

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 1 of 64

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- The Life of Roger Johnson](#)
- [3- Groton Senior Citizens](#)
- [3- May Rain Above Normal](#)
- [3- USD Announces Spring 2022 Dean's List and Academic Honors](#)
- [3- Northern State University releases spring 2022 Dean's List](#)
- [4- Johnson places 13th in state triple jump](#)
- [4- James Valley Telco Ad](#)
- [5- Chilly Start to June](#)
- [6- Weather Pages](#)
- [11- Daily Devotional](#)
- [12- 2022 Community Events](#)
- [13- Subscription Form](#)
- [14- News from the Associated Press](#)

**"If you neglect to recharge a battery, it dies. And if you run full speed ahead without stopping for water, you lose momentum to finish the race."**

**-OPRAH WINFREY**



plex, (R/B), DH  
6 p.m.: U12 SB at Warner, DH

## Friday, June 3

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, dill potato, seven layer salad, fruited Jell-O with topping, whole wheat bread.

## Saturday, June 4

SEAS Confession: 3:45-4:15 p.m., SEAS Mass: 4:30 p.m.

## Sunday, June 5

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

## 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  
5:30 p.m.: U12 at Britton, DH  
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 com-

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

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

© 2022 Groton Daily Independent

## The Life of Roger Johnson

Services for Roger (aka Butch or Red) Johnson, 77, of Groton will be at 10am on Friday, June 3, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Groton. Visitation will be held at the church on Thursday from 5pm-7pm followed by a prayer service at 7pm. Roger will join his wife, Diane, in burial at Sunset Memorial Gardens of Aberdeen.

Roger transitioned from this life peacefully on Saturday, May 28, 2022, at his home surrounded with love and admiration from his family.

Roger Frank Johnson was born on October 5, 1944, on a farm near Claremont to Lambert and Florence (Carlson) Johnson. At six months old, his family moved to the current family farm north of Groton where Roger and Diane resided until 2020. Roger attended a country school near Claremont until high school when he made the switch to Groton High. Roger helped on the family farm until his father passed. At that time, he stepped up to help his mother and run the farm. Roger's sister, Barb Morris, brought her good friend, Betty Diane Wolery, home for Easter one year. Roger was tasked with picking the gals up from the train station. It was not quite love at first sight but something stuck as they were united in marriage February 26, 1967, in Joplin, Montana. Together they began their life on the Johnson farm and were blessed with three children- Shane, Darcy, and Matt. Throughout



the years, they raised a variety of crops and many different animals. Roger was a steward of the land in every sense of the word. As if farming wasn't a full-time enough gig, Roger chose to take on several different outside jobs through the years to best provide for his family. In addition to farming, Roger started and ran a custom crop spraying business, worked the night shift for several years at Horton's in Britton, served as the Brown County Weed and Pest Supervisor, and also owned and operated a gravel business. Roger retired from farming in 2014 and continued his gravel business until 2019. He and Diane moved to Groton in 2020 where he lived at the time of his passing.

Anyone who knew Roger would describe him as gentle, but the man also always lived life full throttle. He loved tinkering with toys and enjoyed snowmobiling, cars, side-by-sides, boats, and motorcycles. Roger even surprised the family when he showed up to one of the grandson's high school proms with "Hemi" tattooed on his right arm. Roger loved connecting with others and could seldom be found without a cup of coffee and a hand of cards. Roger and Diane took great joy in traveling, whether it was to the Panama Canal (complete with 938,492 pictures to show upon their return home) or to grandchildren's activities. Nothing made Roger prouder than to tell others about his family's accolades.

Roger was deeply loved and will be sorely missed. Celebrating his life are his three children; Shane Johnson (Angie Sombke) of Claremont, Darcy Albrecht (Patrick Cavanaugh) of Aberdeen, Matt (Tanya) Johnson of Groton, his grandchildren: Samantha (Corey) Bachmeier of Aberdeen, Shanine Anya (Jamie Morris) of Claremont, Marqelle Albrecht (Michael Reid) of Mapleton, ND, Jade (Mikia) Albrecht of West Fargo, ND, Maycee (Tyler) Hatzenbeller of Aberdeen, Jeric Albrecht of Aberdeen, Peyton, Trey, Aeydon and Deylon Johnson of Groton. Roger is also survived by great-grandchildren, Oliver Anya, Jace, Hudson & Taya Morris, Julian & Nova Bachmeier, Vaela & Roy Albrecht, Regis Hatzenbeller, Hank Reid and his sisters, Diana Ehrenberg of Rapid City and Barbara Morris of Groton.

Preceding him in death were his parents; his wife, Diane; his brothers-in-law, Bill Ehrenberg and Dick Morris; and nephew, Rick Morris.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 3 of 64

## Groton Senior Citizens

The Groton Senior Citizens met for a meeting and for cards on May 9, 2022. There were 12 members present. President Sarge Likness opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. Two get-well cards were signed by all for Dorene Nelson and Arlys Kluess. Flowers were planted by the community center. Meeting was adjourned and cards were played. The winners were Ruby Donovan in pinochle, Dick Donovan in whist, and Marilyn Thorson and Eunice McColister in canasta. Door prize winners were Bev Sombke, Marilyn Thorson and Elda Stange. Lunch was served by Tony Goldade.

The group met May 16 for its meeting and cards. There were 13 members present. President Sarge Linkess opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. The winners of the card games were Bev Sombke in pinochle, Darlene Fischer in whist and Eunice McColister and Pat Larson in canasta. Door prize winners were Ruby Donovan, Pat Larson and Bev Sombke. Darlene Fischer served lunch.

The Groton Senior Citizens met May 23 for their monthly potluck dinner. There were 14 members present. President Sarge Likness led the Pledge of Allegiance and the table prayer. After dinner, Bingo was played. Dick Donovan won black-out. Cards were played. Door prizes were awarded to Darlene Fischer, Bev Sombke and Marilyn Thorson. Ruby Donovan's birthday was celebrated with ice cream and a birthday cake made by Bev Sombke. The group sang Happy Birthday to Ruby.

- Elda Stange

## May Rain Above Normal

The amount of rain that has fallen in Groton for the month of May is much above normal for the year. The the month of May, Groton received 4.68 inches of rain, over an inch above the normal of 3.28 inches. Much of that is thanks to the rain this past weekend of a total of 2.20 inches.

That puts the yearly total to 11.18 inches, well above the average of 7.25 through the end of May.

The warmest temperature for May was 84.7 degrees on May 27th. The low was 33.6 degrees on May 22. The average temperature for May was 57.6 degrees. The normal is 57.3 degrees.

## USD Announces Spring 2022 Dean's List and Academic Honors

VERMILLION, S.D. -- More than 2,100 students at the University of South Dakota are being honored for their high achievement during the spring 2022 semester with the release of the Dean's List and Academic Honors.

Full-time, undergraduate students are named to the Dean's List if they received a 3.5 GPA for courses they took in the spring 2022 semester, and they had no incomplete or failing grades. Those on the Dean's List are Ashley Rose Gustafson and Alyssa Jane Keough of Claremont, Jenna Ann Kersting of Groton, and Benjamin Thomas Fischbach of Warner.

For part-time students, those with fewer than 12 credit hours, the recognition is called Academic Honors. Those with Academic Honors are Jackson Robert Oliver of Groton and Bess Coral Hogue Seaman of Warner.

## Northern State University releases spring 2022 Dean's List

ABERDEEN, S.D. -- Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D., has released the dean's list for the spring 2022 semester.

Students who have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average for the semester are eligible for the dean's list. They are Caitlynn Barse, Andover; Samantha Ferguson, Jessica Pruitt and Livia Wallace, Bath; Bryce Peterson, Bristol; Kelsey Bishop and Kayla Jensen, Claremont; Hattie Weismantel, Columbia; Lauren Geranen and Miranda Lai, Frederick; Carrie Feser Cole, Alyssa Fordham, Braden Freeman, Alexis Hanten, Logan Hinman, Tara Kupcho and Regan Leicht, Groton; Emily Palmer, Langford; Peyton Ellingson, Christine Stoltenberg and Justin Waldner, Stratford; Landon Leidholt and Kayla Zubke, Warner; and Mckenzie Hassebroek, Westport.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 4 of 64

## Johnson places 13th in state triple jump

Aspen Johnson placed 13th at the State A Track Meet held last weekend in Sioux Falls. She placed in the finals of the triple jump. Andrew Marzahn placed 13th in the prelims of the 200m dash. The girls 3200m relay team placed 20th in the finals while the boys 3200m relay team placed 16th in the finals.

**200 Meters Class A - Prelims:** 13. Andrew Marzahn, 23.62.

**4x100 Relay Class A - Prelims:** 15. (Andrew Marzahn, Keegen Tracy, Kaden Kurtz, Teylor Diegel), 45.80

**4x200 Relay Class A - Prelims:** 13. (Andrew Marzahn, Keegen Tracy, Kaden Kurtz, Teylor Diegel), 1:36.11

**4x400 Relay Class A - Prelims:** 16. (Andrew Marzahn, Keegen Tracy, Kaden Kurtz, Cole Simon), 3:38.07

**4x800 Relay Class A - Finals:** 16. (Cole Simon, Keegen Tracy, Jacob Lewandowski, Lane Tietz), 8:50.43

**High Jump Class A - Finals:** Jackson Cogley, NH

### Womens Results

**4x400 Relay Class A - Prelims:** 15. (Jerica Locke, Kennedy Hansen, Kella Tracy, Laila Roberts), 4:20.48

**4x800 Relay Class A - Finals:** 20. (Kella Tracy, Faith Traphagen, Taryn Traphagen, Rylee Dunker), 10:33.67

**SMR 200-200-400-800m - [2-2-4-8] Class A - Prelims:** 20. (Laila Roberts, Kennedy Hansen, Jerica Locke, Faith Traphagen), 4:36.03

**Triple Jump Class A - Finals:** 13. Aspen Johnson 32-07.50

## JAMES VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS 65TH ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, June 2, 2022

Groton Area High School Arena

11:30am Registration & Lunch

12:30pm Meeting

- Membership Gift
- Entertainment by OST kids
- Door Prizes (including a \$500 credit)
- Call 605-397-2323 for a FREE ride

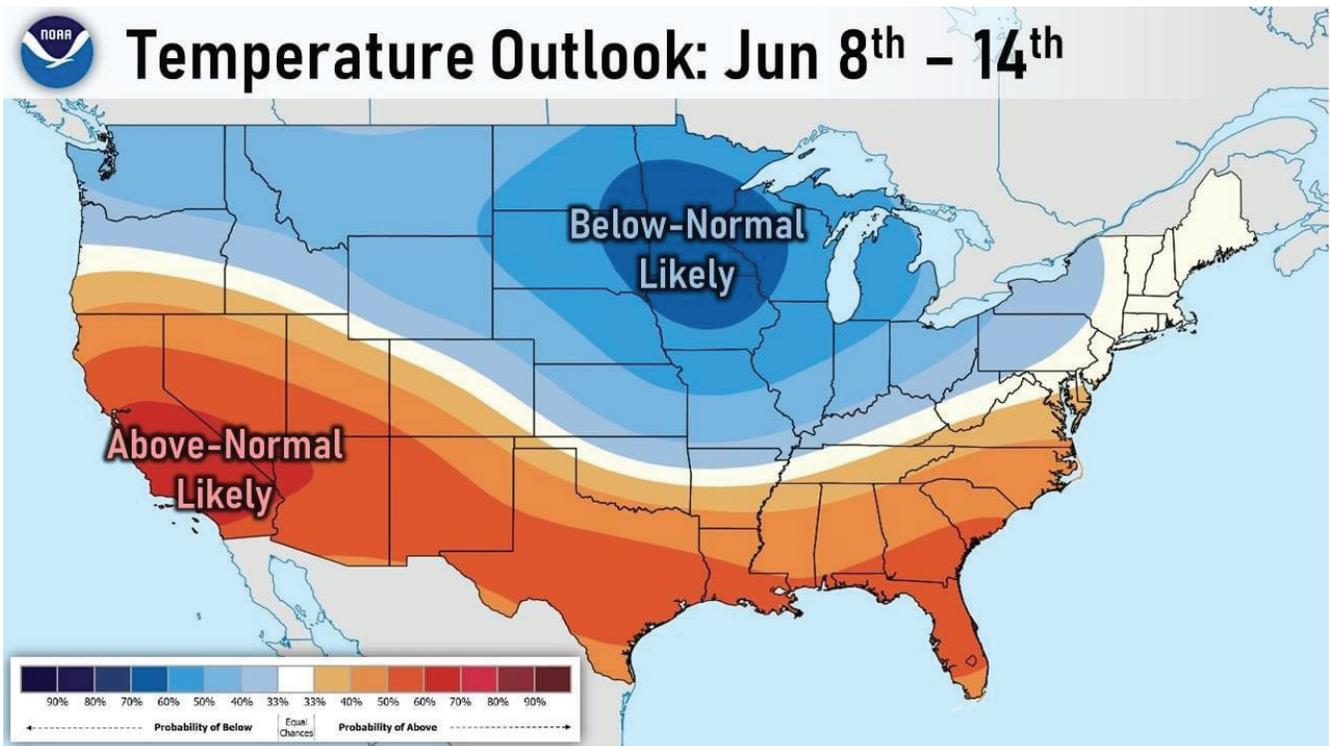
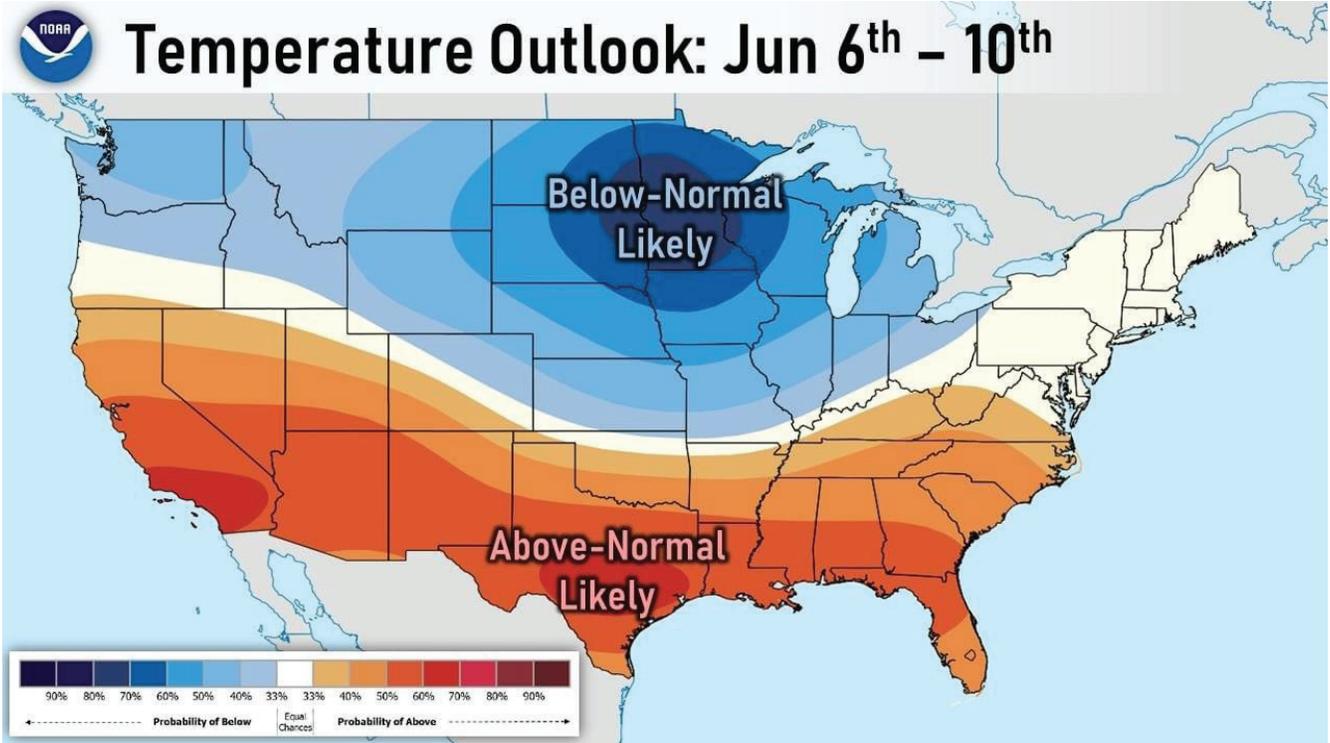
**JAMES  
VALLEY**  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 5 of 64

## Chilly Start to June

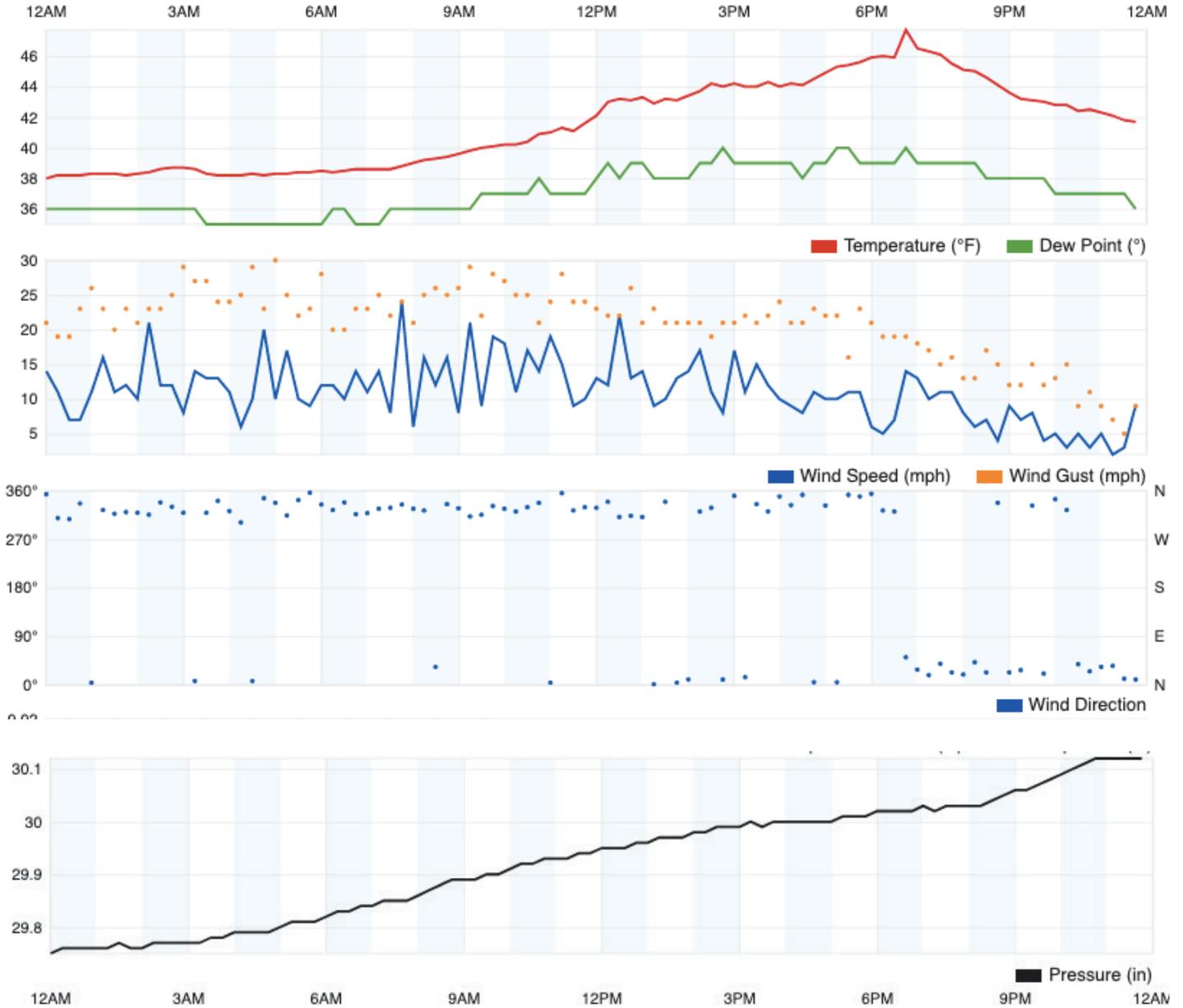


High temperatures will struggle to reach the 70s for much of the week/weekend ahead. Thereafter, below average readings are favored to continue through the rest of the first half of June.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 6 of 64

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Broton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 7 of 64

Today



Mostly Sunny

High: 68 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: 45 °F

Thursday



Sunny then  
Sunny and  
Breezy

High: 72 °F

Thursday  
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 43 °F

Friday



Mostly Sunny

High: 70 °F

## Today and Tonight

Period of clouds and sun, then decreasing clouds tonight.



Highs 64-71°

Lows 40s



*Dry Today and Thursday*  
*Rain Chances Return Friday*



Thursday



67-76°

Mostly Sunny & Breezy.

Winds out of the northwest 15-25 mph & gusts 30-35 mph.

The below average temperatures will remain through at least early next week. Expect highs in the 60s to low 70s most days and lows in the 40s to around 50 degrees. Temperatures will be able to fall into the upper 30s Wednesday morning over portions of central South Dakota.

# Broton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 8 of 64



## Observed Rainfall over last 5 days



### Observed Precipitation

Valid Ending Tuesday May 31st, 2022 at 10 AM CDT

Some of the higher amounts from across the region...

**7.31"** Aberdeen 7.5mi NNE

**6.10"** Bath 4mi WNW

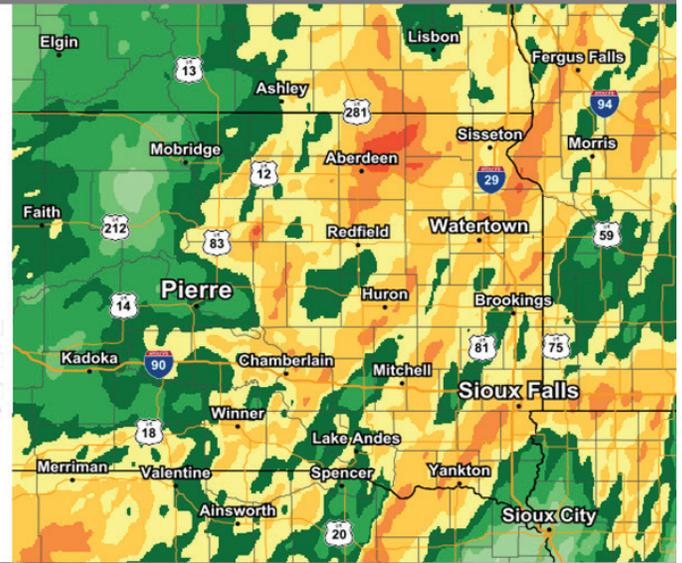
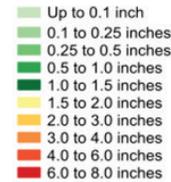
**5.31"** Aberdeen 1mi SSW

**4.68"** Aberdeen 7.2mi NW  
Aberdeen 1 mi WSW

**4.10"** Aberdeen Regional Airport

**3.99"** Presho 12mi NNE

**3.91"** Wheaton



Graphic Created  
May 31st, 2022  
10:38 AM CDT

[www.weather.gov/abr](http://www.weather.gov/abr)



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Created:  
5/31/2022 11:05 AM

Many locations across the region reported over 3 inches of rainfall over the past few days. We've included some of the higher amounts here, along with an image showing the 5 day rainfall totals. As a reminder, if you encounter flooded roadways, Turn Around Don't Drown! Check out the latest river flooding details at <https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=ABR>

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 9 of 64

## Today in Weather History

June 1, 1990: A small F0 tornado blew over two mobile homes on the north side of Groton. Numerous trees were either blown down or lost limbs. Also, high winds of 65 mph occurred 5 miles south and 1 mile east of Mellette.

June 1, 2008: Severe thunderstorms developed along the eastern slopes of the Black Hills and dropped large hail and heavy rain over eastern Custer and Shannon Counties. Softball sized hail was reported south of Hermosa.

June 1, 2011: High water levels coming into June along with above average June rainfall kept water levels up on Blue Dog, Bitter, Rush, and Waubay Lakes in Day County throughout the month. The high lake levels continued to cause extensive road and property damage. Many families remained away from their homes and cabins. Also, hundreds of acres of farmland remained flooded along with many roads. Road and property damage would be in the several millions of dollars. The high lake levels and flooding would continue for the next several months. In Hamlin County, Lake Poinsett, including several other lakes, continued to flood and damage several homes along with several county and township roads. High lake levels and flooding would continue for the next several months.

1903: During the early afternoon, one of the most destructive tornadoes in the history of Georgia up to this time, struck the outskirts of Gainesville. The track of the storm was about four miles in length and varied between 100 to 200 feet in width. The tornado touched down about one mile southwest of Gainesville, striking a large cotton mill at 12:45 pm, Eastern Time, just 10 minutes after 750 employees filed into the great structure from dinner. On the top floor of the mill were employed 250 children, and it was here that the greatest loss of life occurred.

1919: Snowfall of almost a half-inch fell at Denver, Colorado. This storm produced their greatest 24-hour snowfall recorded in June. Two temperature records were set: The low temperature of 32 degrees was a record low for the date, and the high of only 40 degrees was a record low maximum. Cheyenne, Wyoming recorded 1.6 inches of snow, which is one of only six times that at least one inch of snow has fallen at Cheyenne in June.

1934: June started off on a warm note as high temperatures surpassed the century mark across parts of the Midwest. Several locations tied or set a record high temperatures for June including: Rockford, IL: 106°, Mather, WI: 105°, Hatfield, WI: 103°, Mondovi, WI: 102°, Chicago, IL: 102° and Grand Rapids, MI tied their June record high with 102°.

1999: A tornado with an intermittent damage path destroyed 200 homes, businesses, and other buildings in the southern portion of St. James, Missouri. Of these, 33 homes were destroyed along with the St. James Golf Course clubhouse and two Missouri Department of Transportation buildings. The tornado then moved east, south of the downtown St. James area and intensified. F2 to F3 damage occurred with a 200 to 300-yard damage path. Several homes and farm buildings were severely damaged or destroyed. Further north, severe thunderstorms produced many tornadoes around central Illinois. The most intense tornado touched down in Montgomery County south of Farmersville and moved into southwest Christian County. One person was killed when a semi-trailer overturned at a rest area on I-55. Across eastern parts of the state, high winds up to 70 mph caused damage to trees, power lines, and some buildings. The Mattoon area also reported flooding from these storms, producing \$3 million dollars in damage.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 10 of 64

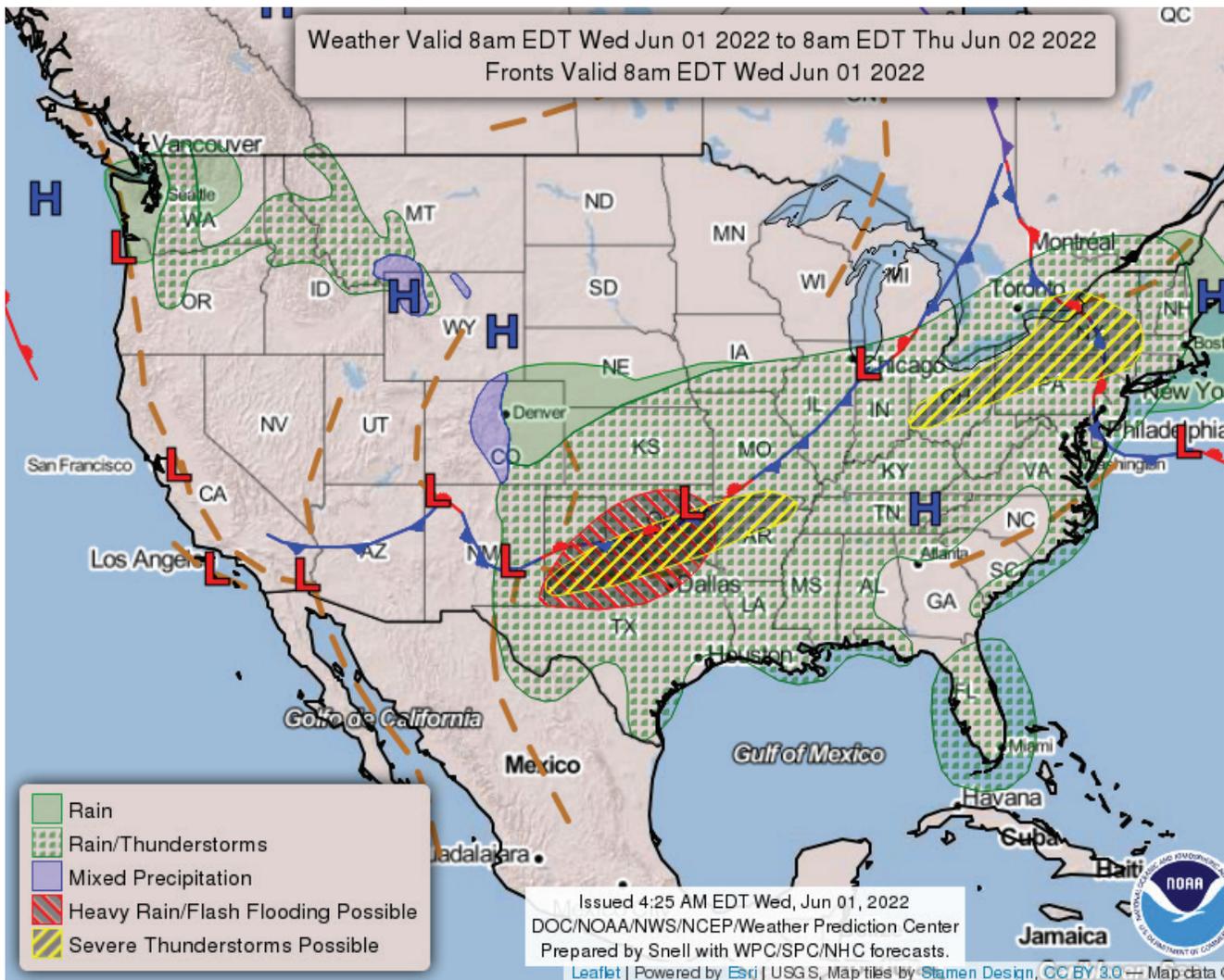
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 62 °F at 7:10 PM**  
**Low Temp: 53 °F at 11:58 PM**  
**Wind: 24 mph at 12:23 PM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

Day length: 15 hours, 30 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 99 in 1933  
Record Low: 34 in 1946  
Average High: 76°F  
Average Low: 51°F  
Average Precip in June.: 0.10  
Precip to date in June.: 0.00  
Average Precip to date: 7.35  
Precip Year to Date: 11.18  
Sunset Tonight: 9:15:19 PM  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:44:43 AM



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 11 of 64



## WHICH WAY IS THE RIGHT WAY?

Walter had been out for a night of drinking with a group of men whom he thought were his friends. When he left them, he got turned around and was going the wrong way on a one-way street. A police officer stopped him and asked, "Where do you think you are going?"

In slurred speech, he said, "I'm not sure officer. But I must be too late. Everybody's coming back, and I'm just getting started."

Disregarding traffic signs will usually get us in trouble here on earth. But disregarding God's signs that point to everlasting life will certainly get us in trouble in the life to come. In the end, there are only two ways to live: righteously or unrighteously. And the choice is ours to make. Either we choose to live by God's words and His ways or our ways that we design for ourselves.

Jesus told an interesting story. On one occasion He was talking about life's choices. He said: "Listen, you have a choice. If you want to get into heaven, be aware of this - the gate is very narrow." Then He continued, "On one hand, the highway to hell is wide enough so all who want to travel it together can do so. It's wide, and it's easy going, but the choice is yours. On the other hand, the Gateway to Life Eternal is rather small, and the road is quite narrow. Now, only a few will make it, but I'll be with them to help them when things get tough. But the choice," He concluded, "is yours."

"The Lord loves the righteous," said the Psalmist. And it is His love that will protect us from danger and destruction on our journey.

Prayer: We truly need You, Lord, to lead us on the right path to make the right decisions to live a righteous life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Bible Verse: The Lord loves the righteous. Psalm 146:8c

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 12 of 64

## 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

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 13 of 64

## The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

### Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

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

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

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

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

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

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

## Groton Daily Independent

[www.397news.com](http://www.397news.com)

### Subscription Form

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

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

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

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

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Password \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

06-15-41-63-64, Mega Ball: 24, Megaplier: 4

(six, fifteen, forty-one, sixty-three, sixty-four; Mega Ball: twenty-four; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$189,000,000

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: 168,000,000

### Judge delays release of affidavits in Sanford investigation

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota judge has delayed the release of affidavits in the child pornography investigation of banker and philanthropist T. Denny Sanford, days after the South Dakota attorney general's office declined to file charges.

Minnehaha County Judge James Power said in an email to the Argus Leader Tuesday that the affidavits would remain sealed until parties in the case seeking to unseal them have a chance to submit written briefs.

Affidavits are submitted by law enforcement officers when they ask judges to issue search warrants.

Sanford attorney Stacy Hegge asked Power in an email Monday to keep the affidavits sealed or at least be given additional time in order to seek relief from the South Dakota Supreme Court.

The delay comes after the attorney general's office said in a Friday filing that the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation has determined there are "no prosecutable offenses" under state law.

South Dakota investigators in 2019 began searching Sanford's email account, as well as his cellular and internet service providers, for possible possession of child pornography after his accounts were flagged by a technology firm.

The investigation was first reported in 2020 by ProPublica and the Argus Leader. Both news outlets went to court for access to affidavits.

The 86-year-old Sanford is the state's richest man, worth an estimated \$3.4 billion.

### Rapid City police: Woman shot after driving at officer

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City law enforcement officials say police shot and wounded a woman after she tried to run over an officer Tuesday morning following a failed traffic stop and chase.

Rapid City Police Chief Don Hedrick said the incident began about 4 a.m. after officers unsuccessfully attempted to pull over the silver Mitsubishi sedan for an unspecified equipment violation. Police tried several tactics to stop the vehicle, the last of which involved an attempt to block it with a squad car, Hedrick said.

"At that point, the vehicle spun and drove in the direction of the police officer. At that point, the officer fired several rounds at the car, fired several shots at the vehicle, striking the driver several times. At that point, the vehicle stopped and the driver ceased any sort of action," Hedrick said.

The woman is being treated for several gunshot wounds. Her condition is not known.

A police spokeswoman said the officer targeted by the woman was outside their vehicle when they fired, the Rapid City Journal reported. It's unclear if any of the other two officers on scene fired their weapons.

Hedrick said a passenger had jumped out of the vehicle before the chase started and the woman threw an unknown item out of the window.

### Best and Worst States for American Music Lovers

Alexandrea Sumuel undefined

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 15 of 64

Music is an integral part of American culture, no matter what state you live in. Some states, however, were founded on the basis of music or have extensive support communities making them more desirable to music lovers.

A recent study done by Mecart, a modular studio manufacturer, used Google Trends to analyze specific music-related search terms. Mecart then ranked each state, based on the number of searches, with a "musicality score" out of 100.

The best and worst states for music lovers are based on interest-based searches done between May 2021 and May 2022.

Top 5 Music-Loving States in the U.S.

#1 - Tennessee

It comes as no surprise that Tennessee tops the charts when it comes to music lovers. Nashville is, after all, known as Music City USA. Home to America's longest-running radio show, the famous RCA Studio B, the Ryman Auditorium, and the Country Music Hall of Fame, Nashville was built on the foundation of music.

And let's not forget about Memphis, TN, and its early influence on blues, gospel, soul, rockabilly, and jazz. In addition, both Nashville and Memphis have vibrant downtown areas dedicated to their music-rich cultures.

#2 - Utah

Utah came in second place, only lacking in searches for phrases like "recording studio" and "iTunes." Utah's music scene is vast and diverse, producing famous musicians like Imagine Dragons, The Piano Guys, and Lindsey Stirling. There are quite a few musical cities in the state that annually host concerts and outdoor festivals, including Salt Lake City, Ogden, Moab, and Provo. After a two-year COVID hiatus, many of these festivals are back in action this summer.

#3 - Georgia

Georgia, a state with a rich musical history, ranked third this year with high scores in searches for "music studio" and "Apple Music." Some of the most influential cities include Atlanta, Savannah, Macon, and Athens, Georgia, spanning almost every genre. Chart-toppers like Ray Charles, Gladys Knight, Luke Bryan, and Andre 3000 were born and raised in the peach state. Georgia's commercial music industry is a large supplier of jobs and economic growth.

#4 - Washington

The birthplace of grunge and a few world-famous musicians, Washington state places 4th in the ranks with an extensive search volume for "Spotify" and "music studio." Known for homegrown sounds from musical geniuses such as Bing Crosby, Jimi Hendrix, and Nirvana, Washington's experimental music scene has influenced many of today's genres. While notable artists hail from all over the state, Seattle has played the most extensive role in the state's musical heritage.

#5 - Colorado

Ranking 5th, Colorado's performing arts and music settings are as colorful as its landscapes. According to the Mecart study, Colorado music lovers are googling "guitar lessons" and "Spotify" quite frequently. Folk and traditional music are both important to the state's musical roots. Colorado has produced popular musicians such as John Denver, The Lumineers, and One Republic.

Other renowned musical performers include the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Opera Colorado, and the Colorado Bluegrass Music Society.

5 States With Low Musicality Scores

#46 - Wisconsin

While Wisconsin comes in near the bottom of the charts, Wisconsinites are searching for the digital music service "Spotify" most often. The Badger State is also no stranger to the music world, producing famous performers such as Les Paul, Violent Femmes, and Steve Miller Band.

As part of an initiative to increase the state's cultural development, the Create Wisconsin foundation holds an annual concert on June 21, celebrating the Summer Solstice with music. The program invites performers of all types to perform on stages across the state for a day.

#47 - North Dakota

North Dakota's musicality score was especially low for search terms such as "recording studio" and "guitar

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 16 of 64

lessons" compared to other states. However, the state has seen its fair share of famous musicians, including Peggy Lee, Lawrence Welk, Jonny Lang, and Whiz Khalifa.

From musicals to state fairs and outdoor festivals, North Dakota's intimate music scene, especially in Fargo, is alive and thriving.

#48 - South Dakota

South Dakota scored relatively low for searches such as "recording studio" and music studio," however, the Mount Rushmore state scored moderately high for "guitar lessons." The South Dakota Symphony Orchestra in Sioux Falls is one of the many popular sounds of the community, and the town of Vermillion is home to the National Music Museum.

According to reports, 54.5% of adults in South Dakota attended some type of musical performance in 2021. Rock, folk, Native, indie, country, and hip-hop are just a handful of the genres popular in the state.

#49 - Iowa

Iowa came in second to last with a low volume for "recording studio" searches but a higher volume of "Sportify" users. The Hawkeye State has a large volume of Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame inductees and has a sizable number of orchestral ensembles. The famous rock bands Slipknot and Stone Sour also came out of Iowa. Popular annual festivals include the Iowa Arts Festival, the Des Moines Arts Festival, and the 80/35 Music Festival.

#50 - Wyoming

Although the Cowboy State came last, Wyoming music lovers frequently search for the Apple Music app "iTunes." And while the Wyoming music scene may be small, it's not dead. The Wyoming Arts Council created the Wyoming Independent Music Initiative, which strives to strengthen the state's musical presence. Each year the organization releases a popular Wyoming road trip playlist that highlights everything from country, blues, and folk to indie and hard rock.

Final Thoughts

While some states have more opportunities than others for music lovers, states with low musicality scores still have a thriving music scene. So be sure to support your local music and arts community and enjoy a performance or two this summer music season wherever you live.

Related Articles:

Cheap Caribbean Vacations - The Ultimate Guide30 Fun-Filled Things to Do in Las VegasImage Credit: Pexels.

## Storms, tornadoes leave thousands without power in Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Thousands of people in Minnesota and South Dakota were without electrical power Tuesday as the region recovered from storms and tornadoes that left damaged buildings, trees and roadways.

The National Weather Service said in a preliminary report there were four tornadoes on Monday in western Minnesota, along with wind gusts and large hail. More than 37,000 people were reported to be without power early Tuesday. Cities across the region reported extensive damage to buildings.

"It's tragic as far as physical damage," Forada Mayor David Reller told the Minneapolis Star Tribune. "We got hit hard, but we'll come back strong."

No fatalities from the storms had been reported early Tuesday.

## Western nations vow to send more, better arms to Ukraine

JOHN LEICESTER and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Western nations promised more and more advanced arms to Ukraine, in an effort to tip the balance in Kyiv's favor as it fends off a grinding Russian advance in the east.

Germany said Wednesday it will supply Ukraine with modern anti-aircraft missiles and radar systems, and the U.S. will unveil a new weapons package later in the day that will include high-tech, medium-range rocket systems.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz told lawmakers that the IRIS-T SLM missiles it will send are "the most modern air defense system that Germany has."

"With this, we will enable Ukraine to defend an entire city from Russian air attacks," he said. He said Germany

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 17 of 64

will also supply Ukraine with radar systems to help locate enemy artillery.

Western arms have been critical to Ukraine's success in stymieing Russia's much larger and better equipped military — thwarting its initial efforts to take the capital and forcing Moscow to shift its focus to completing its capture of the eastern industrial Donbas region.

But as the war drags on and Russia bombards towns in its inching advance, Ukraine has continued to plead for more weapons to defend itself. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has occasionally criticized the West for moving too slowly in shipping in arms — and Germany has come under particular fire that it isn't doing enough.

The U.S. package will include helicopters, Javelin anti-tank weapon systems, tactical vehicles, spare parts and more, two senior administration officials said Tuesday. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to preview the package before it is formally unveiled.

One official noted that the advanced rocket systems will give Ukrainian forces greater precision in targeting Russian assets inside Ukraine.

The announcements come as regional governor in the Donbas said Russian forces now control 70% of Sievierodonetsk, a city that is key to Russia's efforts to seize the parts of the region not already controlled by Moscow-backed separatists.

Serhiy Haidai, the governor of the Luhansk region, told The Associated Press in written comments that street fighting is ongoing in the city, where about 13,000 people remain even though 90% of residential buildings have been damaged. Tens of thousands have fled the city, once home to about 100,000 people.

He noted that the only other city in the Luhansk region that Russians have not yet captured, Lysychansk, is still "fully" under Ukrainian control. "If the Russians manage to take full control over Sievierodonetsk within two to three days, they will start installing artillery and mortars and will shell Lysychansk more intensively," Haidai said.

Separately, in a Telegram post on Wednesday, Haidai noted that some Ukrainian troops have pulled back from Sievierodonetsk.

"The evacuation (of civilians from the city) has been halted. There is no possibility to bring in humanitarian aid," Haidai wrote.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, meanwhile, said the country is losing between 60 and 100 soldiers a day in the fighting and that another 500 are wounded.

He told the U.S. TV channel Newsmax Tuesday night that "the most difficult situation is in the east of Ukraine and southern Donetsk and Luhansk."

In southern Ukraine, a regional governor said Russian troops are retreating and blowing up bridges to obstruct a possible Ukrainian advance. Vitaliy Kim, governor of the Mykolayiv region, said in messages on the Telegram app on Wednesday that Russia was on the defensive.

"They are afraid of a counterattack by the Ukrainian army," Kim wrote. He didn't specify where the retreat was happening. The parts of the Mykolayiv region which have been held by Russian forces in recent days are close to the large Russia-held city of Kherson.

Zelenskyy said in his nightly address there had been "some success in the Kherson direction" for Ukraine.

## **Biden says US sending medium-range rocket systems to Ukraine**

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration says it will send Ukraine a small number of high-tech, medium-range rocket systems, a critical weapon that Ukrainian leaders have been begging for as they struggle to stall Russian progress in the Donbas region.

The rocket systems are part of a new \$700 million tranche of security assistance for Ukraine from the U.S. that will include helicopters, Javelin anti-tank weapon systems, tactical vehicles, spare parts and more, two senior administration officials said Tuesday. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to preview the weapons package that will be formally unveiled on Wednesday.

The U.S. decision to provide the advance rocket systems tries to strike a balance between the desire to

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 18 of 64

help Ukraine battle ferocious Russian artillery barrages while not providing arms that could allow Ukraine to hit targets deep inside Russia and trigger an escalation in the war.

In a guest essay published Tuesday evening in The New York Times, President Joe Biden confirmed that he's decided to "provide the Ukrainians with more advanced rocket systems and munitions that will enable them to more precisely strike key targets on the battlefield in Ukraine."

Biden had said Monday that the U.S. would not send Ukraine "rocket systems that can strike into Russia." Any weapons system can shoot into Russia if it's close enough to the border. The aid package expected to be unveiled Wednesday would send what the U.S. considers medium-range rockets — they generally can travel about 45 miles (70 kilometers), the officials said.

The Ukrainians have assured U.S. officials that they will not fire rockets into Russian territory, according to the senior administration officials. One official noted that the advanced rocket systems will give Ukrainian forces greater precision in targeting Russian assets inside Ukraine.

The expectation is that Ukraine could use the rockets in the eastern Donbas region, where they could both intercept Russian artillery and take out Russian positions in towns where fighting is intense, such as Sievierodonetsk.

Sieverodonetsk is important to Russian efforts to capture the Donbas before more Western arms arrive to bolster Ukraine's defense. The city, which is 90 miles (145 kilometers) south of the Russian border, is in an area that is the last pocket under Ukrainian government control in the Luhansk region of the Donbas.

Biden in his New York Times' essay added: "We are not encouraging or enabling Ukraine to strike beyond its borders. We do not want to prolong the war just to inflict pain on Russia."

It's the 11th package approved so far and will be the first to tap the \$40 billion in security and economic assistance recently passed by Congress. The rocket systems would be part of Pentagon drawdown authority, so would involve taking weapons from U.S. inventory and getting them into Ukraine quickly. Ukrainian troops would also need training on the new systems, which could take at least a week or two.

Officials said the plan is to send Ukraine the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, which is mounted on a truck and can carry a container with six rockets. The system can launch a medium-range rocket, which is the current plan, but is also capable of firing a longer-range missile, the Army Tactical Missile System, which has a range of about 190 miles (300 kilometers) and is not part of the plan.

Since the war began in February, the U.S. and its allies have tried to walk a narrow line: send Ukraine weapons needed to fight off Russia, but stop short of providing aid that will inflame Russian President Vladimir Putin and trigger a broader conflict that could spill over into other parts of Europe.

Over time, however, the U.S. and allies have amped up the weaponry going into Ukraine, as the fight has shifted from Russia's broader campaign to take the capital, Kyiv, and other areas, to more close-contact skirmishes for small pieces of land in the east and south.

To that end, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been pleading with the West to send multiple launch rocket systems to Ukraine as soon as possible to help stop Russia's destruction of towns in the Donbas. The rockets have a longer range than the howitzer artillery systems that the U.S. has provided Ukraine. They would allow Ukrainian forces to strike Russian troops from a distance outside the range of Russia's artillery systems.

"We are fighting for Ukraine to be provided with all the weapons needed to change the nature of the fighting and start moving faster and more confidently toward the expulsion of the occupiers," Zelenskyy said in a recent address.

Ukraine needs multiple launch rocket systems, said Philip Breedlove, a retired U.S. Air Force general who was NATO's top commander from 2013 to 2016.

"These are very important capabilities that we have not gotten them yet. And they not only need them, but they have been very vociferous in explaining they want them," said Breedlove. "We need to get serious about supplying this army so that it can do what the world is asking it to do: fight a world superpower alone on the battlefield."

U.S. and White House officials had no public comment on the specifics of the aid package.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 19 of 64

"We continue to consider a range of systems that have the potential to be effective on the battlefield for our Ukrainian partners. But the point the president made is that we won't be sending long-range rockets for use beyond the battlefield in Ukraine," State Department Ned Price said Tuesday. "As the battle has shifted its dynamics, we have also shifted the type of security assistance that we are providing to them, in large part because they have asked us for the various systems that are going to be more effective in places like the Donbas."

Russia has been making incremental progress in the Donbas, as it tries to take the remaining sections of the region not already controlled by Russian-backed separatists.

Putin has repeatedly warned the West against sending greater firepower to Ukraine. The Kremlin said Putin held an 80-minute telephone call Saturday with the leaders of France and Germany in which he warned against the continued transfers of Western weapons.

Overall, the United States has committed approximately \$5 billion in security assistance to Ukraine since the beginning of the Biden administration, including approximately \$4.5 billion since the Russia invaded on Feb. 24.

## **Biden to meet with baby formula makers on easing shortage**

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden is set to meet with infant formula manufacturers as his administration works to ease nationwide shortages by importing foreign supplies and using the Defense Production Act to speed domestic production.

The White House said Biden would host a roundtable Wednesday with leaders of manufacturers ByHeart, Bubs Australia, Reckitt, Perrigo Co. and Gerber. The list is notable for who isn't on it: Abbott Nutrition, the company whose Michigan plant was shut down in February over safety concerns, sparking the shortage in the United States.

Biden will be joined by Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra and Surgeon General Vivek Murthy. The meeting is expected to provide an update on what the administration has dubbed Operation Fly Formula to import formula from overseas into the U.S. and deploy the Korean War-era production law to require suppliers of the formula manufacturers to prioritize their orders in a bid to ease any production bottlenecks.

Those measures will help but won't immediately bring an end to formula supply shortages that have left people who depend on formula facing empty shelves or limits on purchases.

The Food and Drug Administration began honing in on Abbott's plant last fall while tracking several bacterial infections in infants who had consumed formula from the facility. The four cases occurred between September and January, causing hospitalizations and two deaths.

After detecting positive samples of rare but dangerous bacteria in multiple parts of the plant, the FDA closed the facility and Abbott announced a massive recall of its formula on Feb. 17.

U.S. regulators and Abbott announced an agreement last month that would help pave the way for reopening the plant, though production has not restarted.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment on why Abbott was not included from Wednesday's meeting.

## **Shanghai starts coming back to life as COVID lockdown eases**

By EMILY WANG FUJIYAMA Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) — Traffic, pedestrians and joggers reappeared on the streets of Shanghai on Wednesday as China's largest city began returning to normalcy amid the easing of a strict two-month COVID-19 lockdown that has drawn unusual protests over its heavy-handed implementation.

Shanghai's Communist Party committee, the city's most powerful political body, issued a letter online proclaiming the lockdown's success and thanking citizens for their "support and contributions." The move came amid a steady rollback in compulsory measures that have upended daily life for millions while severely disrupting the economy and global supply chains.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 20 of 64

While defending President and Communist Party chief Xi Jinping's hardline "zero-COVID" policy, the country's leadership appears to be acknowledging the public backlash against measures seen as trampling already severely limited rights to privacy and participation in the workings of government.

In one such step, the Cabinet's Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism issued a letter Tuesday laying out rules banning "non-standard, simple and rude indoor disinfection" by mostly untrained teams in Shanghai and elsewhere that have left homes damaged and led to reports of property theft.

Full bus and subway service in Shanghai was being restored from Wednesday, with rail connections to the rest of China to follow. Still, more than half a million people in the city of 25 million remain under lockdown or in designated control zones because virus cases are still being detected.

The government says all restrictions will be gradually lifted, but local neighborhood committees still wield considerable power to implement sometimes conflicting and arbitrary policies. Negative PCR tests for COVID-19 taken within the previous 48 hours also remain standard in Shanghai, Beijing and elsewhere for permission to enter public venues.

That measure didn't deter people in Shanghai from gathering outside to eat and drink under the watch of police deployed to discourage large crowds from forming.

"With the lockdown lifting, I feel very happy. I feel today how I feel during Chinese New Year — that kind of mood and joy," said Wang Xiaowei, 34, who moved to Shanghai from the inland province of Guizhou just a week before the lockdown began.

Liu Ruilin, 18, said she wasn't sure her building's security guard would let her and others out on Tuesday night. The restriction ended exactly at midnight, she said.

"Then we said, 'Let's go to the Bund to have fun,'" she said in the city's historic riverside district. "We thought there wouldn't be too many people here, but we were surprised after coming over that a lot of people are here. I feel pretty good — quite excited."

Schools will partially reopen on a voluntary basis, and shopping malls, supermarkets, convenience stores and drug stores will gradually reopen at no more than 75% of their total capacity. Cinemas and gyms will remain closed.

Health authorities on Wednesday reported just 15 new COVID-19 cases in Shanghai, down from a record high of around 20,000 daily cases in April.

A few malls and markets have reopened, and some residents have been given passes allowing them out for a few hours at a time.

The lockdown has prompted an exodus of Chinese and foreign residents, with crowds forming outside the city's Hongqiao Railway Station, where only some train services have resumed.

Even while the rest of the world has opened up, China has stuck to a "zero-COVID" strategy that requires lockdowns, mass testing and isolation at centralized facilities for anyone who is infected or has been in contact with someone who has tested positive.

The country's borders also remain largely closed and the government has upped requirements for the issuance of passports and permission to travel abroad.

At least half of foreign companies in Shanghai are waiting until next week to reopen while they put in place hygiene measures, said Bettina Schoen-Behanzin, a vice president of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China. As a precaution, many companies plan to have only half their workforce on site at a time.

"There is still quite some uncertainty and a scare that if there is a positive case in the office building or in your compound, you might be locked down again," said Schoen-Behanzin, who works in Shanghai.

The strict restrictions in Shanghai, the country's commercial capital and home of the world's busiest port, dragged down Chinese economic activity and disrupted global manufacturing and trade.

Retail sales fell by a worse-than-forecast 11% in April from a year earlier, government data show. Auto sales fell by almost half from a year earlier, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

Private sector forecasters have cut their estimates for this year's economic growth to as low as 2%, well below the ruling Communist Party's target of 5.5%. Some expect output to shrink in the three months ending in June.

"The economy is really in a crisis," said Schoen-Behanzin.

The Port of Shanghai, the world's busiest, appears to be back to 80% to 85% of its normal operating capacity, according to Schoen-Behanzin. She cited data that said the port had a backlog of 260,000 cargo containers in April.

"The rest of the world will feel these delays probably (through) June or July," she said.

The city will likely see a "mass exodus" of foreign residents this summer, "especially families with small kids," Schoen-Behanzin said. She said about half of Shanghai's foreign residents had already left over the past two years.

"People are really fed up with these lockdowns," she said. "It's not safe, especially if you have small children."

## Italy imports more Russian oil despite impending embargo

By COLLEEN BARRY and PAOLO SANTALUCIA Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Even as the European Union decided to reduce Russian crude oil imports by 90% by the end of the year, Italy has become the only country in Europe to increase them, an unintended consequence of EU sanctions against Russia.

Meant to punish Russia for invading Ukraine, the EU oil embargo is now putting at risk one of Italy's largest refineries, located in Sicily, which would deal an economic blow to the depressed region's economy.

Italy agreed with its EU partners to cut Russian crude imports by 2023, a move that Premier Mario Draghi called "a complete success," that "just a couple of days ago wouldn't have been believable."

But Rome also has to deal with the fate of the refinery in Sicily owned by Russia's Lukoil. As a result of previous sanctions against Russia, ISAB Srl has paradoxically gone from processing 15% of Russian crude to 100%.

That's because banks have refused to take the risk of extending credit to Russia-controlled ISAB that would allow it to buy oil from non-Russian sources, even if not specifically barred from doing so, said Matteo Villa, an energy analyst at the ISPI think tank in Milan.

Ships continue to arrive at the port-side refinery with crude oil from the Russian parent company.

Italy in May received about 400,000 barrels of Russian oil a day in May, four times the pre-invasion levels, according to the Kpler commodity data company. Of that total, ISAB received 220,000 barrels a day from Russia.

"Italy is the only country in Europe increasing oil imports," Villa said, going from the sixth-largest importer of Russian oil to the the largest in the three months since the invasion.

The plant employs 3,500 people at three production sites, including a refinery, gasification and electricity cogeneration plant, in Sicily's Syracuse province, and risks closure if a solution isn't found before the embargo kicks in. The plant and related activities generate half of the provincial gross domestic product and 8% of the region's economic activity, processing one-fifth of Italy's crude oil imports.

The refinery's future was already at risk in the longer term, due to Italy's energy transition to more sustainable sources. The embargo has only increased the sense of urgency to find a solution.

"The mood today is even worse than yesterday," said Fiorenzo Amato, the secretary general of the Filctem Cgil union in Syracuse. "The industrial hub ... employs many people, giving families the chance to live."

Since learning of the embargo, refinery workers are growing more concerned about their future.

"It will be a disaster," said Marco Candelargiu. "We hope they find a solution. You cannot destroy a province. The choice was made a long time ago to base the economy prevalently on the refinery."

Villa said one solution would be for Italy to temporarily nationalize the refinery, a move permitted for energy emergencies under Italy's Constitution, but a week of discussions has yielded no agreement.

As an Italian-owned refinery, ISAB would be able to get the necessary financing to purchase crude from other sources and keep operating while longer-term solutions are sought.

"This is important for employment in Sicily, for the provisioning of gasoline and diesel to Italy and for our own political face-saving in Europe," Villa said.

## Cosby faces sex abuse allegations again as civil trial opens

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — Bill Cosby will again be facing sex abuse allegations Wednesday as attorneys give opening statements in a civil trial that's one of the last remaining legal claims against the comedian.

Lawyers for 64-year-old Judy Huth will outline the evidence they plan to present that Cosby forced her to perform a sex act at the Playboy Mansion in 1975 when she was 16 years old. The case will hinge on the testimony of Huth, bolstered by photos and other archival exhibits to place the incident in time.

Cosby's attorneys, who say no sexual abuse happened, are likely to emphasize that the burden of proving the nearly 50-year-old case lies entirely with the plaintiffs. They have acknowledged that Cosby took Huth to the Playboy Mansion, as a photo from the visit shows, but say they believe she was not a minor when it happened.

The trial is one of the last cases Cosby, 85, faces after a Pennsylvania appeals court threw out his criminal sexual assault conviction and freed him from prison 11 months ago. Several other lawsuits alleging sexual misconduct were settled by his insurer against his will.

Cosby will not testify after the judge ruled that he could assert his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination. And he has no plans to leave his Pennsylvania home to attend the trial, which is taking place at a small courthouse in Santa Monica. Cosby's representatives say glaucoma has left him blind and made travel too difficult.

The Associated Press does not normally name people who say they have been sexually abused, unless they come forward publicly, as Huth has.

## Africans see inequity in monkeypox response elsewhere

By MARIA CHENG and CHINEDU ASADU Associated Press

OSUN, Nigeria (AP) — As health authorities in Europe and elsewhere roll out vaccines and drugs to stamp out the biggest monkeypox outbreak beyond Africa, some doctors acknowledge an ugly reality: The resources to slow the disease's spread have long been available, just not to the Africans who have dealt with it for decades.

Countries including Britain, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, the United States, Israel and Australia have reported more than 250 monkeypox cases, many apparently tied to sexual activity at two recent raves in Europe. No deaths have been reported.

Authorities in numerous European countries and the U.S. are offering to immunize people and considering the use of antivirals. On Thursday, the World Health Organization will convene a special meeting to discuss monkeypox research priorities and related issues.

Meanwhile, the African continent has reported more than five times as many cases this year.

There have been more than 1,400 monkeypox cases and 63 deaths in four countries where the disease is endemic — Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo and Nigeria — according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. So far, sequencing has not yet shown any direct link to the outbreak outside Africa, health officials say.

Monkeypox is in the same family of viruses as smallpox, and smallpox vaccines are estimated to be about 85% effective against monkeypox, according to WHO.

Since identifying cases earlier this month, Britain has vaccinated more than 1,000 people at risk of contracting the virus and bought 20,000 more doses. European Union officials are in talks to buy more smallpox vaccine from Bavarian Nordic, the maker of the only such vaccine licensed in Europe.

U.S. government officials have released about 700 doses of vaccine to states where cases were reported. Such measures aren't routinely employed in Africa.

Dr. Adesola Yinka-Ogunleye, who leads Nigeria's monkeypox working group, said there are currently no vaccines or antivirals being used against monkeypox in her country. People suspected of having monkeypox are isolated and treated conservatively, while their contacts are monitored, she said.

Generally, Africa has only had "small stockpiles" of smallpox vaccine to offer health workers when monkeypox outbreaks happen, said Ahmed Ogwell, acting director of the Africa CDC.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 23 of 64

Limited vaccine supply and competing health priorities have meant that immunization against monkeypox hasn't been widely pursued in Africa, said Dr. Jimmy Whitworth, a professor of international public health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

"It's a bit uncomfortable that we have a different attitude to the kinds of resources we deploy depending on where cases are," he said. "It exposes a moral failing when those interventions aren't available for the millions of people in Africa who need them."

WHO has 31 million doses of smallpox vaccines, mostly kept in donor countries and intended as a rapid response to any re-emergence of the disease, which was declared eradicated in 1980. Doses from the U.N. health agency's stockpile have never been released for any monkeypox outbreaks in central or western Africa.

Dr. Mike Ryan, WHO's emergencies chief, said the agency was considering allowing rich countries to use the smallpox vaccines to try to limit the spread of monkeypox. WHO manages similar mechanisms to help poor countries get vaccines for diseases like yellow fever and meningitis, but such efforts have not been previously used for countries that can otherwise afford shots.

Oyewale Tomori, a Nigerian virologist who sits on several WHO advisory boards, said releasing smallpox vaccines from the agency's stockpile to stop monkeypox from becoming endemic in richer countries might be warranted, but he noted a discrepancy in WHO's strategy.

"A similar approach should have been adopted a long time ago to deal with the situation in Africa," he said. "This is another example of where some countries are more equal than others."

Some doctors pointed out that stalled efforts to understand monkeypox were now complicating efforts to treat patients. Most people experience symptoms including fever, chills and fatigue. But those with more serious disease often develop a rash on their face or hands that spreads elsewhere.

Dr. Hugh Adler and colleagues recently published a paper suggesting the antiviral drug tecovirimat could help fight monkeypox. The drug, approved in the U.S. to treat smallpox, was used in seven people infected with monkeypox in the U.K. from 2018 to 2021, but more details are needed for regulatory approval.

"If we had thought about getting this data before, we wouldn't be in this situation now where we have a potential treatment without enough evidence," said Adler, a research fellow at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

Many diseases only attracted significant money after infecting people from rich countries, he noted.

For example, it was only after the catastrophic Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014-2016 — when several Americans were sickened by the disease among the more than 28,000 cases in Africa — that authorities finally sped up the research and protocols to license an Ebola vaccine, capping a decades-long effort.

Jay Chudi, a development expert who lives in the Nigerian state of Enugu, which has reported monkeypox cases since 2017, hopes the increased attention might finally help address the problem. But he nevertheless lamented that it took infections in rich countries for it to seem possible.

"You would think the new cases are deadlier and more dangerous than what we have in Africa," he said. "We are now seeing it can end once and for all, but because it is no longer just in Africa. It's now everybody is worried."

## Sex Pistols aim to give queen's jubilee a touch of punk

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — In Britain, there are several traditional elements to a royal anniversary: pageants, street parties, the Sex Pistols.

Queen Elizabeth II and the Pistols have been linked since the punk pioneers released the song "God Save the Queen" during the 1977 Silver Jubilee that marked the monarch's 25 years on the throne.

The anti-authoritarian anthem — not to be confused with the actual British national anthem of the same name — has been re-released for Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, or 70 years as queen. It's one of a raft of cultural tie-ins — critics might say cash-ins — spurred by the royal milestone.

Members of the band that rhymed "God save the queen" with "fascist regime" and "she ain't no human being" have mellowed over the years.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 24 of 64

"I'm not against it," Sex Pistols guitarist Steve Jones said of Britain's four-day jubilee extravaganza, which starts Thursday and includes military parades, concerts, picnics and innumerable Union Jacks.

"I see all the flags are up everywhere," Jones said while visiting London from Los Angeles, where he has lived for more than 30 years. "I mean, it's entertaining stuff. Tourists just absolutely love it."

Sex Pistols singer John Lydon, formerly known as Johnny Rotten, recently told broadcaster Talk TV he was "really, really proud of the queen for surviving and doing so well."

It's a far cry from 1977, when "God Save the Queen" was launched on the jubilee weekend with an anarchic Sex Pistols gig on a riverboat — the Queen Elizabeth — that was cut short by London police.

The song sparked outrage; members of the band were attacked in the street and it was banned from radio or television airplay. It nonetheless reached No. 2 in the charts, below Rod Stewart's "I Don't Want to Talk About It" — though rumors persist that the Sex Pistols' song actually sold more copies.

The band's record company hopes it hits No. 1 this time, though it failed to dent the charts when rereleased for the queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002 and Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Other cultural institutions are also getting in on the jubilee action. Auctioneer Christie's is selling two Andy Warhol screen prints of the queen. Rival Sotheby's is offering a lightbox portrait of the queen by Chris Levine and Jamie Reid's now-iconic artwork for the Pistols' "God Save the Queen," showing the monarch's face covered in ransom-note lettering.

Many museums and galleries have special exhibitions and events. Some are quirky, such as a jubilee-themed Drag Queen Bingo that London's Horniman Museum is holding.

Britain's monarchy has a sometimes awkward, but increasingly close, relationship with popular culture. Who can forget the queen's scene with Daniel Craig's James Bond during the 2012 London Olympics opening ceremony, which culminated in a stunt double for the monarch skydiving into the stadium?

Pop music — nothing too edgy — is playing a central part in this week's jubilee festivities. A concert outside Buckingham Palace on Saturday will feature artists including Elton John, Alicia Keys, Duran Duran and Diana Ross, while Ed Sheeran is due to perform at the main jubilee pageant on Sunday.

Television series "The Crown" has mined the queen's long reign for drama, and blurred the lines between fact and fiction for millions of viewers. The Sex Pistols are having their own fact-meets-fiction moment with "Pistol," a Danny Boyle-directed miniseries based on Jones' memoir "Lonely Boy."

The Sex Pistols split in 1978 after releasing one album. Jones says he'd "just had enough. It was so dark and horrible at that point."

But he is proud of the band's legacy, even if he sometimes sounds weary talking about it.

"It was an important time in music and I'm glad it happened," Jones said. "Because it made people think, and it made people think, 'Well I can do that.' Prior to that living in England, you didn't have many options."

But, Jones added: "I don't particularly listen to punk rock anymore. My musical tastes have changed a lot over the years, you know, and I'm 66 years old. I'm not a kid anymore. I think it would be a bit silly if I was still flying that flag."

"I like Steely Dan," he said. "Is that bad?"

Pistols bassist Sid Vicious died in 1979 at age 21, but the surviving members have reunited sporadically for concerts. Lydon and his former bandmates faced off in court earlier this year when the singer tried to stop the group's music being used in the "Pistol" TV series.

A further musical reunion — perhaps for the queen's 75-year anniversary in 2027 — seems unlikely.

"I can't see it," Jones said. "But you never know, man. This band — you never know."

## Long in queen's shadow, Charles takes greater public role

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — It's good to be queen.

No one knows that better than Queen Elizabeth II, who's showing no signs of stepping aside after 70 years on the throne. But the aging sovereign is giving Prince Charles an increasingly prominent role, delegating more responsibilities to her eldest son and heir.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 25 of 64

That became obvious last month when Charles, 73, accompanied by his wife, Camilla, presided over the State Opening of Parliament, one of the monarch's most important duties.

The subtle transition illustrates the challenges confronting the royal family as the 96-year-old queen remains on the throne but Charles becomes the ever more public face of the monarchy. As Britain celebrates the queen's Platinum Jubilee this week, the royals are working to cement the position of a sometimes misunderstood heir and demonstrate that the House of Windsor will live on.

"Charles and Camilla are a question mark for the future when it comes to the monarchy," said Robert Lacey, a royal historian and adviser on the Netflix series "The Crown." "But we're not in the state we thought we were 20 years ago, when the prospect of Charles coming to the throne seemed a major challenge. And I think one can say the monarchy rides on British affections today with more horsepower ... than it's had for many decades."

Much of that is due to Elizabeth, who on her 21st birthday pledged to serve Britain and the Commonwealth for her whole life. The queen shows every intention of fulfilling that promise.

But her problems in getting around force her to be more selective in her public engagements and open a door for Charles, who has spent the past three decades trying to overcome the fallout from the messy breakdown of his marriage to the highly popular Princess Diana.

It took years for many in Britain to forgive Charles, whose admitted infidelity and longtime links to Camilla torpedoed his relationship with Diana, known as "the People's Princess" for her ability to connect with the public in a way her husband never could. The glamorous young mother of Prince William and Prince Harry died in a Paris car crash in 1997, five years after her split from Charles.

But the public mood has softened since Charles married Camilla Parker Bowles in 2005.

Now known as the Duchess of Cornwall, Camilla, 74, has taken on roles at more than 100 charities, focusing on promoting literacy, supporting victims of domestic violence, helping the elderly and other issues.

With a down-to-earth style and sense of humor, she eventually won over many Britons. Her warmth softened Charles' stuffy image and made him appear more relaxed, if not happier, as he cut ribbons, unveiled plaques and went about the often humdrum tasks of royal duty.

Earlier this year, the queen sought to bolster the couple's position by expressing her "sincere wish" that Camilla be known as "Queen Consort" when Charles becomes king. Elizabeth's words rejected arguments that the history of the relationship should relegate Camilla to some lower status, transforming her from home-wrecker to future consort with the swipe of a pen.

Charles, meanwhile, has been ready to step in whenever required, most dramatically when he presided over the opening of Parliament and delivered the Queen's Speech, laying out the government's legislative program.

The event is a symbol of the monarch's constitutional role as the U.K.'s head of state and is accompanied by ceremonies and pageantry handed down through the centuries to demonstrate the strength of Britain's political institutions.

The choreography of the day emphasized a queen who was absent, yet still present. Her throne was removed, but in its place the Imperial State Crown sat propped on a cushion. Charles wore the uniform of an admiral of the fleet — rather than sweeping ermine robes.

"Prince Charles is the longest-serving heir we've ever had," Robert Hardman, author of "Queen of Our Times: The Life of Elizabeth II" said. "He's there. He's on standby to do whatever needs doing if the queen can't be there. But, you know, she made an oath that she was going to reign for her life. And that's how she views it."

Because Charles has been waiting in the wings for so long, his passions are well known.

For example, he began campaigning for environmental causes long before they were mainstream concerns. He has been accused of meddling in politics, something the monarch is barred from, by speaking up about property developments he opposed and other issues.

During a recent trip to Canada, he waded into a highly charged issue, acknowledging the "pain and suffering" suffered by Indigenous communities that had children taken away and abused at state-sponsored residential schools.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 26 of 64

It may be the shape of things to come.

Emily Nash, the royal editor of HELLO! magazine, said Charles is engaged with people all over the world, particularly on the issue of climate change.

"This is very much about working collaboratively to try and improve things for future generations," Nash said. "And that's something that Prince Charles is absolutely passionate about."

Tiwa Adebayo, 23, a journalist and blogger, says the royals need to be more vocal about issues like this, speaking out on topics such as inequality and immigration, if the monarchy is going to be relevant in the future. She cited the Dutch royals as a model for the future.

"I think that's the sort of monarchy we want," she said. "And so this kind of not getting involved with politics, but kind of getting involved in politics, not getting too involved in societal issues but speaking when it's convenient, I don't think that's really going to fly anymore."

For now, Charles has recognized that he can be a bit less stuffy in public — more accessible even. Nowhere is that more evident than in a special jubilee appearance on a television soap opera.

Charles and Camilla will surprise residents at a street party held to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the long-running BBC show EastEnders. In a clip shown after a recent episode, partygoers are told "You have got to see this mystery guest" — before the royal couple pulls up in a car beside The Queen Vic pub. Surprise, surprise.

## Sanctioned Russian oligarch's megayacht hides in a UAE creek

By ISABEL DEBRE and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

RAS AL-KHAIMAH, United Arab Emirates (AP) — In the dusty, northern-most sheikhdom of the United Arab Emirates, where laborers cycle by rustic tea shops, one of the world's largest yachts sits in a quiet port — so far avoiding the fate of other luxury vessels linked to sanctioned Russian oligarchs.

The display of lavish wealth is startling in one of the UAE's poorest emirates, a 90-minute drive from the illuminated high-rises of Dubai. But the 118-meter (387-foot) Motor Yacht A's presence in a Ras al-Khaimah creek also shows the UAE's neutrality during Russia's war on Ukraine as the Gulf country remains a magnet for Russian money and its oil-rich capital sees Moscow as a crucial OPEC partner.

Since Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine, the seven sheikhdoms of the Emirates have offered a refuge for Russians, both those despairing of their country's future as well as the mega-wealthy concerned about Western sanctions.

While much of the world has piled sanctions on Russian institutions and allies of President Vladimir Putin, the Emirates has not. It also avoids overt criticism of the war, which government readouts still refer to as the "Ukraine crisis."

The Motor Yacht A belongs to Andrey Melnichenko, an oligarch worth some \$23.5 billion, according to Forbes. He once ran the fertilizer producer Eurochem and SUEK, one of the world's largest coal companies.

The European Union in March included Melnichenko in a mass list of sanctions on business leaders and others described as close to Putin. The EU sanctions noted he attended a Feb. 24 meeting Putin held the day of the invasion.

"The fact that he was invited to attend this meeting shows that he is a member of the closest circle of Vladimir Putin and that he is supporting or implementing actions or policies which undermine or threaten the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine, as well as stability and security in Ukraine," the EU said at the time.

Melnichenko resigned from the corporate positions he held in the two major firms, according to statements from the companies. However, he has criticized Western sanctions and denied being close to Putin.

Melnichenko could not be reached for comment through his advisers.

Already, authorities in Italy have seized one of his ships — the \$600 million Sailing Yacht A. France, Spain and Britain as well have sought to target superyachts tied to Russian oligarchs as part of a wider global effort to put pressure on Putin and those close to him.

But the \$300 million Motor Yacht A so far appears untouched. It flew an Emirati flag on Tuesday when

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 27 of 64

Associated Press journalists observed the ship. Two crew members milled around the deck.

The boat's last recorded position on March 10 put it off the Maldives in the Indian Ocean, just over 3,000 kilometers (1,860 miles) from Ras al-Khaimah. Satellite images from Planet Labs PBC analyzed by the AP show the vessel in Ras al-Khaimah's creek beginning March 17, a week later.

The Financial Times first reported on the ship's presence in the UAE.

Authorities in Ras al-Khaimah did not respond to a request for comment on the yacht's presence. The UAE's Foreign Ministry did not answer questions about the ship, but said in a statement to the AP that it takes "its role in protecting the integrity of the global financial system extremely seriously."

But so far, the UAE has taken no such public action targeting Russia. The country abstained on a U.N. Security Council vote in February condemning Russia's invasion, angering Washington.

The neutral response may stem from "the financial gain we're seeing in Dubai in terms of new tourist arrivals, and Russian efforts to move assets and buy property," said Karen Young, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Middle East Institute.

The flow of Russian money — both legitimate and shady — is now an open secret in Dubai, where lavish hotels and beaches increasingly bustle with Russian speakers. State-run radio hosts cheerily describe a massive influx.

The UAE became one of the few remaining flight corridors out of Moscow. The Emirati government offered three-month multiple-entry visas upon arrival to all Russians, allowing major companies to easily transfer their employees from Moscow to Dubai. The private jet terminal at Al Maktoum International at Dubai World Central has seen a 400% spike in traffic, the airport's CEO recently told the AP.

Real estate agents have reported a surge of interest from Russians seeking to buy property in Dubai, particularly in the skyscrapers of Dubai Marina and villas on the Palm Jumeirah.

For those who want to move to the UAE, buying high-end property also helps secure a visa.

"Business is booming right now," said Thiago Caldas, CEO of the Dubai-based property firm Modern Living, which now accepts cryptocurrency to facilitate sales with new Russian clients. "They have a normal life and don't face restrictions."

Caldas said inquiries from Russian clients in Dubai have multiplied by over 10 since the war, forcing his firm to hire three Russian-speaking agents to deal with the deluge.

With sanctions on Russian banks and businesses thwarting many citizens' access to foreign capital, Russians are increasingly trying to bypass bank transfers through digital currencies in Dubai, said two cryptocurrency traders in the city, where they're able to liquidate large sums of cash.

"It's a safe haven. ... The inflow from Russian accounts skyrocketed 300% days after the war in Ukraine began," said a Russian crypto trader in Dubai, who spoke like the other on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Meanwhile, Abu Dhabi's Mubadala state investment company remains among the most active sovereign wealth funds in Russia, along with those of China and Qatar, according to calculations by Javier Capapé of IE University in Spain for the AP.

But pressure is growing. Late on Tuesday, the U.S. Embassy in Abu Dhabi posted a strongly worded video message in solidarity with Ukraine featuring local ambassadors from the world's leading democracies as Russia's foreign minister visits the region.

"We are united against Russia's unjustifiable, unprovoked and illegal aggression," said Ernst Peter Fischer, Germany's ambassador to the UAE.

## Renewed hopes but more delays for Cubans seeking US visas

By ANDREA RODRÍGUEZ Associated Press

CIENFUEGOS, Cuba (AP) — Like many Cubans before him, Roberto De la Yglesia left most of his family behind when he made his way to the United States with only his son in 2015, hoping that he could soon bring his wife and daughters to join him.

Years later, the mechanical engineer in New Jersey and his family back in Cienfuegos, Cuba, are still waiting

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 28 of 64

— with a mixture of renewed hope and skepticism — now that the Biden administration has said it will reactivate the long-stalled Family Reunification Program, which lets Cubans legally in the U.S. bring close relatives.

“My life is on pause,” said his wife, Danmara Triana, sitting on the sofa of her house in Cienfuegos while surrounded by aging photos of the couple’s life together. A few feet away, her 21-year-old daughter Claudia was awaiting the return from school of 7-year-old Alice.

“My day to day life hangs on this, — to see my son, to see my husband,” Triana said. The 48-year-old accountant said she repeatedly checks the website of the U.S. Embassy in Havana for news.

“I get up in the morning and look at the telephone. Will I have an interview (for a visa) or won’t I have an interview?”

The Biden administration says that roughly 20,000 applications for family reunification visas have built up since 2017. That’s when President Donald Trump effectively shut down the program by withdrawing diplomatic personnel from Cuba in response to a spate of mysterious illnesses among diplomats that many suspected were the result of some sort of directed wave attack.

But many similar incidents happened elsewhere — even in Washington — and the CIA has now determined they were unlikely to be the result of attacks by Russia or other foreign adversaries.

While the administration said in April it would begin resuming the program, it has not yet offered a timeline for ramping up the U.S. diplomatic presence in Cuba.

So Triana and De la Yglesia wait.

U.S. officials told the couple in 2017, shortly before diplomats were withdrawn, that they qualified for the program and in 2020 they believed they had finished all the paperwork and paid all the fees.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit, adding to complications.

“I feel stranded. I’m not based anywhere,” said Claudia, who said she had dropped out of medical school, feeling “horribly unmotivated.”

The withdrawal of diplomats was only one of many steps by the Trump administration to isolate Cuba and backtrack from a dramatic opening to the island under President Barack Obama.

Trump enacted more than 200 measures, ranging from a ban on cruise ships to limits on money sent from the U.S. to restrictions on U.S. visitors.

Biden announced he would undo some — but far from all — of the Trump-era restrictions.

With consular operations idled in Havana, U.S. officials told Cubans to seek visas at the operations in Guyana, across the Caribbean on the South American mainland — a costly and impractical option for most.

So with Cuba’s economy in dire shape, increasing numbers have tried to reach the U.S. illegally, getting to South America or Mexico and making their perilous way to the U.S. border, adding to record wave of immigration.

U.S. Customs and Border Patrol says it detained Cubans 79,800 times at the U.S. border in the six months from October 2021 through March 2022 — more than double the figure for the full 12 months ending in September 2021 and five times the figure for the year before that.

Next door to Triana’s house, 61-year-old Natacha González lives with her two grandchildren. Her daughter, like De la Yglesia, now lives in the U.S. and began the reunification process in 2017.

“I can speak for all the fathers and mothers who are in this country sacrificing so that there is can be a correct (legal) migration of our families,” said González’s daughter, Yanelis León, in a video call from Florida.

“I feel like I have no oxygen. ... I’ve spent years at this and it’s not right that we are still waiting,” she added. “I am not going to involve my children in a migration across borders where I am going to lose them. I want to do things right.”

## After mass shooting, NYC explores gun detectors in subways

By DAVID PORTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In the aftermath of a mass shooting on a New York City subway train, the mayor floated a high-tech idea: deploy scanners that can spot someone carrying a gun into the transit system before they have a chance to use it.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 29 of 64

The technology to scan large numbers of people quickly for weapons does exist, and is used now to screen people at places like sports stadiums and theme parks.

But security experts say installing such a system in the city's sprawling, porous subway system in a way that would make a difference would be difficult, if not impossible.

The problem wouldn't necessarily be the technology — but rather the reality that scanners need to be accompanied by human operators to confront people carrying firearms illegally.

"Logistically, it would be a nightmare. You're going to have to tie up a lot of officers doing this," said James Dooley, a retired New York Police Department captain who served in the department's transit division. "We have hundreds of stations, and the fact of the matter is that putting someone at every entrance to every station is logistically impossible."

Mayor Eric Adams, a former police captain, has acknowledged the challenges but has said the system might still be worth trying at select locations as a deterrent.

"We want to be able to just pop up at a station someplace so people don't know it's there," the Democrat said, "similar to what we do when we do car checkpoints."

The push for better subway security got renewed urgency in April after a gunman set off smoke bombs and sprayed a subway compartment with shots, wounding 10 people.

Then, on May 22, another gunman killed a passenger in what authorities said appeared to be a random attack.

A day after that killing, Adams again expressed interest in weapon-screening technology. And soon, mass shootings in Buffalo, New York, and Uvalde, Texas, intensified the debate over how to address gun violence.

In the New York City subway, the screening wouldn't resemble airport checkpoints, an untenable solution for a system with 472 stations, all with multiple entrances. Instead, Adams referenced a technology that uses sensors to detect metal but also can determine the shape of an object, such as a gun, while people pass by uninterrupted.

Evolv, a Boston-area company, uses the technology at facilities including pro sports stadiums in Atlanta and Nashville, the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta and, in a recent test, at New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, though not in any mass transit systems.

The screeners can scan 3,600 people per hour, according to the company. They also can produce false positives from items such as Chromebooks, though.

In an email, Dana Loof, Evolv's chief marketing officer, said false positives "are an order of magnitude lower" than traditional metal detectors, but acknowledged that transit systems would pose unique challenges.

"Any technology is only one piece of the solution which includes the security professionals, the operational environment, and the protocols they follow," Loof said.

Similar screening devices made by QinetiQ, an England-based defense technology company, were part of a pilot program in the Los Angeles mass transit system in 2018 and currently are used when threat levels are elevated, said Los Angeles Metro spokesperson Dave Sotero. The machines project scanning waves at passersby from a distance.

Identifying someone with a weapon is only half the challenge.

"It's also manpower," said Donell Harvin, a senior policy researcher at the Rand Corp. and a former security chief for the Washington, D.C., government.

Adams has not publicly discussed how much the machines, and operating them, could cost New York City, but Harvin acknowledged the price could be steep.

"If you have a determined assailant, you're not going to just have a security guard there; you'll have to have a police officer," Harvin said. "It's tough. You can harden every station, but who's going to want to pay a \$10 fare? Because the cost is going to be passed on to the rider."

Still, because you can't put cops on every car and in every station, Harvin said, "you have to invest in some technology."

"It's very complex, but people have to get together and talk about this, because what's being done now isn't cutting it."

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 30 of 64

Violent attacks in New York City's subway system remain relatively rare compared with crime above ground. And the city overall is one of the nation's safest large cities.

But the COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on people's sense of safety, as has a string of high-profile crimes, including the fatal push of a woman in front of a train by a man later ruled too mentally ill to stand trial. In response, the MTA said it would test safety barriers at some stations.

The number of transit system crimes reported by the NYPD so far this year has been on par with years before the pandemic, but public perception has been that there is new unruliness underground.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority has succeeded in getting 1,000 more police officers assigned to the system, but its chair, Janno Lieber, was candid last week when asked about the current climate.

"This week is a terrible week," he said, referring to the May 22 shooting. "This week I cannot say to any New York City subway rider, 'Don't feel afraid,' because what happened is a terrifying nightmare."

Any workable security upgrade would probably have to encompass a combination of measures, experts said.

Dooley envisioned a limited rollout of officers using handheld metal detectors at high-traffic stations but acknowledged that would cover only a fraction of the system's vast territory and could lead to civil liberties complaints, including the potential for racial profiling.

Police officers already do spot checks of people's bags at some subway entrances, but those checks are so infrequent that most people ride for years without being subjected to a search.

Dorothy Moses Schulz, a retired police captain on the MTA's MetroNorth rail system and a professor emerita at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, suggested more police in the subways and a sustained commitment to addressing homelessness could help "send a message that we're trying to make this an orderly system, which would bring back people."

"If more people feel the system is working, they will come back, and when more come back, that makes the system safer," she said.

Lieber said last week that the agency is open to new approaches.

"We are serious about exploring every one of these technologies," he said. "I think we will get there, but it's a question of time and technology development."

## No verdict yet in Depp-Heard trial; jury to return Wednesday

By DENISE LAVOIE Associated Press

FAIRFAX, Va. (AP) — A jury finished a second day of deliberations Tuesday without reaching a verdict in the defamation claims of Johnny Depp and ex-wife Amber Heard over their volatile and unhappy marriage.

The seven-person civil jury heard closing arguments Friday and deliberated for about two hours before leaving for the long Memorial Day weekend. Jurors then deliberated another seven hours on Tuesday. They are scheduled to resume deliberations Wednesday in Fairfax County Circuit Court.

Depp is suing Heard for \$50 million, accusing her of libeling him with a 2018 op-ed she wrote describing herself as "a public figure representing domestic abuse." Heard filed a \$100 million counterclaim against the "Pirates of the Caribbean" star after his lawyer called her allegations a hoax. Each accuses the other of destroying their career.

Testimony during the six-week trial featured a litany of lurid details of their short marriage. Heard testified that Depp physically or sexually assaulted her more than a dozen times. During his testimony, Depp testified that he never struck Heard, that she concocted the abuse allegations, and that she was the one who physically attacked him, multiple times.

During closing arguments, both sides told the jury that a verdict in their favor would give their clients their lives back.

On Tuesday, Depp's attorneys asked Judge Penney Azcarate to instruct the jury to disregard a portion of the closing argument made by Heard's attorney.

In their written motion, Depp's attorneys said Heard's lawyer told the jury that its decision in the case would send a message to "every victim of domestic abuse everywhere." Heard attorney Benjamin Rotenborn told the jury that a ruling against Heard "sends a message that no matter what you do as an abuse

victim, you always have to do more.”

“No matter how honest you are about your own imperfections and your own shortcomings in a relationship, you have to be perfect in order for people to believe you. Don’t send that message,” Rottenborn said.

Depp’s attorneys argued that Rottenborn’s argument improperly asked the jury to focus on a larger social objective than the case they are being asked to decide.

“Such argument by Ms. Heard’s counsel improperly invites the jury to decide the case ‘based on passion and prejudice’ and a specific jury instruction is necessary to cure this impropriety,” Depp’s lawyers argued.

The judge told Depp’s attorneys in court that she would not entertain the motion because the case is in the hands of the jury now.

A public relations firm for Heard did not immediately respond to a request seeking comment on the motion.

## Hinckley nears full freedom 41 years after shooting Reagan

By JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge is set to preside over an important hearing for John Hinckley, the man who shot President Ronald Reagan in 1981 and is on the verge of being released from all remaining restrictive conditions.

U.S. District Court Judge Paul L. Friedman said in September that he would free Hinckley from restrictions on June 15 as long as Hinckley continued to do well. Officials say Hinckley has, and Wednesday’s hearing, which Hinckley will not attend, is not expected to alter those plans.

Hinckley was confined to a mental hospital in Washington for more than two decades after a jury found him not guilty by reason of insanity in shooting Reagan. But starting in 2003 Friedman began allowing Hinckley to live for longer stretches in the community with requirements like attending therapy and restrictions on where he can travel. He’s been living full-time in Virginia since 2016, though still under restrictions.

Those include: allowing officials access to his electronic devices, email and online accounts; being barred from traveling to places where he knows there will be someone protected by the Secret Service, and giving three days’ notice if he wants to travel more than 75 miles (120 kilometers) from his home in Virginia.

In July, Hinckley — who plays guitar and sings and has shared his music on a YouTube channel — plans to give a concert in Brooklyn, New York. Appearances in Connecticut and Chicago for what he has called the “John Hinckley Redemption Tour” have been cancelled.

The judge has said that Hinckley, who turned 67 Sunday, has displayed no symptoms of active mental illness, no violent behavior and no interest in weapons since 1983.

In a status report filed ahead of Wednesday’s hearing, prosecutors wrote that health officials who have overseen Hinckley’s treatment for years believe he “has recovered his sanity such that he does not present a danger to himself or others because of mental illness if unconditionally released” as planned.

Prosecutors had previously opposed ending restrictions, but they changed their position last year, saying they would agree to Hinckley’s release from conditions if he continued to show mental stability and follow restrictions. Prosecutor Kacie Weston wrote in a court filing ahead of the hearing that “the Government has found no evidence to suggest that Mr. Hinckley’s unconditional release should not be granted” as the judge previously said he would.

Reagan recovered from the March 30, 1981, shooting, but his press secretary, James Brady, who died in 2014, was partially paralyzed as a result. Secret Service agent Timothy McCarthy and Washington police officer Thomas Delahanty were also wounded. Reagan died in 2004.

In the 2000s, Hinckley began, with the judge’s approval, making visits to his parents’ home in Williamsburg, Virginia. His father died in 2008, but in 2016 he was given permission to live with his mother full time. Still, he was required to attend individual and group therapy sessions, was barred from talking to the media and could only travel within a limited area. Secret Service would also periodically follow him.

Hinckley’s mother died in 2021. He has since moved out of her home. In recent years, Hinckley has made money by selling items at an antique mall and by selling books online.

Hinckley has said on his YouTube channel that he has started a record label, Emporia Records, and that

his first release will be a 14-song CD of his music. He also promotes his music on Twitter.

## **Biden says US sending medium-range rocket systems to Ukraine**

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration announced on Tuesday that it will send Ukraine a small number of high-tech, medium-range rocket systems, a critical weapon that Ukrainian leaders have been begging for as they struggle to stall Russian progress in the Donbas region.

The rocket systems are part of a new \$700 million tranche of security assistance for Ukraine from the U.S. that will include helicopters, Javelin anti-tank weapon systems, tactical vehicles, spare parts and more, according to two senior administration officials. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to preview the weapons package that will be formally unveiled on Wednesday.

The U.S. decision to provide the advance rocket systems tries to strike a balance between the desire to help Ukraine battle ferocious Russian artillery barrages while not providing arms that could allow Ukraine to hit targets deep inside Russia and trigger an escalation in the war.

In a guest essay published Tuesday evening in *The New York Times*, President Joe Biden confirmed that he's decided to "provide the Ukrainians with more advanced rocket systems and munitions that will enable them to more precisely strike key targets on the battlefield in Ukraine."

Biden had said Monday that the U.S. would not send Ukraine "rocket systems that can strike into Russia." Any weapons system can shoot into Russia if it's close enough to the border. The aid package expected to be unveiled Wednesday would send what the U.S. considers medium-range rockets — they generally can travel about 45 miles (70 kilometers), the officials said.

The Ukrainians have assured U.S. officials that they will not fire rockets into Russian territory, according to the senior administration officials. One official noted that the advanced rocket systems will give Ukrainian forces greater precision in targeting Russian assets inside Ukraine.

The expectation is that Ukraine could use the rockets in the eastern Donbas region, where they could both intercept Russian artillery and take out Russian positions in towns where fighting is intense, such as Sievierodonetsk.

Sieverodonetsk is important to Russian efforts to capture the Donbas before more Western arms arrive to bolster Ukraine's defense. The city, which is 90 miles (145 kilometers) south of the Russian border, is in an area that is the last pocket under Ukrainian government control in the Luhansk region of the Donbas.

Biden in his *New York Times*' essay added: "We are not encouraging or enabling Ukraine to strike beyond its borders. We do not want to prolong the war just to inflict pain on Russia."

It's the 11th package approved so far, and will be the first to tap the \$40 billion in security and economic assistance recently passed by Congress. The rocket systems would be part of Pentagon drawdown authority, so would involve taking weapons from U.S. inventory and getting them into Ukraine quickly. Ukrainian troops would also need training on the new systems, which could take at least a week or two.

Officials said the plan is to send Ukraine the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, which is mounted on a truck and can carry a container with six rockets. The system can launch a medium-range rocket, which is the current plan, but is also capable of firing a longer-range missile, the Army Tactical Missile System, which has a range of about 190 miles (300 kilometers) and is not part of the plan.

Since the war began in February, the U.S. and its allies have tried to walk a narrow line: send Ukraine weapons needed to fight off Russia, but stop short of providing aid that will inflame Russian President Vladimir Putin and trigger a broader conflict that could spill over into other parts of Europe.

Over time, however, the U.S. and allies have amped up the weaponry going into Ukraine, as the fight has shifted from Russia's broader campaign to take the capital, Kyiv, and other areas, to more close-contact skirmishes for small pieces of land in the east and south.

To that end, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been pleading with the West to send multiple launch rocket systems to Ukraine as soon as possible to help stop Russia's destruction of towns in the Donbas. The rockets have a longer range than the howitzer artillery systems that the U.S. has provided Ukraine. They

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 33 of 64

would allow Ukrainian forces to strike Russian troops from a distance outside the range of Russia's artillery systems.

"We are fighting for Ukraine to be provided with all the weapons needed to change the nature of the fighting and start moving faster and more confidently toward the expulsion of the occupiers," Zelenskyy said in a recent address.

Ukraine needs multiple launch rocket systems, said Philip Breedlove, a retired U.S. Air Force general who was NATO's top commander from 2013 to 2016.

"These are very important capabilities that we have not gotten them yet. And they not only need them, but they have been very vociferous in explaining they want them," said Breedlove. "We need to get serious about supplying this army so that it can do what the world is asking it to do: fight a world superpower alone on the battlefield."

U.S. and White House officials had no public comment on the specifics of the aid package.

"We continue to consider a range of systems that have the potential to be effective on the battlefield for our Ukrainian partners. But the point the president made is that we won't be sending long-range rockets for use beyond the battlefield in Ukraine," State Department Ned Price said Tuesday. "As the battle has shifted its dynamics, we have also shifted the type of security assistance that we are providing to them, in large part because they have asked us for the various systems that are going to be more effective in places like the Donbas."

Russia has been making incremental progress in the Donbas, as it tries to take the remaining sections of the region not already controlled by Russian-backed separatists.

Putin has repeatedly warned the West against sending greater firepower to Ukraine. The Kremlin said Putin held an 80-minute telephone call Saturday with the leaders of France and Germany in which he warned against the continued transfers of Western weapons.

Overall, the United States has committed approximately \$5 billion in security assistance to Ukraine since the beginning of the Biden administration, including approximately \$4.5 billion since the Russia invaded on Feb. 24.

## High prices, Asian markets could blunt EU ban on Russian oil

By LORNE COOK and SAMUEL PETREQUIN Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union's groundbreaking decision to ban nearly all oil from Russia to punish the country for its invasion of Ukraine is a blow to Moscow's economy, but its effects may be blunted by rising energy prices and other countries willing to buy some of the petroleum, industry experts say.

European Union leaders agreed late Monday to cut Russian oil imports by about 90% over the next six months, a dramatic move that was considered unthinkable just months ago.

The 27-country bloc relies on Russia for 25% of its oil and 40% of its natural gas, and European countries that are even more heavily dependent on Russia had been especially reluctant to act.

European heads of state hailed the decision as a watershed, but analysts were more circumspect.

The EU ban applies to all Russian oil delivered by sea. At Hungary's insistence, it contains a temporary exemption for oil delivered by the Russian Druzhba pipeline to certain landlocked countries in Central Europe.

In addition to retaining some European markets, Russia could sell some of the oil previously bound to Europe to China, India and other customers in Asia, even though it will have to offer discounts, said Chris Weafer, CEO at consulting firm Macro-Advisory.

"Now, for the moment, that's not financially too painful for Russia because global prices are elevated. They're much higher than last year," he said. "So even Russia offering a discount means that it's probably selling its oil for roughly what it sold for last year also."

He noted that "India has been a willing buyer" and "China's certainly been keen to buy more oil because they're both countries who are getting big discounts on global market prices."

Still, Moscow has traditionally viewed Europe as its main energy market, making Monday's decision the most significant effort yet to punish Russia for its war in Ukraine.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 34 of 64

"The sanctions have one clear aim: to prompt Russia to end this war and withdraw its troops and to agree with Ukraine on a sensible and fair peace," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said.

Ukraine estimated the ban could cost Russia tens of billions of dollars.

"The oil embargo will speed up the countdown to the collapse of the Russian economy and war machine," Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a video address that Ukraine will be pressing for more sanctions, adding that "there should be no significant economic ties left between the free world and the terrorist state."

Simone Tagliapietra, an energy expert and research fellow at the Brussels-based think tank Bruegel, called the embargo "a major blow."

Matteo Villa, an analyst at the ISPI think tank in Milan, said Russia will take a pretty significant hit now but cautioned that the move could eventually backfire.

"The risk is that the price of oil in general goes up because of the European sanctions. And if the price goes up a lot, the risk is that Russia starts to earn more, and Europe loses the bet," he said.

Like previous rounds of sanctions, the oil ban is unlikely to persuade the Kremlin to end the war.

Moscow seized on the new sanctions to try to rally public support against the West, describing it as bent on destroying Russia.

Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy head of Russia's Security Council who served as the country's president, said the oil ban aims to reduce the country's export earnings and force the government to scale down social benefits.

"They hate us all!" Medvedev said on his messaging app channel. "Those decisions stem from hatred against Russia and against all of its people."

Russia has not shied away from withholding energy to get its way. Russian state energy giant Gazprom said it is cutting off natural gas to Dutch trader GasTerra and Denmark's Oersted company and is also stopping shipments to Shell Energy Europe that were bound for Germany. Germany has other suppliers, and GasTerra and Oersted said they were prepared for a shutoff.

Gazprom previously stopped the flow to Bulgaria, Poland and Finland.

Meanwhile, the EU is urging other countries to avoid placing trade barriers on farm products as Russia's war increases the risks of a global food crisis.

Zelenskyy has said Russia has prevented the export of 22 million tons of Ukrainian grain, much of it meant for people across the Middle East and Africa. He accused Moscow of "deliberately creating this problem."

Russian oil delivered by sea accounts for two-thirds of the EU's oil imports from Moscow. In addition to the EU cutoff of such imports, Germany and Poland have agreed to stop using oil from the northern branch of the Druzhba pipeline.

Agreeing on sanctions against Russian natural gas is likely to prove much tougher because it represents a larger percentage of Europe's energy mix.

"The very loud and clear message that Moscow will hear is that it will be near impossible for the European Union to get any agreement on blocking gas because gas will not be as easily replicated from other sources in Europe as oil will be," Weafer said.

## Texas police: School door shut but didn't lock before attack

By JIM VERTUNO Associated Press

An exterior door at Robb Elementary School did not lock when it was closed by a teacher shortly before a gunman used it to get inside and kill 19 students and two teachers, leaving investigators searching to determine why, state police said Tuesday.

State police initially said a teacher had propped the door open shortly before Salvador Ramos, 18, entered the school in Uvalde, Texas, on May 24.

They have now determined that the teacher, who has not been identified, propped the door open with a rock, but then removed the rock and closed the door when she realized there was a shooter on campus,

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 35 of 64

said Travis Considine, chief communications officer for the Texas Department of Public Safety. But, Considine said, the door that was designed to lock when shut did not lock.

"We did verify she closed the door. The door did not lock. We know that much and now investigators are looking into why it did not lock," Considine said.

Investigators confirmed the detail through additional video footage reviewed since Friday's news conference when authorities first said that the door had been left propped open. Authorities did not state at that time what had been used to prop open the door.

Considine said the teacher initially propped the door open but ran back inside to get her phone and call 911 when Ramos crashed his truck on campus.

"She came back out while on her phone, she heard someone yell, 'He has a gun!', she saw him jump the fence and that he had a gun, so she ran back inside," removing the rock when she did, Considine said.

Steve McCraw, the head of DPS, hadn't said why the teacher initially propped open the door when it was first detailed Friday. The first mention of a door left propped open, which officials now say didn't happen, led to questions about the teacher's actions and whether she had made a horrific mistake.

Since the shooting, law enforcement and state officials have struggled to present an accurate timeline and details of the event and how police responded, sometimes providing conflicting information or withdrawing some statements hours later. State police have said some accounts were preliminary and may change as more witnesses are interviewed.

San Antonio attorney Don Flanary told the San Antonio Express-News that the Robb Elementary School employee, whom he's not naming, first propped open the door to carry food from a car to a classroom, and that she immediately moved to close it when she realized the danger.

"She kicked the rock away when she went back in. She remembers pulling the door closed while telling 911 that he was shooting," Flanary told the newspaper.

"She thought the door would lock because that door is always supposed to be locked," Flanary said.

Flanary did not immediately return telephone messages left at his office from The Associated Press.

Investigators are also still trying to interview Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District Police Chief Pete Arredondo, who state police have said was the commander of the school shooting scene while it happened. Arredondo has not responded to multiple requests for comment from The Associated Press.

McCraw, the head of the Texas Department of Public Safety, has said Arredondo treated the active scene as a hostage situation and as if children were no longer at risk, while 19 police officers waited in the school hallway outside the classroom where Ramos was.

McCraw called that the "wrong decision," saying the focus of the investigation has shifted to Arredondo and the police response.

Other officers in the Uvalde city and schools police departments continue to sit for interviews and provide statements, but Arredondo has not responded to DPS requests for two days, Considine said.

Later Tuesday, the Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas, which represents police officers, urged its member officers to cooperate with "all government investigations" into the shooting and police response and endorsed a federal probe already announced by the Justice Department.

The organization was also sharply critical of the constantly changing narrative of events that has emerged so far.

"There has been a great deal of false and misleading information in the aftermath of this tragedy. Some of the information came from the very highest levels of government and law enforcement," CLEAT said. "Sources that Texans once saw as iron-clad and completely reliable have now been proven false."

## Mourners gather as funerals begin for Uvalde school killings

By NATHAN ELLGREN, ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON and JIM SALTER Associated Press

UVALDE, Texas (AP) — The pallbearers wore white shirts and gloves. The desert-brown church with the tall bell tower was filled to overflowing. The casket held a 10-year-old girl who loved purple.

On Tuesday afternoon, hundreds of mourners turned out for the funeral Mass for Amerie Jo Garza, a

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 36 of 64

smiling fourth-grader who was killed a week ago when 18-year-old Salvador Ramos stormed into her Uvalde, Texas elementary school and opened fire on her classroom. Amerie's funeral was the first since the massacre, with Maite Rodriguez's scheduled for later Tuesday at an Uvalde funeral home.

Nineteen more funerals are planned for the next two-and-a-half weeks for the 19 children and two teachers who were killed in that classroom on May 24.

Mourner Erika Santiago, her husband and their two children wore purple shirts adorned with images of the victims to Amerie's funeral. She described Amerie as "a nice little girl who smiled a lot," and who was "so humble and charismatic but full of life."

Santiago said her 10-year-old son, Adriel, watched in horror when news reports first showed images of people killed and he recognized his friends Amerie and Maite.

"He told me he did not want to go to school fearing that could happen," Santiago said. "He told me, 'Mom, I just don't feel safe.'"

Visitation for one of the teachers, 48-year-old Irma Garcia, also was Tuesday, along with visitations for children Nevaeh Bravo and Jose Flores Jr.

Vincent Salazar's 11-year-old daughter, Layla, has the last of the scheduled services — her visitation is June 15 with the funeral the following day. Salazar said the family likely won't see Layla's body until soon before the visitation.

"I understand there were other children as well, but we're just waiting to get her back," Salazar said. "That's all we're focused on."

Uvalde County Justice of the Peace Eulalio "Lalo" Diaz Jr. said the bodies of all 21 victims were first sent to the medical examiner's office in San Antonio for autopsies, which he said is standard for a major crime. Then, because there isn't enough space at Uvalde's two funeral homes, many bodies were sent to out-of-town funeral homes until services near. The Uvalde funeral homes are working with the families on when they can see their loved ones, he said.

"It's mainly because of the number of victims," Diaz said, asking: "Where do you store that many people?"

Diaz said the autopsies are complete. He declined to discuss preliminary results and said final reports will take three to four months.

Vincent Salazar said he and his family are going to as many visitations as they can to pay respects to the other victims and their families.

"Not necessarily going to the funerals because we're still taking care of things hour by hour, day by day, here," Salazar said. "We've got so much stuff going on with our own. You have to set everything up — obituaries, death certificates, funeral arrangements.

"That's all we're focused on right now — her, getting her back and being able to put her to rest," Salazar said of Layla. "That's it."

Investigators continue to seek answers about how police responded to the shooting, and the U.S. Department of Justice is reviewing law enforcement actions.

The blame for an excruciating delay in killing the gunman — even as parents outside begged police to rush in and panicked children called 911 from inside — was placed on the school district's homegrown police chief, Pete Arredondo, after the director of state police said Arredondo made the "wrong decision" not to breach the classroom, believing the gunman was barricaded inside and children weren't at risk.

Steven McCraw, head of the Texas Department of Public Safety, said Friday that after following the gunman into the building, officers waited over an hour to breach the classroom. The revelation 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.

State police said Tuesday that the teacher who at one point propped open an exterior door to the school had closed it before the gunman used it to get inside.

However, the door did not lock, police said. Authorities had originally said Ramos came in through the door she'd propped open.

Instead, investigators said the teacher, who has not been identified, closed the propped-open door when

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 37 of 64

she realized there was a shooter on campus and ran to get her phone and call 911, said Travis Considine, chief communications officer for the Texas Department of Public Safety. Investigators are looking into why the door didn't lock.

Jacob Albarado, an off-duty Border Patrol agent who rushed to the school with a shotgun borrowed from his barber, said Tuesday it was chaotic when he arrived in search of his daughter and wife. Both were physically unharmed in the attack, he said.

"To me, I believe everyone there was doing the best that they could given the circumstances," he told NBC's "Today Show." "I believe everyone there was doing everything in their power."

Authorities have said Ramos 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.

President Joe Biden's long-planned meeting Tuesday with New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern shifted to gun control after what happened in Uvalde and a week earlier in Buffalo, New York, where 10 Black people were killed by a shooter espousing racist "replacement theory."

Ardern won passage of gun control measures after a white supremacist killed 51 Muslim worshippers at two Christchurch mosques in 2019. Less than a month later all but one of the country's 120 lawmakers voted in favor of banning military-style semiautomatic weapons.

Biden told reporters that he "will meet with the Congress on guns, I promise you," but the White House has acknowledged that winning new gun legislation will be an uphill climb in an evenly divided Congress.

## Nadal tops Djokovic in quarterfinal thriller at French Open

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — Rafael Nadal insists he can't know for sure whether any match at Roland Garros might be his very last at a place he loves, a place he is loved.

For now, if he keeps winning and keeps performing the way he did during his monumental quarterfinal victory over longtime rival Novak Djokovic that began in May and ended in June, Nadal will have more chances to play.

With a mix of brilliant shot-making and his trademark resilience, Nadal got past the top-seeded defending French Open champion Djokovic 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (4) to move a step closer to his 14th championship at the clay-court Grand Slam tournament and what would be a 22nd major trophy overall, adding to records that he already owns.

"One of those magic nights for me," Nadal said.

For anyone lucky enough to be there, too — provided they were able to stay awake — or even anyone watching from afar. The match began a little past 9 p.m. Tuesday and concluded more than four hours later, after 1 a.m. Wednesday.

"TV decides," Djokovic said about the late start. "That's the world we are living in."

The bracket said this was a quarterfinal, yes, but it felt like a final, from the quality of play to the quality of effort, from the anticipation that preceded it to the atmosphere that enveloped it.

The only missing ingredient: There was no trophy handed to the winner.

Nadal turns 36 on Friday, when he will face third-seeded Alexander Zverev in the semifinals. When the subject of Nadal's future was brought up during his on-court interview, he smiled.

"See you, by the way, in two days," Nadal said. "That's the only thing that I can say."

It'll be difficult for any match the rest of the way to live up to this one.

Nary a game, a point, a stroke or, indeed, a step came with a hint of insouciance. Both men gave their all. Nothing came easily.

Nadal's 3-0 lead in the second set did him no good; Djokovic ended up taking it and would say later, "I thought, 'OK, I'm back in the game.'"

But Djokovic's 3-0 lead in the fourth did him no good, even though he served for it at 5-3, even standing one point from forcing a fifth twice. Nadal saved those set points and broke there, then ran away with the closing tiebreaker, seizing a 6-1 edge and never losing focus after his first three match points went awry.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 38 of 64

"I lost to a better player today," said Djokovic, who had won 22 sets in a row until the 49-minute opener against Nadal. "Had my chances. Didn't use them. That's it."

This showdown was their 59th, more than any other two men have played each other in the Open era. Nadal narrowed Djokovic's series lead to 30-29 while improving to 8-2 against his rival at Roland Garros.

Nadal is now 110-3 for his career at the place. Two of those losses came against Djokovic, including in last year's semifinals. This time, Nadal made sure Djokovic remains behind him in the Slam count with 20. Nadal broke their three-way tie with Roger Federer at that number by capturing the Australian Open in January, when Djokovic was not able to play because he had not been vaccinated against COVID-19.

Before Nadal advanced to his 15th semifinal in Paris, Zverev reached his second in a row by holding off 19-year-old rising star Carlos Alcaraz 6-4, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (7).

"Not really getting easier from here," Zverev said after putting an end to Alcaraz's 14-match winning streak.

"I told him at the net, 'You're going to win this tournament a lot of times, not just once,'" said Zverev, the runner-up at the U.S. Open in 2020 and the gold medalist at the Tokyo Olympics last summer. "I hope I can win it before he starts ... beating us all."

In women's action Tuesday, 18-year-old American Coco Gauff and 28-year-old Martina Trevisan of Italy reached their first Grand Slam semifinals. The 18th-seeded Gauff beat 2017 U.S. Open champion and 2018 French Open runner-up Sloane Stephens 7-5, 6-2, while the 59th-ranked Trevisan eliminated U.S. Open finalist Leylah Fernandez 6-2, 6-7 (3), 6-3.

The nightcap was saved for two players who know each other so well. The tendencies and tactics. The mannerisms and moods.

So it should come as no surprise they engaged in points so involved, so lengthy — 57 of at least nine strokes, with one that went 25 — that before some were concluded, folks in the stands would let out a gasp or an "Aaaah!" or "Awwww!", drawing rebuking hisses of "Shhhhh!" in response.

Chair umpire Damien Dumusois might have set a record, were such records kept, for most times saying "S'il vous plait," to plead with spectators to settle down and allow play to continue.

Nadal heard far more support in the form of yells of "Ra-fa!" or "Vamos!" or "Te quiero!" Only once Djokovic began to assert himself in the second set was his nickname "No-le!" heard with any frequency.

As time passed and the air became colder — below 60 degrees Fahrenheit (15 Celsius) — Nadal and Djokovic embodied the words in clay-colored capital letters in French and English along the facing of the lower level of the arena, attributed to Roland Garros, the World War I fighter pilot for whom the facility is named: "Victory belongs to the most tenacious."

In the early going, and down the stretch, it was Nadal getting the better of the baseline back-and-forths, pushing and pulling Djokovic this way or that, up and back, until an opening for a clean winner presented itself. Djokovic reacted to his miscues by rolling his eyes, shaking his head or putting his palms out as if to say, "What's going on?"

Nadal showed zero signs of being slowed or bothered one bit by the chronic pain in his left foot that flares up every so often and kept him off the tour for the last half of 2021 and arose again before the French Open.

Nor did Nadal betray a trace of fatigue from his five-set tussle against No. 9 seed Felix Auger-Aliassime in the fourth round on Sunday that lasted 4 hours, 21 minutes, nearly twice as long as Djokovic's matter-of-fact win that day.

"I'm not surprised at all," Djokovic said. "It's not the first time that he is able, a few days after he's injured and barely walking, to come out 100% physically fit."

## 'No joke': Initial rounds of National Spelling Bee get tough

By BEN NUCKOLS Associated Press

OXON HILL, Md. (AP) — One speller ran off the stage in the middle of her time at the microphone, saying she needed to pee. Another tried to walk back to her seat after spelling her first word correctly, only to be reminded she had a vocabulary word next. During one particularly brutal stretch, 10 consecutive spellers heard the bell that signals elimination.

The Scripps National Spelling Bee used to begin with a handshake. Now it starts with a slap to the face.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 39 of 64

Leaner and meaner in its post-pandemic iteration, the bee returned to its usual venue on Tuesday for the first time in three years, and spellers were greeted with a new preliminary-round format that gave them no time to get comfortable.

"The prelims is no joke. Every stage of the bee is so important," said Dhroov Bharatia, a 13-year-old from Plano, Texas, who finished fourth last year.

In years past, the early onstage spelling rounds did little beyond weeding out the weakest or most nervous spellers. The real action was a written test that determined who would make the cut for the semifinals.

But during last year's mostly virtual bee, the bee's new executive director eliminated the test, and that structure continued as 229 spellers took the stage for this year's fully-in-person competition. Eighty-eight of those spellers advanced to Wednesday's quarterfinals, a success rate of 38%.

Spellers had to get through three words in one turn at the microphone to continue in the bee. First, they were given a word from a provided list of 4,000 — more than twice as many as in years past. Then, they had to answer a multiple-choice vocabulary question about a word on the same list. Finally, they had to spell a word that could be found anywhere in Webster's Unabridged dictionary.

Annie-Lois Acheampong, one of three spellers from Ghana, didn't get that far in her first try. She labored successfully through her first word, "coulrophobia" — fear of clowns — and then was asked to define "edamame." She smiled initially, but when she crossed her legs and couldn't stand still, it was clear something else was going on.

"I think I'm going to pee myself," the 13-year-old eighth grader said. "Can I go pee? I'm very sorry."

She scurried off the stage before she got an answer from the stunned judges, who paused the competition and conferred about how to handle the situation.

"That was a first," head judge Mary Brooks, who's been involved with the bee for 50 years, said later.

The judges ultimately decided to let Annie-Lois return after the day's last scheduled speller. She got her substitute vocabulary word right but faltered on the spelling of "apery" to conclude the day's action. Although Annie-Lois could have been eliminated for exceeding the 30-second time limit for the earlier vocabulary question, Brooks said the speller's clock was paused because she was experiencing a legitimate emergency.

There is precedent for pausing the clock during what Brooks called "extenuating circumstances," notably in 2004 when Akshay Buddiga fainted on stage but recovered to finish in second place.

Braydon Syx of West Blocton, Alabama, might not get that far, but his time in front of the microphone on Tuesday encapsulated the newly riveting drama of the early rounds.

The 13-year-old seventh grader took his first plane ride to compete in this year's bee. Braydon's first word was "ormolu" — a gold-colored alloy of copper, zinc and sometimes tin. He spelled out "O-R-M" and then took a long, excruciating pause before spitting out the final three letters. He stretched his arms out to his sides after identifying the definition of the word "tremulous" — not a bad description of his demeanor at the microphone.

"It was really scary," Braydon said, "but I also felt really happy at the same time. It was a weird feeling."

Then came "bromegrass" — any grass of a large genus of grasses native to temperate regions. Something about the word was bothering him.

"Can you say it again?" he asked.

"Can you say it again another time?"

He took a deep breath. "Can you say it one more time?"

Afterward, Braydon explained his dilemma: "On 'bromegrass,' I didn't know whether he was pronouncing it with an 'm' or an 'n.'"

Still, through some combination of hard work, luck and perseverance, Braydon will spell again on Wednesday.

Akira Harris won't be so fortunate. The eighth grader from a Department of Defense middle school in Stuttgart, Germany, began by spelling "rednigote" correctly, then turned around and headed for her seat.

"Akira, we need you for your word meaning round," a judge told her.

She stood silently, looking miserable, after she was given three potential definitions for the word "bandicoot." She made a guess — "A?" — before she was told she had to read the multiple-choice answer under

that letter, which was wrong.

Akira returned to the audience and buried her head in her mother's shoulder. Once her group of spellers was finished, Akira made another beeline — this time for the exits.

## **Biden plots inflation fight with Fed chair as nation worries**

By JOSH BOAK, CHRISTOPHER RUGABER and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Focused on relentlessly rising prices, President Joe Biden plotted inflation-fighting strategy Tuesday with the chairman of the Federal Reserve, with the fate of the economy and his own political prospects increasingly dependent on the actions of the government's central bank.

Biden hoped to demonstrate to voters that he was attuned to their worries about higher gasoline, grocery and other prices while still insisting an independent Fed will act free from political pressure.

Like Biden, the Fed wants to slow inflation without knocking the U.S. economy into recession, a highly sensitive mission that is to include increasing benchmark interest rates this summer. The president said he would not attempt to direct that course as some previous presidents have tried.

"My plan to address inflation starts with simple proposition: Respect the Fed, respect the Fed's independence," Biden said.

The sit-down on a heat-drenched late-spring day was Biden's latest effort to show his dedication to containing the 8.3% leap in consumer prices over the past year. Rising gas and food costs have angered many Americans heading into the midterm elections, putting Democrats' control of the House and Senate at risk.

Biden is running out of options on his own. His past attempts — oil releases from the strategic reserve, improving port operations and calls to investigate price gouging — have fallen short of satisfactory results. High prices have undermined his efforts to highlight the low 3.6% unemployment rate, leaving a growing sense of pessimism among Americans.

Tuesday's meeting was the first since Powell was renominated in November by Biden to lead the central bank and came two weeks after his confirmation for a second term by the Senate.

It also represented something of a reversal by Biden as inflation weighs heavily on voters' minds. The president asserted in April 2021 that he was "very fastidious about not talking" with the independent Fed and wanted to avoid being seen as "telling them what they should and shouldn't do."

The White House, along with the Fed, initially portrayed the inflation surge as a temporary side effect caused by supply chain issues as the U.S. emerged from the pandemic. Republican lawmakers were fast to criticize Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package from last year as pumping too much money into the economy and causing more inflation. That narrative also has held some sway with leading economists who say the financial support was excessive even though it helped the job market roar back.

The administration has walked back its previous statements. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told CNN on Tuesday evening that she did not fully understand the impact that unanticipated large shocks and supply bottlenecks would have on the economy. "Look, I think I was wrong then about the path that inflation would take," she said. "But we recognize that now the Federal Reserve is taking the steps that it needs to take. It's up to them to decide what to do."

Inflation has shown signs of moderating but is likely to remain far above the Fed's 2% target through the end of this year. Gas prices are expected to keep rising, particularly now that the European Union has agreed to cut off 90% of its oil purchases from Russia. That will force the EU to buy more oil from elsewhere, and it drove oil prices to \$115 a barrel Tuesday.

This was only the fourth meeting between the president and the Federal Reserve chair, though Powell breakfasts as often as once a week with Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, who also attended Tuesday's meeting along with Brian Deese, the White House National Economic Council director.

Ahead of the meeting, Biden suggested that he and Powell were aligned on addressing inflation.

"My predecessor demeaned the Fed, and past presidents have sought to influence its decisions inappropriately during periods of elevated inflation," Biden said in an op-ed posted Monday by The Wall Street Journal. "I won't do this. I have appointed highly qualified people from both parties to lead that institution. I agree

with their assessment that fighting inflation is our top economic challenge right now.”

In contrast, President Donald Trump repeatedly attacked Powell after the Fed chair oversaw moderate interest rate hikes in 2018 and continued his public criticism even as Powell cut rates in 2019.

Biden’s endorsement of the Fed’s policies — a stance echoed by congressional GOP leaders — gives Powell important political cover for a series of sharp interest rate hikes intended to rein in higher prices. Yet the higher rates could cause layoffs, raise the unemployment rate and even tip the economy into recession.

Amid worries that the U.S. economy may repeat the high, persistent inflation of the 1970s, the cooperation between Biden and Powell represents a crucial difference from that time and could make it easier for the Fed to restrain higher prices. In the early 1970s, President Richard Nixon pressured Fed chair Arthur Burns to lower interest rates to spur the economy before Nixon’s 1972 reelection campaign. Nixon’s interference is now widely seen as a key contributor to runaway inflation, which remained high until the early 1980s.

“That’s why comparisons to the 1970s are wrong,” said Sebastian Mallaby, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and author of a biography on former Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, “The Man Who Knew.” “The president’s essay was striking because he explicitly backed the Fed.”

Biden faces an increasingly global challenge as energy and food costs have jumped after Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine in February. Simultaneously, China imposed lockdowns tied to coronavirus outbreaks that further strained supply chains. This has left the European Union nursing record inflation and the risks of a recession, while U.S. consumers are increasingly disgruntled by gas prices averaging a nominal record of \$4.62 a gallon.

Powell has pledged to keep ratcheting up the Fed’s key short-term interest rate to cool the economy until inflation is “coming down in a clear and convincing way.” But those rate hikes have spurred fears that the Fed, in its drive to slow borrowing and spending, may push the economy into recession. That concern has caused sharp drops in stock prices in the past two months, though markets rallied last week.

Biden, in his op-ed, indicated that the record-setting pace of job creation in the aftermath of the pandemic would slow dramatically, suggesting more moderate levels of 150,000 jobs per month from 500,000. That, he said, would be no warning of weakness but “a sign that we are successfully moving into the next phase of recovery—as this kind of job growth is consistent with a low unemployment rate and a healthy economy.”

## After Uvalde, holiday weekend sees shootings nationwide

BY MICHAEL TARM and COREY WILLIAMS Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Even as the nation reeled over the massacre of 19 children and two teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, multiple mass shootings happened elsewhere over the Memorial Day weekend in areas both rural and urban. Single-death incidents still accounted for most gun fatalities.

Gunfire erupted in the predawn hours of Sunday at a festival in the town of Taft, Oklahoma, sending hundreds of revelers scattering and customers inside the nearby Boots Café diving for cover. Eight people ages 9 to 56 were shot, and one of them died.

Six children ages 13 to 15 were wounded Saturday night in a touristy quarter of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Two groups got into an altercation, and two people in one of them pulled guns and started shooting.

Ten people were wounded, and three law enforcement officers injured, in a shooting incident at a Memorial Day nighttime street gathering in Charleston, South Carolina.

And at a club and liquor store in Benton Harbor in southwestern Michigan, a 19-year-old man was killed and six other people were wounded after gunfire rang out among a crowd around 2:30 a.m. Monday. Police found multiple shell casings of various calibers.

Those and others met a common definition of a mass shooting, in which four or more people are shot. Such occurrences have become so regular, news of them is likely to fade fast.

There were at least two incidents in Chicago between late Friday and Monday that qualified as mass shootings, including one near a closed elementary school on the West Side in which the wounded included a 16-year-old girl.

Single-fatality shootings also rocked families and communities.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 42 of 64

In Arkansas a 7-year-old girl was killed Saturday in a busy area near the Little Rock Zoo, in what police described as "an isolated event involving acquaintances."

And on Chicago's South Side, the body of a young man slain at an outdoor birthday party lay on the sidewalk early Sunday, covered by a white sheet. His mother stood nearby, crying.

Overall, Chicago recorded 32 gunfire incidents over the weekend in which 47 people were shot and nine died.

In the wake of the Uvalde shooting, by an 18-year-old who legally purchased an AR-style rifle, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and other Republican opponents of tougher gun laws quickly pointed at Chicago as an example of how such measures don't work, saying, "more people are shot every weekend (there) than there are in schools in Texas."

High rates of gun violence in Chicago have made a series of Democratic governments there, including that of current Mayor Lori Lightfoot, vulnerable to criticism — sometimes from within their own party.

But the assertions by Abbott and others are misleading and oversimplify the situation in the country's third-largest city. Many guns used in the killing of Chicagoans were initially bought in other states with less stringent gun laws, like Indiana and Mississippi. Chicago officials also note that the city records fewer murders per capita than many other smaller U.S. cities.

Police chiefs there and in other cities cancelled days off to boost the numbers of officers over the holiday, hoping it would act as a deterrent. Independent conflict mediators also hit the streets, using social media to identify simmering conflicts with the potential to explode into real-world violence.

In Detroit, Police Chief James White promised to strictly enforce a curfew aimed at youths and teens after three people were wounded during a shooting earlier this month in Greektown, a popular downtown restaurant and entertainment district.

Such strategies may have worked in individual cases, but statistics from several cities didn't indicate violence was kept at or below levels from previous years. Chicago's Memorial Day weekend death toll was three times last year's.

It's long been a rule of thumb in northern cities that hot weather means more violence. Temperatures in Detroit and Chicago were in the 80s — unseasonably warm — during the three-day weekend, bringing more people outside and increasing the chances of clashes, often between rival gangs. Alcohol at holiday parties can fuel personal beefs, some of which first fester online.

"The seasons may not have much of an impact on shootings in Los Angeles, where the weather is always good," said Rodney Phillips, a violence prevention worker and former gang member in Chicago. But in his city, Memorial Day weekend typically marks "the start of the killing season," he said.

Residents like Yvonne Fields, of Detroit, say they are especially cautious when Memorial Day rolls around. She, her children and grandchildren spent time closer to home this weekend.

"The holidays are not like they used to be," Fields said. "The gangs have taken over. They do drive-by shootings. Everyone is living in fear."

Police in big cities often say most homicides have some tie-in to gangs, though others point to poverty and the desperation that comes with it as underlying causes.

An organizational shift over the past three decades, from top-down gangs led by identifiable leaders who could assert control to more fragmented, loosely structured groups, has also contributed to the violence.

"These gang factions are getting younger and younger, bolder and more impulsive," Phillips said. "It's alarming. It's often children shooting children these days."

Malik Shabazz, who helps lead neighborhood safety and anti-crime patrols in Detroit, said the Detroit New Black Panther Nation/New Marcus Garvey Movement he founded looks for spikes in crime during the holidays when people gather in groups and have more free time away from work.

"What I see is both the perps and the victims of (shootings and violent crime) are becoming younger and younger, and the crime is becoming more heinous," said Shabazz, 59. "And people bring their guns and people have beef, 'now I can shoot you and I can stab you over an issue of respect, not talk it out or ignore it and walk it off.'"

## Q&A: Cronenberg on bodies, death and the future of movies

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

CANNES, France (AP) — David Cronenberg is sitting on a balcony when a squawking seagull flies overhead. “Full of plastic, that bird,” Cronenberg says, smiling.

The 79-year-old Canadian auteur has long been fascinated by what’s in our bodies and what we put in them. His latest film, “Crimes of the Future,” which opens in theaters Friday, stems partly from his interest in the ubiquity of microplastics.

Cronenberg, who sat for a recent interview at the Cannes Film Festival where “Crimes of the Future” was premiering, first wrote the film’s script in 1998. Sensing it had grown only more relevant, Cronenberg unearthed it for his first film in eight years, and, he says, didn’t change a word.

It revolves around the performance artist couple of Saul Tenser (Viggo Mortensen) and Caprice (Léa Seydoux). In a near-future where plastics have changed human biology, they artfully remove tumorous organs from Tenser in surgical performances. It co-stars Kristen Stewart as a bureaucrat turned super-fan after witnessing a performance.

Art as an organ cut out and displayed is a fitting metaphor for Cronenberg, whose early films (“Videodrome,” “The Fly”) made him a master of body horror. The director is simultaneously auctioning an NFT of his recently passed kidney stones. Mortensen, who’s starred in Cronenberg’s “A History of Violence,” “Eastern Promises” and “A Dangerous Method,” calls “Crimes of the Future” Cronenberg’s most autobiographical film.

“Each time when I watch one of his movies,” Mortensen says, “I see more.”

For Cronenberg, the layers of “Crimes of the Future” were a way to probe both the nature of being an artist and the way our increasingly unnatural environment is transforming our bodies — not to mention seagulls. It’s an evolution that doesn’t frighten but excites Cronenberg. He marvels at how scientists are already working on whether plastics might be made edible — and maybe even taste good.

“That’s actually happening,” he says. “It’s not sci-fi anymore.”

AP: As you’ve aged, has your relationship to your body changed?

CRONENBERG: Oh, of course. Usually dismay, but it’s not so bad. It’s very interesting. It’s a part of life that you’ve anticipated and read about and blah, blah, now you’re experiencing. It hasn’t been as bad as one as it could be, let’s put it that way. I’m 79. I don’t feel that age at all.

AP: Do you take care of yourself?

CRONENBERG: I’ve been lifting weights since I was 16. Not to be a bodybuilder, but just to stay in shape. I don’t smoke. I don’t drink. Not out of any political or sociological agenda. I just have never been attracted to those things. Maybe that helps.

AP: So you think about what you put in your body?

CRONENBERG: Not obsessively.

AP: Much of your work is about the connection or disconnection between one’s body and the world around it. In the years you’ve been making films, technology has increasingly entered our bodies, even if it’s not a videocassette in our torso.

CRONENBERG: Well, I just had cataract surgery. Now, that’s amazing. Basically, they’re destroying the lenses in your eyes, sucking them out and then putting in plastic lenses that unfold and become your eyes. I’ve been looking through my lenses for my whole career as a moviemaker. And now the reason I’m wearing sunglasses is because I get more light in my eyes because of the cataracts being gone. Everything’s brighter. The colors are different, quite different. I joked with my director of photography that we’ll have to recolor the whole movie now that I have different lenses in my eyes. That’s pretty intimate. Technology in your eyeballs. I’ve got hearing aids. I’m totally bionic. Years ago this would be all be problematic. My career would have ended a lot sooner because if you can’t hear and you can’t see, it’s hard to make movies, you know?

AP: Do you imagine what we can do to our bodies, and what will be judged acceptable, will only increase in time?

CRONENBERG: Absolutely. We’re now realizing that just drinking water from a plastic bottle is depositing

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 44 of 64

microplastics into our bloodstream. Even before that, it was posited that maybe 80% of the human population has microplastics in their flesh. So our bodies are different than human bodies have ever been before in history. This is not going away.

AP: Do you foresee battles over things like computers implanted in our brains?

CRONENBERG: There's a Nobel Prize winner named Gerald Edelman who said the brain is not at all like a computer. It's much more like a rainforest because there's a struggle for dominance in your brain with your neurons that's constantly changing. The thing that people are afraid of with mRNA because it's a new thing and they say Bill Gates is inserting microchips in our body, it's fantastic! It's such a breakthrough. CRISPR is fantastic. Now, can it be used for evil? Well, yeah, like the atomic bomb. But beautiful things absolutely are possible from that.

AP: In presenting "Crimes of the Future," do you feel like you're putting an organ out for display?

CRONENBERG: (Laughs) I'm presenting my kidney stones to the audience. I'm saying "This came from inside my body." How more intimate could it possibly be? Yeah, I mean, that's the metaphor. That's the surgical organ metaphor in the movie, an artist putting out their inner-most intimate thoughts and feelings and visions and whatever else. Definitely you are vulnerable. You are incredibly vulnerable.

AP: This is your first film in eight years. How do you feel about how the movie landscape has changed?

CRONENBERG: One of the things that brought me back to moviemaking was Netflix and the idea of streaming and a streaming series. I tried to make one. I thought, well, this is not really movie making, but it's still cinema. It's a different kind of cinema, seriously different. I thought, well, this is a whole different ballgame, and yet it's still cinema. I mean, my idea of cinema. I think theaters are dead. I think they'll be a niche thing for superhero movies. I haven't gone to the cinema for decades. You know, I just prefer to watch it at home. And the TV sets have gotten so good, the sound systems have gotten so good that I defy those who say that you can't have a true cinematic experience at home. I completely don't agree.

AP: "Crimes of the Future" hinges in part on how far Saul Tenser is willing to go for his art. Are you thinking much about death?

CRONENBERG: I've always thought about death. I don't think you can be a human being without thinking about death. Ever since I was a kid and I had a pet die, you think, what just happened? Where's that cat? You realize that not only are you going to die, but your parents are going to die. I can still remember the moment when I had that discussion with my parents. So it's always a question. At my age, I wouldn't say it's more of a question, except that you have many friends who are now dying, who are exactly your age. Every time I look in the newspapers there's a guy that I knew — William Hurt, for example, or Ivan Reitman — and they're younger than I am. There's not much you can do with it other than to acknowledge that, yes, you will die. Beyond that, what can you say? I always thought in novels where it would say for a living author "Born 1943—" It's like the dash is waiting for you. It's waiting for you so that it could be filled in. And I'm saying, "(Expletive) you, I'm not going to die. I'm not going to tell you when I'm going to die."

## Experts: Everything points to another busy hurricane season

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Batten down the hatches for another nasty hurricane season.

Nearly every natural force and a bunch of human-caused ones — more than just climate change — have turned the last several Atlantic hurricane seasons into deadly and expensive whoppers. The season that starts Wednesday looks like another note in a record-breaking refrain because all those ingredients for disaster are still going strong, experts warn.

They say these factors point to but don't quite promise more trouble ahead: the natural climate event La Nina, human-caused climate change, warmer ocean waters, the Gulf of Mexico's deep hot Loop Current, increased storminess in Africa, cleaner skies, a multi-decade active storm cycle and massive development of property along the coast.

"It's everything and the kitchen sink," Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach said.

In the past two years, forecasters ran out of names for storms. It's been a costly rogue's gallery of major

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 45 of 64

hurricanes — with winds of at least 111 mph (179 kph) — striking land in the past five years: Harvey, Irma, Maria, Florence, Michael, Dorian, Humberto, Laura, Teddy, Delta, Zeta, Eta, Iota, Grace and Ida.

“That’s the pattern that we’ve been locked into. And what a statistic to think about: From 2017 to 2021, more Category four and five (hurricanes) made U.S. landfall than from 1963 to 2016,” National Hurricane Center Director Ken Graham said in an Associated Press interview in front of two hurricane-hunter planes that fly into the storms.

Graham, echoing most experts and every pre-season forecast, said “we’ve got another busy one” coming. Last year, the Atlantic set a record for six above average hurricane seasons in a row, smashing the old record of three in a row, and forecasters predict a seventh.

The only contrary sign is that for the first time since 2014, a storm didn’t form before the official June 1 start of the hurricane season, but forecasters are watching the Eastern Pacific’s record-setting Hurricane Agatha that looks likely to cross over land and reform as Alex in the Gulf of Mexico later this week.

Here’s what may make the Atlantic chaotic this season:

## LA NINA

One of the biggest influences on Atlantic hurricane seasons occurs half a world away in the temporarily cooling waters of the equatorial Pacific, the natural cyclical phenomenon called La Nina, the more dangerous for the United States flip side to El Nino.

La Nina alters weather across the world, including making hurricane development in the Atlantic more likely. It starts with the Sahel region of Africa, where the seeds of the many of the strongest mid-season hurricanes, called Cape Verde storms, form. That often dry region is wet and stormy in La Nina and that helps with early formation.

One weather feature that can decapitate storms or prevent them from forming in the first place is high cross winds called shear. But La Nina pretty much deadens shear, which is “a huge factor” for more storm activity, University of Albany hurricane researcher Kristen Corbosiero said.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Studies show that climate change is making hurricanes wetter, because warm air can hold more moisture, and are making the strongest storms a bit stronger. Storms also may be stalling more, allowing them to drop more rain over the same place, like in 2017’s Harvey, where more than 50 inches (127 centimeters) fell in one spot. They are also rapidly intensifying more often, experts say.

While studies point to an increasing number of the strongest storms because of human-caused climate change, scientists still disagree over what global warming means for the overall frequency of all storms. Some scientists see a slight decrease because of fewer weaker storms, but others, such as MIT hurricane researcher Kerry Emanuel, see an overall increase in the total number of storms.

A study by Emanuel found a general increase in Atlantic storm s over 150 years, with some exceptions. That increase is too large to be directly linked to climate change, Emanuel said, “but it could be indirectly related to climate change” especially if global warming is changing ocean circulation speeds as suspected.

## WARMER WATER

Warm water acts as fuel for hurricanes. Storms can’t form until waters hit 79 degrees (26 degrees Celsius) and the deeper the warm water reaches, and the higher its temperature, the more the hurricane has to feed on.

And because of climate change and natural weather variables, the water in much of the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico is warm and inviting for storms, University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy said. In the key storm formation area, waters are about half a degree warmer (0.3 degrees Celsius) than last year at this time of year, according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration hurricane seasonal forecaster Matthew Rosencrans.

## LOOP CURRENT

In the Gulf of Mexico there’s a normal phenomenon called the Loop Current, where warm water runs extremely deep. That’s important because usually hurricanes bring up cold deep water when they go over warm water and that limits their strengthening. But the Loop Current often turbo-charges storms and it

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 46 of 64

sheds eddies of warm deep water all over the Gulf for storm intensification.

This year the loop current seems especially strong, northward and worrisome, Emanuel and other experts said. They compared it to the Loop Current that intensified Camille in 1969, Katrina in 2005 and Ida last year.

On Monday the Loop Current was 1.8 degrees (1 degree Celsius) warmer than normal, McNoldy said.

## CLEANER AIR

Traditional air pollution from factories and cars — the dirty air of smog and small particles — reflects sunlight and cools the atmosphere, scientists say. That cooling effect from air pollution probably helped decrease the number of storms in the 1970s and 1980s, which was a quiet period in the Atlantic.

But since Europe and the United States cleaned up much of their air pollution, the Atlantic has gotten stormier during hurricane season, while just the opposite is happening in Asia where air pollution is increasing, a new study said. Experts said the decrease in air pollution and increase in Atlantic storms is likely a permanent condition now.

## LONGER TERM CYCLES

Hurricane researchers have noticed over a century or so, an on-off type of cycle of storm activity with about 20 to 30 years of busy Atlantic hurricane seasons followed by 20 to 30 years of less activity. The current busy cycle started in 1995 and should theoretically be ending soon, but scientists see no sign of that happening yet.

The theory behind the cycle has to do with ocean currents, salinity and other natural cycles on a global scale. But recently some scientists have started to doubt how big a factor, if any, the cycle may be and whether it was really air pollution and now climate change altering the cycle.

## DEVELOPMENT

On top of all those weather factors is the problem of humans. During the lull in storms in the 1970s and 1980s, air conditioning in the south became more prevalent and storms were in the back of the mind, so more people moved to and built in storm prone areas, said former NOAA hurricane scientist Jim Kossin, now of the risk firm The Climate Service.

But the storms came back when the pollution disappeared and as climate change worsened. Add in La Ninas, insurance that makes it easier to rebuild in dangerous areas, "and now we're paying the piper" with more and fiercer storms and more people and buildings at risk," Kossin said.

For at least the next five years, Kossin said, "we need to buckle up."

## Russia's Navalny says he faces new criminal charges

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's opposition leader Alexei Navalny said Tuesday that he is facing new criminal accusations that could extend his current nine-year prison term.

Navalny said on Instagram that an investigator visited him in prison to declare that the authorities have opened a new investigation against him on charges of "creating an extremist group to fan hatred against officials and oligarchs" and trying to stage unsanctioned rallies.

He added that the charges could keep him in prison for another 15 years if he's convicted.

Navalny, the most determined political foe of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was arrested in January 2021 upon returning from Germany, where he had been recuperating from nerve-agent poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin, and handed a 2½-year sentence for a parole violation.

In March, Navalny was sentenced to nine years in prison on fraud and contempt of court charges he rejected as politically motivated, a move that signaled an attempt by the authorities to keep him behind bars for as long as possible.

The new sentence followed a year-long Kremlin crackdown on Navalny's supporters, other opposition activists and independent journalists in which authorities appear eager to stifle all dissent.

Navalny's close associates have faced criminal charges and left the country, and his group's political infrastructure — an anti-corruption foundation and a nationwide network of regional offices — has been destroyed after being labeled an extremist organization.

## Critic Notebook: At Cannes, a plea for the variety of cinema

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 47 of 64

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

One of the most viral moments from the 75th Cannes Film Festival, which wrapped over the weekend with the presentation of the Palme d'Or to Ruben Ostlund's "Triangle of Sadness," wasn't a slip on the red carpet or those fighter jets that flew over Tom Cruise's head. It was the director James Gray making a thoughtful argument for how mainstream moviemaking can be more than superheroes.

Gray, who premiered his autobiographical '80s coming-of-age film "Armageddon Time" at Cannes, drew widespread applause for comments suggesting that Hollywood studios should be willing to lose money on less franchise-based modes of moviemaking to help expand, not narrow, the moviegoing audience.

"Somebody has to speak to the other side," Gray told me the morning after "Armageddon Time" premiered. "It's how you keep the broad-based interest in the medium. If you only focus on one sliver and do it over and over and over again, you're in big trouble. Then people stop thinking about cinema as a broad art form with many different iterations with many windows unto the world."

Cannes' windows unto the world aren't without their own obstructions. The festival can sometimes feel too codified in a male auteur version of arthouse. But it remains one of the most globe-spanning, thrillingly elastic displays of cinema's possibilities.

Because of its scope and unique position as a self-styled temple of cinema, Cannes often serves as a referendum on the movies and a French Riviera barricade against the tides of change. That was especially true this year. For the 75th anniversary, Cannes assembled a cast of filmmakers to debate the medium's future. Guillermo del Toro, who spearheaded the effort, pronounced today's movie structures "not sustainable."

"We are finding that it is more than the delivery system that is changing. It's the relationship to the audience that is shifting," said Del Toro. "Do we hold it, or do we seek and be adventurous?"

The questions posed by Del Toro and others were no doubt salient ones for anyone making or watching film today to consider. But often, the best answers were found on screen, where the spectrum of cinema exhibited was intoxicatingly vast. Yes, there were big-budget spectacles (Joseph Kosinski's "Top Gun: Maverick," Baz Luhrmann's "Elvis") that made plenty of noise. But, unlike at the multiplex, they weren't the only show in town. The big movies existed alongside a seemingly limitless marquee, full of discoveries.

There was the imaginative thrill of South Korean director Park Chan-wook's twisty noir, "Decision to Leave," a love story wrapped in a police procedural. There was the sober examinations of Cristian Mungiu's "R.M.N.," a Romanian microcosm of xenophobia that builds to a powerhouse town hall scene and a devastatingly lyrical final shot. There was the aching melancholy of Mia Hansen-Løve's "One Fine Morning," an intimate Paris drama about a single mother ( a magnificent Lea Seydoux ) with a dying father that manages to hold life and death, love and solitude in the tender palm of its hand.

Those filmmakers have all been in Cannes before, and will likely be so again. But one of the most exciting jolts of this year's festival came from the debut, in Cannes' Critics Week section, of Scottish writer-director Charlotte Wells. Her "Aftersun," starring Paul Mescal and Frankie Corio, is a father-daughter tale told with such deftness that it eludes all the usual cliches of that relationship. If there was ever a good reason to hope that the movies have a stable future, it's the emergence of filmmakers like Wells.

That highlights like "Aftersun" and "One Fine Morning" came from sidebar sections in Cannes, rather than its main 21-film competition lineup, was itself a reminder that finding the best stuff today can require looking beyond the movies' main stages.

That's only truer back home, away from Cannes' Cote d'Azur fantasyland. The movies have been clawing their way back in theaters after two years of pandemic and, with the outlook for streaming services not quite as rosy as they once were, big-screen moviegoing has some momentum. Still, the usual offerings on a Saturday night at the box office speak more to market saturation than variety. Over Memorial Day weekend, "Top Gun: Maverick" opened on a record 4,735 screens in North America.

In such an environment, what's the post-Cannes afterlife for films that stood out in France? Companies like A24, which picked up the Barry Jenkins-produced "Aftersun" as well as Lukas Dhont's boyhood drama "Close," have found novel ways of reaching large audiences. The boutique studio recently notched its biggest hit with the gleefully original "Everything Everywhere All at Once."

Sony Pictures Classics, which is banking on adult audiences continuing to return to theaters, acquired

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 48 of 64

"One Fine Morning." Neon, which took the 2019 Palme d'Or winner "Parasite" all the way to best picture at the Academy Awards, bought its third Palme-winner in a row in Ostlund's "Triangle of Sadness," a riotous eat-the-rich satire co-starring Woody Harrelson. Ostlund described his film as the melding of arthouse and Hollywood sensibilities.

Those distributors will hope there is an appetite for something different than what's usually served up in theaters.

"Man cannot live by Batman alone," Luhrmann said, while praising Matt Reeves' "The Batman."

Tom Hanks, taking the same example from his "Elvis" director, told me he, too, thought "The Batman" was great. But it left him pondering.

"I did also have to think: Are we supposed to forget all those other Batman movies that came out?" asked Hanks, who has usually steered clear of sequels and reboots. "Are they really saying, 'Who's that guy?' when Batman walks in the room? I know who Batman is. Don't these people know who Batman is?"

"There is something magnificent and always will be about the movie that stands on its own," added Hanks.

There were plenty other films at Cannes that stood resolutely on their own. One was Kelly Reichardt's wry "Showing Up," Reichardt's fourth film with Michelle Williams and a particularly definitive movie for the 58-year-old indie filmmaker of low-key, minimalistic indies. Williams plays a Portland-based artist named Lizzy that, not unlike Reichardt, sculpts modestly scaled portraits of women, only her medium is ceramics. Preparing for a small gallery show, Lizzy juggles various nuisances and distractions but, like Reichardt, in the end makes something genuinely personal, and worth showing up for.

## Depp-Heard defamation trial: What is the jury considering?

FAIRFAX, Va. (AP) — After a six-week trial, a civil jury in Virginia is deliberating defamation claims by Johnny Depp and his ex-wife Amber Heard. The trial has featured lurid testimony with explicit details about the movie stars' short and volatile marriage. But what is the case really about? And what will the jury need to decide?:

### DEPP'S LAWSUIT

Depp filed a \$50 million defamation suit against Heard, alleging that a 2018 op-ed she wrote in The Washington Post damaged his reputation and hurt his career. In the article, Heard described herself as "a public figure representing domestic abuse." Depp is not mentioned by name in the article, but his lawyers argued that it was clear she was referring to Depp, given that she had publicly accused him of domestic violence during their 2016 divorce proceedings. Heard's lawyers said most of the article focuses on public policy on domestic violence and that she had a First Amendment right to weigh in on that subject. They also maintain that Depp did in fact abuse Heard.

### ABUSE ALLEGATIONS

During the trial, Heard has described more than a dozen specific instances when she says Depp abused her, including her allegation that he sexually assaulted her with a liquor bottle in an alcohol-fueled rage. Depp has denied any physical or sexual abuse, and says Heard concocted the claims to destroy his reputation. He's also claimed that she physically attacked him on multiple occasions.

### THE JURY'S JOB

The seven-member jury must decide if two passages and the headline of the article are defamatory. The jury verdict form gives jurors instructions on how to determine that, including by asking them whether the statements were about Depp, were false and had a defamatory implication about him. Because Depp is a public figure, Heard can only be found guilty of libel if the jury decides that she acted with "actual malice," meaning that she either knew what she wrote was false or that she acted with reckless disregard for the truth. Heard's lawyers told the jury Depp's libel claim must fail if Heard suffered even a single incident of abuse.

### HEARD'S LAWSUIT

Heard filed a \$100 million counterclaim against Depp after his former lawyer called her allegations a hoax. The counterclaim has received less attention during the trial, but Heard's lawyer told jurors it provides an avenue for the jury to compensate Heard for the abuse Depp inflicted on her by orchestrating a smear campaign after they split up.

The jury verdict form asks the jury to decide if Depp's former attorney, acting as an agent for Depp, made or published three statements that were about Heard, were false and were seen by someone other than Heard. The jury must also decide if Depp's attorney made the statements with actual malice.

## Ex-Trump adviser Peter Navarro subpoenaed in DOJ's 1/6 probe

By FARNOUSH AMIRI and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Trump adviser Peter Navarro revealed in a court filing Tuesday afternoon that he has been subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury this week as part of the Justice Department's sprawling probe into the deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Navarro, who was a trade adviser to then-President Donald Trump, said he was served by the FBI at his Washington, D.C., house last week. The subpoena is the first known instance of prosecutors seeking testimony from someone who worked in the Trump White House as they investigate the worst attack on the Capitol in two centuries.

In an 88-page filing, Navarro claims the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack is unlawful and therefore a subpoena it issued to him in February is unenforceable under law. The 72-year-old filed the suit Tuesday against members of the committee, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and the U.S. attorney for D.C., Matthew M. Graves.

In an interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday, Navarro said the goal of his lawsuit is much broader than the subpoenas themselves, part of an effort to have "the Supreme Court address a number of issues that have come with the weaponization of Congress' investigatory powers" since Trump came to office.

He said he will respond formally to the federal subpoena on Wednesday.

A spokesman for the Justice Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday.

Though the scope of the department's investigation remains unclear, the subpoena to Navarro could signal that the department is widening its probe to examine the activities and records of people who worked directly for the Republican president. The department previously issued subpoenas to people connected to the Jan. 6 attack and the rallies in Washington that preceded the violence, in which a mob loyal to Trump stormed the Capitol in a brazen bid to overturn the 2020 presidential election and keep Democrat Joe Biden from replacing Trump in the White House.

The subpoena also comes as pressure continues to mount on the Justice Department and Attorney General Merrick Garland to consider prosecuting Trump since the Jan. 6 House committee laid out an argument for what its members believe could be a viable criminal case against the former president.

Garland has given no public indication about whether prosecutors might be considering a case against the former president. He has, though, vowed to hold accountable "all January 6th perpetrators, at any level" and has said that would include those who were "present that day or were otherwise criminally responsible for the assault on our democracy." Roughly 300 people have pleaded guilty to crimes stemming from the riot, including seditious conspiracy and assault.

The subpoena from federal prosecutors also comes months after Navarro, a former economics professor, received a congressional subpoena from lawmakers investigating the Jan. 6 attack. Members of the select committee sought testimony from Navarro about his public efforts to help Trump overturn the election, including a call after the 2020 presidential election persuading state legislators to join their efforts.

Navarro was one of the White House staffers who promoted Trump's baseless claims of mass voter fraud. He released a report in December 2020 that he claimed contained evidence of the alleged misconduct.

He has refused to cooperate with the committee, and he and fellow Trump adviser Dan Scavino were found in contempt of Congress in April.

Members of the committee made their case at the time that Scavino and Navarro were among just a handful of people who had rebuffed the committee's requests and subpoenas for information. The panel has interviewed more than 1,000 witnesses about the insurrection and is preparing for a series of hearings to begin next week.

The congressional probe has so far scrutinized Trump family members and allies, members of Congress and

even social media groups accused of perpetuating election misinformation and allowing it to spread rampantly. The committee investigating the Capitol attack is not the only group of lawmakers that have sought Navarro's compliance. A House subcommittee set up to investigate the Trump administration's response to COVID-19 also subpoenaed him in November. He denied their request, citing a "direct order" from the former president to claim executive privilege.

## After Champions League 'fiasco,' UEFA probes what went wrong

By ROB HARRIS and STEVE DOUGLAS AP Sports Writers

The French government is blaming Liverpool fans. The English club is enraged by the "irresponsible, unprofessional" rush to conclusions. European soccer's governing body, UEFA, will now try to uncover what went wrong in the disorder and chaos in Paris at the Champions League final before Liverpool lost to Real Madrid.

UEFA is starting to gather evidence about issues outside the Stade de France that marred one of the world's biggest games in sports on Saturday.

Liverpool fans' leadership groups are already complaining about heavy-handed policing and poor organization on a troubling night that saw children and elderly people among those getting sprayed by tear gas.

Richard Bouigue, deputy mayor of the 12th arrondissement in Paris, said "the time for official denial is over, the time for apologies must be imposed" in a letter to a Liverpool supporters' group.

"I deplore the dysfunctions in the organization of the game and the lack of maintenance of order that led to this real fiasco," Bouigue wrote to the Spirit of Shankly group in a letter seen by The Associated Press.

There were also renewed concerns in Spain on Wednesday about the organizational failings.

"It was a pretty big mess," said Madrid defender Dani Carvajal, whose family encountered safety issues. "They have to learn and fix the mistakes for the next events that may happen at this stadium and hopefully everything will be better. But yes, in the end there were people who suffered a lot."

These are the key issues the UEFA review will need to take into consideration:

### ORGANIZATION

The challenges of staging the final with just three months' notice — Paris was awarded the game in February after a decision was taken to strip Russia's St. Petersburg of hosting rights — has been floated as a reason for the chaos that unfolded.

Having months, rather than years, to plan for the final was still enough time for hospitality facilities to be prepared and the stadium wrapped in special competition branding.

There was, though, a shortage of signage on streets leading to the stadium and on the subway and train lines. While private security was at stadium entrances, there were no volunteers deployed to help fans navigate unfamiliar streets and communicate as lines grew longer.

What was the reason behind the decision to herd fans — mostly from Liverpool — into a narrow passage on the walk up to the stadium from the metro, with police vans blocking much of the space? Were there enough police officers and security guards in and around the stadium for such a big occasion?

In a statement released Tuesday, the French Football Federation said there were 1,650 security guards at the Stade de France — 25% more than for a sold-out France match, it claimed — "in anticipation of the possible presence of people without tickets or in possession of counterfeit tickets."

### UEFA'S MESSAGING

The "late arrival of fans" was the initial reason given for the delay to kickoff for what proved to be 37 minutes. Yet there was clear evidence many fans had arrived near the stadium up to three hours before the scheduled start of the game and simply ended up stuck in lines that barely moved. Liverpool fans, pressed up against the railings and many fearful of their own safety, hadn't even been told the match had been delayed. That appeared to add to the panic, as some thought they would miss the game.

UEFA seemed slow to realize the extent of the problems. Steve Rotheram, a mayor in Liverpool who attended the game, said he had his cell phone, money, bank cards and match ticket stolen outside the Stade de France. He said he saw UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin in the VIP section of the stadium later and explained his concerns. "He seemed oblivious to it," Rotheram said of Ceferin.

### POLICE

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 51 of 64

Why did police use bottlenecks to control the flow of spectators? The review will need to look at the policing of the final, from how they planned the hazardous route to the stadium from the train station and metro stops, as well as the instances of heavy-handedness toward supporters in using tear gas and pepper spray indiscriminately in areas where there were kids and elderly people. There is footage of police deploying spray directly into the face of fans.

Repeated allegations of brutality have hit French police in recent years, notably during the Yellow Vests protests against the government, amid calls police should exercise greater restraint.

French police have struggled to get a grip on fan violence at domestic matches this season. Was that considered when the event was moved to Paris after direct talks between Ceferin and French President Emmanuel Macron?

## TICKETING

This is likely to be a key focus of the review after French Interior minister Gérald Darmanin said there was "massive fraud at an industrial level," claiming that "70% of the tickets were fake tickets coming into the Stade de France." Those numbers have been received with skepticism.

Past and present Liverpool players — including Andrew Robertson — have said tickets they had received through legitimate channels hadn't been accepted at the gates. There were undoubtedly some fake tickets — the AP has been shown an example of one. But the AP is aware of malfunctioning scanners unable to validate genuine tickets. Were those considered to be fake at the turnstiles?

In the FFF's statement, it said 110,000 people went to the Stade de France on Saturday for a match with a capacity of 75,000. Therefore, it said, there were 35,000 additional people in possession of counterfeit tickets or without tickets. The federation said the figures were provided by "various public and private operators."

## STEWARDING

Just like at Wembley Stadium last year when there was violence and crowd chaos at the European Championship final, stewards bore the brunt of the disorder on Saturday as they were overwhelmed by large crowds at the gates. Low-paid and under-resourced, it seems unfair to expect stewards to resist aggression and force from both frustrated fans and other people trying to enter stadiums illegally by barging through checkpoints. Even as the chaos was unfolding, some private security officials turned their focus on media, ordering video footage to be deleted.

## LOCALS

There are a growing number of testimonies from people who attended the final, detailing how they got mugged and attacked before and after the match at the Stade de France, which is located in an impoverished suburb of northern Paris. Local thugs appear to have exploited the chaos on the night. Some were seen fighting with police outside the stadium. Among those seen vaulting the fences to get into the stadium without tickets were people not wearing Liverpool or Madrid colors, potentially therefore locals taking advantage of overwhelmed security.

The sight of "bands of delinquents hitting and robbing" fans was recalled by Spanish professional tennis player Feliciano López.

"I saw how one person jumped over the fence to get into the stadium, the same one who tried to rob me wanted to sneak past the turnstile to get into the stadium," López tweeted. "It was a complete shambles."

## STIGMATIZING FANS

According to some testimonies, the crowd management issues brought back disturbing memories of the Hillsborough Stadium disaster in 1989 that led to the deaths of 97 Liverpool fans. Hooliganism was rife in English football throughout the 1980s, and there were immediate attempts back then to falsely assign blame on the Liverpool fans and defend policing at the FA Cup match in Sheffield. A false narrative that blamed drunken, ticketless and rowdy Liverpool fans was created by police. It took decades of campaigning for Liverpool supporters to prove there was a cover-up by authorities who tried to blame them.

Now Liverpool fans are challenging the authorities again, this time in France. Darmanin, the French minister, claimed on Monday that "this kind of situation occurs" within certain clubs from Britain, stigmatizing Liverpool fans.

"All light must be shed," said Bouigue, the Parisian politician, "the responsibilities identified, and improvements made so that this type of chaos, which must have revived the Hillsborough tragedy for many fans, never happens again."

## Rachel Zegler to star in 'Hunger Games' prequel

By The Associated Press undefined

NEW YORK (AP) — Fresh off her breakthrough role in Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story," Rachel Zegler will star in Lionsgate's planned "Hunger Games" prequel.

The studio announced Tuesday that Zegler will play Lucy Gray Baird in "The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes," an extension of the "Hunger Games" saga that takes place decades before the adventures of Jennifer Lawrence's Katniss Everdeen. Katniss played in the 74th Hunger Games; Baird will be a part of the 10th Hunger Games.

Suzanne Collins, whose books were adapted into the \$3 billion blockbuster franchise, in 2020 published a prequel novel upon which "The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes" is based. In the film, Lucy Gray Baird, a tribute from the impoverished District 12, sings in a pivotal moment during the reaping ceremony. Zegler stars opposite Tom Blyth, who plays the 18-year-old Coriolanus Snow.

"Our casting team, Deb Zane and Dylan Jury, spearheaded an exhaustive search, reading hundreds of actors in search of our perfect Lucy Gray. That search ended when Rachel Zegler blew the roof off with her depth and breadth of talent as an actor, singer, and performer," said producer Nina Jacobson in a statement. "Rachel is utterly compelling; just like Lucy Gray, her voice and charisma command the stage while her inner strength and humanity transform those around her."

Lionsgate is to release the movie in theaters Nov. 17, 2023.

## Shanghai moves toward ending 2-month COVID-19 lockdown

By EMILY WANG FUJIYAMA and KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) — Shanghai authorities say they will take major steps Wednesday toward reopening China's largest city after a two-month COVID-19 lockdown that has set back the national economy and largely confined millions of people to their homes.

Already, a steady stream of people strolled in the Bund, the city's historic waterfront park, on a pleasant Tuesday night, some taking selfies against the bright lights of the Pudong financial district on the other side of the river. Elsewhere, people gathered outside to eat and drink under the watch of police deployed to discourage large crowds from forming.

Lu Kexin, a high school senior visiting the Bund for the first time since late March, said she went crazy being trapped at home for so long. "I'm very happy, extremely happy, all the way, too happy," she said. "I could die."

Vice Mayor Zong Ming announced that full bus and subway service will be restored on Wednesday, as will basic rail connections with the rest of China. Schools will partially reopen on a voluntary basis, and shopping malls, supermarkets, convenience stores and drug stores will reopen gradually at no more than 75% of their total capacity. Cinemas and gyms will remain closed.

"The epidemic has been effectively controlled," Zong said. She added that the city will enter the phase of fully restoring work and life on Wednesday.

Officials, who set June 1 as the target date for reopening earlier in May, appear ready to accelerate what has been a gradual easing in recent days. A few malls and markets have reopened, and some residents have been given passes allowing them out for a few hours at a time. In online chat groups, some expressed excitement about the prospect of being able to move about freely in the city for the first time since the end of March, while others remained cautious given the slow pace and stop-and-go nature of opening up so far.

Workers took down some of the barriers that had been erected along sidewalks during the lockdown. A few people walked or biked on the still mostly empty streets. One man got his hair cut on the sidewalk, a

common sight in recent days, as a worker or volunteer in full protective clothing looked on.

The most difficult part of the lockdown was psychological, said Cao Yue, who has worked in Shanghai for five years. She recalled the early days when it was difficult to buy food and she didn't know what to do. "It was quite depressing to be locked at home and see the whole Shanghai under lockdown," she said.

More than half a million people in the city of 25 million won't be allowed out Wednesday — 190,000 who are still in lockdown areas and another 450,000 who are in control zones because they live near recent cases.

Shanghai recorded 29 new cases on Monday, continuing a steady decline from more than 20,000 a day in April. Li Qiang, the top official from China's ruling Communist Party in Shanghai, was quoted as saying at a meeting Monday that the city had made major achievements in fighting the outbreak through continuous struggle.

The success came at a price. Authorities imposed a suffocating citywide lockdown under China's "zero-COVID" strategy that aims to snuff out any outbreak with mass testing and isolation at centralized facilities of anyone who is infected.

Huge temporary facilities were set up in exhibition centers and other venues to house thousands of people who had tested positive. Teams of health care and other workers flew in from around the country to help run the massive undertaking.

Factories were shuttered, or were allowed to operate only if workers slept on site to prevent the spread of the virus. Reduced production at semiconductor plants added to the global chip shortage. Containers backed up at the port of Shanghai because of a shortage of truck drivers to deliver them to their destinations.

Though it all, leaders of the ruling Communist Party repeatedly expressed a determination to stick to the "zero-COVID" policy even as other countries have opened their borders and are trying to "live with the virus." Outside economists widely expect China to fall short of its 5.5% growth target for this year.

However, the latest economic data showed that Chinese manufacturing activity started to rebound in May as the government rolled back some containment measures.

Schools will reopen for the final two years of high school and the third year of middle school, but students can decide whether to attend in person. Other grades and kindergarten remain closed.

Outdoor tourist sites will start reopening Wednesday, with indoor sites set to follow in late June, the Shanghai tourism authority said. Group tours from other provinces will be allowed again when the city has eliminated all high- and medium-risk pandemic zones.

Beijing, the nation's capital, further eased restrictions Tuesday in some districts. The city imposed limited lockdowns, but nothing near a citywide level, in a much smaller outbreak that appears to be on the wane. Beijing recorded 18 new cases on Monday.

## Rising US traffic deaths put focus on one Philadelphia road

By CLAUDIA LAUER Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Just one more step and the stroller would have been on the curb.

The thought haunts Latanya Byrd years after a driver racing down Roosevelt Boulevard in Philadelphia struck and killed her 27-year-old niece, Samara Banks, and three of Banks' young sons as they crossed the 12-lane road. Today, many of the conditions that led to the fatal 2013 crash still exist.

Since the crash, Byrd became an advocate for safer streets, fighting to get automated speed cameras placed along the boulevard where 10% to 13% of the city's traffic fatalities happened each year prior to the coronavirus pandemic, city officials said.

And now, amid a national surge in traffic fatalities that federal officials have called a crisis and studies showing Black communities have been hit even harder during the pandemic, plans to redesign the city's "corridor of death" — as some residents and safety advocates call Roosevelt — could be gaining traction.

Roosevelt Boulevard is an almost 14-mile (23-kilometer) maze of chaotic traffic patterns that passes through some of the city's most diverse neighborhoods and census tracts with the highest poverty rates. Driving can be dangerous with cars traversing between inner and outer lanes, but biking or walking on the boulevard can be even worse with some pedestrian crossings longer than a football field and taking four light cycles to cross.

"You would not design a street or a road like that today," said Christopher Puchalsky, policy director for

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 54 of 64

Philadelphia's Office of Transportation, Infrastructure and Sustainability. "It feels like an expressway, but it's in the middle and between neighborhoods."

Roosevelt Boulevard was first designed in the early 1900s, but as the northeast neighborhoods grew and it was connected to a major highway in the 1950s, lanes were repeatedly added to handle the growing number of cars.

Many of the city's ideas for fixing Roosevelt have been championed under new federal strategies. In the wake of increasing fatalities, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg has pushed a "safe system" approach, encouraging cities and states to take into account more than just driver behavior when designing roads.

The Biden administration also created funding for safety improvements, including the bipartisan infrastructure law and a \$5 billion federal aid package to cities over the next five years. Federal officials have pledged to prioritize equity when making funding decisions in the wake of a disproportionate 23% jump in Black traffic fatalities in 2020.

"We'll certainly remind the federal government when we are applying for grants of the equity priorities that the leadership has set out," Puchalsky said.

Kelley Yemen, director of Philadelphia's Complete Streets program, said the city is hoping for federal money to begin a long-term redesign of Roosevelt outlined in a study released in 2019. The two options would either make the center lanes a restricted expressway or cut speeds and convert car lanes to bicycle and transit lanes. Both carry billion-dollar price tags.

The study includes a series of smaller projects to improve safety at high-fatality stretches on the road by 2025, some already started, but residents are skeptical.

Eva Gbaa has been impatient to see changes. Her 17-year-old nephew, John "JJ" Gbaa Jr., was killed in a November 2018 hit-and-run as he tried to cross Roosevelt while walking home after hanging out with friends. He was alone at the time, and a lot of the circumstances of the crash were unknown.

A passerby found JJ and called the police, but he died at a hospital. No arrest has been made, and the family still agonizes over how someone could leave the big-hearted boy to die.

"JJ would ask me for money ... but I didn't know until his friends told me after he passed that he would buy them food if they didn't have any," said John Gbaa Sr., JJ's father. "He loved people. He'd give out his last dollar to his friends."

JJ and his father had moved to Philadelphia in 2017 to be closer to family, and JJ was making huge strides in school. He loved being near his cousins, and he would hang on his aunt as she cooked traditional African rice dishes.

"He would say, 'Auntie, when I graduate, I will go to college and then I will take care of you.' But he never had the chance," Eva Gbaa said, tamping down tears. "I hope, I hope they do something to make sure no family goes through this, so it doesn't happen again."

The family has started a school in JJ's honor in their home country of Liberia, the John G. Gbaa Jr. Academy for kindergarten through eighth grade, in hopes of giving his dream of education to others. They pay the teachers and send food, clothing and books to the students with the help of small donations.

Around Philadelphia, aggressive driving during the pandemic drove fatalities to 156 in 2020, a sharp increase from 90 deaths in 2019. Preliminary data from the Philadelphia Police Department showed a decrease in 2021 to 133 fatalities, still above pre-pandemic levels.

The data doesn't include the race or ethnicity of the people killed, but an Associated Press analysis showed fatalities in neighborhoods where more than 70% of residents are people of color increased from about 50% in 2019 to more than 67% in 2021. The number of accidents happening in the poorest neighborhoods also increased slightly.

Sonia Szczesna, director of active transportation for the Tristate Transportation Campaign, a nonprofit transportation advocacy organization, said Black and brown communities and low-income communities are often the most impacted by high-fatality roads.

"They divide these communities, and often residents have to travel these roadways by bike or by foot without access to high-quality public transportation. So there is an inequity in this infrastructure," Szczesna said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 55 of 64

Data for the first four months of 2022 showed more pedestrians died on Philadelphia roads so far this year than people in cars. And hit-and-runs were higher in the first four months of this year than the same time-frame in the previous two years, worrying police and other city officials.

But fatalities on Roosevelt stayed steady during the pandemic rather than increasing, Yemen said, largely because, she believes, of the pilot speed cameras.

Byrd, who co-founded the nonprofit advocacy group Families for Safe Streets, lobbied hard for the speed cameras, writing hundreds of personal letters to legislators telling them about her niece and her kids. The cameras went live at eight intersections in June 2020, but only after state legislation, a city ordinance and negotiations with the Philadelphia Parking Authority, which manages the program.

More than 224,000 warning tickets for driving more than 11 mph over the speed limit were issued in the first 30 days of a 60-day warning period, but by February 2021, that number had dropped to fewer than 17,000 tickets, according to data from the parking authority. Overall, speeding is down by more than 91% on the road, city and parking authority officials said.

Despite the impact, the cameras will sunset in 2023 unless extended by the Legislature.

The Federal Highway Administration gave states the green light this year to tap into federal funding to install speed cameras, saying they can reduce the number of injury crashes by 50%.

Byrd's niece Samara Banks was 21 and pregnant with her first child in 2007 when she found a four-bedroom house a few blocks south of Roosevelt Boulevard.

Her family had reservations because she'd have to cross the boulevard any time she wanted to visit. But Banks' mother had just died and she needed the larger home so she could take in her four younger siblings and raise her own family.

Byrd said Banks was the kind of mom and auntie who always had something planned. "At all of the family get-togethers, she would always get all the kids in a circle and have them playing games and doing dances, or she'd make up these little skits for them to do. She always had a plan and the kids always came first," Byrd said.

After spending a hot July day visiting and swimming and having water balloon fights with the kids, Banks decided to walk home rather than calling a cab to take her the mile (1.6 kilometers) across Roosevelt, as she usually did.

She was pushing her 7-month-old, Saa'mir Williams, and 23-month-old, Saa'sean Williams, in a double stroller. Her 4-year-old, Saa'deem Griffin, was holding onto the stroller and walking beside her.

Witnesses told police that two cars had been racing, weaving between other cars and speeding down the boulevard. One of the drivers lost control and slammed into the family, throwing Banks more than 200 feet and crumpling the stroller. She and the three children died.

Banks' younger sister and 5-year-old son, Saa'yon Griffin, were walking ahead and survived the crash.

Officials have since installed a traffic signal and pedestrian crossing at the intersection, renamed Banks Way in honor of the young mother. The two men accused of racing were eventually convicted or pleaded guilty to charges in the deaths. One of the men was a teenager when his own mother had died crossing Roosevelt Boulevard.

"It was hard. I would tell Saa'yon he needed to be strong, and I remember there was this once he just stomped his foot and said no," Byrd said. "He told me he was tired of being strong and he just wanted his mom and his brothers back. We all do."

## US consumer confidence slips in May amid stubborn inflation

By MATT OTT AP Business Writer  
SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP) —

U.S. consumer confidence edged lower in May as Americans' view of their present and future prospects dimmed in the midst of persistent inflation.

The Conference Board said Tuesday that its consumer confidence index dipped to 106.4 in May — still a strong reading — from 108.6 in April.

The business research group's present situation index, which measures consumers' assessment of current

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 56 of 64

business and labor conditions, also fell in May to 149.6 from 152.9 in April.

The expectations index, based on consumers' six-month outlook for income, business and labor market conditions, also declined in May, to 77.5 from 79 in April. It was above 80 in February and remains a weak spot in the survey.

President Joe Biden will meet with Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell on Tuesday as soaring inflation continues to carve up Americans' earnings.

The meeting Tuesday will be the first since Biden renominated Powell to lead the central bank and weeks after the Senate confirmed a second term. The White House said the pair would discuss the state of the U.S. and global economy and especially four-decade high inflation, described as Biden's "top economic priority."

The Federal Reserve raised its main borrowing rate by a half point in early May, the main mechanism for combatting inflation. Multiple rate hikes, with the possibility of more half-point increases, are expected this year.

Inflation soared over the past year at its fastest pace in more than 40 years, with rising costs for just about everything negating Americans' pay raises.

The Labor Department reported earlier in May that consumer prices jumped 8.3% last month from a year ago. That was below the 8.5% year-over-year surge in March, which was the highest since 1981. On a monthly basis, prices rose 0.3% from March to April, the smallest rise in eight months.

U.S. producer prices soared 11% in April from a year earlier, a hefty gain that indicates high inflation will remain a burden for consumers and businesses in the months ahead.

Consumers were again slightly less optimistic about the labor market, even as U.S. employers have added at least 400,000 jobs for 12 straight months, pushing the unemployment rate down to 3.6%. That's the lowest rate since the pandemic erupted two years ago and just above the half-century low of 3.5% that was reached two years ago.

Purchasing intentions for big-ticket items -- cars, homes and major appliances -- all cooled slightly, the Conference Board said. Rising costs remain the top concern for consumers, as their inflation expectations were mostly unchanged from April's elevated levels.

"Looking ahead, expect surging prices and additional interest rate hikes to pose continued downside risks to consumer spending this year," said Lynn Franco, the Conference Board's senior director of economic indicators.

## Young caregivers 'exist in the shadows,' offer crucial help

By TOM MURPHY AP Health Writer

PLANO, Texas (AP) — Ronan Kotiya leans over his father, fingers wrapped around a plastic tube he's about to slide from a tracheostomy hole in dad's neck.

"3, 2, 1, go," the 11-year-old says as he removes the tube. His mom slips a padded neck brace on her husband and lifts him into a sitting position on their bed.

Ronan's 9-year-old brother, Keaton, waits nearby, ready to connect their dad, Rupesh Kotiya, to a portable ventilator.

"Ronan, do you want to suction daddy's mouth and then get ready to go?" Siobhan Pandya asks after her son steers dad's power wheelchair into the living room of the family's Plano, Texas, home.

"Thanks buddy, good job," a robotic voice crackles from a tablet Kotiya uses to speak.

So begins another weekend for the brothers — two Harry Potter fans with mouths full of braces, a knack for building with Legos and some heavy caregiving responsibilities.

Their 46-year-old father has Lou Gehrig's disease, a fatal illness that has taken his ability to speak and walk. A ventilator helps him breathe. He uses eye-tracking software on the tablet to say things, blinks to indicate yes or moves his mouth side to side for no.

As many as 10 million children in the U.S. may provide some form of care at home, according to researcher Melinda Kavanaugh. Some kids are the only caregivers patients have, while others fill in when visiting nurses or other help is not available.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 57 of 64

These children help cancer patients, military veterans, grandparents with heart disease or autistic siblings. They're often too young to drive, and their work frequently goes unnoticed outside the home.

"They exist in the shadows," said Kavanaugh, an associate professor of social work at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Kavanaugh and other researchers say the number of young caregivers is growing, and they need support. Caregiving is a task that children like Ronan and Keaton take seriously and something that their mom hopes will shape them into empathetic, strong young men.

But getting there first involves a daily struggle to balance being a kid with living in a very grown-up world.

Ronan grabs a handful of toy cars and kneels on a clinic floor at Texas Neurology in Dallas.

His opponent, a freckle-faced boy named Charlie, waits a few feet away, ready to smash cars together. First to tip over loses.

"Y'all are savages," says Evie, a skinny 9-year-old prone to spontaneous dance.

The children have gathered in the clinic on a sunny Saturday afternoon to learn more about caring for people with Lou Gehrig's disease, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. These seven children — ages 8 to 12 — help care for a parent or grandparent with ALS, an illness that destroys nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control muscle movement.

Kavanaugh lined up several specialists to teach as part of a program called YCare that she has taken to several cities. A dietitian showed the kids how to make food the right consistency so patients don't choke. A respiratory therapist explained the important parts of a device that helps people cough to clear mucus.

In one training session, speech therapist Heather Gallas discusses eye tracking technology that allows patients to spell out words and communicate with a tablet.

She holds up a laminated letter board and asks the kids to try. Evie silently points to every letter in her name.

Then Keaton takes a turn.

S-U-C-T-I-O-N.

Gallas pauses, "Is that something your dad needs a lot?"

Keaton nods.

Aside from providing training, one of Kavanaugh's main goals was to simply let the young caregivers meet. Loneliness is a problem, one that grew worse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"A 10-year-old at school is not going to talk about toileting or bathing their parent, but they are going to talk about it here," Kavanaugh said.

In the afternoon, the kids trade email addresses and phone numbers, and The ALS Association's Texas chapter starts making plans for a pizza party reunion this summer.

Doctors diagnosed Rupesh Kotiya with ALS in October 2014, a month before his boys turned 4 and 2. Ronan and Keaton have no memories of him without the illness.

They started pitching in with care a few years ago, first by wiping away their dad's tears or propping up his head during car rides.

Then they started helping Pandya move their father in and out of bed or onto the toilet. They pull down his shorts and underwear while she lifts him to the seat.

They also put on his socks and shoes, help change his shorts, crush medicines or mix mouthwash with water.

Pandya, a senior director with the skin care and cosmetics company Mary Kay, has daytime and evening caregivers for her husband during the week. But she has no paid assistance overnight or on the weekends, so the boys have had to step up.

"To be honest, they're doing tasks some adults don't want to do," Pandya said.

Pandya tries to balance the boys' caregiving with activities that offer some normalcy. Keaton takes tennis lessons and coding classes. Ronan plays striker on a youth soccer team.

Soccer balls, frisbees and basketballs lay scattered around the Kotiyas' small suburban backyard.

Both boys play piano, and Keaton paints prolifically. Stacks of his work fill shelves in their upstairs playroom.

Ronan, who wrote a short book about his dad, sees his father's fight against ALS as a superhero battle. He and his brother are among the many weapons used.

Keaton shows his frustration sometimes, especially with the amount of care his dad needs.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 58 of 64

"He's been having a few accidents these last few days," Keaton said. "One time he went three times that day, and I was really looking forward to doing something that day, but I couldn't do it because ... yeah."

In the end, Pandya sees the boys' caregiving as a positive. She hopes Ronan and Keaton eventually look back and recognize how much they gained by helping someone they love.

"If you're caring for somebody that ... has a clock ticking, then you don't want to take that time away," she said. "Being able to wipe their tears or wipe their mouth or hold their hand, those are some of the memories that they're going to cherish."

The boys know their dad is getting worse.

Keaton says it is getting harder for his dad to blink. He remembers one recent night when Rupesh slept for over 12 hours and then took a long nap the next afternoon.

"I'm like, should I be worried?" he said.

Frustration, devotion and heartbreak all swirl around in their still-developing brains.

Therapist Sarah Sutton recently had the boys draw up bucket lists of things they want to do with their dad.

Keaton shares a love of food with Rupesh, so he asked for a trip to Italy. The family found a more practical alternative: a drive to an Italian food market and restaurants in nearby Dallas.

Sutton has seen the boys regularly for a few years. She's been trying to get them to recognize and understand all the emotions hitting them so they don't keep everything bottled up.

When they visit, she also tries to give them a fun activity they can control. Play — kids being kids — is crucial for development.

"We play out conflict. We play out resolution. We play out the stories that are going on inside us," Sutton says.

During a recent visit, Sutton breaks out the board game Candy Land. She tells the boys that each colored card in the game will represent an emotion, and they get to decide which ones.

Then they draw cards with the idea of discussing whatever feeling comes up.

Sutton also tries to nudge the boys into talking about their dad. They deflect, focusing instead on a painting on her wall. Then the singer Rick Astley comes up.

Keaton pretends to be a therapist. "Do you have a girlfriend?" he asks.

"No, you're an awful therapist," Ronan replies.

Ronan only allows at one point that his dad is "doing good."

Sutton draws double green in their game. That represents disgust or unfairness.

"I think it's unfair that terrible things happen to people," she says.

The boys avoid the bait. They eat Hershey's Kisses. They trade scribbles on an Etch A Sketch. Someone farts. The session devolves into fits of giggles.

"Have you guys been laughing like this all day?" Sutton says. "Laughter without any anger or fighting is so wonderful."

When the session ends, Sutton's floor is strewn with candy wrappers.

The boys head for their mom's waiting van so they can return home and set up a living room campout.

Pandya started letting Ronan and Keaton roll out sleeping bags on their living room rug each weekend during the pandemic. It began as a treat when they couldn't go anywhere else.

Rupesh started using a ventilator just before the pandemic hit. The boys stayed home from school for 17 months as Pandya tried to keep everyone from catching the virus.

She also has an ulterior motive in allowing the campouts: Having the boys sleep next to their parents' bedroom instead of upstairs in their shared room makes it easier to summon their help.

The boys may have to get trash bags and gloves if their dad has an accident during the night.

Before they set up camp, the boys change into pajamas, and the family settles in the living room to watch the kids' show "Legends of the Hidden Temple."

Ronan and Keaton curl up on a couch and loveseat while Pandya changes her husband's shirt and pours medicine into his feeding tube. The ventilator hums.

The show ends, and Keaton takes his turn to steer dad back to the bedroom, where Pandya lifts him onto the mattress.

Keaton uses a long wand to suction saliva pooling in his dad's mouth. Ronan then holds his father on his side as Pandya straightens her husband's shirt and shorts. After that, the boy pats his dad softly on his back and lays him flat. Pandya finishes getting her husband ready for bed while Ronan and Keaton scamper back to the living room. There, they sprawl on top of sleeping bags, munching chips and candy as they squeeze in a little more TV before crawling inside to sleep.

## Some Democrats voting in GOP primaries to block Trump picks

By STEVE PEOPLES and AARON KESSLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Diane Murray struggled with her decision all the way up to Election Day.

But when the time came, the 54-year-old Georgia Democrat cast a ballot in last week's Republican primary for Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger. While state law allowed her to participate in either party's primary, she said it felt like a violation of her core values to vote for the Republican. But it had to be done, she decided, to prevent a Donald Trump -backed "election denier" from becoming the battleground state's election chief.

"I feel strongly that our democracy is at risk, and that people who are holding up the big lie, as we call it, and holding onto the former president are dangerous to democracy," said Murray, who works at the University of Georgia. "I don't know I'll do it again because of how I felt afterward. I just felt icky."

Raffensperger, a conservative who refused to support the former president's direct calls to overturn the 2020 election, probably would not have won the May 24 Republican primary without people like Murray.

An Associated Press analysis of early voting records from data firm L2 found that more than 37,000 people who voted in Georgia's Democratic primary two years ago cast ballots in last week's Republican primary, an unusually high number of so-called crossover voters. Even taking into account the limited sample of early votes, the data reveal that crossover voters were consequential in defeating Trump's hand-picked candidates for secretary of state and, to a lesser extent, governor.

Gov. Brian Kemp did not ultimately need Democrats in his blowout victory against his Trump-backed opponent, but Raffensperger probably did. The Republican secretary of state cleared the 50% threshold required to avoid a runoff election by just over 27,000 votes, according to the latest AP tallies. Based on early voting data alone, 37,144 former Democrats voted in the Republican primary. The total number of crossovers including Election Day votes, set to be revealed in the coming weeks, may be even higher.

Crossover voting, also known as strategic voting, is not exclusive to Georgia this primary season as voters across the political spectrum work to stop Trump-backed extremists from winning control of state and federal governments. The phenomenon is playing out in multiple primary contests, sometimes organically and sometimes in response to a coordinated effort by Trump's opponents.

While Trump railed against the practice over the weekend, there is nothing inherently wrong with crossover voting. Dozens of states make it legal and easy for voters to participate in either party's primary. And there are several isolated incidents of both parties engaging in strategic voting over the years.

Still, Trump warned conservatives about crossover voting while campaigning Saturday in Wyoming, another state where the former president's opponents are calling for Democrats to intervene — this time to help save Rep. Liz Cheney from a Trump-backed primary challenger. Cheney, like Raffensperger and Kemp, refused to embrace Trump's lies about the 2020 election. She also voted for his second impeachment after the Jan. 6 insurrection.

"Don't let the Democrats do what they did in another state last week," Trump told Wyoming supporters, complaining about what happens "when you allow Democrats to vote in a Republican primary."

While the practice has Trump's attention, it is often ineffective.

Trump's opponents encouraged Democrats to help defeat U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene in her Georgia primary last week. The congresswoman, who has embraced election lies and spoken at an event organized by a white nationalist, won by more than 50 percentage points.

And in some cases, Democrats have been too focused on their own competitive primaries to cast a Republican ballot. That was probably the case in Pennsylvania, where some Democrats openly encouraged

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 60 of 64

their base to vote for the Republican candidate for governor, Doug Mastriano, whose extreme views they felt made him more beatable in November.

To cast a ballot in the May 17 GOP primary, however, voters needed to register as Republicans ahead of the contest because Pennsylvania has a "closed primary" system. And on the same day, Democrats were deciding their own high-stakes Senate primary.

If the advance vote in Pennsylvania is any indication, few Democrats heeded the call to vote GOP.

Of Republican primary voters who cast early or absentee ballots this year, only 1.7 percent voted Democratic in the 2020 primary. Those 2,600 votes, even if ultimately bolstered by more Election Day participants, were unlikely to have moved the needle in an outcome in which Mastriano beat his closest rival by nearly 320,000.

On the forefront of the crossover movement, Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., has called for an "uneasy alliance" between Democrats, independents and Republicans to take down pro-Trump candidates in GOP primaries whenever and wherever possible. Some states have open primaries like Georgia that allow people to vote in either primary, while other states have more restrictive rules.

In an interview, Kinzinger said he was pleasantly surprised by the Democrats' response in some races. He said he never expected the movement to be an "earth-shattering game-changer" right away.

Kinzinger's political organization, Country First, targeted thousands of former Georgia Democrats with mailers and text messages urging them to support Raffensperger for the sake of democracy.

A Country First text message widely distributed to Georgia voters in the days before the election read: "Don't wait for until the general election to go after the extremes. Vote in the Republican Primary for the candidate that supports truth and democracy."

Kinzinger's team was also active in North Carolina's closely watched congressional race in North Carolina's 11th District, where voters ousted the polarizing pro-Trump freshman Rep. Madison Cawthorn in the Republican primary.

As was the case in Georgia, the AP found a sizable percentage of Republican early ballots were cast by voters who participated in the Democratic primary two years ago. Specifically, more than 14% of the 38,000 early or absentee votes cast in the Cawthorn race — more than 5,400 voters — came from a Democratic 2020 primary voter.

Cawthorn lost his primary by fewer than 1,500 votes.

Back in Georgia, Raffensperger's team pushed back on the idea that he won the GOP primary because of Democrats. The team suggested that a number of crossover voters were actually Republicans who voted Democratic in recent years to protest Trump.

"It is clear that Brad Raffensperger carried a majority of the Republican vote here in the state of Georgia, and that there are people who stopped voting in Republican primaries after 2016 who are now reengaged," said Jordan Fuchs, a consultant to the Raffensperger campaign.

An AP examination of voting records from before the Trump era shows at least a portion of Georgia's 37,000 party switchers in 2022 had been in the Republican camp before Trump took office. Roughly between 9,000 to 13,000 voted Republican in the 2010, 2012 and 2014 primaries, according to the L2 data.

Trump allies in the state, caught off guard by the crossover trend, were furious.

"It was a Democratic version of 'Operation Chaos,'" said Debbie Dooley, president of the Atlanta Tea Party, referring to the secret Nixon-era push to infiltrate liberal groups. "I did not realize just how heavily the Democrats were going to cross over."

Dooley launched a petition late last week to close Georgia's Republican primaries to non-Republicans. More than a dozen states have closed, or partially closed, primaries that block members of opposing parties from participating.

Meanwhile, Kinzinger said he's already crafting plans to execute a similar playbook in coming primaries in Michigan, Wyoming and Alaska. In addition to helping Sen. Lisa Murkowski, the Alaska Republican who voted to convict Trump in his second impeachment trial, Kinzinger said he's weighing whether to invest resources in trying to block former Gov. Sarah Palin's congressional bid.

"Donald Trump came in and took over the Republican Party with nationalism," Kinzinger said. "The American people have every right to determine who represents them in a congressional district, and if that's in a

primary, that's in a primary. If they want to take back the Republican Party from the liar, they can do that, and I'm certainly going to help them."

## Empty spaces, broken hearts in a Texas town gutted by loss

By CLAIRE GALOFARO AP National Writer

UVALDE, Texas (AP) — Josie Albrecht drove frantically from house to house, retracing the school bus route she drives twice a day, delivering Uvalde's children safely to and from school.

When she'd picked them up, hours earlier, they wore giddy grins, excited for summer break just days away: soccer, softball, freedom. She'd planned a pizza party to celebrate that afternoon. But before she could pick them up and drive them home, a gunman walked into their school and started shooting.

Now, days later, she was drawn to the town square and the 21 white crosses erected there, one for each of the 19 children and two teachers whose deaths left gaping holes in the marrow of a small town.

"It's my job to take them home. I didn't take my babies home," Albrecht wailed, over and over.

In a town this small, 15,000 people, even those who didn't lose their own child lost someone -- their best friend, the little boy down the road who dribbled his basketball in the driveway, the kid who stood on the curb, backpack in hand, waiting for the bus. They see the empty spaces they left behind everywhere. The bus seats they won't sit in. A baseball glove they won't wear. Front doors they won't skip from to join the neighborhood game of tag. Rivers they won't fish in.

The town's rhythms have always centered around their children. Before the shooting shattered their world, "what's your son up to?" or "your daughter played a great game" were the most common exchanges when they run into people they knew, which was all the time because everyone knows everyone. If one of Albrecht's riders misbehaved, she'd remind them that she knew their parents and grandparents and aunts and uncles.

Some say now that closeness is both their blessing and their curse: They can lean on each other to grieve. But every single one of them is grieving.

Albrecht calls her little riders "my kids," and in the chaotic hours after the rampage, she was desperate to know if they'd made it home safe. She drove house to house. She reached the one where 10-year-old Rojelio Torres every morning waited at the curb with his little brother and sister. As he'd climb on, he'd always asked to sit in the back because that's where the "visiting" happens and he liked to visit. He was "like a bull," she said -- charismatic, funny. He loved hot Takis. But he wasn't home. His family stood shocked and weeping on the lawn. She knew.

A few days later, she brought a toy school bus to place at his cross at the memorial. "I love you and will miss you," she wrote on it, and drew a broken heart at the place where he used to sit, in the back.

She wept, agonizing that she couldn't save him, and a local doctor hugged her. "There was nothing you could do," said John Preddy, a family practitioner, who delivered two of these dead children and cared for them all their short lives, their scraped knees and runny noses.

His office a few blocks away is decorated in an old west style, with John Wayne memorabilia, because he wants the kids to have fun.

"You spend your life trying to keep them healthy and to watch these kids grow," he said. "He took away in a matter of seconds what their mothers and their fathers and their grandparents and I and everyone has done to try to make their lives good and make them healthy and move them ahead and make them successful in the world. That literally got snuffed out in a matter of seconds."

He looked around the square, which used to be a sleepy park, ringed by antique shops, the town's theater, a barber. And now it's the heart of their mourning: The mounds of flowers and gifts at the foot of the crosses are 2 feet tall -- a tangible expression of unspeakable grief. Days after the shooting, they added a 22nd cross for Joe Garcia, the husband of teacher Irma Garcia, who died trying to protect her students. Two days after the attack, he visited this memorial to her, brought her flowers, went home and died of a heart attack.

"This destroys lives," said Preddy, who's been a doctor here for 30 years. "It's our lives, these kids are our lives."

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 62 of 64

He tried to do the math: 19 children, each with parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles.

"When you start adding that up and you spread it out, there's thousands of connections that those kids have: teachers, bus drivers, people that cut their hair. All of that is interconnected," he said. "So they touch thousands of people's lives, these kids, pretty much everybody in town."

The mourners left things these children had cherished and will never touch again: a flower made from pipe cleaners, a wreath of crayons, Hot Wheels, a princess crown, a baseball on which someone had written "good game," a bag of chocolate-covered pretzels.

The white crosses are covered in messages written in Sharpie.

"Mommy loves you."

"I will eat a smore just for you."

"I will take care of your grandma."

As people arrived at the square, they hugged and pleaded: "Why? Why? Why? Why?"

They need answers, Preddy said.

The police have changed the account of their response many times, finally admitting days after the shooting that officers gathered in the hallway of the school waited more than an hour to storm the classrooms where the gunman was holed up, as children inside called 911 over and over, whispering pleas to save them.

The political questions are also thundering through town: How could a troubled young man walk out of a gun shop with a weapon made for war days after his 18th birthday, asked Preddy and many others.

Preddy, a gun-owning conservative, also wondered: How could this country have done nothing for a decade after 20 students and six adults were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut?

"Our kids can't live like this, they can't. We can't let my kids, my grandkids live like this for the rest of their lives and for their kids' lives," he said. "We just can't have that."

People are scared. The places where these kids would have played are closed or quiet. A sign hanging on the door of a candy shop said the community needed time to heal. At the city park, the swing sets were empty. No kids played in the wooden climbing castle where they used to carve their names and their crushes. The ones who died never will again.

"It feels empty, there's an emptiness to it," said Lydia Carrasco, a 76-year-old grandmother who likes to come to the park to eat breakfast and watch kids run around. "It just feels lonesome, that you don't see the children."

Down her road, her neighbor's boy was killed, and she used to love to hear him playing basketball in the driveway. She feels helpless, because she knows so many people who lost children, and she has no idea what to say to console them. She lost her own son earlier this month; he was 57. It's a hurt that's hard to explain: It feels unnatural, she said, to bury a child. They are supposed to outlive you, be your legacy, and then that's over, all of a sudden.

She likes to watch the kids play because it reminds her of when her own children were young and free and innocent. But it feels like her whole town has been robbed of that innocence.

Raquel Martinez and her four children stayed home for days, holding each other. They're scared, she said. Her two daughters, 15 and 11 years old, stood crying at a memorial. They'd both been taught by the two teachers who died, Irma Garcia and Eva Mireles. They were kind, the girls said, always smiling, always helpful. Their 8-year-old cousin was in the school at the time but made it out alive.

"Heartbreaking," Martinez said, doesn't sound like a big enough word for this. "Heart-shattering," she offered, instead.

The family left home for the first time a few days after the shooting to go to the grocery, then drop off flowers for their fallen teachers and children. Martinez kept her kids close.

"I don't feel safe anywhere," she said. "You'd never think this could happen here. How can you know where it's going to happen next and when?"

They'd had big plans for the summer, soccer, softball, playing outside with their friends. But they don't know about any of that anymore.

"That's the worst part about it," Martinez said. "They were almost out of school, just days away, they were getting ready to just be kids, be free."

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 63 of 64

Across town, 8-year-old Jeremiah Lennon sits quietly on his couch most of the time, staring off into space. Before all this, he was an excitable kid, said his grandma, Brenda Morales. He'd come home from school, eat, head outside to play tag or hide and seek with the neighborhood children.

"He's different now," Morales said. He doesn't eat much. He doesn't talk much, either. "He's changed. Everything's changed."

The third grader had been in a classroom just next to the rooms where the shooter holed up.

The 15 kids in his class sat on the ground in the corner, as quiet as they could be, he said. The gunman tried to get in but the door was locked. Jeremiah said he was mad at first, because they were missing recess. He was also terrified: "I was scared I would get shot, my friends would get shot."

He told his mom later that some of his classmates were crying, and he wanted to be brave and strong for them, so he did not let himself cry.

Outside the school's walls, word started spreading.

His mom, Ashley Morales, rushed to the civic center where parents were told they'd be reunited with their kids. She waited there for two hours; it seemed like an eternity. Then Jeremiah emerged, the last kid out. She hugged him and wept. "My baby, my baby, what would happen if I didn't have my baby?"

Their family has lived here generations. They're connected somehow to just about everyone in town, so when the names started to emerge of the children who died, they were stunned.

Three of Jeremiah's friends died, including a boy who lived across the courtyard of his apartment complex -- the boys had played together almost every day. Two of their cousins lost daughters, and a neighbor lost a daughter, too. Ashley's co-workers at a fast-food restaurant lost relatives; she asks them how they're doing and they try to put on a brave face and say they're OK, but she knows they are not.

Her mother, Brenda Morales, said they've struggled with guilt: Jeremiah made it out alive and so many others didn't.

"I don't know why he decided to kill my friends," said the boy, bouncing nervously on a trampoline. They don't know what to say, except that his friends are in heaven now with God.

They also don't know what to say when he tells them he doesn't want to go back to school in the fall.

"They'll kill me," he says.

He wants to be a police officer when he grows up, "so I can arrest bad guys, the people who have the guns." He wants his friends to feel safe again.

Every time they walk out of their apartment, he gazes across the courtyard to the door where his best friend had lived.

He reminds his mom: "My friend isn't there anymore."

## Today in History: June 1, GM enters bankruptcy protection

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, June 1, the 152nd day of 2022. There are 213 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 1, 1813, the mortally wounded commander of the USS Chesapeake, Capt. James Lawrence, gave the order, "Don't give up the ship" during a losing battle with the British frigate HMS Shannon in the War of 1812.

On this date:

In 1533, Anne Boleyn, the second wife of King Henry VIII, was crowned as Queen Consort of England.

In 1792, Kentucky became the 15th state.

In 1796, Tennessee became the 16th state.

In 1812, President James Madison, in a message to Congress, recounted what he called Britain's "series of acts hostile to the United States as an independent and neutral nation"; Congress ended up declaring war.

In 1916, Louis Brandeis took his seat as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, the first Jewish American to serve on the nation's highest bench.

In 1943, a civilian flight from Portugal to England was shot down by Germany during World War II, killing all

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 329 ~ 64 of 64

17 people aboard, including actor Leslie Howard.

In 1957, Don Bowden, a student at the University of California at Berkeley, became the first American to break the four-minute mile during a meet in Stockton, California, in a time of 3:58.7.

In 1958, Charles de Gaulle became premier of France, marking the beginning of the end of the Fourth Republic.

In 1967, the Beatles album "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" was released.

In 1980, Cable News Network made its debut.

In 2009, General Motors filed for Chapter 11, becoming the largest U.S. industrial company to enter bankruptcy protection.

In 2020, police violently broke up a peaceful and legal protest by thousands of people in Lafayette Park across from the White House, using chemical agents, clubs and punches to send protesters fleeing; the protesters had gathered following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis a week earlier. President Donald Trump, after declaring himself "the president of law and order" and threatening to deploy the U.S. military in a Rose Garden speech, then walked across the empty park to be photographed holding a Bible in front of St. John's Church, which had been damaged a night earlier in a protest fire. A Minneapolis medical examiner classified George Floyd's death as a homicide, saying his heart stopped as police restrained him and compressed his neck.

Ten years ago: A judge in Sanford, Florida, revoked the bond of the neighborhood watch volunteer charged with murdering Trayvon Martin and ordered him returned to jail within 48 hours, saying George Zimmerman and his wife had misled the court about how much money they had available when his bond was set at \$150,000. (Zimmerman was ultimately acquitted of the murder charge.)

Five years ago: President Donald Trump declared he was pulling the U.S. from the landmark Paris climate agreement. (President Joe Biden signed an order returning the U.S. to that accord on his first day in office.)

One year ago: Marking the 100th anniversary of the massacre that destroyed a thriving Black community in Tulsa, Oklahoma, President Joe Biden made a plea for sweeping legislation to protect the right to vote. The Biden administration suspended oil and gas leases in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, reversing a drilling program approved by the Trump administration. The Biden administration formally ended a Trump-era immigration policy that forced asylum-seekers to wait in Mexico for hearings in U.S. immigration court. Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a measure making Florida the latest state to bar transgender girls and women from playing on public school teams intended for students identified as girls at birth. The Vatican released new provisions of Catholic Church law that explicitly criminalized the sexual abuse of adults by priests who abuse their authority.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Pat Boone is 88. Actor Morgan Freeman is 85. Opera singer Frederica von Stade is 77. Actor Brian Cox is 76. Rock musician Ronnie Wood is 75. Actor Jonathan Pryce is 75. Actor Gemma Craven is 72. Actor John M. Jackson (TV: "JAG," "NCIS: Los Angeles") is 72. Blues-rock musician Tom Principato is 70. Country singer Ronnie Dunn is 69. Actor Lisa Hartman Black is 66. Actor Tom Irwin is 66. Singer-musician Alan Wilder is 63. Rock musician Simon Gallup (The Cure) is 62. Actor-comedian Mark Curry is 61. Actor-singer Jason Donovan is 54. Actor Teri Polo is 53. Basketball player-turned-coach Tony Bennett is 53. Actor Rick Gomez is 50. Model-actor Heidi Klum is 49. Singer Alanis Morissette is 48. Actor Sarah Wayne Callies is 45. Comedian Link Neal (Rhett & Link) is 44. TV personality Damien Fahey is 42. Americana singer-songwriter Brandi Carlile is 41. Actor Johnny Pemberton is 41. Actor-writer Amy Schumer is 41. Former tennis player Justine Henin is 40. Actor Taylor Handley is 38. Actor Zazie Beetz is 31. Actor Willow Shields is 22.