

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 1 of 63

[1- Upcoming Events](#)

[1- Guthmiller 26th at State](#)

[2- Election Results](#)

[5- Jr. Legion beats Milbank Teeners twice](#)

[6- City Council Story](#)

[7- Groton wins six of seven Clay Target Awards at Aberdeen Tournament](#)

[8- Weber Landscaping Ad](#)

[9- Weather Pages](#)

[13- Daily Devotional](#)

[14- 2022 Community Events](#)

[15- Subscription Form](#)

[16- News from the Associated Press](#)

Carly finished in 26th place at the State Golf Meet. She shot 48 front and 48 back for 96

Wednesday, June 8

Senior Menu: Taco salad, Mexican rice, fresh fruit, bread stick

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

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

5:30 p.m.: U12 hosts Jacobson, DH

6 p.m.: U8 SB at Doland, 1 game

7 p.m.: U10 SB at Doland, 1 game

5 p.m.: T-Ball Black at Doland

Thursday, June 9

Senior Menu: Oven-Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, buttermilk biscuits, banana pudding with bananas.

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

5 p.m.: Legion hosts Mobridge, 1 game

7 p.m.: Jr. Legion hosts Mobridge, 1 game

PP to June 22: Jr. Teeners at Britton, DH

6 p.m.: U12 SB hosts Webster, DH, Nelson Field

6 p.m.: U8 SB hosts Webster, 1 game, Nelson Field

7 p.m.: U10 SB hosts Webster, 1 game, Nelson Field

Friday, June 10

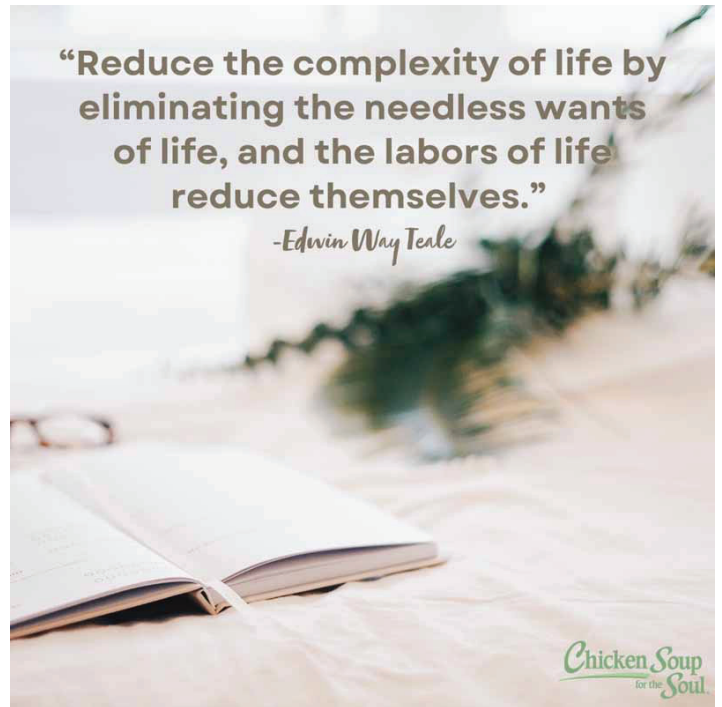
Senior Menu: Turkey sub sandwich, potato salad, broccoli, fruit, cookie.

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.

“Reduce the complexity of life by eliminating the needless wants of life, and the labors of life reduce themselves.”

-Edwin Way Teale



Chicken Soup
for the Soul

6 p.m.: U10 hosts Renegades, DH, (R/B), Nelson Field

6 p.m.: T-Ball Scrimmage

Saturday, June 11

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

U10 at Aberdeen Tourney (R/W)

U8 Tourney in Groton

3 Team Pool Play

POOL A (Falk Field)

9:00 Groton White vs Britton

10:15 Hannigan vs Britton

11:30 Groton White vs Hannigan

Pool B (Nelson Field)

9:00 Groton Red vs Borge

10:15 Borge vs Milbank

11:30 Groton Red vs Milbank

12:45 Pool A #3 vs Pool B #3 Falk Field

1:30 Pool A #2 vs Pool B #2 Nelson Field

2:45 Pool A #1 vs Pool B #1 Falk Field

© 2022 Groton Daily Independent

Groton Daily Independent


Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 2 of 63

UNITED STATES SENATOR

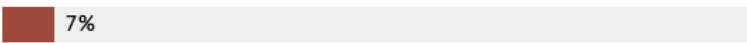
FOLLOW THIS CONTEST

PRECINCTS FULLY: 677 / 679 | PARTIALLY: 2 / 679



JOHN R. THUNE
Republican  72% 85,595

BRUCE WHALEN
Republican  20% 24,061

MARK MOWRY
Republican  7% 8,826


TOTAL VOTES **118,482**

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

FOLLOW THIS CONTEST

PRECINCTS FULLY: 677 / 679 | PARTIALLY: 2 / 679



DUSTY JOHNSON
Republican  59% 70,715

TAFFY HOWARD
Republican  41% 48,628

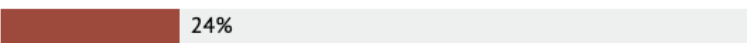
TOTAL VOTES **119,343**

GOVERNOR

FOLLOW THIS CONTEST

PRECINCTS FULLY: 677 / 679 | PARTIALLY: 2 / 679



STEVEN HAUGAARD
Republican  24% 28,310

KRISTI NOEM
Republican  76% 91,636

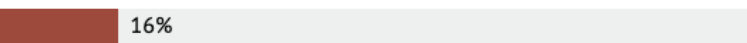
TOTAL VOTES **119,946**

COUNTY COMMISSIONER AT LARGE - BROWN

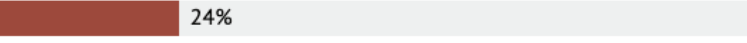
FOLLOW THIS CONTEST

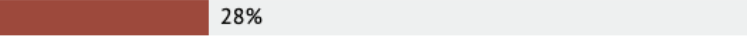
VOTE CENTERS FULLY: 12 / 12 | PARTIALLY: 0 / 12

EXPORT

MIKE RUSSELL
Republican  16% 1,500

DREW DENNERT
Republican  33% 3,118

MIKE GAGE
Republican  24% 2,225

MIKE WIESE
Republican  28% 2,600

TOTAL VOTES **9,443**

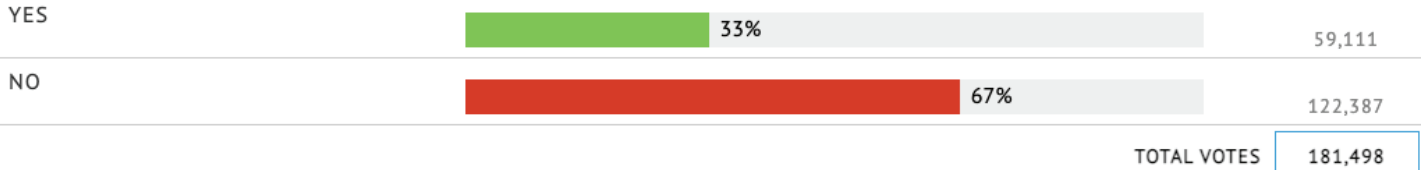
Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 3 of 63

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT C: A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REQUIRING THREE-FIFTHS VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF BALLOT MEASURES IMPOSING TAXES OR FEES OR OBLIGATING OVER \$10 MILLION.

FOLLOW THIS CONTEST

PRECINCTS FULLY: 677 / 679 | PARTIALLY: 2 / 679



DISTRICT 01

43 OF 43 PRECINCTS REPORTING

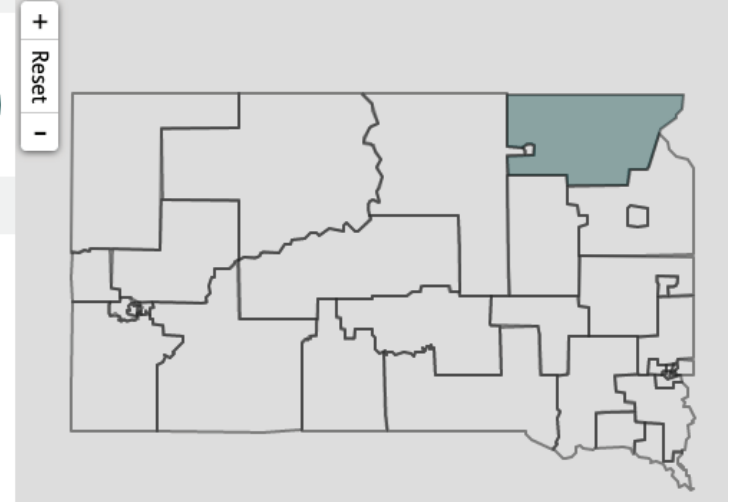
✓ MICHAEL H. ROHL
Republican 70.50% | 1,900

JOE DONNELL
Republican 29.50% | 795



LEGEND

- MICHAEL H. ROHL
Republican
- JOE DONNELL
Republican



DISTRICT 03

12 OF 12 PRECINCTS REPORTING

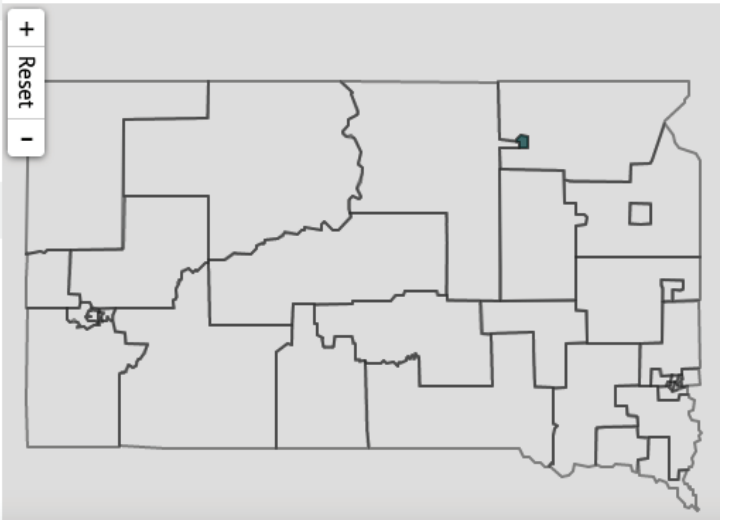
✓ AL NOVSTRUP
Republican 59.48% | 1,794

RACHEL DIX
Republican 40.52% | 1,222



LEGEND

- AL NOVSTRUP
Republican
- RACHEL DIX
Republican



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 4 of 63

DISTRICT 03

12 OF 12 PRECINCTS REPORTING

✓ KALEB W WEIS Republican	21.03% 1,118		
✓ BRANDEI SCHAEFBAUER Republican	24.97% 1,327		
RICHARD RYLANCE Republican	23.78% 1,264		
✓ CARL E. PERRY Republican	30.22% 1,606		

LEGEND

- KALEB W WEIS

DISTRICT 23

52 OF 52 PRECINCTS REPORTING

✓ BRYAN J. BREITLING Republican	54.19% 3,019		
SPENCER GOSCH Republican	45.81% 2,552		

LEGEND

- BRYAN J. BREITLING
Republican
- SPENCER GOSCH
Republican

STATE REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 23

FOLLOW THIS CONTEST PRECINCTS FULLY: 52 / 52 | PARTIALLY: 0 / 52 EXPORT

✓ SCOTT MOORE Republican		42%	3,421
BRANDON BLACK Republican		8%	660
GREGORY BROOKS Republican		15%	1,248
✓ JAMES D. WANGSNESS Republican		35%	2,867

TOTAL VOTES 8,196

Groton Post 39 Jr Legion Overcomes Milbank VFW Teeners In Face Of Early 9-Run Inning

Groton Post 39 Jr Legion managed through a push by Milbank VFW Teeners in the fifth inning where Groton Post 39 Jr Legion coughed up nine runs, but Groton Post 39 Jr Legion still won 24-14 on Tuesday. The big inning for Milbank VFW Teeners came thanks to walks by Reese Rabe, Mason Meister, Joe Schulte, and Jayce Jonason, a single by Gage Anderson, a groundout by Josh Pederson, and an error on a ball put in play by Dillen Sheely.

Both offenses were strong at the plate as Groton Post 39 Jr Legion collected 11 hits and Milbank VFW Teeners three in the high-scoring affair.

Groton Post 39 Jr Legion fired up the offense in the first inning, when an error scored one run for Groton Post 39 Jr Legion.

Groton Post 39 Jr Legion notched seven runs in the fifth inning. Braxton Imrie, Caden McInerney, Ryan Groeblichhoff, Korbin Kucker, and Colby Dunker all contributed in the big inning with RBIs.

Kucker was the winning pitcher for Groton Post 39 Jr Legion. The righty lasted three innings, allowing one hit and five runs while striking out three. McInerney and Brevin Flihs entered the game out of the bullpen and helped to close out the game in relief.

Nollen Sheely took the loss for Milbank VFW Teeners. The hurler surrendered nine runs on two hits over two innings, striking out one.

Groton Post 39 Jr Legion saw the ball well today, racking up 11 hits in the game. Teylor Diegel, Imrie, and Dunker all managed multiple hits for Groton Post 39 Jr Legion. Imrie and Diegel each collected three hits to lead Groton Post 39 Jr Legion. Groton Post 39 Jr Legion tore up the base paths, as six players stole at least two bases. Imrie led the way with four.

Anderson went 2-for-2 at the plate to lead Milbank VFW Teeners in hits. Milbank VFW Teeners stole eight bases during the game as two players stole more than one. Meister led the way with two.

Groton Post 39 Jr Legion Claims Victory Over Milbank VFW Teeners in Blow-Out Fashion, 12-2

Groton Post 39 Jr Legion easily did away with Milbank VFW Teeners 12-2 on Tuesday.

Groton Post 39 Jr Legion fired up the offense in the first inning. Groton Post 39 Jr Legion scored one run on a stolen base.

Groton Post 39 Jr Legion notched four runs in the fifth inning. Teylor Diegel, Korbin Kucker, Bradin Althoff, and Colby Dunker all contributed in the big inning with RBIs.

Dillon Abeln took the win for Groton Post 39 Jr Legion. The righty lasted five innings, allowing three hits and two runs while striking out ten and walking one.

Josh Pederson took the loss for Milbank VFW Teeners. The bulldog lasted four innings, allowing 13 hits and 12 runs while striking out three.

Groton Post 39 Jr Legion saw the ball well today, racking up 13 hits in the game. Diegel, Abeln, Dunker, Althoff, and Kucker each collected multiple hits for Groton Post 39 Jr Legion. Kucker, Althoff, Dunker, Abeln, and Diegel each managed two hits to lead Groton Post 39 Jr Legion. Abeln led Groton Post 39 Jr Legion with three stolen bases, as they ran wild on the base paths with 12 stolen bases.

Pederson led Milbank VFW Teeners with two hits in three at bats.

One police office resigns, another is hired

The Groton City Council met in regular session Tuesday night where a resignation, some hirings and a pay increase were given.

The council accepted the resignation of Tony Garcia as city police officer and then hired Casey Hight as a police officer at \$25 an hour. Aaron Severson, seasonal employee, was given a raise to \$16 an hour. Ryan Groeblichhoff was hired as grounds keeping and Mia Crank as a ticket tacker.

In other action:

- * Approved of a Farmers Market on Main Street for one time to see how it will go.
- * Approved the installation of electricity at the airport at a cost of \$12,000. The airport is currently closed through the end of June due to flooding on the south end of the airport.
- * Approved to provide mosquito control to the City of Bristol at a rate of time and half for the employee plus mileage and cost of chemicals.
- * Appointed Andrea Eisenbeisz for a one-year term on the Library Board.
- * Approved to have painted art and activities on the sidewalk around city hall.
- * Approved Harrison's First Addition Plat.
- * It was reported that the Pantry received 700 pounds of food from the the rural mail carriers food drive.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 7 of 63



L-R Addison Ward, Tina Zoellner, Cadence Feist, Paisley Mitchell, Turner Thompson, and Garret Jorgensen. Not pictured Isaiah Scepaniak. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

Groton wins six of seven Clay Target Awards at Aberdeen Tournament

Groton High School did well in the Aberdeen High School Invitational Clay Target Tournament held last Saturday. Groton Area won six out of the seven awards. The event took place at the Aberdeen Gun Club trap range. Cadence Feist was top overall and top 9-10th grade female. Tina Zoellner top 11-12th female. Paisley Mitchell top JH female. Garret Jorgensen top 11-12th male. Turner Thompson top 9-10th male. Isaiah Scepaniak top JH male. Addison Ward won the door prize. All but Garret Jorgensen, Aberdeen, are from the Groton Area team. This group and others will compete this Saturday at the South Dakota State High School Clay Target League's 2022 State Tournament with more than 58 high school teams featuring over 900 student-athletes. This event will be at the Aberdeen Gun Club trap facility.

THIS IS IT!

**Weber Landscaping Greenhouse
final sale of the season!**

15% off all annuals.

Veggies buy 1 get 1.

10% off planters.

Hours this week

Monday-Thursday 10-6

Final Day is Thursday

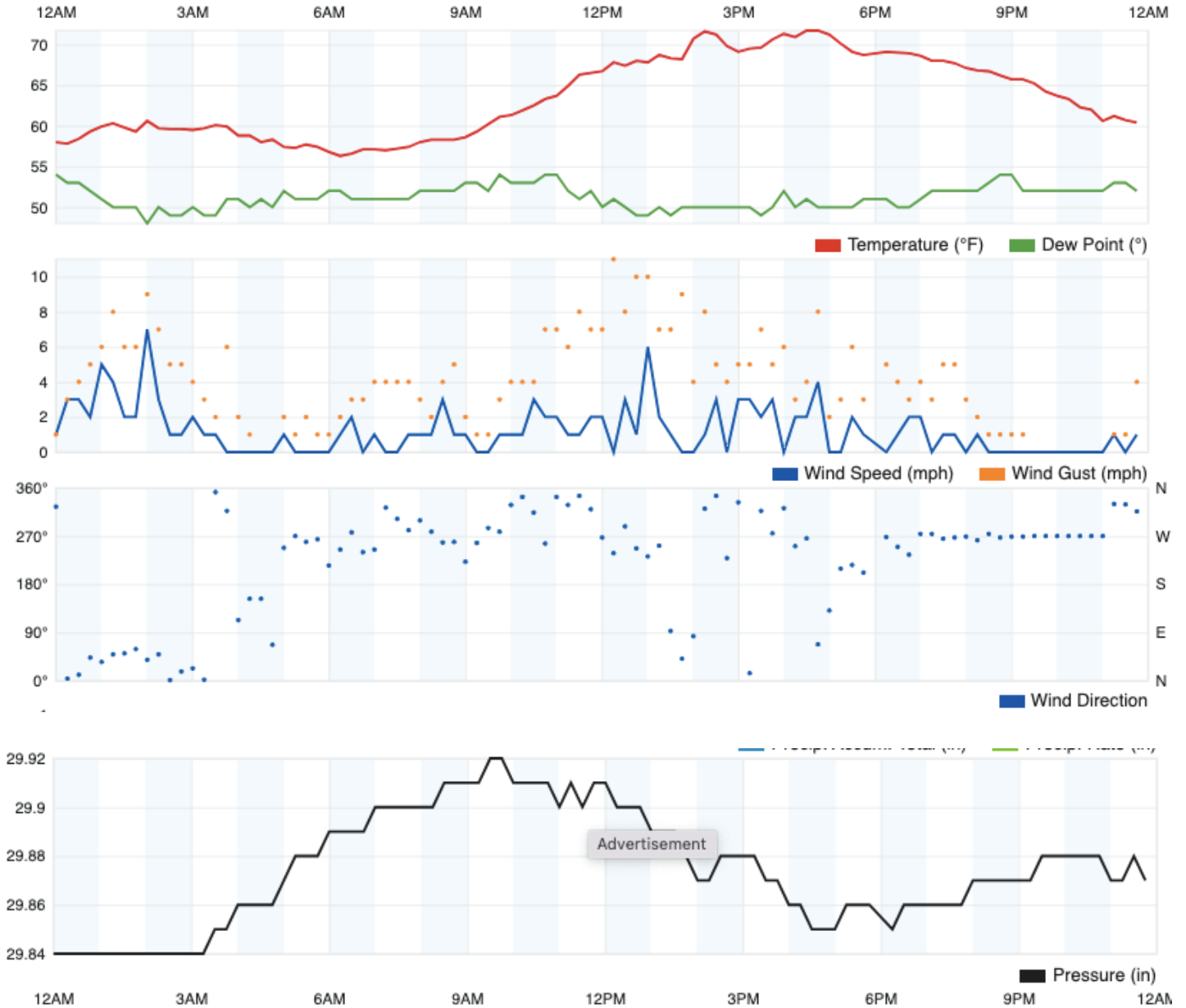
(605) 380-6587

204 N. State St, Groton, SD

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 9 of 63

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Broton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 10 of 63

Today



Mostly Sunny
then Slight
Chance
T-storms

High: 72 °F

Tonight



Slight Chance
T-storms then
Partly Cloudy

Low: 51 °F

Thursday



Partly Sunny

High: 73 °F

Thursday
Night



Slight Chance
T-storms

Low: 54 °F

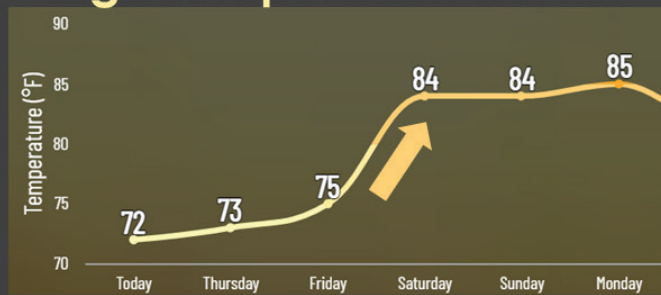
Friday



Partly Sunny

High: 76 °F

High Temperature Trends



TODAY



68 to 75°

few afternoon showers
over e SD, a rumble of
thunder possible

THURSDAY



70s

afternoon showers &
thunderstorms, mainly
over central SD

FRIDAY



70s

Dry

Warming for the
Weekend!



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Temperatures will rise into the 80s Saturday through Monday. Until then highs will mainly be in the 70s. Expect a few showers and thunderstorms over eastern South Dakota this afternoon. A higher chance of showers and thunderstorms (30 to 60 percent) will move into central South Dakota Thursday afternoon.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 11 of 63

Today in Weather History

June 8, 2004: Over eight inches of rain fell near Okreek in rural Todd County causing nearly \$200,000 in damage to local roads. Lightning destroyed the Okreek Community Center.

1951: A tornado was captured on motion pictures for the first time in the USA.

1953 - The worst tornado of record for the state of Michigan killed 116 persons. Flint MI was hardest hit. The tornado, half a mile in width, destroyed 200 homes on Coldwater Road killing entire families. (The Weather Channel)

1966 - A tornado ripped right through the heart of the capitol city of Topeka KS killing sixteen persons and causing 100 million dollars damage. The tornado, which struck during the evening, cut a swath of near total destruction eight miles long and four blocks wide. It was the most destructive tornado of record up until that time. (David Ludlum)

1974 - Severe thunderstorms spawned at least twenty-three tornadoes in Oklahoma during the afternoon and evening hours. One of the tornadoes struck the town Drumright killing sixteen persons and injuring 150 others. A tornado struck the National Weather Service office in Oklahoma City, and two tornadoes hit the city of Tulsa. Thunderstorms in Tulsa also produced as much as ten inches of rain. Total damage from the storms was around thirty million dollars. It was the worst natural disaster of record for Tulsa. (Storm Data)

1987 - Thunderstorms in the northeastern U.S. produced large hail and damaging winds in Vermont injuring two persons. Thunderstorms in Ohio produced wind gusts to 75 mph near Akron, and deluged Pittsfield with two inches of rain in thirty minutes. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Overnight thunderstorms in Iowa produced 5.20 inches of rain at Coon Rapids. Thunderstorms in the Florida Keys drenched Tavernier with 7.16 inches of rain in 24 hours. Eleven cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather over the Central Gulf Coast Region during the day and evening. Severe thunderstorms spawned 17 tornadoes, including one which injured ten persons and caused a million dollars damage at Orange Beach, AL. Thunderstorm winds gusting to 90 mph killed three persons and injured four others at Mobile AL. Thunderstorms also deluged Walnut Hill and Avalon Beach, FL, with eight inches of rain. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2001: Tropical Storm Allison hits Houston, Texas, for the second time in three days. Louisiana and southern Texas were inundated with rain. Baton Rouge received 18 inches over just a couple of days. Some portions of Texas racked up 36 inches by June 11.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 12 of 63

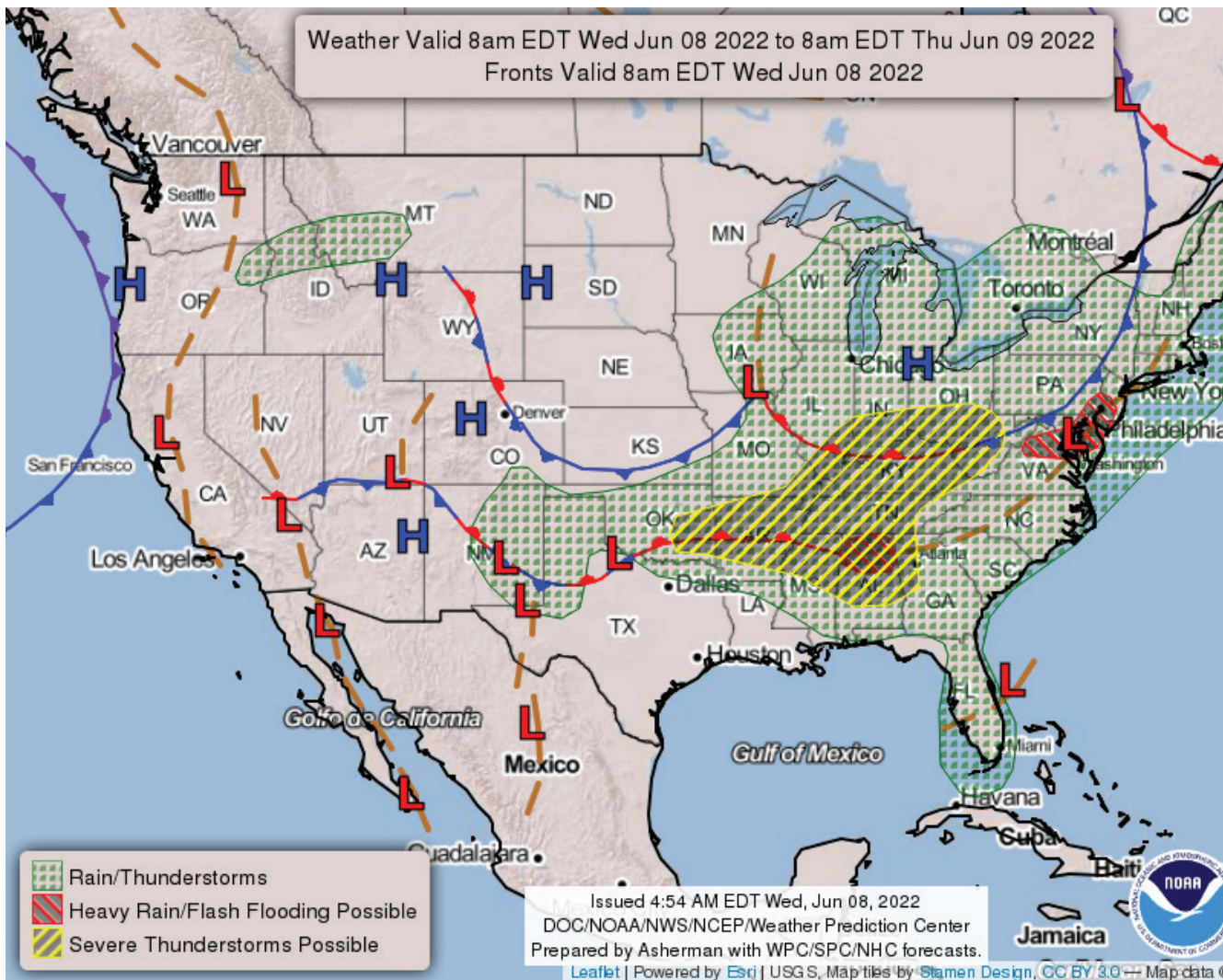
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 73 °F at 2:10 PM
Low Temp: 56 °F at 6:20 AM
Wind: 11 mph at 12:13 PM
Precip: 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 38 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 98 in 2000
Record Low: 32 in 1938
Average High: 78°F
Average Low: 53°F
Average Precip in June.: 0.90
Precip to date in June.: 0.02
Average Precip to date: 8.15
Precip Year to Date: 11.18
Sunset Tonight: 9:20:40 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:42:06 AM



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 13 of 63



In Vain Or In Victory?

Years ago, a letter was found in the pocket of a young soldier. He wrote it knowing that he would be in a fierce battle and his chances of survival were slim.

"Dear Mom," he wrote. "Do you know why I feel sad right now? It's not about dying that worries me. We both know that when my number is up, it's up. There is nothing that we can do about that. I wouldn't put it so crudely if we didn't know the truth and if we could not be honest with one another. And, so I say humbly and without hypocrisy, 'God's will be done!'"

"As I said, Mom, it's not the dying that bothers me. I will be calm right up until the end as you will be after you hear the news of my death. But what does worry, bother and matter most to me is this: Will I have died in vain?"

Paul, in writing to the Corinthians addressed "dying in vain" when he wrote: "We urge you not to receive God's grace in vain." Could it be possible, he wondered, that they could ignore Christ's death? Did they doubt the message of Paul? Could they look at the cross and not see that the death of Jesus fulfilled the requirements of God?

"He," Paul said, "will have died in vain if you do not accept His grace." In other words, if we do not accept the death of Jesus as the door to eternal life, there is no life in Christ.

But what of those who have accepted God's grace in Christ? The Psalmist expressed it in heart-touching words: "The Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love." Can we ask for more?

Prayer: Father, we love You and thank You for the hope that we have in You. We would live in vain without You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Bible Verse: The Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love. Psalm 147:11

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 14 of 63

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 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 15 of 63

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Daily Independent

www.397news.com

Subscription Form

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

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

E-mail _____

Password _____

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

paypal.me/paperpaul



News from the Associated Press

South Dakota's Noem, Thune repel GOP challenges from right

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, who has elevated her national prominence through a hands-off approach to pandemic restrictions, won the Republican primary on Tuesday against a former legislative leader who accused her of using the office to mount a 2024 White House bid.

All three Republican incumbents running for reelection to a statewide office — Noem, U.S. Sen. John Thune and U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson — held off primary challengers running to their right. Primary voters also soundly rejected a proposed constitutional amendment that would have made it more difficult to pass citizen-initiated ballot measures that raise taxes or spend significant public funds.

The first-term governor's primary win against former South Dakota House Speaker Steve Haugaard gives her a commanding advantage as she seeks another term in November against Democratic state Rep. Jamie Smith, who did not face a primary challenger.

In her speech at an election night party, Noem didn't even mention her Democratic gubernatorial challenger's name. Instead, she told the crowd, "we're going to have the chance to go into a November election and make sure we're pushing back on Joe Biden's America."

She then led them in booing and jeering the president's policies as she drove a comparison between Biden and former President Donald Trump, whose attention she has courted.

"Today, I'm on defense," she said. "Every time I turn around I'm fighting off Joe Biden and the damage he's doing to the state of South Dakota."

Noem has used this election fundraising cycle to collect a record amount of money for a South Dakota gubernatorial candidate — bringing in more than \$15 million from a series of fundraisers all over the country.

"She was one of the only governors who stood firm in not using the pandemic to increase government intrusions in our lives," said Kerry Larson, a Republican voter from Sioux Falls. "It says a lot about her and how she will govern under pressure."

But Noem has also struggled to manage Statehouse politics at times, publicly clashing with Republican legislators with whom she disagrees.

Haugaard had attempted to turn the tables on Noem's 2018 campaign promise to increase government transparency. He has pointed to ethics complaints she faces for using state-owned airplanes to attend political events and taking a hands-on role in a state agency while it was evaluating her daughter's application for a real estate appraiser license.

Thune, the No. 2 Republican in the chamber, also won his primary against two challengers who joined the race after Thune drew Trump's ire. Trump speculated the senator's career was "over" after he made public statements dismissing the former president's lies about widespread voter fraud in the 2020 election.

Neither of the challengers was well-funded or well-known in the state, and in a sign that Thune was positioned for victory, Trump steered clear of South Dakota.

Thune is a longtime fixture as the state GOP's elder statesman, and if he wins reelection to a fourth term, he is a likely pick to succeed Mitch McConnell as Senate Republican leader. He will face Democrat Brian Bengs, an Air Force veteran and college professor, in November's general election.

The senator alluded to his prominence in Washington in a statement celebrating the primary win, saying he would "continue putting South Dakota's interests on the national agenda" and labeling Biden's agenda as a "radical, left-wing crusade."

Thune's status in Washington factored into Republican Sandra Pay's vote, saying it would be "crazy" to vote out someone with Thune's Senate leadership post.

"He's got power," she said.

Republican Johnson defeated state lawmaker Taffy Howard in the Republican primary for the state's lone House spot. The \$300,000 Howard's campaign raised was dwarfed by Johnson's \$1.8 million, but a

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 17 of 63

number of national political action committees spent money in the race as it began to look competitive. "It will not be deception and New Jersey attacks that carry the day," Johnson said, referring to a political action committee called Drain The Swamp that spent \$500,000 opposing Johnson. "It will be truth and South Dakota hard work."

The congressman has taken a measured approach on most issues and has touted his work with a bipartisan group of lawmakers called the Problem Solvers Caucus. Howard has tried to challenge him from the right, creating a primary race that showed some momentum behind the more extreme wing of the Republican Party in South Dakota.

That intraparty conflict has been fought across a slate of legislative primary races where Republicans have launched attack ads against each other. Establishment Republicans are trying to weed out a group of contrarian lawmakers who have pushed the Legislature further right.

However, Republican voter Kim McKoy said Tuesday one thing was on her mind as she cast her vote: "Economy, economy, economy."

She mostly voted against incumbents.

"I listen to these people talk and I'm like, 'Do you care that people are struggling?' I just don't think they do," she said. "I think they care about their causes and they've lost their minds."

Primary voters defeated an amendment to the state constitution, proposed by Republican lawmakers, that would have placed a 60% vote threshold on ballot measures to raise taxes or spend more than \$10 million within five years of enactment.

Democrat Joshua Matzner said he voted against the proposal because it would erode the power of citizens to change laws through the ballot.

"We prefer to be able to actually make a decision in our government," he said.

Man arrested after shooting at construction workers

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Police have arrested a Rapid City man after he allegedly fired shots at construction workers along a highway.

The Rapid City Journal reported Tuesday that the Pennington County Sheriff's Department responded Monday afternoon to reports of a man shooting at construction workers along State Highway 79 south of Rapid City with a handgun.

A sheriff's spokeswoman says it appears the man has no connection to the workers.

State troopers converged on the area. The 53-year-old man was arrested less than half an hour after the call came in. No one was hurt.

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

04-34-40-41-53, Mega Ball: 3, Megaplier: 4

(four, thirty-four, forty, forty-one, fifty-three; Mega Ball: three; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$226,000,000

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: 210,000,000

California US House races could tip power in Congress

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD AP Political Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — U.S. House battles took shape in heavily Democratic California that could tip the balance of power in Congress, while former Trump administration Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was in a tight match to claim the Republican nomination for a new House seat in Montana.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 18 of 63

In Mississippi, Republican U.S. Rep. Steven Palazzo was forced into a runoff after a congressional ethics watchdog raised questions about his campaign spending and he faced his largest-ever field of primary challengers.

Primary elections across seven states Tuesday set up November contests in dozens of races, as Democrats look to protect the party's fragile majority in the House.

In a diverse district anchored in California's Orange County, Republican U.S. Rep. Michelle Steel, a South Korean immigrant, will face Democrat Jay Chen. The district, which includes the nation's largest Vietnamese American community, is widely considered a toss-up.

In other districts in the nation's most populous state, two Republican House members were trying to surmount challenges tied to former President Donald Trump: One voted to support Trump's impeachment after the U.S. Capitol insurrection, while the other fought against it.

In Iowa, Republican state Sen. Zach Nunn won the GOP spot to take on the state's lone Democratic House member, Rep. Cindy Axne, in a newly drawn district with a stronger GOP tilt.

A look at results in key U.S. House races Tuesday:

BATTLEGROUND CALIFORNIA: TRUMP HISTORY LOOMS IN KEY DISTRICTS

In 2020, Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Garcia won a narrow victory in a Democratic-leaning district north of Los Angeles. The former Navy fighter pilot was endorsed by Trump that year, then joined House Republicans who rejected electoral votes from Arizona and Pennsylvania and opposed Trump's impeachment after the Capitol insurrection. That record will be a focus for Democrat Christy Smith, who earned a chance for a rematch with Garcia, after losing two years ago.

In a Democratic-tilting district in the state's Central Valley farm belt, Republican Rep. David Valadao is highlighting an independent streak while contending with GOP fallout for his vote to impeach Trump over the Jan. 6 insurrection. Preliminary returns showed him holding an edge over Republican Chris Mathys, who made Valadao's vote a centerpiece in his campaign to oust him. The winner will face Democrat Rudy Salas, a state legislator.

California uses a top-two election format in which only the two leading vote-getters advance to the November general election, regardless of party.

In the Central Valley, Republican Connie Conway won a special election to complete the term of former Rep. Devin Nunes, who resigned to head Trump's media company.

MISSISSIPPI CONGRESSMAN WITH ETHICS TROUBLE TO FACE RUNOFF

Republican U.S. Rep. Steven Palazzo of Mississippi is headed to a June 28 runoff.

The congressman first elected in 2010 failed to win the GOP nomination outright on Tuesday, earning less than 50% of the vote.

His opponent will either be Jackson County Sheriff Mike Ezell, who is also campaigning on border security, or Clay Wagner, a retired banker who says he wants to limit taxation and regulation.

A 2021 report by the Office of Congressional Ethics found "substantial reason to believe" Palazzo, a military veteran who serves on the Appropriations and Homeland Security committees, abused his office by misspending campaign funds, doing favors for his brother and enlisting staff for political and personal errands. His then-spokesperson, Colleen Kennedy, said the probe was based on politically motivated "false allegations."

FORMER TRUMP CABINET MEMBER SEEKS RETURN TRIP TO WASHINGTON

Montana gained a second congressional district this year thanks to its growing population, and Zinke, an Interior Department secretary under Trump, is one of five Republicans on the primary ballot for the open seat.

Zinke's rivals have been drawing attention to his troubled tenure at the agency, which was marked by multiple ethics investigations. One investigation determined Zinke lied to an agency ethics official about his continued involvement in a commercial real estate deal in his hometown. He's faced a smear campaign over his military service from the extreme right wing of his party and questions about his residency following revelations that his wife declared a house in California as her primary residence.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 19 of 63

Zinke, a former Navy SEAL, is widely considered the de facto incumbent, since he twice won elections for the state's other House seat before stepping down in 2017 to join the Trump administration.

His primary opponents include former state Sen. Al "Doc" Olszewski, an orthopedic surgeon and hard-line conservative who has tried to paint Zinke as a "liberal insider." The winner will face Olympic rower and attorney Monica Tranel, a Democrat, in the general election.

Incomplete returns showed Zinke locked in a tight race with Olszewski.

IOWA'S SOLE DEMOCRATIC HOUSE MEMBER FACES A TOUGH FIGHT

A Republican state senator has captured the slot to take on Democratic Rep. Cindy Axne this fall in a newly drawn district that appears more favorable for the GOP.

Axne is the only Democrat in Iowa's House delegation.

State Sen. Zach Nunn easily outdistanced rivals Nicole Hasso, a financial services worker, and Gary Leffler, who works in the construction industry, to claim the GOP spot. Nunn, an Air Force pilot who has served in the Legislature since 2014 and has worked to cut taxes, was the best known among the GOP contenders.

In previous elections, Axne was elevated by her strong support in the Des Moines area, even as she struggled in rural counties that typically lean Republican. The new district includes several counties in southern Iowa known to turn out strongly for Republicans, increasing the pressure on Axne to drive up her numbers in Democrat-friendly Des Moines and its suburbs.

Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel promised that Iowa would "send the first congressional delegation to Washington that's fully Republican since 1957."

REMATCH COMING IN NEW JERSEY HOUSE BATTLEGROUND

In what could be New Jersey's most closely watched contest in the fall, Democratic U.S. Rep. Tom Malinowski and Republican Tom Kean Jr. won their primaries, setting up a rematch of their closely contested 2020 race.

Malinowski, a State Department official in the Obama administration, is seeking a third term as his party faces headwinds heading into the general election. His district added more Republican-leaning towns during redistricting, making his reelection bid potentially more difficult.

Another complicating factor is an ethics investigation he's facing over stock transactions in medical and tech companies that had a stake in the pandemic response. A report from the Office of Congressional Ethics said the board found "substantial reason to believe" he failed to properly disclose or report his stock transactions.

Malinowski said his failure to initially disclose the transactions was "a mistake that I own 100%." He said he didn't direct or even ask questions about trades made by his brokerage firm.

Kean, a former state Senate minority leader and the son of the former two-term Republican governor, said in a tweet that he was humbled by his victory and looks forward to seizing the seat in November.

SOUTH DAKOTA REPUBLICAN BEATS BACK CHALLENGE FROM POLITICAL RIGHT

U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson of South Dakota won his state's GOP primary contest as he runs for a third term.

Johnson defeated state lawmaker Taffy Howard, who tried to run to his right. He is set for reelection in November because no other candidate has entered the race.

Howard repeated Trump's lies that there was widespread fraud in the 2020 election and attacked Johnson for certifying the electoral college vote. While Johnson touted his conservative voting record during the primary contest, the congressman has also worked with a bipartisan group of lawmakers called the Problem Solvers Caucus.

Johnson held a large fundraising advantage in the contest, but also drew attacks from a pro-Trump political action committee called Drain the DC Swamp, which spent \$500,000 trying to knock him from the House.

1 dead, 8 injured after driver hits pedestrians in Berlin

BERLIN (AP) — A man drove a car into pedestrians in a popular Berlin shopping district on Wednesday, killing at least one person and injuring at least eight others, rescue services said.

The man drove into people on a street corner at around 10:30 a.m. before getting the car back on the

road and then crashing into a shop window around a block further on, police spokesman Thilo Cablitz said. Fire service spokesman Stefan Salzwedel put the number of injured at eight. Police said more than a dozen were injured. Police said several of them were in serious condition.

The driver was immediately detained and was being questioned, Cablitz said. He said police are trying to determine whether he deliberately drove into pedestrians or whether it was an accident, possibly caused by a medical emergency.

Large numbers of rescue vehicles and first responders were at the scene.

The incident happened at one end of the Kurfuerstendamm shopping boulevard and next to the Breitscheidplatz square, where an extremist carried out a vehicle attack on a Christmas market in 2016, resulting in 13 deaths.

In a 2019 incident in central Berlin, an SUV plowed into a group of pedestrians in central Berlin, killing four people. The driver had suffered an epileptic seizure and veered onto the sidewalk.

Civil rights advocate Xernona Clayton is still 'fearless'

By MICHAEL WARREN Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — A key aide to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. who helped sustain the civil rights movement in the 1960s says she's deeply saddened by the hate crimes seeking to terrorize people across America.

But Xernona Clayton has been working for racial harmony since the movement began, and refuses to accept mass killings as routine.

"We're having too many racial conflicts," Clayton, 91, told The Associated Press during an interview in her office in Atlanta. "It's so idiotic that we've had that racism in the first place. Because none of us had any say-so about how we got here."

"My mind always goes back to what Martin Luther King would have said," she said. "He always said, 'You know, we CAN love each other.' He said, 'There's just no reason why we can't.' And it was hard for him to understand why we don't."

King and his wife, Coretta Scott King, recruited Clayton and her first husband, Jet magazine editor Edward Clayton, to bring more money and attention to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an Atlanta-based civil rights organization whose first president was King. Already enlisting movie stars to host SCLC fundraisers, Xernona Clayton was reluctant to leave Southern California.

But the two women bonded as Clayton organized Ms. King's national singing tour. Soon, she was securing care for bloodied protesters and calling her friends Sidney (Poitier), Harry (Belafonte) and Bill (Cosby) for bail money.

In 1966, Clayton learned that Atlanta's Black doctors were restricted to one facility, Grady Hospital, and to just one day a week. "Wednesday was the day Black people would have their babies," she recalled. "So I organized the doctors and told them, 'We can do something about this.'"

She found a government ally who shared how much federal money was flowing to Atlanta's segregated hospitals and took the doctors to Washington, scoring a White House visit. President Lyndon Baines Johnson had quietly encouraged such grassroots lobbying, and surprised her by insisting that hospitals nationwide had to desegregate before getting Medicare funding.

"I'm fearless, for the most part. You know, I'm not afraid to tackle an issue," Clayton said. "I'll fight for what is right."

In an era when national news organizations — including the AP — covered civil rights with all-white staffs, her friend Ralph McGill, publisher of the Atlanta Constitution, had her speak to a television industry convention. She took them to task for their hiring. Atlanta's CBS affiliate WAGA responded in 1967 by making her the first Black talk show host in the South.

While King's assassination only months later convulsed the nation, Clayton and her guests provided audiences with a model for racial harmony. She even persuaded a Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan to renounce the white terror organization. They too became friends.

Barbara Walters recruited her for a network role, but Ted Turner hired her instead to set a tone of inclu-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 21 of 63

siveness at Turner Broadcasting Service, which launched CNN. She served for years as Turner's corporate vice president for urban affairs.

Clayton also started the Trumpet Foundation to celebrate African American achievers, and still works there amid mementos from a lifetime of activism when she's not with her second husband, Paul L. Brady, the nation's first Black federal administrative law judge. Her first husband died in 1966.

Clayton got her start as an "undercover agent" for the Chicago Urban League in the early 1950s, arranging job interviews only to be turned down when they saw her skin color. Confronted with proof of racism, Marshall Fields hired its first Black store employees.

"There's something about a victory — winning is fun," she recalled. "It gave me the assurance that I can make a change. And I still have that today, that I can make change. I CAN make change. I've MADE change."

Born on Aug. 30, 1930, with her twin sister Xenobia, she was raised in segregated Muskogee, Oklahoma. Their father was a minister and Indian Affairs agent, so respected that the white police chief and mayor often came calling for guidance about the Black and Native American communities.

"He was a soft-spoken man, but softly he could make a change in a person's life. And he did it to the authority: the police, the mayor, whatever. I often wonder if maybe I had some of that in my blood."

She felt racism's sting at what would become Tennessee State University, where she and her friends went for hamburgers one night in 1950.

"This guy was standing at the counter, he had a butcher knife, probably 3 feet long. I'd never seen a knife that big. But he said to us as we entered the door, 'If you n—— don't get out of here, I'll cut your heads off! You know you don't belong here!' Scared us to death," she recalled.

"It had a sign outside that says 'hamburgers for sale,' and 'you don't belong here?'" she said. "I still feel the pain, the embarrassment, the ridicule. I still feel it."

Clayton earned a master's in education at the University of Chicago, where marrying the editor of *Jet* put her at the center of Black culture and politics. She was by Edward Clayton's side when he heard that the mother of Emmett Till, lynched in Mississippi, wanted the world to see his brutalized body. He stopped the presses to put the image on the cover, shocking the nation's conscience and drawing widespread support for civil rights.

The couple then moved to Los Angeles, where Clayton said she did something "monumental." Volunteering to take on 100 school dropouts, she discovered some just needed new clothes or hair curlers to return to class. Others were committing crimes, so she talked her way into gang meetings and urged them to study instead for corporate careers.

"And guess what? To this day, my pride and my chest stand big. Because I took 100 kids and got 82 of them back in school."

It became her motto: "One person can make a difference. So don't run away if you see a problem. See if there's a way you can help," she said. "I tell people all the time today, look around — there's something you can do."

Train derailment in east Iran kills at least 21, injures 47

By NASSER KARIMI Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — A passenger train traveling through eastern Iran struck an excavator and derailed nearly half its cars before dawn Wednesday, killing at least 21 people and injuring another 47, officials said.

The train derailment near the desert city of Tabas was the latest disaster to strike the Islamic Republic in recent weeks as Tehran struggles under U.S. sanctions and any return to its nuclear deal with world powers remains in doubt.

The train operated by the state-run Islamic Republic Railway carried some 350 people as it traveled from Tabas, some 550 kilometers (340 miles) southeast of Tehran, to the city of Yazd. It struck the excavator as the train traveled over a railroad underpass in the rural scrubland, sending cars and its passengers flying.

"Passengers were bouncing in the car like balls in the air," one unnamed injured passenger told Iranian

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 22 of 63

state television.

The state-run IRNA news agency gave the casualty figures, citing emergency officials.

Rescue teams with ambulances and helicopters arrived in the remote area where communication is poor. Over a dozen people suffered critical injuries, with some transferred to local hospitals, officials said.

Aerial footage of the desert site of the disaster showed train cars on their side, with some rescuers running at the scene as they tried to care for those injured.

State TV later aired images from a hospital where the injured received treatment. One of those injured told the broadcaster they felt the train suddenly brake and then slow before the derailment.

The derailment happened some 50 kilometers (30 miles) outside of Tabas.

The report said the crash is under investigation. Initial reports suggested the train collided with an excavator near the track, though it wasn't immediately clear why an excavator would have been close to the train track at night. One official suggest it could have been part of a repair project.

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi offered condolences over the crash and announced an investigation would be undertaken into its causes.

Iran's worst train disaster came in 2004, when a runaway train loaded with gasoline, fertilizer, sulfur and cotton crashed near the historic city of Neyshabur, killing some 320 people, injuring 460 others and damaging five villages. In 2016, a train collision in northern Iran killed at least 43 people and injured about 100.

Iran has some 14,000 kilometers (8,700 miles) of railway lines throughout a country about two and a half times the size of Texas. Its rail system sends both people and goods across the country, particularly in rural areas.

Iran also has some 17,000 annual deaths on its highways, one of the world's worst traffic safety records. The high toll is blamed on wide disregard for traffic laws, unsafe vehicles and inadequate emergency services.

Iran, already straining under U.S. sanctions over its collapsed nuclear deal, has been mourning the deaths of at least 41 people killed in a building collapse in the country's southwest.

Griner's fate tangled up with other American held in Russia

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Brittney Griner is easily the most prominent American locked up by a foreign country. But the WNBA star's case is tangled up with that of a lesser-known American also imprisoned in Russia.

Paul Whelan has been held in Russia since his December 2018 arrest on espionage charges he and the U.S. government say are false. He was left out of a prisoner exchange in April that brought home yet another detainee, Marine veteran Trevor Reed. That has escalated pressure on the Biden administration to avoid another one-for-one swap that does not include Whelan — even as it presses for the release of Griner, an Olympic gold medalist whose case has drawn global attention.

For Griner and Whelan, the other's case injects something of a wild card into their own, for better or worse.

The U.S. government may not agree to a deal in which just one of them is released, potentially complicating negotiations. But Whelan could also benefit from the attention given to Griner, which has cast a spotlight on his case. And though the U.S. may hesitate to give up a high-level Russian prisoner in exchange for Griner, who's charged with a relatively minor drug offense, it's possible it would be more inclined to do so if both she and Whelan were part of any deal.

The potential interplay between the cases is not lost on the families and supporters of Whelan and Griner.

"It's still very raw," Whelan's sister, Elizabeth Whelan, said of her brother being excluded from the Reed deal. "And to think we might have to go through that again if Brittney is brought home first is just terrible."

But "what's really bad" about feeling that way, she hastened to add, is that she and her family absolutely want Griner released, too. "It's not like we don't want her home," she said. "We want everyone out of there, out of Russia and away from that situation."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 23 of 63

It all adds up to a “sticky wicket,” said Kimberly St. Julian-Varnon, a doctoral student at the University of Pennsylvania who specializes in Russia and is advising the WNBA players’ association on Griner’s case.

If Griner, who plays for the Phoenix Mercury, were to leapfrog Whelan in coming home, the administration will face scrutiny from Whelan’s supporters. “And if Paul Whelan gets out first, you’re going to have questions about why isn’t Brittney out when Brittney hasn’t even been convicted yet,” she said.

U.S. officials have not said whether swaps are being discussed that could get Griner, Whelan or both home or whether they’d accept a deal that yields the release of one without the other. A spokesman for the State Department office that advocates for wrongfully detained Americans, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, or SPEHA, declined to say how the cases might affect each other but said in a statement that the office remains committed to securing the release of both.

There’s no question that the February arrest of Griner — Russian authorities detained her at an airport after they said a search of her bag revealed vape cartridges containing oil derived from cannabis — has heightened public awareness around the dozens of Americans who, like Reed and Griner, are classified as wrongfully detained by foreign governments.

The seven-time WNBA All-Star is not only one of the most dominant figures in her sport but also a prominent gay, Black woman. That has prompted questions about the role race and sexual identity are playing in a country where authorities have been hostile to the LGBTQ community, and about whether her case would get more attention if it involved a white male athlete.

U.S. officials and Griner’s supporters initially said little publicly about her case, but that changed in May when the State Department designated her as wrongfully detained and transitioned her case to the SPEHA office.

Griner’s wife, Cherelle, urged the Biden administration in an interview with ABC’s “Good Morning America” to do anything necessary to get Griner home, but also expressed empathy for Whelan. She said that even though there’s no connection between the two besides the fact they’re both in Russia, “I obviously want him back, too.”

Griner’s fame cuts both ways, said St. Julian-Varnon. If ever Russia wants to reestablish itself as a country hospitable to foreign athletes like Griner, the country would have significant incentive to release her. But given Griner’s “political value” to Russia, it may also make a huge demand for her release.

“This is the biggest chip that they have to play,” she said.

Tamryn Spruill, a freelance journalist and author who launched a Change.org petition demanding Griner’s freedom, said in an email that if her “case can be leveraged to simultaneously secure Whelan’s release — or vice versa — then it is my hope that the president will exploit all of those avenues.”

Unlike Griner, who is awaiting trial, Whelan has been convicted and sentenced.

A corporate security executive from Michigan who was arrested after traveling to Russia for a wedding, Whelan was found guilty in 2020 and sentenced to 16 years in prison. He and his family have vigorously asserted his innocence. The U.S. government has denounced the charges as false.

Reed had also been sentenced well before the swap that freed him. He had been jailed over what Russian authorities say was a drunken physical encounter with police in Moscow and was freed in exchange for Konstantin Yaroshenko, a Russian pilot who was serving a 20-year sentence for drug trafficking conspiracy. U.S. officials cited in part Reed’s ailing health as justification for the trade.

It’s unclear which other Russians, if any, might be part of additional exchanges. Russian state media have for years floated the name of notorious arms dealer Viktor Bout, though such a deal risks being seen as lending false equivalency between a Russian the U.S. government regards as properly convicted and Americans it considers unjustly detained.

Jonathan Franks, a consultant who worked on the Reed case, said it was hard to envision a Griner-Bout deal or a Griner deal that didn’t involve Whelan.

“I truly believe Brittney Griner’s fastest path out of Russia is on Air Whelan,” he said.

Elizabeth Whelan said the early morning call she had to make to her aging parents to tell them Reed was coming home but her brother was not is not an experience she wants to repeat. But she said her family does understand the possibility one prisoner could be freed without the other.

"We're faced with a situation where these hostile foreign nations can assign different values to each person they're holding, and can work separate deals. Whichever deal comes through first is often who comes home first," she said, "and it's not at all a tenable situation."

Follow Eric Tucker at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>.

Chinese Olympian Eileen Gu working for Salt Lake Games bid

By STEPHEN WADE AP Sports Writer

Eileen Gu, the California-born athlete who won two gold medals for China in freestyle skiing at the recent Beijing Olympics, has signed on to work for Salt Lake City's bid for the 2030 or 2034 Winter Olympics.

Tom Kelly, a spokesman for the bid committee, confirmed Gu's participation to The Associated Press on Tuesday as an "athlete representative." Gu made the announcement earlier at the Time100 Summit, calling herself an "ambassador."

"She is working with us," Kelly said, "but we haven't chosen her exact title."

The choice could be controversial — or inspired.

The 18-year-old Gu was born in the United States to a Chinese mother, but competed for China almost four months ago and won two gold and one silver medal in Beijing. In explaining her choice, she often said she wanted to inspire young Chinese women.

In announcing her role with Salt Lake at the Time event, she said skiing and her position with the bid committee was a "beautiful example of globalism."

Gu is expected to attend Stanford University this fall.

Her passport status has come under scrutiny. China does not officially allow dual citizenship, and Gu has never clarified if she still holds American citizenship, has renounced it, or if she has a Chinese passport.

The state-controlled Chinese media never seemed to raise the issue, initially welcoming the medals she won for her mother's homeland.

To the non-Chinese media, she often offered unclear answers. Some of the scrutiny was viewed as unfair, although she was placed in the spotlight by lucrative commercial deals offered by China.

Gu's announcement was a trending topic on Chinese social media where opinion was divided but largely positive. Many pointed out that Time referred to her as "China's Eileen Gu," saying this showed the global influence of a top-level Chinese athlete.

Others, however, questioned what they characterized as her divided loyalties.

Her move to work for the American bid could eventually damage her popularity in China as memories of Beijing fade, and particularly in a time of heightened geopolitical tensions between the two countries.

Gu attended an assembly of Chinese Olympians in early April at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, where Xi Jinping — the general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party — singled her out for recognition.

"Gu Ailing loves to eat Chinese pies," Xi said, using her Chinese name, going off script, and drawing some laughter. He was referring to Gu being seen a few times during the Olympics enjoying a Chinese dumpling.

Salt Lake is bidding for the 2030 Winter Olympics along with Sapporo, Japan, and Vancouver, British Columbia. Spain has also expressed interest.

The International Olympic Committee is expected to name the venue at meetings in May 2023 in Mumbai, India. It could also select the venue for 2034.

The IOC has lined up the Summer Olympics for Paris in '24, Los Angeles in '28 and Brisbane, Australia in '32. The 2030 Winter Olympic venue is the next open slot on the calendar.

Kelly, the Salt Lake spokesman, said Gu would not travel next week to Lausanne, Switzerland, with a delegation from Salt Lake to meet IOC officials. Kelly said the head of the bid, Fraser Bullock, and American skier Lindsey Vonn would be going.

Smiling Blatter enters court at start of FIFA fraud trial

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 25 of 63

By DANIELLA MATAR AP Sports Writer

BELLINZONA, Switzerland (AP) — Smiling as he entered court, former FIFA president Sepp Blatter sat alone on a long bench Wednesday while one of his lawyers addressed the three judges on the opening day of his criminal trial.

Once the most powerful man in the world of soccer, Blatter is facing charges of defrauding FIFA in a Swiss criminal court. He is on trial along with former France great Michel Platini, his former protégé who had been considered Blatter's successor as president of the governing body of soccer.

Platini was also in court on Wednesday, sitting with an interpreter a row behind Blatter.

The 86-year-old Blatter arrived at the Federal Criminal Court of Switzerland in Bellinzona full of smiles.

"Absolutely, absolutely, absolutely," Blatter responded when asked if he was confident about his chances. "I feel optimistic, like always. With the beautiful sunshine. It's the first day of a trial that's going to last almost two weeks. If I didn't feel confident the first day that would be bad. I am very confident."

Blatter's 17-year reign as FIFA president came to an end in June 2015, when he resigned amid a corruption scandal. A few months later, federal prosecutors in Switzerland revealed their investigation into a \$2 million payment from FIFA to Platini from four years earlier.

Both Blatter and Platini have long denied wrongdoing and claim they had a verbal deal in 1998 for the money. That defense first failed with judges at the FIFA ethics committee, which banned them from soccer, and later in separate appeals at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

"Is soccer by my side? Soccer is me. It's been 45 years that I've been serving FIFA, international soccer. And it's my life, it's my professional life," Blatter added. "I now have to defend myself a bit, but I will defend myself well, with a lawyer and that's it, because I have a clean conscience."

The fallout from the case also ended Platini's campaign to succeed his former mentor and saw him removed as president of UEFA, the governing body of European soccer.

The trial is expected to last 11 days and the court will sit only until lunchtime each day because of Blatter's health. He was in a coma following heart surgery 18 months ago.

The three federal judges hearing the case are scheduled to deliver their verdict on July 8. Blatter and Platini each face of up to five years in prison, but suspended sentences are a likely option.

Which Conservatives could succeed UK's Johnson if he falls?

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — With British Prime Minister Boris Johnson dealt a heavy blow after surviving a no-confidence vote from his own Conservative Party, questions already are being asked about who might succeed him if he was forced from office.

Conservative lawmakers voted 211-148 to keep Johnson as leader Monday following revelations that he and his staff held Downing Street parties that broke Britain's COVID-19 lockdown rules. But the scale of the revolt was considered more damaging than expected.

Although the leadership rules give Johnson a year's respite from another such vote, he faces other risks.

Party rebels could change the rules to force an early vote; he could be seen as a political liability if Conservatives lose special elections this month; he could be forced out if an ethics committee finds he lied to Parliament over the "partygate" scandal; or he could simply get fed up and quit.

That would trigger a leadership contest to choose his replacement. While there is no single front-runner, here is a look at some possible contenders:

LIZ TRUSS, FOREIGN SECRETARY

Truss, 46, took on the high-profile Cabinet post in September after serving as trade minister. She has been gaining momentum as a contender since then and has made no secret of her ambitions.

As Britain's chief diplomat in the Ukraine crisis, Truss got a frosty reception from her Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, prior to Moscow's Feb. 24 invasion.

She is also the U.K.'s lead negotiator with the European Union on lingering issues following Britain's exit

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 26 of 63

from the bloc. Once a campaigner for remaining in the EU, Truss has become a Brexit champion. Her former role as international trade secretary saw her signing post-Brexit deals around the world and channeling Johnson's ambitions for "Global Britain."

Truss is popular with many Conservatives, who see echoes of the party's first female prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, in the the free-market-loving politician. Truss' supporters have coined the slogan, "In Liz We Truss."

RISHI SUNAK, TREASURY CHIEF

Until recently, Sunak was widely regarded as the party's brightest rising star, the best-known of the contenders — and the bookies' favorite to succeed Johnson.

Sunak, 42, was thrust into the spotlight when he became treasury chief in 2020, tasked with the unenviable job of steering the economy through its worst economic slump on record because of the pandemic. He dished out billions of pounds in emergency spending to help businesses and workers, and his policies have generally been seen in a positive light.

But "partygate" changed those fortunes. Like Johnson, he was issued a police fine for attending a lockdown-flouting birthday party at Downing Street in June 2020. He also came under heavy criticism for being slow to respond to Britain's severe cost-of-living crisis.

Sunak also faced pressure following revelations that his wife, Akshata Murthy, avoided paying U.K. taxes on her overseas income, and that the former investment banker held on to his U.S. green card while serving in government.

If he succeeds, he would be Britain's first prime minister of color. Born to Indian parents who moved to the U.K. from East Africa, Sunak attended the exclusive Winchester College private school and studied at Oxford.

Some see his elite education and past work for the investment bank Goldman Sachs and a hedge fund as a deficit because he seems out of touch with ordinary voters.

JEREMY HUNT, FORMER CABINET MINISTER

Hunt, a former health secretary and foreign secretary, ran against Johnson in the 2019 leadership race, billing himself as the more serious candidate. He lost heavily, and was dumped from the Cabinet when Johnson took over.

He has openly said he wouldn't back Johnson, warning that keeping him in power would wreck the party's chances in the next general election.

He is widely expected to make a new bid for the party leadership. In a January interview, the 55-year-old was quoted as saying that his ambition to lead the country hasn't "completely vanished."

Hunt has remained a lawmaker, and kept himself in the public eye by grilling ministers and experts as head of Parliament's Health and Social Care Select Committee.

As a critic of the government's response to the pandemic, he may appeal to those seeking a change from Johnson, although some look on him unfavorably for implementing unpopular policies as health secretary.

BEN WALLACE, DEFENSE SECRETARY

Wallace has won admirers for his straight talk, particularly among Conservative lawmakers who pressed for the U.K. to increase its defense spending.

A 52-year-old army veteran, Wallace has raised his profile considerably as a key government voice in Britain's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

TOM TUGENDHAT, COMMONS FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Tugendhat, 48, is a non-Cabinet Conservative being mentioned as a possible leadership contender. Although he has no ministerial experience, Tugendhat reportedly is favored by some in the party as a good choice for a new start.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 27 of 63

An opponent of the 2016 Brexit referendum, the former soldier has been a trenchant critic of Johnson. He is also among a group of key Conservatives urging the U.K. to take a tougher stance on China.

NADHIM ZAHAWI, EDUCATION SECRETARY

Zahawi, 55, came to prominence as vaccines minister during the pandemic and was credited with playing a key part in the successful rollout of the COVID-19 shot.

A co-founder of the market research firm YouGov, Zahawi was elected as lawmaker in 2010. He was born in Iraq to a Kurdish family and came to the U.K. as a child when his parents fled Iraq under Saddam Hussein's rule.

He is seen by some as a safe choice if other candidates such as Truss prove too divisive.

SAJID JAVID, HEALTH SECRETARY

Javid, 52, has been health secretary since June 2021, leading Britain's COVID-19 response. Before that, he served as treasury chief, but resigned in early 2020 after clashing with Johnson over his order to fire his team of advisers.

The fact that Johnson brought him back into the government to handle the coronavirus response reflects his reputation for competence.

The son of Pakistani immigrants, Javid has billed himself as a common-man alternative to his private school-educated rivals — although he had a lucrative career in investment banking before entering politics.

MICHAEL GOVE, LEVELING UP SECRETARY

Gove, a party heavyweight, has held many key Cabinet posts and currently is in charge of delivering on the government's promise to "level up" Britain — to address inequality by increasing opportunities in deprived areas.

Gove, 54, played a key role in the Brexit campaign and is widely respected in the party, but is not completely trusted. In the 2016 Conservative leadership campaign, he backed Johnson for leader before deciding to run himself — a betrayal that many Conservatives haven't forgotten.

PENNY MORDAUNT, TRADE MINISTER

Mordaunt, 49, has emerged as a surprise potential contender, with supporters saying she could help heal the party's divisions.

Mordaunt played a prominent role in the pro-Brexit campaign and had backed Hunt in the 2019 leadership contest. She was removed as defense secretary as soon as Johnson became prime minister.

She has since returned to government as international trade minister and is popular among Conservative lawmakers.

California US House races could tip power in Congress

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD AP Political Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — U.S. House battles took shape in heavily Democratic California that could tip the balance of power in Congress, while former Trump administration Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was in a tight match to claim the Republican nomination for a new House seat in Montana.

In Mississippi, Republican U.S. Rep. Steven Palazzo was forced into a runoff after a congressional ethics watchdog raised questions about his campaign spending and he faced his largest-ever field of primary challengers.

Primary elections across seven states Tuesday set up November contests in dozens of races, as Democrats look to protect the party's fragile majority in the House.

In a diverse district anchored in California's Orange County, Republican U.S. Rep. Michelle Steel, a South Korean immigrant, will face Democrat Jay Chen. The district, which includes the nation's largest Vietnamese American community, is widely considered a toss-up.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 28 of 63

In other districts in the nation's most populous state, two Republican House members were trying to surmount challenges tied to former President Donald Trump: One voted to support Trump's impeachment after the U.S. Capitol insurrection, while the other fought against it.

In Iowa, Republican state Sen. Zach Nunn won the GOP spot to take on the state's lone Democratic House member, Rep. Cindy Axne, in a newly drawn district with a stronger GOP tilt.

A look at results in key U.S. House races Tuesday:

BATTLEGROUND CALIFORNIA: TRUMP HISTORY LOOMS IN KEY DISTRICTS

In 2020, Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Garcia won a narrow victory in a Democratic-leaning district north of Los Angeles. The former Navy fighter pilot was endorsed by Trump that year, then joined House Republicans who rejected electoral votes from Arizona and Pennsylvania and opposed Trump's impeachment after the Capitol insurrection. That record will be a focus for Democrat Christy Smith, who earned a chance for a rematch with Garcia, after losing two years ago.

In a Democratic-tilting district in the state's Central Valley farm belt, Republican Rep. David Valadao is highlighting an independent streak while contending with GOP fallout for his vote to impeach Trump over the Jan. 6 insurrection. Preliminary returns showed him holding an edge over Republican Chris Mathys, who made Valadao's vote a centerpiece in his campaign to oust him. The winner will face Democrat Rudy Salas, a state legislator.

California uses a top-two election format in which only the two leading vote-getters advance to the November general election, regardless of party.

In the Central Valley, Republican Connie Conway won a special election to complete the term of former Rep. Devin Nunes, who resigned to head Trump's media company.

MISSISSIPPI CONGRESSMAN WITH ETHICS TROUBLE TO FACE RUNOFF

Republican U.S. Rep. Steven Palazzo of Mississippi is headed to a June 28 runoff.

The congressman first elected in 2010 failed to win the GOP nomination outright on Tuesday, earning less than 50% of the vote.

His opponent will either be Jackson County Sheriff Mike Ezell, who is also campaigning on border security, or Clay Wagner, a retired banker who says he wants to limit taxation and regulation.

A 2021 report by the Office of Congressional Ethics found "substantial reason to believe" Palazzo, a military veteran who serves on the Appropriations and Homeland Security committees, abused his office by misspending campaign funds, doing favors for his brother and enlisting staff for political and personal errands. His then-spokesperson, Colleen Kennedy, said the probe was based on politically motivated "false allegations."

FORMER TRUMP CABINET MEMBER SEEKS RETURN TRIP TO WASHINGTON

Montana gained a second congressional district this year thanks to its growing population, and Zinke, an Interior Department secretary under Trump, is one of five Republicans on the primary ballot for the open seat.

Zinke's rivals have been drawing attention to his troubled tenure at the agency, which was marked by multiple ethics investigations. One investigation determined Zinke lied to an agency ethics official about his continued involvement in a commercial real estate deal in his hometown. He's faced a smear campaign over his military service from the extreme right wing of his party and questions about his residency following revelations that his wife declared a house in California as her primary residence.

Zinke, a former Navy SEAL, is widely considered the de facto incumbent, since he twice won elections for the state's other House seat before stepping down in 2017 to join the Trump administration.

His primary opponents include former state Sen. Al "Doc" Olszewski, an orthopedic surgeon and hard-line conservative who has tried to paint Zinke as a "liberal insider." The winner will face Olympic rower and attorney Monica Tranel, a Democrat, in the general election.

Incomplete returns showed Zinke locked in a tight race with Olszewski.

IOWA'S SOLE DEMOCRATIC HOUSE MEMBER FACES A TOUGH FIGHT

A Republican state senator has captured the slot to take on Democratic Rep. Cindy Axne this fall in a

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 29 of 63

newly drawn district that appears more favorable for the GOP.

Axne is the only Democrat in Iowa's House delegation.

State Sen. Zach Nunn easily outdistanced rivals Nicole Hasso, a financial services worker, and Gary Leffler, who works in the construction industry, to claim the GOP spot. Nunn, an Air Force pilot who has served in the Legislature since 2014 and has worked to cut taxes, was the best known among the GOP contenders.

In previous elections, Axne was elevated by her strong support in the Des Moines area, even as she struggled in rural counties that typically lean Republican. The new district includes several counties in southern Iowa known to turn out strongly for Republicans, increasing the pressure on Axne to drive up her numbers in Democrat-friendly Des Moines and its suburbs.

Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel promised that Iowa would "send the first congressional delegation to Washington that's fully Republican since 1957."

REMATCH COMING IN NEW JERSEY HOUSE BATTLEGROUND

In what could be New Jersey's most closely watched contest in the fall, Democratic U.S. Rep. Tom Malinowski and Republican Tom Kean Jr. won their primaries, setting up a rematch of their closely contested 2020 race.

Malinowski, a State Department official in the Obama administration, is seeking a third term as his party faces headwinds heading into the general election. His district added more Republican-leaning towns during redistricting, making his reelection bid potentially more difficult.

Another complicating factor is an ethics investigation he's facing over stock transactions in medical and tech companies that had a stake in the pandemic response. A report from the Office of Congressional Ethics said the board found "substantial reason to believe" he failed to properly disclose or report his stock transactions.

Malinowski said his failure to initially disclose the transactions was "a mistake that I own 100%." He said he didn't direct or even ask questions about trades made by his brokerage firm.

Kean, a former state Senate minority leader and the son of the former two-term Republican governor, said in a tweet that he was humbled by his victory and looks forward to seizing the seat in November.

SOUTH DAKOTA REPUBLICAN BEATS BACK CHALLENGE FROM POLITICAL RIGHT

U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson of South Dakota won his state's GOP primary contest as he runs for a third term.

Johnson defeated state lawmaker Taffy Howard, who tried to run to his right. He is set for reelection in November because no other candidate has entered the race.

Howard repeated Trump's lies that there was widespread fraud in the 2020 election and attacked Johnson for certifying the electoral college vote. While Johnson touted his conservative voting record during the primary contest, the congressman has also worked with a bipartisan group of lawmakers called the Problem Solvers Caucus.

Johnson held a large fundraising advantage in the contest, but also drew attacks from a pro-Trump political action committee called Drain the DC Swamp, which spent \$500,000 trying to knock him from the House.

Lavrov in Turkey to discuss plan to ship Ukrainian grain

By AYSE WIETING and SUZAN FRASER Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is due to hold talks Wednesday with Turkish officials on a plan that could allow Ukraine to export its grain through the Black Sea to global markets amid an escalating food crisis.

Ukraine is one of the world's largest exporters of wheat, corn and sunflower oil, but the war and a Russian blockade of its ports have halted much of that flow, endangering food supplies to many developing countries. Many of those ports are now also heavily mined.

An estimated 22 million tons of grains are sitting in silos in Ukraine.

Turkey is involved in efforts for the establishment of a U.N.-led mechanism that would create a secure corridor for the shipment of the Ukrainian grain — and for Russia to export food and fertilizer. Turkey would facilitate and protect the transport of the grain in the Black Sea, Turkish officials have said.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 30 of 63

A top Russian official said Tuesday that Ukraine needs to remove sea mines near its Black Sea port of Odesa to allow grain exports to resume.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the Russian military would need to check commercial ships taking the grain to make sure they don't carry weapons. He added that after they are loaded with grain, Russia would help escort the ships to international waters.

Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said Tuesday that technical details were still being worked out.

"Our efforts are continuing concerning the technical planning on such issues as how it will be done, how the mines will be cleared, who will do it, how the corridor will be established and who will escort (ships)," Akar said.

Lavrov arrived in Turkey days after NATO members Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Montenegro reportedly refused to allow his plane to fly through their airspace to reach Serbia. Lavrov's plane was able to fly directly to Turkey over the Black Sea.

Lavrov's discussions in the Turkish capital are also expected to focus on Turkey's plans to launch a new cross-border offensive in northern Syria against Syrian Kurdish militia that Ankara considers to be a security threat. Turkey needs Moscow's approval to continue its presence in northern Syria, despite the two supporting opposite sides in Syria's civil war. In 2020, 37 Turkish soldiers were killed in Russia-backed airstrikes against rebels in Syria's last rebel-held Idlib province.

"Turkey really needs Russia's blessing in order to be able to carry on this operation (in Syria.) And so I think they're really going to try to get that kind of a concession out of the Russian side," said Merve Tahiroglu, Turkey program coordinator at Project on Middle East Democracy.

Lavrov's meeting also comes as Turkey — a NATO member — has voiced opposition to Sweden and Finland's bids to join the alliance. Moscow has also objected to the Nordic countries' candidacy — which analysts say may play a role in discussions concerning Syria.

Turkey has maintained its close ties to both Ukraine and Russia. It has criticized Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but hasn't joined international sanctions against Russia.

Congresswoman, billionaire to face off in LA mayor's race

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD AP Political Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Democratic U.S. Rep. Karen Bass and billionaire developer Rick Caruso breezed past a large field of rivals looking to be the next mayor of Los Angeles and advanced Tuesday to a runoff election in November.

An early tally of mail-in ballots showed Caruso with 41% and Bass with 38%. A candidate needed to top 50% to avoid a runoff.

A dozen names were on the ballot, though several candidates dropped out.

Bass, a favorite of the party's progressive wing, and the Republican-turned-Democrat Caruso easily distanced themselves from the rest of the field. City Councilman Kevin de Leon, a former state Senate leader, was a distant third with 7%.

Bass, who was on then President-elect Joe Biden's short list for vice president, would be the first woman mayor of Los Angeles and the second Black person to hold the office.

The race largely focused on homelessness and crime. More than 40,000 people live in trash-strewn homeless encampments and rusty RVs, and widely publicized smash-and-grab robberies and home invasions have unsettled residents.

Each candidate used their victory speeches to promise a better tomorrow while also taking shots at their opponent.

"Together we will make a city where you want to live because you feel safe, because the air you breathe is clean, and because people are no longer dying on our streets," Bass said. "Not with empty promises from the past, but through a bold path forward."

Caruso quoted Bass as saying that under her leadership homelessness would not be solved in her first term and that the most residents could count on would be "light at the end of the tunnel" after four years.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 31 of 63

"Whoa. Whoa," Caruso said. "Let me respond by saying this: The light at the end of the tunnel is shining bright tonight."

Caruso, 63, who sits on the board of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and was endorsed by the police union, has positioned himself as a centrist outsider running against City Hall's progressive establishment. He blames Bass, 68, and other longtime incumbents for sprawling homeless encampments that have spread into virtually every neighborhood and concerns about unsafe streets.

"This is a great night because so many people have gone to the voting booth, and they've sent a message: We are not helpless in the face of our problems," Caruso said. "We will not allow this city to decline. We will no longer accept excuses."

His strong performance is an unwelcome sign for Democrats defending their fragile majorities in Congress and in other races around the country.

The last time City Hall veered to the political right was in 1993, when voters turned to Republican businessman Richard Riordan to lead the city in the aftermath of the deadly 1992 riots that erupted after four white police officers were acquitted of assault in the beating of Black motorist Rodney King.

Los Angeles, however, is much changed since Riordan's days. It's more Latino, less white and more solidly Democratic. Only 13% of registered voters are Republicans.

Caruso's estimated \$4.3 billion fortune allowed him to run a seemingly nonstop display of TV and online ads. His campaign's spending — over \$40 million as of early this week, most of it his money — topped all other candidates combined.

"It's hard to defeat a people-powered campaign ... no matter how much money is spent, and it's hard to defeat folks who are committed to a cause, not just a candidate," Bass said. "All of us stood strong against an onslaught, a \$45 million onslaught to be exact, spent by a billionaire."

By comparison, Bass' spending hit about \$3.3 million, though both campaigns were also supported by ads from outside groups.

There was competition over celebrity endorsements, as is typical in Los Angeles. Earvin "Magic" Johnson backed Bass, while Caruso had Snoop Dogg and Gwyneth Paltrow behind him.

The race took a nasty turn recently.

Ads run by Bass and her allies depict Caruso as a West coast version of former President Donald Trump, who is dodging taxes, blowing a "right wing dog whistle" and lying about Bass' record.

In advertising from Caruso and his supporters, Bass emerges as an ethically compromised charlatan who missed key votes in Congress and counts an indicted city councilman in her circle of friends.

No, you're not going crazy - package sizes are shrinking

By DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writer

It's the inflation you're not supposed to see.

From toilet paper to yogurt and coffee to corn chips, manufacturers are quietly shrinking package sizes without lowering prices. It's dubbed "shrinkflation," and it's accelerating worldwide.

In the U.S., a small box of Kleenex now has 60 tissues; a few months ago, it had 65. Chobani Flips yogurts have shrunk from 5.3 ounces to 4.5 ounces. In the U.K., Nestle slimmed down its Nescafe Azera Americano coffee tins from 100 grams to 90 grams. In India, a bar of Vim dish soap has shrunk from 155 grams to 135 grams.

Shrinkflation isn't new, experts say. But it proliferates in times of high inflation as companies grapple with rising costs for ingredients, packaging, labor and transportation. Global consumer price inflation was up an estimated 7% in May, a pace that will likely continue through September, according to S&P Global.

"It comes in waves. We happen to be in a tidal wave at the moment because of inflation," said Edgar Dworsky, a consumer advocate and former assistant attorney general in Massachusetts who has documented shrinkflation on his Consumer World website for decades.

Dworsky began noticing smaller boxes in the cereal aisle last fall, and shrinkflation has ballooned from there. He can cite dozens of examples, from Cottonelle Ultra Clean Care toilet paper, which has shrunk

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 32 of 63

from 340 sheets per roll to 312, to Folgers coffee, which downsized its 51-ounce container to 43.5 ounces but still says it will make up to 400 cups. (Folgers says it's using a new technology that results in lighter-weight beans.)

Dworsky said shrinkflation appeals to manufacturers because they know customers will notice price increases but won't keep track of net weights or small details, like the number of sheets on a roll of toilet paper. Companies can also employ tricks to draw attention away from downsizing, like marking smaller packages with bright new labels that draw shoppers' eyes.

That's what Fritos did. Bags of Fritos Scoops marked "Party Size" used to be 18 ounces; some are still on sale at a grocery chain in Texas. But almost every other big chain is now advertising "Party Size" Fritos Scoops that are 15.5 ounces — and more expensive.

PepsiCo didn't respond when asked about Fritos. But it did acknowledge the shrinking of Gatorade bottles. The company recently began phasing out 32-ounce bottles in favor of 28-ounce ones, which are tapered in the middle to make it easier to hold them. The changeover has been in the works for years and isn't related to the current economic climate, PepsiCo said. But it didn't respond when asked why the 28-ounce version is more expensive.

Likewise, Kimberly-Clark — which makes both Cottonelle and Kleenex — didn't respond to requests for comment on the reduced package sizes. Procter & Gamble Co. didn't respond when asked about Pantene Pro-V Curl Perfection conditioner, which downsized from 12 fluid ounces to 10.4 fluid ounces but still costs \$3.99.

Earth's Best Organic Sunny Day Snack Bars went from eight bars per box to seven, but the price listed at multiple stores remains \$3.69. Hain Celestial Group, the brand's owner, didn't respond to an email seeking comment.

Some companies are straightforward about the changes. In Japan, snack maker Calbee Inc. announced 10% weight reductions — and 10% price increases — for many of its products in May, including veggie chips and crispy edamame. The company blamed a sharp rise in the cost of raw materials.

Domino's Pizza announced in January it was shrinking the size of its 10-piece chicken wings to eight pieces for the same \$7.99 carryout price. Domino's cited the rising cost of chicken.

In India, "down-switching" — another term for shrinkflation — is mostly done in rural areas, where people are poorer and more price sensitive, said Byas Anand, head of corporate communications for Dabur India, a consumer care and food business. In cities, companies simply jack up prices.

"My company has been doing it openly for ages," Anand said.

Some customers who have noticed the downsizing are sharing examples on social media. Others say shrinkflation is causing them to change their shopping habits.

Alex Aspacher does a lot of the grocery shopping and meal planning for his family of four in Haskins, Ohio. He noticed when the one-pound package of sliced Swiss cheese he used to buy shrank to 12 ounces but kept its \$9.99 price tag. Now, he hunts for deals or buys a block of cheese and slices it himself.

Aspacher said he knew prices would rise when he started reading about higher wages for grocery workers. But the speed of the change — and the shrinking packages — have surprised him.

"I was prepared for it to a degree, but there hasn't been a limit to it so far," Aspacher said. "I hope we find that ceiling pretty soon."

Sometimes the trend can reverse. As inflation eases, competition might force manufacturers to lower their prices or reintroduce larger packages. But Dworsky says once a product has gotten smaller, it often stays that way.

"Upsizing is kind of rare," he said.

Hitendra Chaturvedi, a professor of supply chain management at Arizona State University's W.P. Carey School of Business, said he has no doubt many companies are struggling with labor shortages and higher raw material costs.

But in some cases, companies' profits — or sales minus the cost of doing business — are also increasing exponentially, and Chaturvedi finds that troubling.

He points to Mondelez International, which took some heat this spring for shrinking the size of its Cad-

bury Dairy Milk bar in the U.K. without lowering the price. The company's operating income climbed 21% in 2021, but fell 15% in the first quarter as cost pressures grew. By comparison, PepsiCo's operating profit climbed 11% in 2021 and 128% in the first quarter.

"I'm not saying they're profiteering, but it smells like it," Chaturvedi said. "Are we using supply constraints as a weapon to make more money?"

Migration gets top billing as Biden hosts hemisphere leaders

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Migration has taken center stage at an assembly of Western Hemisphere leaders, reflecting its emergence as a top foreign policy issue amid red-carpet drama over who comes and who stays home.

The "Los Angeles Declaration," to be announced while U.S. President Joe Biden meets with his counterparts from North, Central and South America Wednesday through Friday, is expected to be a brief call to action that supporters hope will guide countries on hosting people fleeing violence and persecution and searching for more economic stability.

The United States has been the most popular destination for asylum-seekers since 2017, posing a challenge that has stumped Biden and his immediate predecessors, Donald Trump and Barack Obama.

But the U.S. is far from alone. Colombia and neighboring South American countries host millions who have fled Venezuela. Mexico fielded more than 130,000 asylum applications last year, many of them Haitians, which was triple from 2020. Many Nicaraguans escape to Costa Rica, while displaced Venezuelans account for about one-sixth the population of tiny Aruba.

"Countries are already having to do this, so rather than each country trying to sort this out and figure it out for themselves, what we're doing is saying, 'Let's come together in a coherent way and construct a framework so we can all work together to make this situation more humane and more manageable,'" said Brian Nichols, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs.

Biden was scheduled to arrive at the summit Wednesday, trailed by questions about how much progress he can make on migration and other issues when some of his counterparts from the region — most notably Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador — are boycotting the event.

The controversy has undermined the start of the summit, which is being hosted by the U.S. for the first time since the inaugural event in 1994, at a time when China has been trying to make inroads in the region.

Although Biden was heavily involved in Latin America while he was vice president, his focus has largely been elsewhere since taking office as president last year. He's been trying to reorient U.S. foreign policy toward Asia while also rallying allies to punish Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

Some concrete measures may be announced, perhaps funding for development banks. Nichols said in an interview Monday that discussing any specific initiatives would be premature, but officials have made clear that the agreement will be largely aspirational.

There is widespread agreement that relief must target growth and stability for entire communities in which migrants live, not just migrants.

"If you only help the migrants and not the communities around them, that's counterproductive," Nichols said.

The agreement may call for more pathways to legal status, mechanisms to reunite families, more efficient and humane border controls and improved information sharing, according to experts who have seen early drafts.

Leaders of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador — each critical to any regional migration strategy — are skipping the Summit of the Americas, depriving Biden of symbolic heft and unity amid the photo opportunities and pageantry starting with an inaugural ceremony Wednesday.

Mexico's López Obrador said he delegated Foreign Affairs Secretary Marcelo Ebrard because the U.S. excluded Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua, all countries that send large numbers of migrants to the U.S. and neighboring countries.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 34 of 63

Upon leaving for Los Angeles on Tuesday, Ebrard said Mexico's close relationship with the United States was unchanged and noted that Lopez Obrador will visit Washington in July.

President Guillermo Lasso of Ecuador said a migration accord would be an important recognition of what governments are facing.

"(When) you speak about problems and it becomes part of a declaration, a summit as important as this, obviously the problem exists, the problem enters the consciousness of those who should be part of the solution," he told a group of civic activists in Los Angeles.

The migration accord took shape during discussions of top diplomats in Colombia in October and in Panama in April. Experts who have been consulted by governments say it is largely driven by the U.S. and other countries that take in lots of migrants, such as Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru and Panama.

The strategy appears to resemble a U.S.-only plan that Vice President Kamala Harris announced last July, calling for "secure and humane management of borders" and more paths to legal status.

So far, the Biden administration has little to show for it.

The meeting of regional leaders comes as several thousand migrants on Tuesday walked through southern Mexico — the largest migrant caravan of the year — with local authorities showing no signs yet of trying to stop them.

Mexico has tried to contain migrants to the south, far from the U.S. border. But many have grown frustrated there by the slow bureaucratic process to regularize their status and the lack of job opportunities to provide for their families.

U.S. authorities are stopping migrants crossing the Mexican border more often than at any time in about two decades. Under a pandemic-era rule aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19, many are quickly expelled without a chance to seek asylum. But Title 42 authority, which a federal judge in Louisiana has kept in place, is applied unevenly by nationality.

In Eagle Pass, Texas, one of the busiest spots for illegal crossings, Cubans freely wade through the Rio Grande and are released in the United States on humanitarian parole, aided by Cuba's refusal to take them back. On the flip side, Mexico has agreed to take back migrants expelled from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala, as well as Mexico.

Cristian Salgado, of Honduras, hoped he would be treated as Cubans he saw when he crossed illegally with his wife and 5-year-old son about a month ago but U.S. authorities turned him back to the Mexican border city of Piedras Negras without allowing him to plead his case. He remembers a border agent saying, "There is no asylum for Honduras."

'Will we do our duty?' Cheney lays her legacy on the line

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Liz Cheney has been thinking lately about her great-great-grandfather, a man who fought for the Union in the Civil War, as the House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, U.S. Capitol insurrection prepares to launch a prime-time hearing of its work.

The Wyoming congresswoman, a member of one of America's famous political families, is one of just two Republicans on the 1/6 panel, and its vice chair. Cheney helped drive the committee's investigation into Donald Trump's relentless efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election, and has become one of the former president's fiercest critics after a mob of his supporters laid siege to the Capitol to try to stop Congress from certifying Joe Biden's victory.

Thursday's televised hearing could be a pivotal moment in her political legacy — elevating her ambitions as a post-Trump party leader or possibly costing Cheney her job.

"I have found myself, especially since January 6th, thinking often of my great-great-grandfather and of the Union he fought to defend," Cheney said in a recent speech.

"The question for every one of us is, in this time of testing, will we do our duty?" she asked after receiving a 2022 Profile In Courage Award from the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation in Boston. "Or will we look away from danger, ignore the threat, embrace the lies?"

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 35 of 63

Cheney has not shied from tough battles since she was elected to the House in 2016, alongside Trump's own election, a staunch conservative whose family settled in Wyoming generations ago and who easily won the Republican-heavy Western state's lone congressional seat.

In one of her first news conferences with party leaders, the daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney unabashedly backed the enhanced interrogation techniques he helped champion in the post-9/11 era. Many others in Washington had said it was time to end the practice, regarding it as torture.

Known as an inside player with a famous family name, she is now thrust onto a national stage at a critical moment. Her singular mission to stop Trump from ever being president again after he spread false claims of voter fraud that spurred the attack on the Capitol may be among her last in Congress.

Barbara Comstock, a former Republican congresswoman in Virginia, said Cheney grew up steeped in principles and the belief that "this is why you're in public service, to do the right thing."

Comstock compared Cheney to Republican Margaret Chase Smith, the U.S. senator from Maine who stood up to Sen. Joseph McCarthy and the GOP over unproven allegations and smears against Americans whose lives were upended after being labeled as communists.

"History does have a way of sorting this out, and I think Liz understands that," Comstock said.

Booted by Republicans from her No. 3 position in House GOP leadership for joining the 1/6 committee, Cheney now faces the full force of the Trump wing of the Republican Party apparatus trying to remove her from office by supporting a primary opponent. Wyoming tilts strongly Republican, almost guaranteeing the winner of the party's August primary will win the general election in November.

Trump is campaigning against Cheney, as he has gone after the 10 House Republicans who joined Democrats in voting to impeach him over the insurrection — the only president to be twice impeached.

The former president recently arrived in Wyoming, filling the Casper event center to rally in support of Harriet Hageman, the fiery attorney and state party leader challenging Cheney.

"The people of Wyoming are going to vote dump this woman, Liz Cheney," Trump predicted.

As Trump ran through a list of grievances about those disloyal to him, he said that worse than his Democratic political opponents are "the backstabbing RINO Republicans" — an acronym for "Republicans in Name Only" — and cited Cheney as among them.

Other Republicans have followed Trump's lead. House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy, who is laboring to stay close to Trump as Republicans try to wrest control of the House from Democrats in the midterm elections, has shunned the congressional tradition of backing incumbent colleagues and instead endorsed Hageman and sent campaign cash her way.

"You have a congresswoman who's obsessed with attacking President Donald J. Trump," said McCarthy, who hopes to become the next House speaker, in a video address to the rally crowd.

James King, a political science professor at the University of Wyoming, said he has never seen a serious challenge to an incumbent member of Congress in the state in his 30 years observing local politics.

"It's an unusual situation, but then the last year and a half has been an unusual situation," King said.

He said he's not sure the televised Jan. 6 hearings will hurt or help Cheney's standing back home.

"I think most people will have made up their mind — they have either decided that Cheney is a traitor to what they voted for in 2020, or they are behind Cheney in searching for the truth behind the Jan. 6 events," he said.

Still, other notable Republicans, including Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, have quietly supported Cheney's campaign.

Strategists see a path for Cheney's reelection by drawing a coalition of moderate Republicans and cross-over Democrats who are eligible to vote in the GOP primary after the state government bucked Trump's push to tighten the rules.

The Republican Party in Wyoming has become more extreme, and its chairman, Frank Eathorne, was spotted in images of those outside the Capitol during the riot.

"We're fed up with Liz Cheney," Hageman said at the rally.

After the long assault on the Capitol on Jan. 6, Congress reconvened that night to pick up where it had

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 36 of 63

left off — certifying the election results submitted by the states.

Cheney said she walked through the building, into Statuary Hall, the historic space filled with law enforcement officers in tactical gear “sitting on the floor, leaning up against the statues, exhausted from the brutal hand-to-hand combat in which they had been engaged for hours.”

She made her way to the next room, the Capitol Rotunda, “watched over by statues of Washington and Jefferson, and Lincoln and Grant, and Eisenhower, and Ford and Reagan.”

Its giant paintings, she noted, included one that depicts George Washington resigning his military commission after the Revolutionary War — voluntarily relinquishing his command in a stunning act that set the stage for the future presidential tradition.

“And this sacred obligation to defend the peaceful transfer of power has been honored by every American president — except one,” she said.

Thinking about her great-great-grandfather Samuel Fletcher Cheney, she said it’s time for this generation to “set aside partisan battles and stand together to perpetuate and preserve our great republic.”

Russia draws closer to capture of Ukraine’s Donbas region

By JOHN LEICESTER and HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia drew closer to its goal of fully capturing Ukraine’s eastern industrial heartland of coal mines and factories as the Kremlin claimed to have taken control of 97% of one of the two provinces that make up the Donbas region.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said Tuesday that Moscow’s forces hold nearly all of Luhansk province. And it appears that Russia now occupies roughly half of Donetsk province, according to Ukrainian officials and military analysts.

After abandoning its bungled attempt to storm Kyiv two months ago, Russia declared that taking the entire Donbas is its main objective. Moscow-backed separatists have been battling Ukrainian government forces in the Donbas since 2014, and the region has borne the brunt of the Russian onslaught in recent weeks.

Early in the war, Russian troops also took control of the entire Kherson region and a large part of the Zaporizhzhia region, both in the south. Russian officials and their local appointees have talked about plans for those regions to either declare their independence or be folded into Russia.

But in what may be the latest instance of anti-Russian sabotage inside Ukraine, Russian state media said Tuesday that an explosion at a cafe in the city of Kherson wounded four people. Tass called the apparent bombing in the Russian-occupied city a “terror act.”

Before the Feb. 24 invasion, Ukrainian officials said Russia controlled some 7% of the country, including the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed in 2014, and areas held by the separatists in Donetsk and Luhansk. Last week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russian forces hold 20% of the country.

While Russia has superior firepower, the Ukrainian defenders are entrenched and have shown the ability to counterattack.

Zelenskyy said Russian forces made no significant advances in the eastern Donbas region over the past day.

“The absolutely heroic defense of the Donbas continues,” he said late Tuesday in his nightly video address.

Zelenskyy said the Russians clearly did not expect to meet so much resistance and are now trying to bring in additional troops and equipment. He said the same was true in the Kherson region.

Speaking earlier to a Financial Times conference, Zelenskyy insisted on Ukraine’s need to defeat Russia on the battlefield but also said he is still open to peace talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

But a former senior U.S. intelligence officer said the time isn’t right.

“You’re not going to get to the negotiating table until neither side feels they have an advantage that they could push,” said Andrea Kendall-Taylor of the Washington-based Center for a New American Security.

The Russians “think they will be able to take the whole of the Donbas and then might use that as the opportunity to call for negotiations,” Kendall-Taylor said at an online seminar organized by Columbia and New York universities.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 37 of 63

Shoigu, the Russian defense minister, said Moscow's forces have seized the residential quarters of Sievierodonetsk and are fighting to take control of an industrial zone on the city's outskirts and nearby towns.

Sievierodonetsk and nearby Lysychansk have seen heavy fighting in recent weeks. They are among a few cities and towns in the Luhansk region still holding out against the Russian invasion, which is being helped by local pro-Kremlin forces.

Shoigu added that Russian troops were pressing their offensive toward the town of Popasna and have taken control of Lyman and Sviatohirsk and 15 other towns in the region.

Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak urged his people not to be downhearted about the battlefield reverses.

"Don't let the news that we've ceded something scare you," he said in a video address. "It is clear that tactical maneuvers are ongoing. We cede something, we take something back."

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai conceded that Russian forces control the industrial outskirts of Sievierodonetsk.

"The toughest street battles continue, with varying degrees of success," Haidai said. "The situation constantly changes, but the Ukrainians are repelling attacks."

Moscow's forces also kept up their artillery barrage of Lysychansk. Haidai said Russian troops shelled a market, a school and a college building, destroying the latter. At least three people were wounded, he said.

"A total destruction of the city is under way. Russian shelling has intensified significantly over the past 24 hours. Russians are using scorched-earth tactics," Haidai said.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military has begun training Ukrainian forces on the sophisticated multiple rocket launchers that the Biden administration agreed last week to provide. The Pentagon said the training is going on at a base in Germany and elsewhere in Europe.

The High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, is mounted on a truck and can carry a container with six rockets, which can travel about 45 miles (70 kilometers). Officials said it would take about three weeks of training before they could go to the battlefield.

In other developments, Zelenskyy said Ukraine planned to publish a special "Book of Executioners" next week with information about war crimes committed by the Russian army.

"These are specific facts about specific people who are guilty of specific cruel crimes against Ukrainians," he said. Those named would include not only people who carried out the crimes but their commanders, he said.

FBI seizes retired general's data related to Qatar lobbying

By ALAN SUDERMAN and JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

The FBI has seized the electronic data of a retired four-star general who authorities say made false statements and withheld "incriminating" documents about his role in an illegal foreign lobbying campaign on behalf of the wealthy Persian Gulf nation of Qatar.

New federal court filings obtained Tuesday outlined a potential criminal case against former Marine Gen. John R. Allen, who led U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan before being tapped in 2017 to lead the influential Brookings Institution think tank.

It's part of an expanding investigation that has ensnared Richard G. Olson, a former ambassador to the United Arab Emirates and Pakistan who pleaded guilty to federal charges last week, and Imaad Zuberi, a prolific political donor now serving a 12-year prison sentence on corruption charges. Several members of Congress have been interviewed as part of the investigation.

The court filings detail Allen's behind-the-scenes efforts to help Qatar influence U.S. policy in 2017 when a diplomatic crisis erupted between the gas-rich Persian Gulf monarchy and its neighbors.

"There is substantial evidence that these FARA violations were willful," FBI agent Babak Adib wrote in a search warrant application, referring to the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

Allen also misrepresented his role in the lobbying campaign to U.S. officials, Adib wrote, and failed to disclose "that he was simultaneously pursuing multimillion-dollar business deals with the government of Qatar."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 38 of 63

The FBI says Allen gave a "false version of events" about his work for Qatar during a 2020 interview with law enforcement officials and failed to produce relevant email messages in response to an earlier grand jury subpoena.

The 77-page search warrant application appears to have been filed in error and was removed from the docket Tuesday after The Associated Press reached out to federal authorities about its contents.

Allen declined to comment on the new filings. He has previously denied ever working as a Qatari agent and said his efforts on Qatar in 2017 were motivated to prevent a war from breaking out in the Gulf that would put U.S. troops at risk.

Allen spokesperson Beau Phillips told AP last week that Allen "voluntarily cooperated with the government's investigation into this matter."

Allen, who was a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution prior to becoming president, used his official email account at the think tank for some of his Qatar-related communications, the affidavit says.

Brookings did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Qatar has long been one of Brookings' biggest financial backers, though the institution says it has recently stopped taking Qatari funding.

Olson was working with Zuberi on another matter involving Qatar in mid-2017 when Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other Gulf countries announced a blockade of Qatar over its alleged ties to terror groups and other issues.

Shortly after the blockade was announced, then-President Donald Trump appeared to side against Qatar.

The court papers say Allen played an important role in shifting the U.S.'s response. Specifically, authorities say Allen lobbied then-National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster to have the Trump administration adopt more Qatar-friendly tone.

In an email to McMaster, Allen said the Qataris wanted the White House or State Department to issue a statement with language calling on all sides of the Gulf diplomatic crisis to "act with restraint."

Federal law enforcement officials say then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson did just that two days later, issuing a statement that called on other Gulf countries to "ease the blockade against Qatar" and asked "that there be no further escalation by the parties in the region."

The Qatar Embassy did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

As part of the lobbying campaign, federal law enforcement authorities say, Olson and Allen traveled to Qatar to meet with the country's ruling emir and other top officials.

At the meeting, Allen provided advice on how to influence U.S. policy and said the Qataris should "use the full spectrum" of information operations, including "black and white" operations, the affidavit says. "Black" operations are typically covert and sometimes illegal. Qatar has been accused of orchestrating hack-and-leak operations of its critics and rivals during the diplomatic crisis, including one targeting a UAE ambassador. Qatar has denied any wrongdoing.

Before they went to Doha, Allen wanted to "have a chat" with Olson and Zuberi about his compensation, the affidavit said. Allen suggested in an email that he be paid a \$20,000 "speaker's fee" for the weekend trip — even though he wasn't giving a speech — and then later "work out a fuller arrangement of a longer-term relationship," the affidavit says.

Zuberi paid Allen's first-class airfare to Qatar, the affidavit said, but there's no indication the speaker's fee was paid. Allen's spokesman said previously the general was never paid a fee. It's unclear why. Some of Zuberi's past business associates have accused him of not honoring his financial commitments.

Allen also had other financial incentives for helping the Qataris and maintaining strong ties to its top leaders, the FBI said.

"At the same time he was lobbying U.S. government officials on behalf of Qatar, Allen pursued at least one multimillion-dollar business deal with the Qatari government on behalf of a company on whose board of directors he served," the affidavit says.

After returning from their trip to Qatar, Allen and Olson lobbied members of Congress, particularly those who supported a House resolution linking Qatar to terror financing, the FBI said.

Among them was Rep. Ted Lieu, a California Democrat who told law enforcement officials he didn't recall

exactly what Allen said but that his impression was he was there "to support the Qatari officials and their position."

Russia claims advances in Ukraine amid fierce fighting

By JOHN LEICESTER and HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia on Tuesday claimed to have taken control of 97% of one of the two provinces that make up Ukraine's Donbas, bringing the Kremlin closer to its goal of fully capturing the eastern industrial heartland of coal mines and factories.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said Moscow's forces hold nearly all of Luhansk province. And it appears that Russia now occupies roughly half of Donetsk province, according to Ukrainian officials and military analysts.

After abandoning its bungled attempt to storm Kyiv two months ago, Russia declared that taking the entire Donbas is its main objective. Moscow-backed separatists have been battling Ukrainian government forces in the Donbas since 2014, and the region has borne the brunt of the Russian onslaught in recent weeks.

Early in the war, Russian troops also took control of the entire Kherson region and a large part of the Zaporizhzhia region, both in the south. Russian officials and their local appointees have talked about plans for those regions to either declare their independence or be folded into Russia.

But in what may be the latest instance of anti-Russian sabotage inside Ukraine, Russian state media said Tuesday that an explosion at a cafe in the city of Kherson wounded four people. Tass called the apparent bombing in the Russian-occupied city a "terror act."

Before the Feb. 24 invasion, Ukrainian officials said Russia controlled some 7% of the country, including the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed in 2014, and areas held by the separatists in Donetsk and Luhansk. Last week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russian forces hold 20% of the country.

While Russia has superior firepower, the Ukrainian defenders are entrenched and have shown the ability to counterattack.

Zelenskyy said Russian forces made no significant advances in the eastern Donbas region over the past day.

"The absolutely heroic defense of the Donbas continues," he said late Tuesday in his nightly video address.

Zelenskyy said the Russians clearly did not expect to meet so much resistance and are now trying to bring in additional troops and equipment. He said the same was true in the Kherson region.

Speaking earlier to a Financial Times conference, Zelenskyy insisted on Ukraine's need to defeat Russia on the battlefield but also said he is still open to peace talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

But a former senior U.S. intelligence officer said the time isn't right.

"You're not going to get to the negotiating table until neither side feels they have an advantage that they could push," said Andrea Kendall-Taylor of the Washington-based Center for a New American Security.

The Russians "think they will be able to take the whole of the Donbas and then might use that as the opportunity to call for negotiations," Kendall-Taylor said at an online seminar organized by Columbia and New York universities.

Shoigu, the Russian defense minister, said Moscow's forces have seized the residential quarters of Sievierodonetsk and are fighting to take control of an industrial zone on the city's outskirts and nearby towns.

Sievierodonetsk and nearby Lysychansk have seen heavy fighting in recent weeks. They are among a few cities and towns in the Luhansk region still holding out against the Russian invasion, which is being helped by local pro-Kremlin forces.

Shoigu added that Russian troops were pressing their offensive toward the town of Popasna and have taken control of Lyman and Sviatohirsk and 15 other towns in the region.

Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak urged his people not to be downhearted about the battlefield reverses.

"Don't let the news that we've ceded something scare you," he said in a video address. "It is clear that tactical maneuvers are ongoing. We cede something, we take something back."

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai conceded that Russian forces control the industrial outskirts of Sievierodonetsk.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 40 of 63

"The toughest street battles continue, with varying degrees of success," Haidai said. "The situation constantly changes, but the Ukrainians are repelling attacks."

Moscow's forces also kept up their artillery barrage of Lysychansk. Haidai said Russian troops shelled a market, a school and a college building, destroying the latter. At least three people were wounded, he said.

"A total destruction of the city is under way. Russian shelling has intensified significantly over the past 24 hours. Russians are using scorched-earth tactics," Haidai said.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military has begun training Ukrainian forces on the sophisticated multiple rocket launchers that the Biden administration agreed last week to provide. The Pentagon said the training is going on at a base in Germany and elsewhere in Europe.

The High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, is mounted on a truck and can carry a container with six rockets, which can travel about 45 miles (70 kilometers). Officials said it would take about three weeks of training before they could go to the battlefield.

In other developments, Zelenskyy said Ukraine planned to publish a special "Book of Executioners" next week with information about war crimes committed by the Russian army.

"These are specific facts about specific people who are guilty of specific cruel crimes against Ukrainians," he said. Those named would include not only people who carried out the crimes but their commanders, he said.

The war also brought a standoff Tuesday between the head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency and Ukrainian authorities over the biggest nuclear power plant in Europe.

The director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Mariano Grossi, wants to visit the Zaporizhzhia plant to help maintain its safety after it was taken by Russian troops in March.

But Energoatom, the Ukrainian state company overseeing the country's nuclear plants, said in a blunt statement that Grossi isn't welcome. It said his planned tour is "yet another attempt to legitimize the occupier's presence there."

Amid fears of a global food crisis because of the war, the Kremlin said Ukraine needs to remove sea mines near its Black Sea port of Odesa to allow essential grain exports to resume from there. Ukrainian officials have expressed concern that removing the mines could enable Moscow's forces to attack.

Jeff Goldblum takes one more bite out of 'Jurassic World'

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — There is only one person who, in the middle of a massive dystopic dinosaur movie, can utter a line like "That's bananas" with just the right timing and inflection.

For almost three decades, off and on, Jeff Goldblum has played Dr. Ian Malcolm with particular Goldblumian panache. As the stylish chaos theorist of the "Jurassic Park" and "Jurassic World" films, Goldblum is voice of reason and comedy relief in one, an auger of nature's unpredictability who can't help marveling at seeing his theories in action, even if that poses immediate danger to himself.

It's one of the 69-year-old actor's best-known characters. Yet in even big movies like "Jurassic Park" and "Independence Day," Goldblum has such a singular manner and much-imitated tempo that he's never been particularly defined by those roles. It's more that Goldblum, in putting his own idiosyncratic spin on them, marks the characters, rather than the other way around. Life finds a way in "Jurassic Park," and so does Goldblum.

In Colin Trevorrow's "Jurassic World: Dominion," which opens in theaters Thursday, Goldblum — along with original cast members Laura Dern and Sam Neill — returns to close out the franchise's second trilogy of films in a sprawling adventure set in a near future where dinosaurs have spread across the world, as has ecological imbalance and a plague of giant locusts.

For Goldblum, the son of a doctor and host of the Disney+ series "The World According to Jeff Goldblum," the subjects and themes of the movie dovetail with some of his own curiosities and interests in how we might, he says, "upgrade our stewardship of the planet." What does Goldblum, the movies' resident chaotician, think of our increasingly tumultuous times?

"I don't know anything about what I'm talking about. But let's utter the word 'entropy' and 'systems'

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 41 of 63

and how things break down," Goldblum says, speaking from London. "Before the butterfly comes out of the chrysalis, the caterpillar has some convulsions, chaotic convulsions. But it's not death, necessarily. It's the onset of transformation."

Satisfied that he's perhaps arrived at a kernel of truth, Goldblum concludes, "Hey, what about that?"

Chaos and harmony feature prominently in most conversations with Goldblum, an ever-riffing, cosmically attuned raconteur. He tends to speak as if narrating his brain's inner-workings in real time, arriving now and then at ideas worth pausing to savor and existential epiphanies that delight him.

One question, for example, about whether his sons' names — River Joe and Charlie Ocean — suggest some ecological bent sends Goldblum on a jag about ocean environmental health, fundraising for Oceana, the song "Moon River" (which Goldblum, an accomplished pianist, says his band might soon record), Carly Simon's "Let the River Run," the movie "Working Girl," Mark Harris' Mike Nichols biography and a white-water rafting trip on the Kern River.

"Water is life, isn't it?" says Goldblum. "If they ever wanted to drop the Goldblum and just go with River Joe, that sounds evocative to me, that sounds like a good character. Or Charlie Ocean. I like both of those. Nothing wrong with Goldblum, but if they want to change it, fine with me."

Either through experience (Goldblum's early films included two with the improvisational Robert Altman, "a dippy doodle of an artist," he says) or practice (Goldblum credits acting teacher Sandy Meisner with instilling in him "a continuity of digging"), Goldblum has arrived at his unique cadence and perpetual state of curiosity.

"At the beginning of the day, I remind myself: free association, stream of consciousness, perceptual readiness and then openness," says Goldblum. "This whole business of acting and music seems to be, if nothing else, an invitation toward opening up. Opening yourself up in both directions. Not only to what's around you in reception but then in your giving back, reacting and offering something."

After co-starring in "Jurassic Park" and its 1997 sequel, "The Lost World," Goldblum returned to Ian Malcolm in 2018's "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" during which his character testifies to the U.S. Congress. Malcolm recommends letting the exploding volcano determine the fate of the dinosaurs on Isla Nublar. Goldblum relished it.

"I was full of juice," he says. "I was in this froth of fun, which I sometimes get in."

Trevorrow, who has co-written the trilogy and directed the first and third installments, first worked with Goldblum on a "Jurassic World" Super Bowl ad for Jeep. Goldblum wasn't what he expected.

"You think that he's purely improvisational and maybe even a loose canon," says Trevorrow. "But on this movie, I'd just see him walking out on the garden at the hotel we were staying in going over his lines again and again and coming in and delivering a very precise, considered performance."

Production on "Jurassic World: Dominion" was halted in 2020 due to the pandemic. When shooting restarted, the studio rented out a hotel in England near Pinewood Studios for cast and crew. Goldblum would sometimes play the piano there with his castmates and Trevorrow — "musicales and hootenanny's of one kind or another," Goldblum says. Dern posted one video of her, Neill and Goldblum singing the Beatles' "Blackbird."

"He's a beautiful man," says Trevorrow. "We would have really thoughtful conversations about his perspective on where we're at. There was a depth to it all, honestly, when it comes to the experience of making the film and going through pandemic together."

For the "Jurassic World: Dominion" cast and filmmakers, making a movie about nature's resistance to humankind's meddling during the pandemic took on real-world resonance. As in the movie, the world might be ending but Goldblum is still there keeping the spirits up.

"What else can we do?" says Goldblum. "Being a Sandy Meisner devotee, I'm a romantic about the ensemble credo and synergy and, like this movie depicts, what educated, smart and deeply caring people can do — even a few of them — together at a crucial moment. They can even sometimes defeat the forces of ignorance, corruption and greed, and keep the homo sapiens ball moving along a little more. Maybe."

US wins case to seize Russian superyacht in Fiji, sails away

By NICK PERRY Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — The United States won a legal battle on Tuesday to seize a Russian-owned superyacht in Fiji and wasted no time in taking command of the \$325 million vessel and sailing it away from the South Pacific nation.

The court ruling represented a significant victory for the U.S. as it encounters obstacles in its attempts to seize the assets of Russian oligarchs around the world. While those efforts are welcomed by many who oppose the war in Ukraine, some actions have tested the limits of American jurisdiction abroad.

In Fiji, the nation's Supreme Court lifted a stay order which had prevented the U.S. from seizing the superyacht Amadea.

Chief Justice Kamal Kumar ruled that based on the evidence, the chances of defense lawyers mounting an appeal that the top court would hear were "nil to very slim."

Kumar said he accepted arguments that keeping the superyacht berthed in Fiji at Lautoka harbor was "costing the Fijian government dearly."

"The fact that U.S. authorities have undertaken to pay costs incurred by the Fijian government is totally irrelevant," the judge found. He said the Amadea "sailed into Fiji waters without any permit and most probably to evade prosecution by the United States of America."

The U.S. removed the motorized vessel within an hour or two of the court's ruling, possibly to ensure the yacht didn't get entangled in any further legal action.

Anthony Coley, a spokesman for the U.S. Justice Department, said on Twitter that the superyacht had set sail for the U.S. under a new flag, and that American authorities were grateful to police and prosecutors in Fiji "whose perseverance and dedication to the rule of law made this action possible."

In early May, the Justice Department issued a statement saying the Amadea had been seized in Fiji, but that turned out to be premature after lawyers appealed.

It wasn't immediately clear where the U.S. intended to take the Amadea, which the FBI has linked to the Russian oligarch Suleiman Kerimov.

Fiji Director of Public Prosecutions Christopher Pryde said unresolved questions of money laundering and the ownership of the Amadea need to be decided in the U.S.

"The decision acknowledges Fiji's commitment to respecting international mutual assistance requests and Fiji's international obligations," Pryde said.

In court documents, the FBI linked the Amadea to the Kerimov family through their alleged use of code names while aboard and the purchase of items such as a pizza oven and a spa bed. The ship became a target of Task Force KleptoCapture, launched in March to seize the assets of Russian oligarchs to put pressure on Russia to end the war.

The 106-meter (348-foot)-long vessel, about the length of a football field, features a live lobster tank, a hand-painted piano, a swimming pool and a large helipad.

Lawyer Feizal Haniff, who represented paper owner Millemarin Investments, had argued the owner was another wealthy Russian who, unlike Kerimov, doesn't face sanctions.

The U.S. acknowledged that paperwork appeared to show Eduard Khudainatov was the owner but said he was also the paper owner of a second and even larger superyacht, the Scheherazade, which has been linked to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The U.S. questioned whether Khudainatov could really afford two superyachts worth a total of more than \$1 billion.

"The fact that Khudainatov is being held out as the owner of two of the largest superyachts on record, both linked to sanctioned individuals, suggests that Khudainatov is being used as a clean, unsanctioned straw owner to conceal the true beneficial owners," the FBI wrote in a court affidavit.

Court documents say the Amadea switched off its transponder soon after Russia invaded Ukraine and sailed from the Caribbean through the Panama Canal to Mexico, arriving with over \$100,000 in cash. It then sailed thousands of miles (kilometers) across the Pacific Ocean to Fiji.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 43 of 63

The Justice Department said it didn't believe paperwork showing the Amadea was next headed to the Philippines, arguing it was really destined for Vladivostok or elsewhere in Russia.

The department said it found a text message on a crew member's phone saying, "We're not going to Russia" followed by a "shush" emoji.

The U.S. said Kerimov secretly bought the Cayman Island-flagged Amadea last year through various shell companies. The FBI said a search warrant in Fiji turned up emails showing that Kerimov's children were aboard the ship this year and that the crew used code names — G0 for Kerimov, G1 for his wife, G2 for his daughter and so on.

Kerimov made a fortune investing in Russian gold producer Polyus, with Forbes magazine putting his net worth at \$14.5 billion. The U.S. first sanctioned him in 2018 after he was detained in France and accused of money laundering there, sometimes arriving with suitcases stuffed with 20 million euros.

Khudainatov is the former chairman and chief executive of Rosneft, the state-controlled Russian oil and gas company.

Son of Buffalo victim pushes Congress: 'What are you doing?'

By FARNOUSH AMIRI and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The son of Ruth Whitfield, an 86-year-old woman killed when a gunman opened fire in a racist attack on Black shoppers in Buffalo, New York, challenged Congress Tuesday to act against the "cancer of white supremacy" and the nation's epidemic of gun violence.

Garnell Whitfield Jr.'s emotional testimony comes as lawmakers are working furiously to strike a bipartisan agreement on gun safety measures in the aftermath of back-to-back mass shootings. Ten days after the shooting death of his mother and nine others in New York, another 18-year-old gunman with a semi-automatic rifle opened fire in Uvalde, Texas, killing 19 school children and two teachers.

"What are you doing? You were elected to protect us," Whitfield Jr. told members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"Is there nothing that you personally are willing to do to stop the cancer of white supremacy and the domestic terrorism it inspires?" he asked. "If there is nothing then, respectfully, senators ... you should yield your positions of authority and influence to others that are willing to lead on this issue."

The hearing is the first of two this week as families of the victims and survivors of the mass shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde appear at public hearings and events on Capitol Hill to show the human toll of America's gun violence and urge Congress to act.

Pressing for a deal, President Joe Biden met Tuesday with Sen. Chris Murphy, a key Democratic negotiator, who has worked most of his career trying to curb the nation's mass-shooting scourge after the heartbreaking slaughter of 20 children at Sandy Hook Elementary in his home state of Connecticut a decade ago.

Murphy told reporters after the meeting that he was grateful to have an opportunity to update the president on the talks. "Obviously we've still got work to do in the Senate," he said.

Murphy said his goal is to try to get an agreement this week, but he added that Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has been clear that "we need some extra time to dot the i's and cross the t's that will get it."

Also Tuesday, actor Matthew McConaughey, who is from Uvalde, made the rounds of Senate offices before heading to the White House to open the daily briefing. McConaughey, who earlier this year considered a run for governor of Texas, gave a speech on the importance of taking legislative action "to make the loss of these lives matter."

"We want secure and safe schools and we want gun laws that won't make it so easy for the bad guys to get the damn guns," he said. The 52-year-old actor and his wife drove to Uvalde on the day after the shooting and spent time with some of the victims' families.

On Wednesday, the House Oversight Committee is expected to hear from more victims' families and from fourth-grader Miah Cerrillo, who captured Americans' attention after she described covering herself in her dead classmate's blood and playing dead to survive the shooting rampage in Uvalde.

The Senate hearing Tuesday focused directly on the white supremacist ideology that authorities say led

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 44 of 63

an 18-year-old gunman dressed in military gear to drive hours to a predominately Black neighborhood in Buffalo and live stream his violent rampage. The shooting left 10 people dead and several others wounded.

"My mother's life mattered," Whitfield said. "Your actions here will tell us if and how much it mattered to you."

Shortly after the Buffalo massacre, a bill that would have bolstered federal resources to prevent domestic terrorism failed in the Senate at the hands of Republican opposition. Even at Tuesday's hearing, Republican senators took the time to focus on the racial injustice protests that took place in the summer of 2020, citing those incidents as acts of domestic extremism.

Since the failed vote, senators have regrouped and began to meet privately in a small bipartisan group headed by Murphy and Republican Sen. John Cornyn, trying to hash out a compromise that could actually become law.

But lawmakers have been here before — unable to pass any substantial gun safety laws in decades in the face of steep objections from Republicans in Congress, some conservative Democrats, and the fierce lobbying of gun owners and the National Rifle Association. No major legislation has made it into law since the 1994 assault weapons ban, which has since expired.

The issue for Democrats is that a number of the topics with bipartisan support would likely not have stopped either the shooting in Buffalo or Uvalde. And the ones that gun safety advocates argue would have been met with a deep reluctance from Republicans. One such proposal would raise the age requirement for gun purchases from 18 to 21. Another popular measure among Democrats would have banned assault-style rifles altogether.

Instead, the senators are focusing on incremental policy changes through a system that would send funds and other incentives to the states to bolster security at school campuses, provide more mental health services to young people and possibly encourage states to pursue red-flag laws to keep firearms out of the hands of people who would do harm.

But one thing that lawmakers on both sides of the aisle seem to agree on is that inaction is not an option. "We know we won't get it all done at once," Schumer said Tuesday afternoon. "But the American people want us to get something done and they want to see Republicans do something."

His counterpart across the aisle seemed to echo the sentiment. "Almost everybody would like to get an outcome," Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell told reporters. "I hope we'll have one sooner rather than later."

Crypto meltdown is wake-up call for many, including Congress

By KEN SWEET and FATIMA HUSSEIN The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Meltdowns in the cryptocurrency space are common, but the latest one really touched some nerves. Novice investors took to online forums to share tales of decimated fortunes and even suicidal despair. Experienced crypto supporters, including one prominent billionaire, were left feeling humbled.

When the stablecoin TerraUSD imploded last month, an estimated \$40 billion in investor funds was erased — and so far there has been little or no accountability. Stablecoins are supposed to be less vulnerable to big swings — thus the name — but Terra suffered a spectacular collapse in a matter of days.

The Terra episode publicly exposed a truth long-known in the always-online crypto community: for every digital currency with staying power, like bitcoin, there have been hundreds of failed or worthless currencies in crypto's short history. So Terra became just the latest "sh—coin" — the term used by the community to describe coins that faded into obscurity.

Terra's quick collapse came just as bitcoin, the most popular cryptocurrency, was in the midst of a decline that has wiped out nearly half of its value in a couple of months. The events have served as a vivid reminder that investors, both professionals and the mom and pop variety, can be rolling the dice when it comes to putting money into digital assets.

After being mostly hands-off toward crypto, it appears that Washington has had enough. On Tuesday, two senators — one Democrat and one Republican — proposed legislation that seeks to build a regula-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 45 of 63

tory framework around the cryptocurrency industry; other members of Congress are considering more limited legislation.

What's surprising, however, is that the cryptocurrency industry is signaling its cooperation. Politicians, crypto enthusiasts, and industry lobbyists all point to last month's collapse of Terra and its token Luna as the possible end of the libertarian experiment in crypto.

Stablecoins are typically pegged to a traditional financial instrument, like the U.S. dollar, and are supposed to be the cryptocurrency equivalent of investing in a conservative money market fund. But Terra was not backed by any hard assets. Instead, its founder Do Kwon promised that Terra's proprietary algorithm would keep the coin's value pegged to roughly \$1.00. Critics of Terra would be attacked on social media by Kwon and his so-called army of "LUNAtics"

Kwon's promise turned out to be worthless. A massive selling event caused Terra to "break the buck" and collapse in value. Reddit boards dedicated to Terra and Luna were dominated for days by posts referencing the National Suicide Prevention Hotline.

Terra's ascendance attracted not only retail investors but also better-known cryptocurrency experts. One notable "Lunatic" was billionaire Mike Novogratz, who tattooed his upper arm with the word Luna and a wolf howling at the moon. Novogratz told his followers that the tattoo "will be a constant reminder that venture investing requires humility."

Michael Estrabillo entrusted his crypto investments to stablegains, an investment vehicle that he says had assured him and other investors that the funds were secured in USD Coin, one of the largest stablecoins. Then, on May 9, he said he was informed his money was locked up in Terra.

"Had I known I was involved in a currency that was backed by an algorithm, I would have never invested in that," Estrabillo lamented.

Washington may also be waking up to the fact that what used to be niche part of the internet and finance has gone mainstream and can no longer be ignored.

The total value of crypto assets hit a peak of \$2.8 trillion last November; it's now below \$1.3 trillion, according to CoinGecko. Surveys show that roughly 16% of adult Americans, or 40 million people, have invested in cryptocurrencies. Retirement account giant Fidelity Investments now offers crypto as a part of a 401(k) plan. Sen. Cory Booker, D-New Jersey, has repeatedly pointed out that crypto is particularly popular among Black Americans, a community long distrustful of Wall Street.

Further, crypto has permeated popular culture. Numerous Super Bowl ads touted crypto. Sports arenas are now named after crypto projects and the Washington Nationals baseball team took a sponsorship deal from Terra before it collapsed. Celebrities routinely shill crypto on social media, and YouTube personalities generate millions of views talking about the latest crypto idea.

Terra's collapse was a bridge too far, it seems.

On Tuesday, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-New York, and Sen. Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyoming, proposed a framework to start regulating the industry, which would include giving the Commodity Futures Trading Commission full regulatory jurisdiction over cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin and rewriting the tax code to include crypto. It would also fully regulate stablecoins for the first time ever.

This comes after the Biden administration's working group on financial markets issued a 22-page report last November, calling on Congress to pass legislation that would regulate stablecoins. One recommendation includes a requirement that stablecoin issuers become banks that would hold sufficient cash reserves.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has also called for stablecoin regulation, saying "we really need a regulatory framework to guard against the risks," during a House committee meeting in May.

Further, it appears that the cryptocurrency industry — with its libertarian leanings and deep skepticism of Washington — might also be on board.

"I do think this is a bit of a wake-up call. A lot of people were taken aback by Terra's failure," said Perianne Boring, founder of the Chamber of Digital Commerce, one of the top lobbyists for the cryptocurrency industry.

Other crypto lobby groups, like the Association for Digital Asset Markets, have announced support for

the Lummis-Gillibrand bill.

One idea that Washington seems to be coalescing around is that entities that issue stablecoins — often used as a bridge between traditional finance and the crypto world — need to be transparent about the assets backing them and be as liquid as any other instrument playing a key role in finance.

Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pennsylvania, is circulating a separate bill that would require stablecoin providers to have a license to operate, restrict the types of assets they carry to back those stablecoins, as well as be subject to routine auditing to make sure they are complying.

Describing Terra as a “debacle,” Toomey said in an interview that Terra’s collapse made it even more important that Washington build some guardrails around stablecoins. Toomey is the top Republican on the Senate Banking Committee.

“It’s always difficult to get anything across the goal line in the Senate, but there’s nothing politically polarizing about creating a statutory regime for stablecoins,” Toomey said.

After Terra’s collapse there are two remaining big stablecoins: USD Coin issued by the company Circle, and Tether, created by the Hong Kong-based company Bitfinex. Both hold hard assets to back their value, but Bitfinex is less transparent about the assets it holds and is not audited. There are also a host of smaller stablecoin issuers, which in the world of crypto could become the latest hot item overnight.

“It’s not just urgent that Washington step in, it’s urgently urgent,” said Jeremy Allaire, founder and CEO of Circle, in an interview.

FDA advisers back Novavax COVID shots as 4th US option

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

American adults who haven’t yet gotten vaccinated against COVID-19 may soon get another choice, as advisers to the Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday backed a more traditional type of shot.

Next, the FDA must decide whether to authorize the protein vaccine made by latecomer Novavax as the nation’s fourth coronavirus shot for adults. It’s made with more conventional technology than today’s dominant Pfizer and Moderna shots and the lesser-used Johnson & Johnson option.

Novavax shots are already available in Australia, Canada, parts of Europe and multiple other countries, either for initial vaccinations or as mix-and-match boosters. But U.S. clearance is a key hurdle for the Maryland-based company.

FDA’s vaccine chief Dr. Peter Marks said another choice in the U.S. may entice at least some vaccine holdouts -- whatever their reason -- to consider rolling up their sleeves.

“We do have a problem with vaccine uptake that is very serious in the United States,” Marks said. “Anything we can do to get people more comfortable to accept these potentially life-saving products is something that we feel we are compelled to do.”

A final FDA decision isn’t expected immediately, as the agency finishes combing through the data.

Nor is it clear how widely a Novavax vaccine would be used, at least right away. Only about 27 million U.S. adults remain unvaccinated, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Eventually, Novavax hopes also to become a choice for the millions more who haven’t yet had a booster dose of today’s vaccines, regardless of which shot people got originally.

The FDA advisory panel voted that the benefits of two primary Novavax doses outweigh its risks — but they had a lot of questions about the shots’ role at this point in the pandemic.

“This vaccine does indeed fill some unmet needs,” such as an option for people with allergies to competing shots, said Dr. Michael Nelson of the University of Virginia.

But the FDA is considering two adult doses for now, when other COVID-19 vaccines have needed a third dose, he said.

And while “this vaccine has incredible potential,” there’s no clear evidence yet of how well it works against the more contagious omicron variant and its siblings, added fellow adviser Dr. Bruce Gellin of the Rockefeller Foundation.

Large studies in the U.S., Mexico and Britain found two doses of the Novavax vaccine were safe and

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 47 of 63

about 90% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19. One complication: Those studies were done far earlier in the pandemic.

Novavax chief medical officer Dr. Filip Dubovsky said tests of a booster dose revved up virus-fighting antibodies that could tackle the omicron mutant, data that FDA will have to consider later.

This type of vaccine "we think generates a broad immune response against a broad array of variants," he told the FDA advisory panel.

Trial participants generally experienced only mild reactions such as injection-site pain or fatigue, but the FDA did highlight a possible concern: six cases of heart inflammation, known as myocarditis, found among the 40,000 people who received the vaccine in studies.

COVID-19 vaccines are coming under close scrutiny for the possibility of heart inflammation after the Pfizer and Moderna shots were linked to that rare risk.

Novavax argued there were other potential causes for the reports. Other infections including COVID-19 also can cause heart inflammation. The company said more than 744,000 vaccinations in other countries so far support the shots' safety.

Several of FDA's advisers said the Novavax vaccine should come with a warning until more is known but cautioned against comparisons with the Pfizer and Moderna shots' estimated rate of the rare side effect.

"I don't want to stigmatize this vaccine inappropriately," said Dr. Cody Meissner of Tufts University.

The Novavax vaccine is made of copies of the spike protein that coats the coronavirus, packaged into nanoparticles that to the immune system resemble a virus. Then an immune-boosting ingredient, or adjuvant, that's made from the bark of a South American tree is added that acts as a red flag to ensure those particles look suspicious enough to spark a strong immune response.

Protein vaccines have been used for years to prevent hepatitis B, shingles and other diseases.

That's very different than the vaccines currently used in the U.S. The most widely used Pfizer and Moderna vaccines deliver genetic instructions for the body to produce its own copies of the spike protein. J&J uses a cold virus to deliver those instructions.

Manufacturing problems held up Novavax's vaccine but the company said those problems have been resolved. Novavax, a small biotech company, created the vaccine in its research lab. But the Serum Institute of India, the world's largest vaccine maker, produces most of its shots including those slated for the U.S.

Treasury Secretary Yellen expects inflation to 'remain high'

By FATIMA HUSSEIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen acknowledged Tuesday that she and Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell "could have used a better word" than "transitory" when describing the expected run of inflation in the U.S. economy. She added that she was hopeful it would soon be on the decline.

"I do expect inflation to remain high although I very much hope that it will be coming down now," Yellen told the Senate Finance Committee during a hearing on the agency's latest budget request. "I think that bringing inflation down should be our number one priority."

The Federal Reserve and Treasury Department have been increasingly blamed by legislators and the public for allowing inflation to reach record highs — notably an 8.3% leap in consumer prices over the past year.

She told CNN last week 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.

The hearing was an opportunity for lawmakers to press Yellen on the causes for inflation, when it may decline and the administration's plans to reduce the pain on Americans.

"We now are entering a period of transition from one of historic recovery to one that can be marked by stable and steady growth," she said. "Making this shift is a central piece of the president's plan to get inflation under control without sacrificing the economic gains we've made."

As for earlier pronouncements by Yellen and Powell that the U.S. inflation problem was transitory, Yellen allowed, "Both of us could have used a better word than transitory. There's no question that we have

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 48 of 63

huge inflation pressures. Inflation is really our top economic problem at this point."

Inflation has shown signs of moderating but is likely to remain far above the Fed's 2% target through the end of this year.

The Congressional Budget Office released an economic outlook this month saying high inflation will persist into next year, likely causing the federal government to pay higher interest rates on its debt.

The nonpartisan agency expects the consumer price index to rise 6.1% this year and 3.1% in 2023. This forecast suggests that inflation will slow from current annual levels of 8.3%, yet it would still be dramatically above a long-term baseline of 2.3%.

Yellen was asked about her support of last year's American Rescue Plan relief package, also known as ARP, which has come under fire by some economists who claim the \$1.9 trillion program has worsened price spikes.

Because inflation is high globally, Yellen said, it "can't be the case" that ARP is largely to blame for the bulk of U.S. inflation.

Over the weekend, Yellen was forced to defend her support of ARP after Bloomberg wrote about an excerpt from an upcoming biography on the secretary that said she privately agreed with former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers "that too much government money was flowing into the economy too quickly which is why she had sought without success to scale back the \$1.9 trillion relief plan by a third early in 2021 before Congress passed the enormous program."

Yellen said in a statement on Saturday that "I never urged adoption of a smaller American Rescue Plan package, and I believe that ARP played a central role in driving strong growth throughout 2021 and afterwards, with the United States real GDP growth outpacing other advanced economies and our labor market recovering faster relative to historical experience."

Yellen said during the hearing that Congress also should have a role in bringing down prices through enacting legislation that increases taxes on high-wealth individuals — and by passing language for a global tax deal that has stalled in Congress, previously included in the now-dead Build Back Better plan.

The global tax deal is designed to subject large multinational firms to a 15% tax rate wherever they operate. It also would provide for taxing part of the profits of the largest global companies in countries where they do business online but may have no physical presence.

"As prospects of recession and stagflation rise, this is no time to consider raising taxes or resurrecting reckless spending from the House-passed Build Back Better plan," Republican Sen. Mike Crapo said.

Jim Seals of '70s group Seals and Crofts dies at age 80

By The Associated Press undefined

NEW YORK (AP) — Jim Seals, who teamed with fellow musician "Dash" Crofts on such 1970s soft-rock hits as "Summer Breeze," "Diamond Girl" and "We May Never Pass This Way Again," has died at age 80.

His death was announced Tuesday by several people including John Ford Coley, who had formed the '70s duo England Dan and John Ford Coley with Seals' older brother Dan. Further details were not immediately available.

"This is a hard one on so many levels as this is a musical era passing for me," Coley wrote. "And it will never pass this way again as his song said. He belonged to a group that was one of a kind."

Seals and Darrell George "Dash" Crofts were Texas natives who had known each other since they were teenagers and had previously been in the Champs, which before they joined had a hit single with "Tequila," and a group including Glen Campbell. They started Seals and Crofts in the late 1960s and over the next several years were among a wave of soft-rock groups that included America, Bread and England Dan and John Ford Coley.

Seals and Crofts had three top 10 hits: "Summer Breeze," "Diamond Girl" and "Get Closer." Their other popular songs included "Hummingbird," "You're the Love" and "We May Never Pass This Way Again." Seals and Crofts also released the controversial "Unborn Child," an anti-abortion song that came out the year after the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision and was banned by some radio stations.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 49 of 63

They broke up in 1980, but reunited briefly in the early 1990s and again in 2004, when they released the album "Traces." Seals also performed on occasion with his brother Dan, who died in 2009. He is survived by his wife, Ruby, and their three children.

EXPLAINER: Hundreds charged with crimes in Capitol attack

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

More than 800 people across the U.S. have been charged in the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol, which left officers bloodied and sent lawmakers into hiding, and federal authorities continue to make new arrests practically every week.

The charges against members of the angry pro-Trump mob range from low-level misdemeanors for those who only entered the Capitol to felony seditious conspiracy charges against far-right extremists.

It's the largest prosecution in the history of the Justice Department, whose leader, Attorney General Merrick Garland, has vowed to hold accountable "all January 6th perpetrators, at any level."

As the U.S. House committee investigating the attack prepares to hold a series of public hearings to detail its findings, here's a look at where the criminal cases stand:

WHO HAS BEEN CHARGED?

Authorities have arrested people in practically all 50 states in connection with the riot. They include former police officers and U.S. military veterans, a five-time Olympic swimming medalist and the son of a New York City judge.

Hundreds of people who went inside but didn't take part in any destruction or violence are facing only misdemeanor crimes like illegal entry, picketing in the Capitol and disorderly conduct that call for up to a year behind bars.

More than 250 people have been charged with assaulting or impeding law enforcement who were trying to protect the Capitol, including more than 85 accused of using a deadly or dangerous weapon or causing serious bodily injury to an officer. Others have been accused of assaulting members of the media — one an Associated Press photographer — or destroying media equipment.

The most serious cases have been brought against members of two far-right extremist groups, the Oath Keepers and Proud Boys.

The leaders of both groups have been arrested and remain locked up while they await trial later this year for seditious conspiracy, which alleges a plot to forcibly oppose the lawful transfer of presidential power. The rarely used Civil War-era charge calls for up to 20 years in prison.

WHO HAS BEEN CONVICTED?

More than 300 people have pleaded guilty to a slew of crimes, including conspiracy and assault. Among them are three Oath Keepers who have admitted to seditious conspiracy, are cooperating with investigators and could testify against their fellow extremists at trial.

There have been seven trials so far in the District of Columbia's federal court. The first five juries convicted the riot defendants of all charges.

The convicted include Thomas Webster, a 20-year New York Police Department veteran who attacked an officer during the riot. Webster claimed he was defending himself when he tackled the officer and grabbed his gas mask.

Jurors also rejected the defense of an Ohio man who claimed he was only "following presidential orders" from former President Donald Trump when he stormed the Capitol. Dustin Byron Thompson was convicted of obstructing Congress from certifying the electoral vote and other charges.

A judge decided two other cases without a jury, acquitting one of the defendants and partially acquitting the other.

U.S. District Court Judge Trevor McFadden, who was appointed by Trump, convicted Otero County, New Mexico, Commissioner Couy Griffin of illegally entering restricted Capitol grounds, but acquitted him of engaging in disorderly conduct.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 50 of 63

In the other misdemeanor case, McFadden found Matthew Martin of New Mexico not guilty of charges that he illegally entered the Capitol and engaged in disorderly conduct, saying it was reasonable for Martin to believe that outnumbered police officers allowed him and others to enter through the Rotunda doors.

WHAT ABOUT THE PUNISHMENTS?

Nearly 200 people have been sentenced so far. The punishments have ranged from probation to more than five years behind bars. About 100 people who were charged with lower level crimes have avoided going to prison, although some of those received time in home detention.

The longest sentence — more than five years — was given to Robert Palmer of Largo, Florida, who threw a wooden plank and sprayed a fire extinguisher at officers before hurling the fire extinguisher at them.

Others who received lengthy sentences include Jacob Chansley, the spear-carrying rioter whose horned fur hat, bare chest and face paint made him one of the more recognizable figures in the attack. Chansley, who called himself "QAnon Shaman," got about 31/2 years behind bars after admitting to entering the Senate chamber and writing a note to Vice President Mike Pence that said: "It's only a matter of time, justice is coming."

WHAT'S NEXT?

The two most high-profile trials — involving the Oath Keepers and Proud Boys — are expected to take place this summer and fall.

Henry "Enrique" Tarrío, who was once the Proud Boys' top boss, and four others linked to the group were charged on Monday with seditious conspiracy after previously facing other conspiracy counts. They are scheduled to stand trial beginning Aug. 9.

Tarrío, who has since stepped down from his post as the group's chairman, was arrested in a separate case two days before the riot and was not at the Capitol on Jan. 6. But he is accused of helping put into motion the violent attack.

The trial for the Oath Keepers leader, Stewart Rhodes, and four other members and associates the group is scheduled to start Sept. 26. Prosecutors say the Oath Keepers plotted for weeks to try to overturn the election results and prepared for a siege by purchasing weapons and setting up battle plans.

Authorities are still searching for many suspects, including the person who planted two pipe bombs outside the offices of the Republican and Democratic national committees the night before the melee.

Golfers put aside 'reprehensible' Saudi moves to join series

By ROB HARRIS AP Sports Writer

ST. ALBANS, England (AP) — The stars of the new Saudi-funded golf league tried to fend off concerns on Tuesday about human rights abuses and signing up to accept hundreds of millions of dollars despite the risk of being banned from long-standing events.

After announcing he quit the PGA Tour to join the LIV Golf series, Dustin Johnson evaded questioning about the source of the \$25 million prize fund for each event flowing from Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund. The first LIV Golf Invitational is taking place outside London from Thursday.

Another former major winner — Graeme McDowell — was left at a news conference trying to publicly reconcile causing fractures in golf by signing for the rebel series that appears to be part of Saudi Arabia's attempt to reshape its image as a backer of lavish sports events rather than one associated with human rights abuses.

The Northern Irish golfer, who won the U.S. Open and Ryder Cup in 2010, did bring up the 2018 murder of Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul as a legitimate area of concern of joining a series he accepts is "incredibly polarizing" for the sport.

"Take the Khashoggi situation," he said. "We all agree that's reprehensible. Nobody is going to argue that fact."

U.S. intelligence services said they believe the killing of the U.S.-based Saudi journalist came at the orders of the crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, who heads the Public Investment Fund. The prince denies wrongdoing.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 51 of 63

The fund is providing the hundreds of millions of dollars in sign-on fees and prize money that is enticing players away from the established tours and jeopardizing their participation in the majors and Ryder Cup. Human rights groups describe Saudi Arabia's efforts as "sportswashing" its image.

McDowell tried to avoid discussing the specifics of the country he is effectively working for.

"I really feel like golf is a force of good in the world — I just try to be a great role model to kids," he said. "We are not politicians. I know you guys hate that expression, but we are really not, unfortunately. We are professional golfers.

"If Saudi Arabia wanted to use the game of golf as a way for them to get to where they want to be and they have the resources to accelerate that experience, I think we are proud to help them on that journey using the game of golf and the abilities that we have to help grow the sport and take them to where they want to be."

How, though, McDowell was asked, is that journey helping women who are oppressed in Saudi Arabia, the LGBTQ individuals whose rights to live freely are criminalized, the migrant workers whose rights are violated, the victims of the Saudi-led bombing of Yemen, or the 81 men who were executed by the kingdom in March?

"I wish I had the ability to be able to have that conversation with you," McDowell said. "As golfers, if we tried to cure geopolitical situations in every country in the world that we play golf in, we wouldn't play a lot of golf. It's a really hard question to answer.

"We're just here to focus on the golf and kind of what it does globally for the role models that these guys are."

McDowell did most of the talking on Saudi rights issues, with two-time major winner Johnson responding earlier: "I would pretty much say the exact same thing. I'd agree with what Graeme said."

The series is being overseen by Greg Norman with 54-hole tournaments and a shotgun start that sees every group start at the same time on different holes. The winner gets \$4 million, while last place gets \$120,000.

The golfers are taking more heat than some other athletes who have competed in Saudi Arabia. While sports, including golf, soccer and Formula One, have chosen to take events to Saudi Arabia without the stars having a say, LIV is a case of the players opting out of existing structures to go all-in on the kingdom's project. Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy are among the players to reject an approach from LIV.

"An opportunity like this comes along," the 42-year-old McDowell said, "where you can play the last three or four years of your career, in a very financially lucrative environment. It would be crazy to walk away from that as a businessman."

Ari Fleischer, a former White House press secretary in George W. Bush's presidency, was the tournament organizer's host of the two news conferences involving players Tuesday. He posed questions to the golfers before the media had the opportunity.

Fleischer was asked about a tweet he posted in 2011 that talked about Saudi Arabia and implied that the king was willing to "spend hundreds of billions so he won't be overthrown." He said that comment was made "a long, long time ago."

Facing huge inventory, Target cuts vendor orders, prices

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Target is canceling orders from suppliers, particularly for home goods and clothing, and it's slashing prices further to clear out amassed inventory ahead of the critical fall and holiday shopping seasons.

The actions, announced Tuesday, come after a pronounced spending shift by Americans, from investments in their homes to money spent on experiences like travel and nights out for dinner and other pre-pandemic routines. Shoppers are also focusing more on non-discretionary items like groceries as inflation makes them more selective. That's a change that arrived much faster than major retailers had anticipated.

The speed at which Americans pivoted away from pandemic spending was laid bare in the most recent

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 52 of 63

quarterly financial filings from a number of major retailers. Target reported last month its profit for the fiscal first quarter tumbled 52% compared with the same period last year. Sales of big TVs and small kitchen appliances that Americans loaded up on during the pandemic have faded, leaving Target with a bloated inventory that it said must be marked down to sell.

Other retailers including Macy's, Kohl's and Walmart cited rising inventories when they reported their quarterly earnings results last month. Walmart said at its annual shareholders' meeting on Friday that 20% of its elevated inventory were items the company wishes it never had.

Target declined to give a dollar amount of merchandise orders that are being canceled and depths of the discounts.

In aggressively clearing out unwanted goods, Target wants to make room for what is now in demand, including groceries and makeup products. But Target is also facing sharply higher costs for everything from labor to transportation and shipping, and it will offset price cuts where it can with higher prices for goods now in demand.

"Retail inventories are elevated," Michael Fiddelke, Target's chief financial officer, told The Associated Press in a phone interview Monday. "And they certainly are for us, in some of the categories that we misforecast. We determined that acting aggressively was the right way to continue to fuel the business."

Target is working with suppliers to cover costs for their vendors whose orders are being cancelled. In some cases, some of the raw materials that were meant for some goods will instead be used for other products in higher demand, Fiddelke said. Many of the orders for products being canceled have a long production lead time of nine months, he said.

Target also announced that it will add five distribution centers over the next two fiscal years.

Target said the costs related to the moves will hurt the bottom line in the current quarter. Target now expects its second-quarter operating margin rate will be roughly 2%, down from around 5.3% it had expected last month. For the second half of the year, Target expects an operating margin rate in a range around 6%, a rate it said would exceed the company's average fall season performance in the years leading up to the pandemic.

Last month, Target forecast its full-year operating income margin rate would be in the 6% range. Target didn't give a new full range prediction. It also said it secured additional space near U.S. ports to hold merchandise to allow for more flexibility.

Target, however, continues to expect full-year revenue growth in the low- to mid-single digit range and expects to maintain or gain market share for the year.

Shares of Target Corp. fell nearly 4%, or \$5.93 to \$153.74 in afternoon trading Tuesday.

30 cases in a month: Abortion, guns top justices' to-do list

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Curbing abortion rights and expanding the right to be armed in public are long-sought goals of the conservative legal movement that the Supreme Court seems poised to deliver within the next month.

The justices also could ease the use of public funds for religious schooling and constrain Biden administration efforts to fight climate change.

These disputes are among 30 cases the court still has to resolve before it takes an extended summer break, typically around the end of June. That's a large, though not unprecedented, haul for the court at this point in its term.

June typically is a tense time at the court, where justices are racing to put the final touches on the most controversial cases. But this year, the tension seems to be even greater, with a potentially historic abortion ruling and in the aftermath of a leaked draft opinion that seems to have led to discord inside the court and heightened security concerns.

At least one of the 30 remaining cases will be decided on Wednesday, the court indicated on its website.

SLOWER THAN USUAL

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 53 of 63

The pace of the court's work has been slower than usual, and it's unclear how much that has to do with a leaked draft opinion suggesting a conservative majority will overturn the landmark Roe v. Wade decision on abortion rights and for the first time strip away an individual constitutional right.

The leak occurred in early May and Justice Clarence Thomas has suggested the breach of the court's confidential opinion-drafting process has done serious damage to the court. "You begin to look over your shoulder," Thomas said last month at a conference in Dallas.

ABORTION AND GUNS

With three appointees of former President Donald Trump, the court now has a 6-3 conservative majority, and abortion opponents might consider anything less than the overruling of Roe and the 1992 Planned Parenthood v. Casey decision that affirmed the right to end a pregnancy a bitter defeat.

But even short of explicitly jettisoning the abortion cases, the court is on the verge of dramatically weakening abortion rights. At issue in the case is a Mississippi law that bans abortion after the 15th week of pregnancy, far earlier than the court has previously indicated states can prohibit abortions.

Even before the leak of the draft opinion, the court seemed poised based on arguments in December to uphold the Mississippi law at the very least.

Arguments in November in a case over New York's gun permit requirements also strongly suggested the court would make it easier to carry a gun in public, a decision that could affect many of the nation's largest cities.

It's not clear whether a series of mass shootings in recent weeks has had any effect on the court's deliberations, or when to release the decision in the New York case.

RELIGION, ENVIRONMENT

Among the other significant cases awaiting decisions is a challenge from Republican-led states and coal companies that could hamstring the administration's efforts to reduce climate-warming carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. President Joe Biden has set an ambitious goal of slashing planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030, and power plants account for roughly 30% of carbon dioxide output.

The justices also could rule any day in a lawsuit over a Maine program that offers tuition aid for private education, but excludes religious schools. The decision could ease religious organizations' access to taxpayer money and fuel a renewed push for school choice programs in some of the 18 states that have so far have not directed taxpayer money to private, religious education.

LEAK INVESTIGATION

The court has been mum on the internal investigation Chief Justice John Roberts ordered the day after the leak and assigned to Gail Curley, the marshal of the court.

But CNN has reported that Curley is seeking affidavits and cellphone records from the justices' law clerks. Competing theories on the left and right have suggested the leaker probably comes from among the 37 clerks, four for each justice plus one for the retired Anthony Kennedy.

The court could examine government-owned cellphones and email accounts, said lawyer Mark Zaid, who frequently represents government whistleblowers. But it couldn't compel clerks to turn over personal devices or provide access to their own phones without a warrant, Zaid said.

But other lawyers have said the clerks, many who will become leaders in the legal profession, should willingly talk to the court's investigators.

Zaid and others said clerks should talk to an attorney before agreeing to anything.

NO AUDIENCE, NO PERFORMANCE

Before COVID-19 changed things, the court would announce its opinions in public sessions in the courtroom that sometimes produced moments of high drama. In especially closely watched cases, justices on

both sides would read summaries of their dueling opinions.

But the courthouse remains closed to the public and, since shortly after the draft abortion opinion appeared, the court has been ringed by an eight-foot barrier and the streets closest to the building also have been closed to vehicles.

Barring a change, the opinions in the abortion and guns cases will be posted online, giving the public quick access, but affording no chance to hear justices state their views.

DEADLINES

The justices like to get their work done by the end of June, though they issued their final opinions in early July the past two years. Summer teaching obligations often drive the need to get out of town. This year, it appears that only one justice has a teaching-related deadline. A George Mason University law school program in Padua, Italy, is advertising that Justice Neil Gorsuch will take part.

US sees heightened extremist threat heading into midterms

By BEN FOX Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A looming Supreme Court decision on abortion, an increase of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border and the midterm elections are potential triggers for extremist violence over the next six months, the Department of Homeland Security said Tuesday.

The U.S. was in a "heightened threat environment" already, and these factors may worsen the situation, DHS said in the latest National Terrorism Advisory System bulletin.

"In the coming months, we expect the threat environment to become more dynamic as several high-profile events could be exploited to justify acts of violence against a range of possible targets," DHS said.

It's the latest attempt by Homeland Security to draw attention to the threat posed by domestic violent extremism, a shift from alerts about international terrorism that were a hallmark of the agency following its creation after the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Indeed, the threats from overseas rate only passing mentions in this bulletin. It notes that al-Qaida supporters celebrated the January standoff at a synagogue in Colleyville, Texas. And it mentions that the Islamic State group called on supporters to carry out attacks in the United States to avenge the killings of the group's leader and spokesman.

DHS also warns that China, Russia, Iran and other nations seek to foment divisions within the U.S. to weaken the country and its standing in the world. In part, they do this by amplifying conspiracy theories and false reports that proliferate in American society.

Domestic violent extremists, however, present the most pressing and potentially violent threat, the agency said, citing, for example, the racist attack in which a white gunman killed 10 Black people at a Buffalo, New York, supermarket in May.

The bulletin, which is scheduled to expire Nov. 30, said calls for violence by domestic extremists directed at democratic institutions, candidates and election workers will likely increase through the fall. It said that people in online forums have praised the mass shooting at the elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, and encouraged copycat attacks.

"The alert highlights the fact that society is becoming more violent every single day," said Brian Harrell, a former assistant secretary at DHS. "Would-be criminals and domestic terrorists will always use the path of least resistance, and often times soft targets and crowded places are picked for this violence."

A senior DHS official, speaking to reporters ahead of the release of the bulletin, said it describes the situation as "dynamic" because authorities are seeing a wider variety of people motivated by a broader range of grievances and incidents than in the past.

The upcoming decision from the Supreme Court, which could overturn *Roe v. Wade*, could lead to violence from either extremist supporters or opponents of abortion rights depending on the outcome, said the official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss some factors that went into the preparation of the bulletin.

Racial extremists may be motivated by immigration enforcement or whether the government continues to rely on Title 42, the public health order that has been used since the start of the coronavirus pandemic to prevent people from seeking asylum at the southwest border, DHS said.

The agency and the FBI are working with state and local law enforcement to raise awareness of the threat, and DHS has increased grant funding to local governments and religious organizations to improve security, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas said in a statement released with the bulletin.

Paramount sued over 'Top Gun' copyright claim

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

The widow and son of the man who wrote the 1983 article that inspired the original "Top Gun" are suing Paramount Pictures over its sequel, "Top Gun: Maverick."

In a complaint filed in California federal court Monday, Shosh Yonay and Yuval Yonay claim that the rights to Ehud Yonay's story reverted back to them on Jan. 24, 2020. The lawsuit contends that Paramount, which produced and distributed the sequel, did not reacquire those rights before releasing the film in May.

A spokesperson for Paramount Pictures said in a statement that the claims "are without merit, and we will defend ourselves vigorously."

The lawsuit says that Paramount has been on notice since 2018 that the Yonays intended to recover the copyright under a provision that lets artists do so after 35 years. According to the suit, the Yonays sent a cease-and-desist letter in early May to which Paramount responded that the film had been sufficiently completed by Jan. 24, 2020, and was not derivative of Yonay's article. The Yonays counter that the film is a derivative of the 1983 article and that "Top Gun: Maverick" didn't wrap until May 2021, over a year after the rights expired.

Yonay's original article about the Navy Fighter Weapons School training program and two pilots in the course, the hotshot "Yogi" and his friend "Possum," was published in the May 1983 issue of California magazine. Soon after, Paramount Pictures acquired the exclusive motion picture rights. "Top Gun" was released in 1986 and went on to become the No. 1 film of the year.

The sequel has been in development for years and was originally set for a July 2019 release but was delayed many times — first for normal reasons and then because of the COVID-19 pandemic. "Top Gun: Maverick" finally opened in theaters on May 27, has spent two weeks atop the box office and has already made over \$557 million in ticket sales worldwide.

Winfrey picks Leila Mottley's 'Nightcrawling' for book club

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Oprah Winfrey has chosen 19-year-old Leila Mottley's "Nightcrawling," a debut novel about a young Black woman from East Oakland and her battles with poverty, racism and the police, for next book club pick.

A spokesperson for Winfrey said Mottley is the youngest author ever selected for Oprah's Book Club, founded in 1996.

"It brings me great joy to introduce readers to new authors, and this young poet Leila Mottley wrote a soul-searching portrait of survival and hope," Winfrey said in a statement Tuesday.

Mottley, born and raised in Oakland, served as the city's youth poet laureate in 2018. Her book was published Tuesday and has been praised by James McBride and Tommy Orange among others. Kirkus Reviews called "Nightcrawling" a "lovely and poetic" evocation of an "underclass and the disposable women just trying to survive."

Mottley said in a statement that she was "absolutely floored when Ms. Winfrey popped up" during what she thought was an ordinary publishing meeting.

"It was the surprise of a lifetime!" she added.

Winfrey will speak with Mottley on June 30 for an interactive book club event on OprahDaily.com. Since starting her book club, Winfrey has often alternated between such established authors Toni Morrison and

Richard Powers and such first-time authors as Mottley, Imbolo Mbue and Cynthia Bond.

Doubts hang over UK's Johnson though bid to oust him fails

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson scrambled to patch up his tattered authority on Tuesday after surviving a no-confidence vote that exposed his shrinking support in a fractured Conservative Party and raised serious doubts about how long he can stay in office.

The fact that the vote was held at all highlighted concerns that the famously people-pleasing Johnson has become a liability with voters. The scale of the rebellion — 41% of Conservative lawmakers voted against him — would have led most prime ministers to consider resigning.

"This is not over," said Philip Dunne, a Conservative legislator who voted against Johnson in Monday's no-confidence ballot. But with Johnson defiantly vowing to "get on with the job," the endgame may not be quick.

Johnson vowed Tuesday to focus on "what matters to the British people," defined by him as the economy, health care and crime.

"We are able now to draw a line under the issues that our opponents want to talk about" and "take the country forward," he told Cabinet colleagues at their weekly meeting.

But Johnson faces serious questions about his ability to govern a country at a time of increasing economic and social strain.

The rebellion was also a sign of deep Conservative divisions, less than three years after Johnson led the party to its biggest election victory in decades — the peak of a rollercoaster political career.

Many Conservatives have concerns about the probity, and increasingly the popularity, of a prime minister who has previously shown a remarkable ability to shrug off scandal.

The no-confidence vote was triggered because at least 54 Tory legislators, 15% of the party's parliamentary caucus, called for a challenge to Johnson, following public outrage over government parties that broke COVID-19 lockdowns.

Lawmakers voted by 211 to 148 to support him as leader, beyond the 180 he needed to stay in power. Johnson described the win as "convincing"— but the rebellion was larger than some of his supporters had predicted. It was also a narrower margin than his predecessor, Theresa May, secured in a 2018 no-confidence vote. She was forced to resign six months later.

"It will come as a big blow," said Tim Bale, professor of politics at Queen Mary University of London. "The reality is that these contests have a habit of exposing quite how weak the authority of a prime minister is."

Most British newspapers were in little doubt that it was bad news for Johnson. The Conservative-supporting Daily Telegraph announced: "Hollow victory tears Tories apart." The Times called Johnson "a wounded victor," while the left-leaning Daily Mirror said bluntly: "Party's over, Boris."

Former Conservative leader William Hague called on Johnson to step down, saying "the damage done to his premiership is severe."

"Words have been said that cannot be retracted, reports published that cannot be erased, and votes have been cast that show a greater level of rejection than any Tory leader has ever endured and survived," Hague wrote in a Times of London article whose words were splashed across the British media.

Senior government ministers backed Johnson's call to move on. Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab said the party should "draw a line in the sand after this vote."

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said the vote had produced "a clear result."

"Now is the time to get behind the prime minister," she said.

Despite Truss's promise that she is "100%" behind Johnson, she is a favorite to replace him if he is forced out.

The vote followed months of brewing discontent over the prime minister's ethics and judgment that centered on revelations of alcohol-fueled bashes held by staff in the prime minister's office in 2020 and 2021, when pandemic restrictions prevented U.K. residents from socializing or even visiting dying relatives.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 57 of 63

In a report last month on the scandal known as "partygate," civil service investigator Sue Gray said Johnson and senior officials must bear responsibility for "failures of leadership and judgment" that created a culture of rule-breaking in government.

Johnson also was fined 50 pounds (\$63) by police for attending one party, making him the first prime minister sanctioned for breaking the law while in office.

The prime minister said he was "humbled" and took "full responsibility" — but went on to defend his attendance at parties as necessary for staff morale and call some of the criticism unfair.

Johnson still faces a parliamentary ethics probe that could conclude he deliberately misled Parliament over "partygate" — traditionally a resigning offense. His government is also under intense pressure to ease the pain of skyrocketing energy and food bills, while managing the fallout from Britain's exit from the European Union.

Polls give a lead nationally to the left-of-center opposition Labour Party headed by lawmaker Keir Starmer, a stolid, dutiful foil to the blustering Johnson. The prime minister will face more pressure if the Conservatives lose special elections later this month for two parliamentary districts, called when incumbent Tory lawmakers were forced out by sex scandals.

While party rules bar another no-confidence vote for 12 months, those rules can be changed by a handful of lawmakers who run a key Conservative committee.

In the meantime, both allies and opponents of Johnson doubt he will step down willingly.

Bale said Johnson would likely fight back with tax cuts and other policies designed to appeal to his party's right-leaning lawmakers and supporters.

"The problem with that is that it's proposing, if you like, policy solutions to a personality problem," he said. "It looks from opinion polls that the public have turned against Boris Johnson in particular, and that's in part what's dragging the Conservative Party down."

Proud Marvel super fan, Iman Vellani, stars in 'Ms. Marvel'

By ALICIA RANCILIO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Iman Vellani, who stars as Kamala Khan in the new Disney+ series "Ms. Marvel," has a conundrum. Now that she's a part of the MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe), does she remove the Marvel posters from the walls of her childhood bedroom or leave them up?

"Brie (Larson) is on my wall and she's in my phone book. So, like, that's weird," said Vellani in a recent interview.

"Ms. Marvel," debuting Wednesday, is 19-year-old Vellani's first professional acting job. Already an avid reader of the comics, Vellani learned of the open audition from her aunt. She went to the audition. Lo and behold, Vellani got the job.

The first month on set was spent in prep, rehearsing and stunt training. She had to give up her high school diet of McDonald's and Oreos and build stamina, but Vellani wasn't interested in changing her shape too much. "I was 17. Kamala was 16. I wanted her to look like a normal high school kid," she said.

"My first proper day of filming — that was intense," said Vellani. "It was all of the stunts that I had to do in the real Captain Marvel suit. The one that Brie gets to wear. It was an extremely uncomfortable day. That suit is not made to move in. You're just supposed to stand and walk like a mannequin, and that's what it's made for. There's so many pieces and it's just really uncomfortable, and the scenes were pretty intense. So I came home with all these bruises and everything. My mom was like, 'Oh my God, what happened?' And I'm like, 'I'm a superhero. That's what happened.'"

Vellani just may be the first Marvel actor who is also a massive fan. She especially loves Robert Downey, Jr. and has proudly re-watched "Iron Man" "more than the average person."

"They really are just a projection of real life and make you feel like you're a part of something. Isn't that what we all kind of want, to feel like we belong? And I know it sounds super cheesy, but for the Marvel fandom, it's comfortable. It's what we know. We can recite everything under the sun about the MCU."

Sana Amanat, the co-creator of "Ms. Marvel," jokes that having an actor who is a stan (or, really big fan)

as they say, has its challenges.

"Sometimes she would just pull up in the producer's chair next to me and just give lots of thoughts and opinions on, you know, either the show or the rest of the MCU. And I'd be like, 'That's cool, but I need you to just act right now,'" she laughed, adding, "Iman brought so much life and love to the character and it just made the entire process so much easier."

Vellani was browsing a local comic book store when she discovered the "Ms. Marvel" comics and immediately felt represented in a way that is not common in mainstream media.

"I saw a girl who looked like me. She was Muslim and Pakistani and a superhero fanatic and I was Muslim, Pakistani and a superhero fanatic, so it worked out quite well. And I think my favorite part about the comic books was that it wasn't about her religion or her culture or her ethnicity, it was about a fanfic-writing nerd, who just so happened to be Pakistani and just so happened to be Muslim. Those parts of her life motivated her and drove her as a character. She used her religion as a moral code. .. She never neglected her culture. It was something that kind of uplifted her journey."

One of the things about South Asian culture that Vellani says "Ms. Marvel" gets right, is the importance of family. Kamala's parents and brother feature prominently in the series.

"Showing those close, tight-knit family relationships, showing parents that are alive in the MCU, how rare is that," said Vellani. "We wanted to hopefully get the ball rolling on Muslim representation in the media because there's 2 billion Muslims and South Asians in the world, and we cannot represent every single one of them. But I do hope that people find some sort of comfort in Kamala's character or through her brother or her parents or anyone in her community."

Vellani is not only thrilled to represent in the MCU but also to be entrusted with its secrets.

"It's an honor to keep these secrets. For some people, power is money. For Marvel fans, it's knowledge and secrets and all the inside scoop on all the movies that haven't been released yet. I have it. I have that power and I love it."

Figure skating minimum age rises to 17 before 2026 Olympics

PHUKET, Thailand (AP) — No 15-year-old figure skaters will be allowed to compete at the 2026 Olympics following the controversy surrounding Russian national champion Kamila Valieva at this year's Beijing Games.

A new age limit for figure skaters at senior international events was passed Tuesday by the International Skating Union in a 110-16 vote that will raise the minimum age to 17 before the next Winter Olympics in Milan-Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

"This is a very important decision," ISU president Jan Dijkema said. "I would say a very historic decision."

The limit will be phased in with 15-year-olds continuing to be allowed to compete next season, a minimum age of 16 in the 2023-24 season, rising to 17 the season after, which is the last before the Olympics.

The ISU said the new rule was "for the sake of protecting the physical and mental health, and emotional well-being of the skaters."

It should disrupt the career of top Russian junior Sofia Akateva, who is 14. Her birthday in July falls days after the July 1 deadline to classify skaters' ages for the upcoming season, though for the 2026 Olympics she will be 18 and able to compete.

The change was coming even before figure skating at the Beijing Olympics was dominated by the emotional stress put on the 15-year-old Valieva. She was the favorite to take individual gold, after helping the Russians win the team title, before her positive doping test from December was belatedly revealed during the Olympics.

The teenager was allowed to train under intense scrutiny as a Court of Arbitration for Sport hearing was prepared that allowed her to compete pending the full investigation in Russia. That is still ongoing.

However, her main routine was filled with errors and she dropped to fourth place. She was then criticized rink-side by her coach, Eteri Tutberidze.

The ISU drafted an age-limit proposal saying "burnout, disordered eating, and long-term consequences of injury" were a risk to young teenage skaters who are pushed to perform more quadruple jumps.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 59 of 63

The decision was criticized in Russia, where skaters are currently banned by the ISU from international competitions because of the country's military invasion of Ukraine.

"I think it was done to more or less even out the competition, so that our Russian female skaters couldn't have the opportunity to win world championship, European, Olympic medals," Dmitri Soloviev, a team event gold medalist for Russia at the 2014 Sochi Olympics, told broadcaster Match TV.

"But in my opinion Eteri Tutberidze will find a way to get our athletes into ideal condition at the age of 17 or 18," Soloviev said, "so that they can show their best results at international competitions at that age in particular."

US, allies fly fighter jets amid North Korea tensions

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The United States and its Asian allies flew dozens of fighter jets over waters surrounding the Korean Peninsula on Tuesday in a show of force as their diplomats discussed a coordinated response to a possibly imminent North Korean nuclear test.

The flights came as U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman traveled to Seoul for discussions with South Korea and Japanese officials over the gathering North Korean threat and warned of a "swift and forceful" counterresponse if the North proceeds with a nuclear test explosion, which would be its first in nearly five years.

If staged, the test could be another leap forward in North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's goal of building an arsenal that can viably threaten regional U.S. allies and the American homeland. That would escalate a pressure campaign aimed at forcing the United States to accept North Korea as a nuclear power and negotiating economic and security concessions from a position of strength.

While the Biden administration has vowed to push for additional international sanctions if North Korea conducts a nuclear test, prospects for robust punitive measures are unclear because of divisions between permanent United Nations Security Council members.

"Any nuclear test would be in complete violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. There would be a swift and forceful response to such a test," Sherman said after meeting with South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Cho Hyun-dong. "We continue to urge Pyongyang to cease its destabilizing and provocative activities and choose the path of diplomacy."

Sherman and Cho are planning a three-way meeting with Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Mori Takeo on Wednesday over the North Korean nuclear issue.

Extending the countries' joint displays of military might, four U.S. F-16 fighter jets flew in formation with 16 South Korean planes — including F-35A stealth fighters — over waters off South Korea's eastern coast, an exercise aimed at demonstrating an ability to quickly respond to North Korean provocations, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said. The United States and Japan conducted a separate drill involving six aircraft — four Japanese F-15 fighters and two American F-16s — above waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, Japan's Defense Ministry said.

The flights came a day after U.S. and South Korean forces fired eight surface-to-surface missiles into South Korea's eastern waters to match a weekend missile display by North Korea, which fired the same number of weapons from multiple locations Sunday in what was likely its biggest single-day testing event.

North Korea has conducted 18 rounds of missile launches in 2022 alone — including its first demonstrations of intercontinental ballistic missiles since 2017 — exploiting a favorable environment to push forward weapons development, with the Security Council effectively paralyzed over Russia's war on Ukraine.

North Korea may soon up the ante as U.S. and South Korean officials say it is all but ready to conduct another detonation at its nuclear testing ground in the northeastern town of Punggye-ri. Its last such test and sixth overall was in September 2017, when it claimed to have detonated a thermonuclear bomb designed for its ICBMs.

Meanwhile on Tuesday, U.S. special envoy for North Korea Sung Kim said Washington and its allies were increasingly concerned by not only the unprecedented number of ballistic missile launches but also

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 60 of 63

because "senior North Korean officials have used rhetoric that could suggest the use of tactical nuclear weapons." He did not elaborate.

Since taking power in 2011, Kim has accelerated nuclear weapons development despite limited resources and has shown no willingness to fully surrender an arsenal he sees as his strongest guarantee of survival.

Experts say with its next nuclear test, North Korea could claim an ability to build small bombs that could be placed on a multiwarhead ICBM or fit on short-range missiles that could reach South Korea and Japan.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said Monday there are indications that one of the passages at the Punggye-ri testing ground has been reopened, possibly in preparation for a nuclear test.

Hours before Sherman's meeting in Seoul, State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters in Washington that the United States believes North Korea could seek its seventh test "in the coming days."

The Biden administration's punitive actions over North Korea's recent weapons tests have been limited to largely symbolic unilateral sanctions. Russia and China vetoed a U.S.-sponsored resolution in the Security Council that would have imposed additional sanctions on North Korea over its previous ballistic tests on May 25.

"We have called on members of the international community, certainly members of the U.N. Security Council's permanent five, to be responsible stakeholders in the U.N. Security Council as a preeminent forum for addressing threats to international peace and security," Price said.

"Unilateral actions are never going to be the most attractive or even the most effective response, and that is especially the case because we are gratified that we have close allies in the form of Japan and the ROK," he said, referring to South Korea's formal name, the Republic of Korea.

North Korea's state media have yet to comment on Sunday's launches. They came after the U.S. aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan concluded a three-day naval drill with South Korea in the Philippine Sea on Saturday, apparently their first joint drill involving a carrier since November 2017, as the countries move to upgrade their defense exercises in the face of growing North Korean threats.

North Korea has long condemned the allies' combined military exercises as invasion rehearsals and has often countered with its own missile drills, including launches in 2016 and 2017 that simulated nuclear attacks on South Korean ports and U.S. military facilities in Japan.

Nuclear talks between the U.S. and North Korea have stalled since 2019 because of disagreements over an easing of crippling U.S.-led sanctions in exchange for North Korean disarmament steps.

Kim's government has so far rejected the Biden administration's offers of open-ended talks, and is clearly intent on converting the dormant denuclearization negotiations into a mutual arms-reduction process, experts say.

Kim's pressure campaign hasn't been slowed by a COVID-19 outbreak spreading across his largely unvaccinated populace of 26 million amid a lack of public health tools. North Korea has so far rejected U.S. and South Korean offers of help, but there are indications that it received at least some vaccines from ally China.

"We seek dialogue with Pyongyang without preconditions," U.S. envoy Sung Kim told reporters on a conference call. He said North Korea "has not responded. Instead, we have seen a marked increase in the scope and scale of their ballistic missile tests."

South Korean activist Park Sang-hak, a North Korean defector who for years has launched anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets by balloon across the border, said his group on Tuesday flew 20 balloons carrying medicine, masks and vitamin pills to help North Korean civilians.

Hurricane chief to take over as weather service director

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A meteorologist who oversaw warnings and forecasts during one of the busiest spurts of Atlantic hurricane activity on record will take over as the new director of the National Weather Service, as scientists expect extreme and dangerous storms and heatwaves to worsen with climate change.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Tuesday named National Hurricane Center

Director Ken Graham the overall boss of the weather service, succeeding winter storm expert Louis Uccellini, who retired as of January 1. During Graham's four years as hurricane center chief there have been more named Atlantic storms, 101, than in any other four-year period since 1851, according to Colorado State University records.

After starting as intern, Graham, 53, also headed the weather service's offices in Corpus Christi, Texas, and Birmingham, Alabama. He also was a television meteorologist in Mississippi.

In a Tuesday press conference, Graham emphasized not just the science of more accurate forecasts, but making them easier to get and understand for the public to help people avoid danger.

"A perfect forecast doesn't do much good unless the word gets out," Graham said.

Graham recalled his brief time as a 24-year-old television weatherman when he went live on air to talk about a tornado and got a call from a family in a mobile home in the twister's path. He told them to get out. Later they called him off air and thanked him saying "we're alive and our home is gone."

In a May interview, Graham said, "almost 28 years in the weather service, I've seen a lot of damage. A lot of people lose everything, a lot of loss of life."

The U.S. National Climate Assessment in 2018 said warming-charged extremes "have already become more frequent, intense, widespread or of long duration" and will only get worse.

Several outside meteorologists praised the pick, with University of Albany atmospheric scientist Kristen Corbosiero saying Graham's experience with storms and operational forecasting will benefit the weather service "as weather extremes only continue to increase in number as the climate continues to warm."

National Hurricane Center Deputy Director Jamie Rhome will take over Graham's former role as acting director.

Some cancer patients can skip treatments, 2 studies show

By CARLA K. JOHNSON AP Medical Writer

After surgery, some cancer patients can safely skip radiation or chemotherapy, according to two studies exploring shorter, gentler cancer care.

Researchers are looking for ways to precisely predict which cancer patients can avoid unneeded treatment to cut down on harmful side effects and unnecessary costs.

One new study used a blood test to determine which colon cancer patients could skip chemotherapy after surgery. Another suggests some low-risk breast cancer patients can omit radiation after lumpectomy.

The research was discussed at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, which wrapped up Tuesday in Chicago. The colon cancer study, funded by the Australian and U.S. governments and nonprofit groups, was published Saturday by the New England Journal of Medicine.

The findings could allow doctors to "focus on the patients we think would truly benefit from chemotherapy and avoid the side effects for patients for whom it's likely unnecessary," said Dr. Stacey Cohen of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle, who reviewed the colon cancer findings and was not involved in the research.

COLON CANCER

Many colon cancer patients are given chemotherapy after surgery, even though they may be cured. The drugs can come with side effects such as nausea, anemia and memory problems.

But pinpointing which patients might not need further treatment has been tricky. Scientists studied whether a blood test could help doctors make the call.

The study involved 455 patients who had surgery because cancer had spread into the colon wall. After surgery, one group received a blood test, customized to their tumor's genetic profile, to detect any remaining bits of cancer DNA.

Their care was guided by the blood test: If it showed no signs of remaining cancer, the patients did not get chemotherapy. Meanwhile, doctors made chemo decisions for the rest of the patients in the usual way, guided by analysis of the tumor and nearby tissue.

Fewer patients in the blood test group got chemo — 15% vs. 28%. But about 93% of both groups

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 62 of 63

were still free of cancer after two years. In other words, the blood test group fared equally well with less chemotherapy.

"In patients where cancer DNA is not detected after surgery, the chance of cancer relapse is very low, suggesting that chemotherapy is very unlikely to benefit these patients," said Dr. Jeanne Tie of the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, Australia, who led the research.

Skipping chemo makes "a big difference in a person's quality of life if that can be done without having to put them at jeopardy for recurrence," said ASCO president Dr. Everett Vokes, who specializes in head and neck and lung cancer at University of Chicago Medicine.

BREAST CANCER

The other study followed 500 older women with a common form of early-stage breast cancer and low levels of a protein known as Ki67, a marker for fast-growing cancer.

After surgery, the women took hormone-blocking pills, a standard treatment for this type of cancer, but they did not get radiation treatment.

After five years, 10 of the women saw cancer return in the same breast, and there was one breast cancer death. There was no comparison group, but researchers said the results compare favorably to historical data for similar patients who had radiation.

"We estimate the benefits of radiation would be very small in this population compared to the side effects," said Dr. Timothy Whelan of McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, who led the study, which was supported by the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and the Canadian Cancer Society.

Radiation can cause skin problems, fatigue and, less commonly, long-term heart problems and second cancers.

The study is a "feel-good" message for patients with low-risk tumors and will help doctors understand which of their patients they "can comfortably, with confidence" omit radiation, said Dr. Deborah Axelrod of NYU Langone Health, who was not involved in the research.

Today in History: June 8, Lincoln is renominated

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, June 8, the 159th day of 2022. There are 206 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 8, 1864, Abraham Lincoln was nominated for another term as president during the National Union (Republican) Party's convention in Baltimore.

On this date:

In A.D. 632, the prophet Muhammad died in Medina.

In 1867, modern American architect Frank Lloyd Wright was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin.

In 1953, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that restaurants in the District of Columbia could not refuse to serve Blacks. Eight tornadoes struck Michigan's Lower Peninsula, killing 126 people.

In 1966, a merger was announced between the National and American Football Leagues, to take effect in 1970.

In 1967, during the six-day Middle East war, 34 American servicemen were killed when Israel attacked the USS Liberty, a Navy intelligence-gathering ship in the Mediterranean Sea. (Israel later said the Liberty had been mistaken for an Egyptian vessel.)

In 1968, authorities announced the capture in London of James Earl Ray, the suspected assassin of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1978, a jury in Clark County, Nevada, ruled the so-called "Mormon will," purportedly written by the late billionaire Howard Hughes, was a forgery.

In 1995, U.S. Marines rescued Capt. Scott O'Grady, whose F-16C fighter jet had been shot down by Bosnian Serbs on June 2. Mickey Mantle received a liver transplant at a Dallas hospital; however, the baseball great died two months later.

In 2008, the average price of regular gas crept up to \$4 a gallon.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 336 ~ 63 of 63

In 2009, North Korea's highest court sentenced American journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee to 12 years' hard labor for trespassing and "hostile acts." (The women were pardoned in early August 2009 after a trip to Pyongyang by former President Bill Clinton.)

In 2015, siding with the White House in a foreign-policy power struggle with Congress, the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that Americans born in the disputed city of Jerusalem could not list Israel as their birthplace on passports.

In 2020, thousands of mourners gathered at a church in Houston for a service for George Floyd, as his death during an arrest in Minneapolis continued to stoke protests in America and beyond over racial injustice.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama declared "the private sector is doing fine," prompting Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney to ask, "Is he really that out of touch?" (Obama quickly clarified his remarks, saying it was "absolutely clear that the economy is not doing fine.") In Cairo, Egypt, a mob of hundreds of men assaulted women holding a march demanding an end to sexual harassment.

Five years ago: Former FBI Director James Comey, testifying before Congress, asserted that President Donald Trump fired him to interfere with his investigation of Russia's ties to the Trump campaign. British Prime Minister Theresa May's strategy of calling an early election backfired as her Conservatives lost their majority in Parliament. Actor Glenne Headly died in Santa Monica, California, at age 62.

One year ago: A bipartisan Senate report on the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol found a broad intelligence breakdown across multiple agencies, along with widespread law enforcement and military failures; there were clear warnings and tips that right-wing extremist groups and other supporters of former President Donald Trump were planning to "storm the Capitol" with weapons and possibly infiltrate the tunnel system underneath it, but that intelligence never made it to top leaders. Ratko Mladic (RAHT'-koh MLAH'-dich), the military chief known as the "Butcher of Bosnia" for orchestrating genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in the Balkan nation's 1992-95 war, lost his final legal battle when U.N. judges affirmed his life sentence.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Millicent Martin is 88. Actor James Darren is 86. Singer Nancy Sinatra is 82. Singer Chuck Negron is 80. Musician Boz Scaggs is 78. Author Sara Paretsky is 75. Actor Sonia Braga is 72. Actor Kathy Baker is 72. Rock singer Bonnie Tyler is 71. Actor Griffin Dunne is 67. "Dilbert" creator Scott Adams is 65. Actor-director Keenen Ivory Wayans is 64. Singer Mick Hucknall (Simply Red) is 62. Musician Nick Rhodes (Duran Duran) is 60. R&B singer Doris Pearson (Five Star) is 56. Actor Julianna Margulies is 55. Actor Dan Futterman is 55. Actor David Sutcliffe is 53. Actor Kent Faulcon is 52. R&B singer Nicci Gilbert is 52. Actor Kelli Williams is 52. Former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., is 52. Actor Mark Feuerstein is 51. Contemporary Christian musician Mike Scheuchzer (MercyMe) is 47. Actor Eion Bailey is 46. Former tennis player Lindsay Davenport is 46. Rapper Ye (YAY) (formerly Kanye (KAHN'-yay) West) is 45. TV personality-actress Maria Menounos is 44. Country singer-songwriter Sturgill Simpson is 44. Blues-rock musician Derek Trucks (The Derek Trucks Band) is 43. Rock singer Alex Band (The Calling) is 41. Folk-bluegrass singer-musician Sara Watkins (Nickel Creek, I'm With Her) is 41. Former tennis player Kim Clijsters is 39. Actor Torrey DeVitto is 38. Tennis player Jelena Ostapenko is 25. U.S. Olympic track gold medalist Athing Mu (uh-THING moh) is 20.