected U.S. Supreme Court ruling on abortion rights, in the past he has decried the political weaponizing of Communion.

The new U.S. cardinal, McElroy, holds very different views from Cordileone. He was among the relatively few U.S. bishops who several years ago called for U.S. church policy to better reflect Francis' concerns for the global poor. He also signed a statement last year expressing support for LGBTQ youth and denouncing the bullying directed at them.

Christian nationalism on the rise in some GOP campaigns

By PETER SMITH and DEEPA BHARATH Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The victory party took on the feel of an evangelical worship service after Doug Mastriano won Pennsylvania's Republican gubernatorial primary this month. As a Christian singer led the crowd in song, some raised their arms toward the heavens in praise.

Mastriano opened his remarks by evoking Scripture: "God uses the foolish to confound the wise." He claimed Pennsylvanians' freedom would be "snatched away" if his Democratic opponent wins in November, and cast the election in starkly religious terms with another biblical reference: "Let's choose this day to serve the Lord."

Mastriano, a state senator and retired Army colonel, has not only made faith central to his personal story but has woven conservative Christian beliefs and symbols into the campaign — becoming the most prominent example this election cycle of what some observers call a surge of Christian nationalism among Republican candidates.

Mastriano — who has ignored repeated requests for comment from The Associated Press, including through his campaign last week — has rejected the "Christian nationalist" label in the past. In fact, few if any prominent candidates use the label. Some say it's a pejorative and insist everyone has a right to draw on their faith and values to try to influence public policy.

But scholars generally define Christian nationalism as going beyond policy debates and championing a fusion of American and Christian values, symbols and identity.

Christian nationalism, they say, is often accompanied by a belief that God has destined America, like the biblical Israel, for a special role in history, and that it will receive divine blessing or judgment depending on its obedience.

That often overlaps with the conservative Christian political agenda, including opposition to abortion, same-sex marriage and transgender rights. Researchers say Christian nationalism is often also associated with mistrust of immigrants and Muslims. Many Christian nationalists see former President Donald Trump as a champion despite his crude sexual boasts and lack of public piety.

Candidates seen as Christian nationalists have had mixed success in this year's Republican primaries, which typically pitted staunch conservatives against opponents even further to the right.

There were losses by some high-profile candidates, such as U.S. Rep. Madison Cawthorn and an Idaho gubernatorial hopeful, Lt. Gov. Janice McGeachin. The former spoke of a "spiritual battle" on Capitol Hill and a need for "strong, God-fearing patriots." The latter was photographed holding a gun and a Bible and said, "God calls us to pick up the sword and fight, and Christ will reign in the state of Idaho."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 57 of 62

Some of Idaho's Republican primaries for the Legislature were won by candidates touting Christian values or sharing priorities with Christian nationalists, such as sports bans for transgender athletes. U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., who uses biblical phrasing to "be a watchman on the wall" against those seeking to "destroy our faith," easily won her primary.

Watchers of Christian nationalism consider Mastriano's win — in a rout, with 44% in a crowded field despite opposition from the state party establishment — by far the highest-profile victory for the movement.

Mastriano has called the separation of church and state a "myth."

After his victory, the comments section of his campaign Facebook page had the feel of a revival tent: "Praise Jesus!" "God is smiling on us and sending His blessings." "Thank you Father God!!"

Mastriano "is a unique case where he really does in his speeches highlight this apocalyptic idea" where his supporters and causes are on God's side, said Andrew Whitehead, sociology professor at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and co-author of "Taking America Back for God: Christian Nationalism in the United States."

"It literally is good and evil," he continued. "There's no room for compromise, so that is the threat to democracy."

In the book, Whitehead and co-author Samuel Perry measured rates of Christian nationalism by drawing on a 2017 Baylor University survey. It gauged opinions on such things as America's role in God's plan and whether the U.S. should be declared a Christian nation, advance biblical values and allow school prayer and religious displays in public places.

Their research found about one in five Americans align with many of those views. That's down from nearly one in four a decade earlier, just as Americans have become less religious overall. But Whitehead said Christian nationalists, who are more numerous among Republicans, can be expected to maintain their fervor.

Christian nationalism is emerging alongside and in some cases overlapping with other right-wing movements, such as the conspiratorial QAnon, white supremacy, and denialism over COVID-19 and the 2020 election. Christian prayers and symbols featured prominently in and around the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection there.

Mastriano, who sought to overturn Pennsylvania's vote for Joe Biden in 2020, attended the rally preceding the attack and chartered buses to bring others. Though he says he left when things turned violent, video showed he passed through "breached barricades and police lines," according to a Senate Judiciary Committee report.

Robert Jones, CEO of the Public Religion Research Institute, said those Jan. 6 displays were not surprising.

According to a recent survey by the institute, white evangelical Christians were among the strongest supporters of the assertion that God intended America as a "promised land" for European Christians. Those who backed that idea were far more likely to agree that "true American patriots may have to resort to violence ... to save our country."

"To my mind, white Christian nationalism is really the threat," Jones said.

Conservative Christian themes are also playing a role in local elections, including in blue states, although many proponents say they view it not as nationalism but as supporting their religious freedom and values.

Pastor Tim Thompson of 412 Church in Murrieta, California, who hosts a YouTube channel with more than 9,600 subscribers and envisions a conservative future for the state, recently started a political action committee aiming to "take back our school boards" and give parents authority over curriculum.

"We don't want teachers or any other adults talking to our kids about sex," Thompson said. "We don't want teachers categorizing our kids into oppressed or oppressor. These are not political issues. They are moral and biblical issues."

Judeo-Christian values are the foundation of America, he argued.

"People are afraid to speak up for these values because they are afraid that the left is going to slap a label like 'racist' or 'Christian nationalist' on them," Thompson said. "I don't care about those labels, because my wife, children, church and community know who I am."

Pastor Jack Hibbs of Calvary Chapel Chino Hills in Chino Hills, California, has also sought to influence local

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 58 of 62

elections. While he does not let candidates campaign at the church, he frequently offers endorsements as a way of signaling to his flock those who are "pro-family, pro-life and pro-freedom."

But "the hair on my neck goes up" when he hears the term "Christian nationalism," he said. And he was embarrassed to see Christian imagery during the Jan. 6 riot: "That was a sad day, to see those sacred symbols and words pimped like that."

Elizabeth Neumann, chief strategy officer for Moonshot, a tech company that aims to counter online violent extremism, disinformation and other harms, said Christian nationalism began picking up steam around 2015 amid a rising narrative of purported persecution of Christians.

Neumann, who served in the George W. Bush and Trump administrations and grew up in an evangelical Christian household, called the movement "heretical and idolatry" and an "apocalyptic vision (that) very often leads to violence." Many pastors are pushing back against it, she added.

"I see Christian nationalism as the gasping, dying breath of the older generation in America that is afraid that Christians are going to be replaced," she said.

A doll brings pride, identity for Brazil Indigenous woman

By DIANE JEANTET Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Luakam Anambé wanted her newborn granddaughter to have a doll — something she'd never owned as a child working in slave-like conditions in Brazil's Amazon rainforest. But she wanted the doll to share their Indigenous features, and there was nothing like that in stores. So she sewed one herself from cloth and stuffing.

The doll had brown skin, long, dark hair, and the same face and body paint used by the Anambé people. It delighted passersby; while Indigenous dolls can be found elsewhere in Latin America, they remain mostly absent in Brazil, home to nearly 900,000 people identifying as Indigenous in the last census.

A business idea was born, and her modest home now doubles as a workshop where she and her daughter produce dolls for a growing clientele.

"Before, only white dolls existed, then came the Black ones, but Indigenous ones didn't appear," said Anambé, 53, wearing a beaded necklace and a headdress of delicate orange feathers. "When Indigenous women see the dolls, they sometimes cry."

Since 2013, Anambé has sold more than 5,000 dolls at local fairs and through social media, mailing them across the country, and she is fundraising to attend a German fair with the aim of exporting to Europe. Her burgeoning business in Rio de Janeiro is a world removed from the Amazonian state of Para, where her life of hardship began.

She was one of 15 children and Anambé's parents sent her and two sisters to live and work at a plantation. Just 7 years old, she was charged with looking after the plantation owner's toddler. She remembers being rebuked after asking the owner's wife for a doll; she should work, not play, Anambé recalls being told. And she received no compassion when telling the woman that she had been sexually abused. She never received any pay, and complaints often ended with young Anambé locked in a dark tobacco store-room, alone.

Anambé said she was 15 when the plantation owner forced her to marry his friend, a man two decades her senior, with whom she had a daughter. Anambé soon fled her violent husband, leaving her baby with family.

"We're fighters, in a fight to survive," she said, referring to Indigenous people who regularly face peril from Amazon land grabbers, loggers, ranchers and miners. Before colonization, "there were millions of Indigenous people in Brazil. Today, there are far fewer. And every passing day, less and less."

Anambé worked for years as a cleaning lady in Belem, Para state's capital. But she felt life had more in store for her and that she should seek opportunities in one of Brazil's biggest cities. She hitched an eight-day ride to Rio with a long-haul trucker and thought of him as a godsend, especially because he didn't abuse her.

Her Indigenous features stood out in Rio, and she experienced prejudice. Eventually, she landed a job in

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 59 of 62

a bikini factory and was able to send for her daughter, by then in her twenties. Little by little, they saved enough money to move from their one-room shack to a small home, where she started making clothes for some fashionable Rio brands. With the skills she developed sitting behind her sewing machine, she made her first doll.

"It's like a mirror," said her daughter, Atyna Porã, who now works with her mother. "Through the doll, we see ourselves, and we have to break down the taboo behind it, because we have always been very discriminated against."

Anambé and Porã have expanded their portfolio to include dolls bearing face and body paints of five other Indigenous groups. Each is handsewn, dressed in traditional clothes and carefully painted with a sharpened branch from a tree in their backyard, following Indigenous custom.

While they were the first to reach a broad audience using social media, others have followed in their footsteps.

Indigenous fashion designer We'éena Tikuna, also born in the Amazon rainforest and now based in Rio, started making Indigenous dolls to dress them in her creations. "I admire her work, like that of other Indigenous women," Tikuna said of Anambé. "We need that Indigenous representation."

Anambé named her first doll after Atyna's daughter, Anaty, which became her company's name. And 20% of proceeds go to her nonprofit, Maria Vicentina, named for her mother and grandmother. Based in Para, it will provide seamstress training to women under duress, growing the Anaty doll operation while helping provide them financial independence.

"When I left the state of Para, I didn't leave just for myself. I went for other women, too," Anambé said. "Anaty came to give this empowerment to us, Indigenous women."

How San Diego secured its water supply, at a cost

By SUMAN NAISHADHAM Associated Press

As a worsening drought forces millions of Californians to face mandatory water restrictions, one corner of Southern California has largely shielded itself from supply-related woes: San Diego County.

For Western water planners, the path it took to get there serves either as a blueprint or a cautionary tale.

Over the past three decades, San Diego County diversified its water supply, ramped up conservation and invested in big-ticket water infrastructure including the Western hemisphere's largest desalination plant, which removes salt and impurities from ocean water. As a result, the water agency that serves 24 water utilities including the city of San Diego says it can avoid cuts until at least 2045, even during dry periods. But that security has come at a cost.

San Diego County's water is among the most expensive in the country, costing about 26% more at the wholesale level in 2021 than the Metropolitan Water District's, which serves Los Angeles and surrounding counties. Now, two rural irrigation districts in San Diego County home to large avocado industries want to break away from the regional water supplier, saying they can purchase cheaper water elsewhere. If they succeed, water in San Diego County could grow even more expensive.

"San Diego's situation is very surprising, very striking," said Michael Hanemann, an environmental economist at Arizona State University who recently was commissioned to study the region's water costs for a California agency. "I think this is a harbinger of something that's going to happen elsewhere in California and elsewhere in the U.S."

WHY SO EXPENSIVE

San Diegans didn't always rest easy during drought. In the 1990s, a severe dry period cut the region's water supply by 30%. At the time, almost all of its water came from the Metropolitan Water District, the country's largest water provider. That experience and a tense, dysfunctional relationship — California water experts say — with water officials in Los Angeles spurred San Diego County's aggressive, decades-long pursuit of water self-sufficiency.

"At that point, our community came together and said, 'We're not going to be in this situation again. We need to plan for our own reliability,'" said Sandy Kerl, general manager of the San Diego County Water

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 60 of 62

Authority.

So in 2003, the water authority cut a deal to get water from the single largest user of the Colorado River, the Imperial Irrigation District, in Southern California. San Diego County funded repairs to leaky canals belonging to Imperial and signed a historic water transfer deal. Today, it receives about 55% of its total supply from Imperial as part of the deal.

The water authority also helped farmers use less water. It raised dams to increase storage capacity in reservoirs. It provided rebates to homeowners who ripped out grass lawns for water-efficient alternatives.

In 2012, San Diego County forged a deal to get 10% of its water supply from the Carlsbad Desalination Plant for the next 30 years. The plant produces 50 million gallons of drinkable water — enough for about 400,000 people — every day and is by far the region's most expensive water source.

"In round terms, it's twice as expensive as imported surface water," said Hanemann. "On the other hand, it's a very reliable supply because it's not affected by drought and low flows in rivers in Northern California or the Colorado."

While those efforts took hold, demand steadily fell, even as half a million more people moved to San Diego. Statewide water cuts during drought, more efficient showers, toilets and taps, rebates to tear out grass and the use of recycled water did what they were supposed to do — steeply reducing per-person water use. By 2020, San Diegans used 30% less water than in 1990.

Water officials, however, didn't foresee the coming drop in demand and consistently overestimated how much water was needed. Today, San Diego County says it is no longer searching for more water, a position that some in the West might consider enviable. But they wouldn't envy the water rates.

Thanks to selling less water, San Diego County has raised rates — by an average of 4% for each of the past five years — to cover fixed costs including the San Vicente Dam and desalination plant. Such costs make up the lion's share — roughly 90% — of the agency's annual expenses.

The price of water, Hanemann said, is largely determined by the infrastructure that moves and stores it. "You're screwed if suddenly you deliver fewer gallons of water since your costs don't go down."

"Water is a terrible business to be in because we have to promote people to use less of our product and charge them more when they do," said Tom Kennedy, general manager of the Rainbow Municipal Water District, one of the two water agencies trying to detach from the San Diego County's water authority.

AVOCADO COUNTRY

Rainbow and Fallbrook, the other town whose agency is trying to source its water elsewhere, say doing so would give them access to cheaper water, though the potential savings aren't yet known. A state agency is considering whether they can leave, with a decision expected by the end of the year. If their exit is approved, the next step would be a vote among residents. Only if that vote passes can the two districts leave.

At a recent public hearing, angry residents shouted at officials about how long the process is taking — and how expensive their bills have gotten in the meantime.

The rural towns cut a striking contrast to San Diego's constellation of beach towns and waterfront skyline. Northeast of the city, steep, dry hills and sweeping canyons dot the landscape.

Steep water costs have hurt farming in Fallbrook and Rainbow, once the largest producer of avocados in the country. Between 2016 and 2020, Fallbrook lost nearly a fifth of its avocado groves, government records show, due to urbanization and fallowed groves.

Jason Kendall, a farmer in Rainbow whose family took out their avocado groves years ago, said growing the fruit without supplementary groundwater is a losing business.

"You just can't be profitable buying district water and growing avocados," said Kendall, who has 350 acres (142 hectares) of cut flowers, which are widely grown in the region.

POSEIDON, NOT AGAIN

Water officials in San Diego County say higher water costs are coming for other parts of California and the West, even if desalination is less popular today than it once was. Recently, a California coastal commission denied a permit for Poseidon Water to build another decades-in-the-making desalination plant some 60 miles (97 kilometers) up the coast, in Huntington Beach. The rejection came after years of opposition

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 61 of 62

from environmentalists.

The rest of the state has work to do, officials in San Diego County said, as climate change continues to intensify droughts and shrink the rivers feeding California's reservoirs and the Colorado River.

"There's no more cheap water available," said Kerl.

Today in History: May 30, Joan of Arc burned at the stake

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, May 30, the 150th day of 2022. There are 215 days left in the year. This is Memorial Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 30, 1989, student protesters in Beijing erected a "Goddess of Democracy" statue in Tiananmen Square (the statue was destroyed in the Chinese government's crackdown).

On this date:

In 1431, Joan of Arc, condemned as a heretic, was burned at the stake in Rouen (roo-AHN'), France.

In 1922, the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., was dedicated in a ceremony attended by President Warren G. Harding, Chief Justice William Howard Taft and Robert Todd Lincoln.

In 1935, Babe Ruth played in his last major league baseball game for the Boston Braves, leaving after the first inning of the first of a double-header against the Philadelphia Phillies, who won both games (Ruth announced his retirement three days later).

In 1937, ten people were killed when police fired on steelworkers demonstrating near the Republic Steel plant in South Chicago.

In 1958, unidentified American service members killed in World War II and the Korean War were interred in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1968, the Beatles began recording their "White Album" at EMI Recording Studios in London, starting with the original version of "Revolution 1."

In 1971, the American space probe Mariner 9 blasted off from Cape Kennedy on a journey to Mars.

In 1972, three members of the Japanese Red Army opened fire at Lod Airport in Tel Aviv, Israel, killing 26 people. Two attackers died; the third was captured.

In 1994, Mormon Church president Ezra Taft Benson died in Salt Lake City at age 94.

In 2002, a solemn, wordless ceremony marked the end of the agonizing cleanup at ground zero in New York, 8 1/2 months after 9/11.

In 2015, Vice President Joe Biden's son, former Delaware attorney general Beau Biden, died at age 46 of brain cancer.

In 2020, tense protests over the death of George Floyd and other police killings of Black people grew across the country; racially diverse crowds held mostly peaceful demonstrations in dozens of cities, though many later descended into violence, with police cars set ablaze. Street protests in New York City over police killings spiraled into the city's worst day of unrest in decades, as fires burned, windows were smashed and confrontations between demonstrators and officers flared. A rocket ship built by Elon Musk's SpaceX took off from Florida's Cape Canaveral to carry two Americans to the International Space Station; it ushered in a new era of commercial space travel.

Ten years ago: A gunman in Seattle fatally shot four people inside a cafe and a fifth victim in a carjacking before killing himself. Kicking off her first trip abroad in nearly a quarter-century, Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi (ahng sahn soo chee) offered encouragement to impoverished migrants in neighboring Thailand.

Five years ago: The Pentagon scored an important success in a test of its oft-criticized missile defense program, destroying a mock warhead over the Pacific Ocean with an interceptor. Kathy Griffin appeared in a brief video holding what looked like President Trump's bloody, severed head; the comic ended up apologizing, saying she had gone way too far.

One year ago: A restrictive voting bill in Texas that was on the verge of reaching Republican Gov. Greg

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 30, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 327 ~ 62 of 62

Abbott's desk failed to pass after Democrats walked out of the House chamber before a midnight deadline. (After months of Democratic protests, the Republican-controlled legislature would enact sweeping changes in the state's election code in August.) Helio Castroneves joined the exclusive club of four-time Indianapolis 500 winners, holding off Alex Palou to win the 105th running of the race in front of 135,000 fans; it was the biggest crowd at any sports event in the world since the pandemic began 18 months earlier. Naomi Osaka was fined \$15,000 for skipping a news conference after her first-round victory at the French Open. (Osaka, who said she experienced anxiety before speaking to the media, would withdraw from the tournament before her next match.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Ruta Lee is 87. Actor Keir Dullea is 86. Rock musician Lenny Davidson (The Dave Clark Five) is 78. Actor Stephen Tobolowsky is 71. Actor Colm Meaney is 69. Actor Ted McGinley is 64. Actor Ralph Carter is 61. Actor Tonya Pinkins is 60. Country singer Wynonna Judd is 58. Rock musician Tom Morello (Audioslave; Rage Against The Machine) is 58. Actor Mark Sheppard is 58. Movie director Antoine Fuqua is 57. Actor John Ross Bowie is 51. Rock musician Patrick Dahlheimer (Live) is 51. Actor Idina Menzel is 51. Rapper Cee Lo Green is 47. Rapper Remy Ma is 42. Actor Blake Bashoff is 41. Christian rock musician James Smith (Underoath) is 40. Actor Javicia Leslie is 35. Actor Jake Short is 25. Actor Sean Giambrone is 23. Actor Jared Gilmore is 22.