

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 1 of 57

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- In Walk-off, Locke Electric Loses To Outlaws](#)
- [4- Redfield Post 92 Captures Lead Early to Defeat Groton Post #39](#)
- [4- Groton Legion claws back, but falls just short against Redfield Legion](#)
- [5- Weekly Vikings Roundup](#)
- [6- Prairie Doc: Modern miracle of baby formula](#)
- [7- Weather Pages](#)
- [11- Daily Devotional](#)
- [12- 2022 Community Events](#)
- [13- Subscription Form](#)
- [14- News from the Associated Press](#)

Monday, June 13

Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, coleslaw, peaches, whole wheat bread.

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

5 p.m.: Legion at Webster, DH

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

5:30 p.m.: U10 hosts Webster, Nelson Field, (R/B), DH

5:30 p.m.: U8 hosts Webster, Nelson Field, (R/B), DH

7 p.m.: School Board Meeting

June 14 - FLAG DAY

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

Senior Menu: Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, 3-bean salad, fruit cobbler, whole wheat bread.

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

6 p.m.: T-Ball Scrimmage

June 15

Senior Menu: Chicken Tetrazzini, peas, honey fruit salad, vanilla pudding, whole wheat bread.

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

5 p.m.: Jr. Teeners host Selby, DH

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

Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

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



“You will never fully believe in yourself if you keep comparing yourself to everyone else. Instead, compare yourself to who you were yesterday.”

Author Unknown

June 16

Senior Menu: Beef tips in gravy over noodles, Peas, lettuce salad, fruit, whole wheat bread.

4-7 p.m.: Groton Transit Fundraiser at Groton Community Center

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

5:30 p.m.: U120 vs. Rattlers in Watertown, Foundation Fields, (R/W), DH

6 p.m.: U8 SB hosts Mellette, 1 game

7 p.m.: U10 SB hosts Mellette, 1 game

8 p.m.: U12 SB hosts Mellette, 1 game

June 17

Senior Menu: Bratwurst with bun, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, green beans, fruit.

SDSU Alumni Golf Tournament

5:30 p.m.: Jr. Legion at Selby, DH

5:30 p.m.: U12 hosts Doland, 1 game

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

© 2022 Groton Daily Independent

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 2 of 57

In Walk-off, Locke Electric Loses To Outlaws

It came down to the last play, but Locke Electric was on the wrong end of a 13-12 defeat to Outlaws on Sunday in Miller. The game was tied at 12 with Outlaws batting in the bottom of the tenth when Jay Winter's sac fly scored one run for Outlaws.

Despite the loss, Locke Electric did collect 11 hits in the high-scoring affair. Unfortunately, Outlaws had 18 hits on the way to victory.

Outlaws captured the lead in the third inning. Dustin Harvey hit into a fielder's choice, scoring one run.

Locke Electric evened things up at 12 in the top of the eighth inning. Locke Electric scored one run when Cody Jensen doubled.

Locke Electric notched four runs in the sixth inning. Locke Electric offense in the inning was led by Wilson Bonet and Spencer Locke, who each had RBIs in the inning.

Outlaws scored four runs in the seventh inning. McDonnel, James White, and Kyle Johnson each drove in runs during the inning.

Johnson led the Outlaws to victory on the hill. The righthander allowed six hits and four runs over four innings, striking out five.

Evan Erickson took the loss for Locke Electric. The righthander allowed eight hits and six runs over five and a third innings, striking out four.

Jonny Israel started the game for Locke Electric. The pitcher surrendered seven runs on ten hits over four innings, striking out three and walking one

Locke Electric saw the ball well today, racking up 11 hits in the game. Bonet, Dylan Frey, Colin Frey, and Jensen each managed multiple hits for Locke Electric. Bonet went 3-for-6 at the plate to lead Locke Electric in hits. Locke Electric tore up the base paths, as two players stole at least two bases. Erickson led the way with two.

Outlaws had 18 hits in the game. Rafael Clemente, Ryan Soler, Johnson, Smith, Perez, White, and McDonnel all had multiple hits for Outlaws.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 3 of 57

Locke Electric 12 - 13 Outlaws

📍 Away 📅 Sunday June 12, 2022

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	R	H	E
LCKL	4	0	0	0	0	4	3	1	0	0	12	11	2
OTLW	3	0	2	2	0	1	4	0	0	1	13	18	1

BATTING

Locke Electric	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
C Frey (CF)	6	2	2	0	1	3
D Frey (SS)	6	2	2	3	1	2
W Bonet (C)	6	1	3	3	0	0
J Israel (P, 1B)	1	2	0	0	4	1
S Locke (3B)	5	1	0	0	0	0
E Erickson (2B, P)	4	1	1	2	0	3
A Jones (1B, 2B)	5	0	1	0	0	0
C Jensen (LF)	4	2	2	1	1	2
C Furney (RF)	3	1	0	0	3	2
Totals	40	12	11	9	10	13

Outlaws	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
R Soler (SS)	5	2	3	0	1	0
K Johnson (LF, P)	5	2	2	2	1	0
R Clemente (DH)	4	2	3	4	2	0
Perez (C)	4	0	2	2	0	1
J Winter (C)	1	0	0	1	0	0
Smith (2B)	5	1	2	0	0	0
D Harvey (3B, P,...)	5	0	1	1	0	1
Broseen Or What...	3	0	0	0	0	2
A Hyed (LF)	2	1	0	0	0	0
#25	1	0	1	0	0	0
McDonnel (RF)	4	1	2	1	0	0
Cohn (1B)	5	0	0	0	0	1
J White (CF)	4	3	2	1	0	2
CR: L Cotton	0	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	48	13	18	12	4	7

2B: C Jensen, W Bonet 2, D Frey, **3B:** D Frey, **TB:** C Frey 2, E Erickson, C Jensen 3, W Bonet 5, A Jones, D Frey 5, **CS:** W Bonet, **HBP:** E Erickson 2, C Jensen, J Israel, A Jones, S Locke, **SB:** C Frey, E Erickson 2, C Jensen, W Bonet 2, C Furney, J Israel, D Frey, **LOB:** 13

2B: Perez, McDonnel, R Clemente, **HR:** R Clemente 2, **TB:** D Harvey, R Soler 3, K Johnson 2, #25, Perez 3, Smith 2, J White 2, McDonnel 3, R Clemente 10, **SF:** J Winter, **HBP:** J White, **LOB:** 12

PITCHING

Locke Electric	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
J Israel	4.0	10	7	6	1	3	2
E Erickson	5.1	8	6	2	3	4	0
Totals	9.1	18	13	8	4	7	2

Outlaws	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
C Cotton	1.2	1	0	0	1	1	0
D Harvey	3.0	1	4	2	3	6	0
K Johnson	4.0	6	4	4	4	5	0
Totals	10.0	11	12	10	10	13	0

L: E Erickson, **P-S:** E Erickson 81-47, J Israel 61-45, **HBP:** E Erickson, **BF:** E Erickson 29, J Israel 25

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 4 of 57

Redfield Post 92 Captures Lead Early to Defeat Groton Post #39

Groton Legion Post #39 watched the game slip away early and couldn't recover in a 10-0 loss to Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser on Sunday. Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser scored on a groundout by Keaton Rohfls and an error in the first inning.

The Groton Legion Post #39 struggled to put runs on the board and had a tough time defensively containing Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser, giving up ten runs.

Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser got things moving in the first inning. Rohfls grounded out, scoring one run.

One bright spot for Groton Legion Post #39 was a single by Tate Larson in the fifth inning.

Rohfls earned the victory on the hill for Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser. The righty allowed two hits and zero runs over five innings, striking out two and walking one.

Dillon Abeln took the loss for Groton Legion Post #39. The righthander went four innings, allowing eight runs on six hits and striking out one.

Abeln and Larson each managed one hit to lead Groton Legion Post #39.

Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser was sure-handed and didn't commit a single error. Erik Salmen made the most plays with five.

Groton Legion claws back, but falls just short against Redfield Legion

Groton Legion Post #39 fought back after falling down by four runs in the fifth inning. The comeback fell just short though, in a 9-8 defeat to Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser on Sunday. Groton Legion Post #39 scored three runs in the failed comeback on a single by Jackson Cogley and an error.

Groton Legion Post #39 was right in it until Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser singled in the fifth inning.

Seth Siebrecht was the winning pitcher for Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser. The pitcher lasted three innings, allowing four hits and four runs while striking out two.

Ryan Groeblichhoff took the loss for Groton Legion Post #39. Groeblichhoff allowed one hit and four runs over one inning, striking out two and walking one.

Camden Osborn started the game for Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser. The pitcher allowed six hits and four runs over two innings, striking out one and walking zero Bradin Althoff started the game for Groton Legion Post #39. The southpaw surrendered five runs on five hits over three innings, striking out one and walking one

Cogley led Groton Legion Post #39 with three hits in three at bats. Groton Legion Post #39 tore up the base paths, as two players stole at least two bases. Tate Larson led the way with two.

Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser scattered seven hits in the game. Osborn and Keaton Rohfls each had multiple hits for Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 5 of 57

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

As we hit a lull in the offseason for the Vikings, we thought we'd take each week to look at different position groups for the Vikings. We'll look at any competition that might occur, as well as make our predictions for who will make the final 53-man roster. This week we will look at the wide receivers fighting to make the Vikings.

Wide Receivers:

Locks to make the 53-man roster: Justin Jefferson, Adam Thielen, and KJ Osborn

The Vikings will come into the 2022 season with the three-headed monster of Jefferson, Thielen, and Osborn. Is this trio on the same level as the "Three Deep" trio of Randy Moss, Cris Carter, and Jake Reed from 1998? No. However, this group is somewhat of a poor man's version of that, which is not a slight at all. Jefferson, although not the same player as Moss, fills the role as the dynamic young talent who has the potential to be the best wide receiver in the league. Thielen takes over the Carter role of being the red zone threat. And, Osborn appears to have the potential to be similar to Reed, not quite good enough to be the second wide receiver on a team but yet overqualified as the third option. If all things work out, this could be a fun group this year.

Players competing for the fourth and fifth wide receiver spots: Ihmir Smith-Marsette, Jalen Nailor, and Bisi Johnson

The real competition to look out for during training camp on the Viking's offense will be between these three wide receivers. All three come in with both potential and question marks. Bisi Johnson, who caught three touchdowns as a rookie, has the best NFL resume of the three but missed all of the 2021 season with a torn ACL. Smith-Marsette is probably the best athlete of the three but waited until the last game of the 2021 season to have any sort of production on offense. Lastly, Nailor might have the best chance of three to make the roster solely off the fact that he is a rookie that the new Vikings' regime invested a draft pick in. Yet, it is still challenging to commit to a guy who was a 6th-round pick.

Likely to be cut or placed on the practice squad: Trishton Jackson, Myron Mitchell, Blake Proehl, and Albert Wilson

Barring any major injuries to the top six wide receivers on the team, these four wide receivers will likely not make the Vikings' 53-man roster come week 1 of the 2022 season.

The biggest question mark in the wide receiver group: Dan Chisena

Dan Chisena has been a staple on special teams for the Vikings the last two seasons, providing solid work as a gunner on punt coverage. Despite all of that, Chisena has yet to break into any role on the Vikings' offense. Oddly enough, Vikings' center Garrett Bradbury has more career receptions than Chisena. Perhaps the new head coach, Kevin O'Connell, will keep Chisena on the roster because of his value to the special teams. Nonetheless, I would not be surprised if Chisena fails to make the 53-man roster.

53-man roster predictions:

Each week the debate that happens at home between son and dad will play out with our predictions.

Jack's (son) prediction

Justin Jefferson, Adam Thielen, KJ Osborn, Ihmir Smith-Marsette, Jailen Nailor, and Dan Chisena

Duane's (dad) prediction

Justin Jefferson, Adam Thielen, KJ Osborn, Ihmir Smith-Marsette, Albert Wilson and Dan Chisena.

Why did dad pick Wilson- he brings another veteran receiver to the team that outside of Thielen, is very young at the position. Nailor has the potential but unless there is an injury, he most likely will be a member of the practice squad.

Modern miracle of baby formula

For the past few months, I've been fielding questions about the baby formula crisis. Make no mistake, the shortage of baby formula is indeed a crisis.

Babies are delicate. Their immature bodies rely on having just the right intake of water and salts, and just the right composition of proteins, fats, and carbohydrates. Their organs can't keep that balance independently, the way healthy older children and adults can. Formula is carefully designed for this.



Debra Johnston, MD

Breastmilk is the ideal food for baby, providing nearly complete nutrition for the first year of life. But not every baby or mother can breast feed. For example, infants with galactosemia are unable to metabolize milk sugar, and mothers with certain infections risk passing them to their babies through breastmilk. There are a variety of social and physical factors that can make breast feeding, or pumping breast milk, untenable.

Sometimes we can induce the production of breast milk, but this is a usually difficult and always time-consuming process. It isn't an option for the mother staring at an empty formula shelf while her two-month-old cries in hunger. And solid foods are not a safe option for babies under four to six months of age as they aren't physically ready to swallow or digest them.

Historically, the most common alternative to a breastfeeding mother was a wet nurse, a woman hired or enslaved to breastfeed another's infant. The milk of domestic animals, usually cows, was also used as a substitute. But this milk was often contaminated, and animal milk does not have the same nutritional composition as human milk, so babies fed this way were vulnerable to malnutrition and infection. Many died as a result.

As science progressed, we learned more about food preservation and sanitation. We learned to pasteurize milk. We learned to produce sweetened condensed and evaporated milk. We learned about the nutritional gaps between human and animal milk, and we began to understand why the latter was not good for babies.

By the mid-20th century, most formula fed babies drank a homemade concoction based on evaporated milk, water, and sugar. These home formulas were susceptible to contamination, and difficult to get balanced just right. Many babies still died in infancy because of these issues, although far fewer than in previous centuries. Eventually, commercial formulas were refined to closely mimic the nutritional composition of breastmilk. Manufacturers developed specialty products for infants with issues like prematurity, food allergies and metabolic diseases. These formulas were easy to mix, and far less likely to be contaminated.

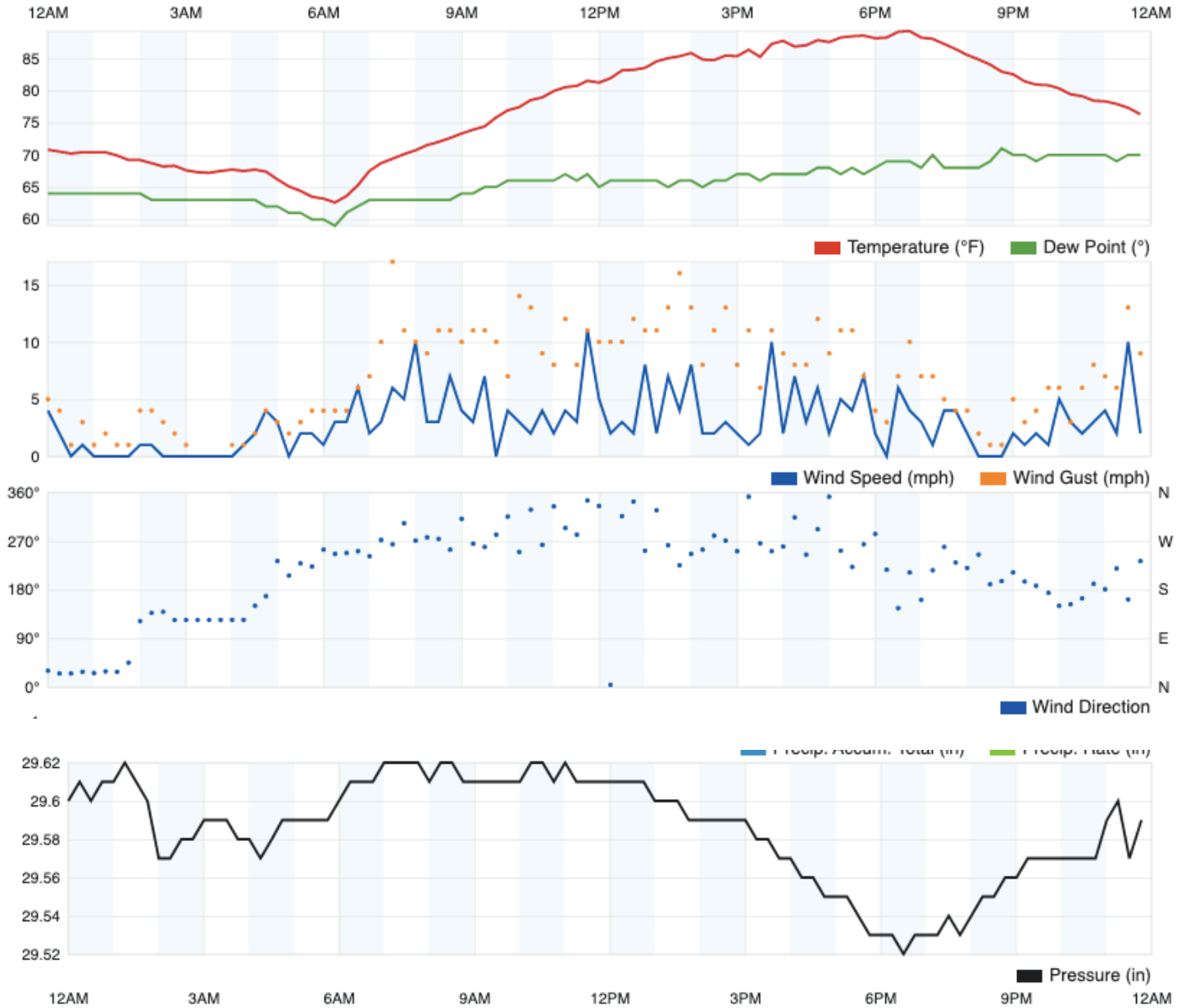
Modern baby formula is the result of centuries of science. With it, millions of babies grow and thrive. Not having access threatens lives.

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

Groton Daily Independent






Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 7 of 57

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Broton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 8 of 57

Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
				
30%	30%	30%		
Chance T-storms then Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy then Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny then Sunny and Breezy
High: 90 °F	Low: 67 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 79 °F



Severe Threat Monday Night

June 13, 2022
1:20 AM

Timing



Tonight

Actions



Be weather aware and ready to act.
Have multiple ways to receive warning information!

Severe Threats



Few Tornadoes

Isolated NW/NC SD



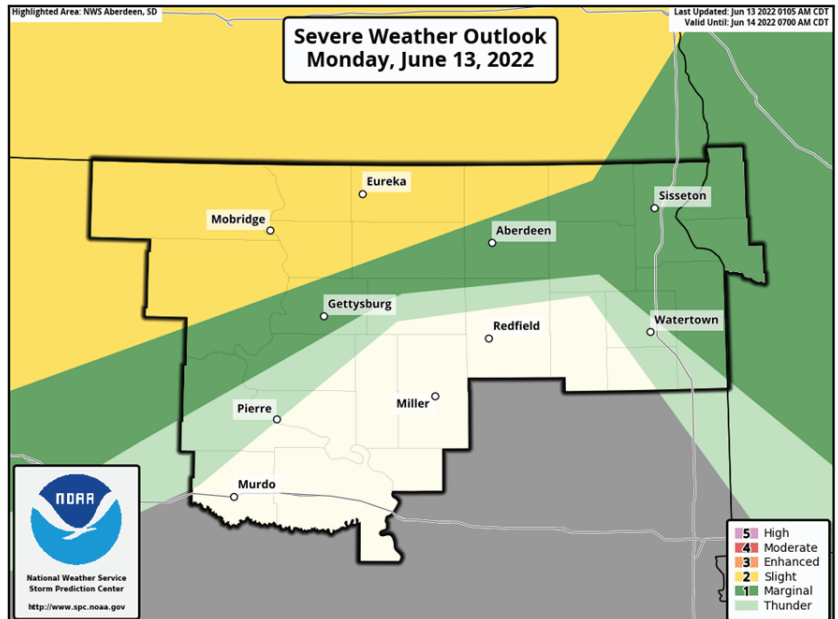
Large Hail

Up to golfball size



Damaging Wind

50-70 mph wind gusts possible



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Another round of showers and thunderstorms is possible tonight. Severe weather is again possible. The highest threats exist for northwest and north central South Dakota. High wind and large hail are the main potential hazards. #sdwx #mnwx

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 9 of 57

Today in Weather History

June 13, 1943: An estimated F2 tornado moved ENE, destroying a home on the southeastern edge of Highmore in Hyde County. A mother and her five children seeking shelter in the home were injured. Barns and outbuildings were damaged on a dozen farms. This tornado was estimated to be on the ground for about 8 miles and caused about \$10,000 in damage.

June 13, 1991: A small F1 tornado remained on the ground for 4 miles as it moved westerly from 10 miles west of Roscoe to 6 miles west of Roscoe, in Edmunds County. The path of the tornado continued for another 5 miles but was not consistently on the ground. It dissipated one mile west of Roscoe. Although the tornado had a long path, its width was 10 yards and traveled through open fields and cause little to no damage.

1889 - Forest fires in northern Wisconsin and northeast Minnesota were in the process of destroying millions of dollars of board feet of timber. (David Ludlum)

1907 - The temperature at Tamarack, CA, dipped to 2 degrees above zero, the lowest reading of record for June for the U.S. The high that day was 30 degrees. Tamarack received 42 inches of snow between the 10th and the 13th. On the 13th the snow depth was 130 inches. (The Weather Channel)

1972: Severe weather conditions over the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico begin to converge and form a tropical depression that would become Hurricane Agnes over the next two weeks. This hurricane affected most of the eastern United States with the Northeast being the hardest hit area with heavy rainfall.

1976: A deadly tornado moved across parts of the southwestern Chicago, Illinois suburbs killing three people and injured 23 others. The tornado, with winds over 200 mph moved from Lemont to Downers Grove causing \$13 million in damage when 87 homes were destroyed, and another 90 were damaged. The tornado passed over the Argonne National Laboratory, peeling part of a roof of the building housing a nuclear reactor. The tornadoes movement was somewhat erratic moving southeast to the north and finally turning northwest.

1984 - Severe thunderstorms struck Denver deluging the city with five inches of rain, and leaving up to six feet of water in some places. Softball size hail smashed windshields and ripped through metal cars. Snow plows had to be called out. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Fifteen cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including International Falls, MN, with a reading of 92 degrees. Mason City IA and Waterloo IA reported record highs of 100 degrees. Thunderstorms in the northeastern U.S. produced golf ball size hail around Hamilton Square NJ, along with high winds which tore the roof off a hospital causing a million dollars damage. Averill Park NY was deluged with 1.64 inches of rain in fifteen minutes. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Afternoon thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Southern and Central Plains Region. Forrest NM was deluged with 5.5 inches of rain in ninety minutes. Temperatures soared into the 90s across much of the eastern half of the nation, including New England. Northern Illinois reported a record twenty straight days of dry weather. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Southern Plains Region to the Carolinas during the day and night, and continued to drench parts of Texas and Oklahoma with heavy rain. Oklahoma City reported 13.41 inches of rain for the first thirteen days of the month, and Fort Worth TX reported 29.56 inches for the year, a total more than 13 inches above normal. Severe drought continued to rage across South Texas. (The National Weather Summary)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 10 of 57

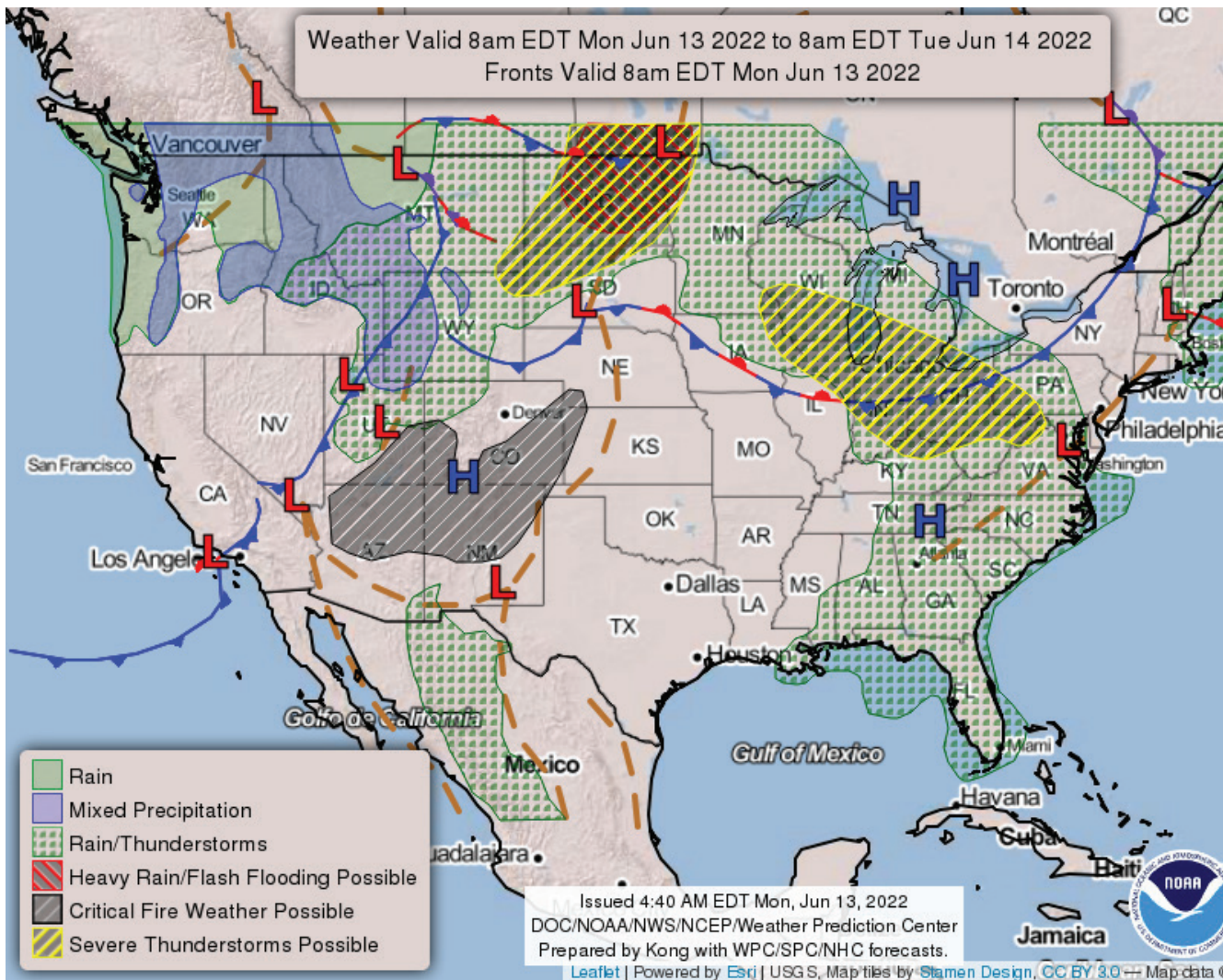
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 89.2 °F at 6:45 PM
Low Temp: 62.6 °F at 6:15 AM
Wind: 17 mph at 7:30 AM
Precip: 0.00 (since midnight: 0.04)

Day length: 15 hours, 42 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 102 in 1936
Record Low: 36 in 1942
Average High: 80°F
Average Low: 55°F
Average Precip in June.: 1.53
Precip to date in June.: 0.02
Average Precip to date: 8.78
Precip Year to Date: 11.18
Sunset Tonight: 9:23:35 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:41:26 AM



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 11 of 57



Singing A New Song

It is not possible to overestimate the significance of the Psalms. In them, we find the ideals of a God-filled life that reflect humility, worship, dependence, and service. In them, we find descriptions of men whose lives were in constant communion with God. We also find lives that reflect deep sorrow for sin and the search for holiness and perfection. We discover what walking in darkness is like - without fear gripping our hearts and controlling our minds because we see "faith at work." We are confronted with the results of sin and the benefits of repentance, restoration, and righteousness. We see minds once tortured by guilt and shame restored to sanity by the grace and mercy of God as a result of His love. We see the beauty of God's love in comparison to the tragedy of evil and wickedness. We see deep serenity following the storms of fear and danger.

More than any other book in the Bible, we see the tragic effects of sin in first-person stories. We also see what God can do for those who fall before Him and ask for His forgiveness. We see the roller-coaster of life ending in smooth seas of God's peace for those who submit to and worship Him.

In the wisdom of God, His Spirit inspired the writers of the Psalms to take the experiences of men, who were as human as we are and give us a compass for life. The Psalms provide us with spiritual insight, wisdom, knowledge, and courage to deal with every issue of life.

We read in Psalm 149 that we are to "sing a new song."

How is this possible when life is falling apart? Can there be any new songs?

Yes! "His mercies never cease!" New day! New Mercies! New songs!

Prayer: Father, make us aware of the unending mercies we receive every day. Fill our hearts with new songs of joy. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Bible Verse: Praise the LORD. Sing to the LORD a new song. Psalm 149:1

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 12 of 57

2022 Community Events

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 13 of 57

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

Patriot Front leader among those arrested near Idaho Pride

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and SAM METZ Associated Press

After the arrest of more than two dozen members of a white supremacist group near a northern Idaho pride event, including one identified as its founder, LGBTQ advocates said Sunday that polarization and a fraught political climate are putting their community increasingly at risk.

The 31 Patriot Front members were arrested with riot gear after a tipster reported seeing people loading up into a U-Haul like "a little army" at a hotel parking lot in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, police said.

Among those booked into jail on misdemeanor charges of conspiracy to riot was Thomas Ryan Rousseau of Grapevine, Texas, who has been identified by the Southern Poverty Law Center as the 23-year-old who founded the group after the deadly "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017. No attorney was immediately listed for him and phone numbers associated with him went unanswered Sunday.

Also among the arrestees was Mitchell F. Wagner, 24, of Florissant, Missouri, who was previously charged with defacing a mural of famous Black Americans on a college campus in St. Louis last year.

Michael Kielty, Wagner's attorney, said Sunday that he had not been provided information about the charges. He said Patriot Front did not have a reputation for violence and that the case could be a First Amendment issue. "Even if you don't like the speech, they have the right to make it," he said.

Patriot Front is a white supremacist neo-Nazi group whose members perceive Black Americans, Jews and LGBTQ people as enemies, said Jon Lewis, a George Washington University researcher who specializes in homegrown violent extremism.

Their playbook, Lewis said, involves identifying local grievances to exploit, organizing on platforms like the messaging app Telegram and ultimately showing up to events marching in neat columns, in blue- or white-collared-shirt uniforms, in a display of strength.

Though Pride celebrations have long been picketed by counterprotesters citing religious objections, they haven't historically been a major focus for armed extremist groups. Still, it isn't surprising, given how anti-LGBTQ rhetoric has increasingly become a potent rallying cry in the far-right online ecosystem, Lewis said.

"That set of grievances fits into their broader narratives and shows their ability to mobilize the same folks against 'the enemy' over and over and over again," he said.

The arrests come amid a surge of charged rhetoric around LGBTQ issues and a wave of state legislation aimed at transgender youth, said John McCrostie, the first openly gay man elected to the Idaho Legislature. In Boise this week, dozens of Pride flags were stolen from city streets.

"Whenever we are confronted with attacks of hate, we must respond with the message from the community that we embrace all people with all of our differences," McCrostie said in a text message.

Sunday also marked six years since the mass shooting that killed 49 people at the Orlando LGBTQ club Pulse, said Troy Williams with Equality Utah in Salt Lake City.

"Our nation is growing increasingly polarized, and the result has been tragic and deadly," he said.

Authorities in the San Francisco Bay Area are investigating a possible hate crime after a group of men allegedly shouted homophobic and anti-LGBTQ slurs during a weekend Drag Queen Story Hour at the San Lorenzo Library on Saturday. No arrests have been made, no one was physically harmed, and authorities are investigating the incident as possible harassment of children.

In Coeur d'Alene on Saturday, police found riot gear, one smoke grenade, shin guards and shields inside the van after pulling it over near a park where the North Idaho Pride Alliance was holding a Pride in the Park event, Coeur d'Alene Police Chief Lee White said.

The group came to riot around the small northern Idaho city wearing Patriot Front patches and logos on their hats and some T-shirts reading "Reclaim America" according to police and videos of the arrests posted on social media.

Those arrested came from at least 11 states, including Washington, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Colorado,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 15 of 57

South Dakota, Illinois, Wyoming, Virginia, and Arkansas.

Though there is a history of far-right extremism dating back decades in northern Idaho, White said only one of those arrested Saturday was from the state.

The six-hour Pride event generally went on as scheduled, including booths, food, live music, a drag show and a march of more than 50 people, the Idaho Statesman reported.

"We have been through so much, so much," Jessica Mahuron of the North Idaho Pride Alliance, which organized the event, told KREM-TV. "Harassment, and attempts to intimidate on the psychological level, and the truth is if you allow yourself to be intimidated you let them win and what we have shown today is that you will not win."

The group is scheduled to be arraigned on Monday.

Brookings president resigns amid FBI foreign lobbying probe

By ALAN SUDERMAN and JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

The president of the Brookings Institution resigned Sunday amid a federal investigation into whether he illegally lobbied on behalf of the wealthy Persian Gulf nation of Qatar.

Retired Gen. John Allen wrote in a letter to the think tank that he was leaving with a "heavy heart" but did not offer a direct explanation.

"I know it is best for all concerned in this moment," Allen's letter said.

A retired four-star Marine general who led U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, Allen's announcement came less than a week after the Associated Press was first to report on new court filings that showed the FBI had seized Allen's electronic data as part of the lobbying probe.

Allen has not been charged with any crimes and, through a spokesman, has denied any wrongdoing.

Brookings, which had put Allen on administrative leave the day after the AP's initial report, issued a statement thanking Allen for guiding the think tank through the coronavirus pandemic and other contributions. The institution said information about the search for a new president would be forthcoming.

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

An FBI agent said in an affidavit in support of a search warrant there was "substantial evidence" that Allen had knowingly broken a foreign lobbying law, and had made false statements and withheld "incriminating" documents.

Allen's alleged lobbying work involved traveling to Qatar and meeting with the country's top officials to offer them advice on how to influence U.S. policy, as well as promoting Qatar's point of view to top White House officials and members of Congress, the FBI's affidavit says.

The federal investigation involving Allen has already ensnared Richard G. Olson, a former ambassador to the United Arab Emirates and Pakistan who pleaded guilty to federal charges earlier this month, and Imaad Zuberi, a prolific political donor now serving a 12-year prison sentence on corruption charges. Several members of Congress have also been interviewed.

Brookings, one of the most prestigious think tanks in the U.S., had initially hired Allen as a senior fellow before tapping him as president in late 2017 and paying him more than \$1 million a year, according to recent tax records.

"The integrity and objectivity of Brookings's scholarship constitute the institution's principal assets, and Brookings seeks to maintain high ethical standards in all its operations," the think tank said in its statement Sunday.

Qatar has long been a major financial backer of Brookings, though Allen decided in 2019 to stop taking any new donations from the country.

Qatari officials have not responded to requests for comment about the Allen investigation.

Mixed results as South Dakota's Noem intervenes in GOP races

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 16 of 57

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Ahead of a potential presidential bid, South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem handily won the Republican nomination last week for a second term. Many of the candidates she hoped to elect to the Statehouse, however, did not have such a good night.

She had hoped to replace contrarians with personal allies in the Republican-controlled Legislature, which has consistently defied her wishes, so the governor rallied behind roughly a dozen candidates who challenged incumbents. Two-thirds of Noem's favorites lost.

The setback was a reminder that while endorsements often draw attention and financial resources, they do not always translate into support from voters. It's a lesson that Donald Trump, Noem's ally, is learning as he falls short, notably in Georgia, in trying to punish Republicans who have crossed him. In the GOP primary last month, Georgia voters overwhelmingly backed Gov. Brian Kemp, who had rebuffed Trump's lies about widespread fraud during the 2020 election.

Trump has tried to shake off his initial losses, but it is unclear whether Noem will be able to move forward so easily. Some incumbents who survived her efforts to defeat them are left wondering why a governor they support and generally agree with went to such lengths to try to oust them.

"There was a belief system that the party was a family -- you do not campaign against other members," said state Sen. Al Novstrup, a longtime lawmaker who perennially scores high on conservative organizations' scorecards. "Obviously, that concept has broken dramatically in this primary."

Noem entered the primary election with a somewhat strained relationship with Republican lawmakers. The results from the vote could only deepen the tension. Those tenuous bonds with the Legislature could raise further questions about her ability to make a competitive bid for the Republican presidential nomination as multiple contenders, including Trump, take steps to announce campaigns later this year.

She spent most of her first term crafting a vision of South Dakota as an exemplar of conservative policy, tapping into activist fervor in what was widely seen as a play to be part of the White House conversation. But she also tempered her proposals with consideration for state government operations and the business community.

That fueled conflict with some House Republicans in the Legislature over proposals aimed at transgender children, exemptions to COVID-19 vaccine requirements and tax cuts. Even though her party held 90% of the legislative seats, Noem's agenda foundered this year. House lawmakers hamstrung her proposals and often brushed aside her input.

They even openly criticized her.

One-third of the House Republican caucus voted for an unsuccessful effort to publicly scold Noem for taking a hands-on role in a state agency while it was evaluating her daughter's application for a real estate appraiser license.

Among them was Republican Rep. Fred Deutsch, who has mostly been supportive of the governor but said he makes votes based on his conscience. He had also sparred with Noem before: His proposal in 2020 to bar puberty blockers and gender confirmation procedures to transgender children under 16 was rejected in the Senate after Noem expressed reservations about the proposal.

As primary campaigns ramped up in April, the governor publicly criticized Deutsch and put her support with a candidate she could trust — her childhood babysitter, Stephanie Sauder.

But Noem's wishes in the primary race were only partially fulfilled in the contest where two House candidates advanced from a field of four Republicans. Sauder received the most votes but Deutsch beat out the two other candidates for the Republican nomination.

Noem was able to see off one of her loudest Republican critics, House Speaker Spencer Gosch, as he challenged a state senator for the GOP nomination to that chamber. She also gained several other allies in the Legislature, including a former chief of staff.

Her decision to wade into the primaries did not go unnoticed by the grassroots groups animating the current divide in the state GOP. Noem received blowback from conservative media after a newspaper report that she was working with state Sen. Lee Schoenbeck, the president pro tempore, to rid the Statehouse of certain conservatives.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 17 of 57

Sensing trouble ahead, Noem tried to minimize damage and maintain her ties with conservatives. The effort included a private meeting in mid-May at a church in Sioux Falls with a group called Patriot Ripple Effect.

Noem seemed eager to convince the dozens of people who filled a conference room at the church that she was like-minded. She pointed to her decision during the COVID-19 pandemic to forgo statewide lockdowns and mask mandates despite plenty of criticism and objections. She also clapped back at Republican lawmakers who pushed sweeping vaccine exemptions, espousing a hands-off approach to government that extends to businesses as much as individuals.

"They were blowing me up saying I wasn't conservative because I would not come in and tell Sanford (the state's largest hospital system) and tell big businesses that they couldn't require vaccines for their employees," she said. "My answer for them was, 'You're telling me as the government to tell them as a private business what to do.'"

Her assertions drew some applause. But their questions mostly challenged Noem, picking at her record throughout the 45-minute meeting. They wanted to know why she would target reliably conservative lawmakers?

"My babysitter's running for office. I kind of like her," she responded.

The group continued to press the question, with one member pointing to Noem's statement backing a challenger to Novstrup, the state senator. Noem's answer suggested her support for Rachel Dix was based more on personal connection than political ideology: "She's a friend of mine and has been for years."

As the primary results crystallized, it became clear the internal party conflict is not going away.

Rep. Tom Pischke, who is from the party's hard-line conservative wing and easily beat Noem's pick for a state Senate seat, said he got a boost after being targeted by Noem's allies. A letter was even circulated among voters pointing out that Noem's preferred candidate, Lisa Rave, was married to the chief lobbyist for the state's hospital systems — a favorite target of certain conservatives during the pandemic.

"That was the nail in the coffin for her," Pischke said of the letter's effect on his rival.

He added that the fallout from the race may have even spread to the governor's standing among ardent conservatives: "It actually hurt Gov. Noem a little bit," he said.

India, China growing markets for shunned Russian oil

By KRUTIKA PATHI and ELAINE KURTENBACH Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — India and other Asian nations are becoming an increasingly vital source of oil revenues for Moscow despite strong pressure from the U.S. not to increase their purchases, as the European Union and other allies cut off energy imports from Russia in line with sanctions over its war on Ukraine.

Such sales are boosting Russian export revenues at a time when Washington and allies are trying to limit financial flows supporting Moscow's war effort.

India, an oil-hungry country of 1.4 billion people, has guzzled nearly 60 million barrels of Russian oil in 2022 so far, compared with 12 million barrels in all of 2021, according to commodity data firm Kpler. Shipments to other Asian countries, like China, have also increased in recent months but to a lesser extent.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Sri Lanka's prime minister said he may be compelled to buy more oil from Russia as he hunts desperately for fuel to keep the country running amid a dire economic crisis.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said Saturday said he would first look to other sources, but would be open to buying more crude from Moscow. In late May, Sri Lanka bought a 90,000-metric-ton (99,000-ton) shipment of Russian crude to restart its only refinery.

In the Philippines, Russian Ambassador Marat Pavlov met President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday and offered Moscow's help to provide oil and gas to the Philippines but did not specify the terms.

Marcos Jr., whose six-year term is set to begin June 30, did not say if he was considering the offer.

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February, global oil prices have soared, giving refiners in India and other countries an added incentive to tap oil Moscow is offering them at steep discounts of \$30 to

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 18 of 57

\$35, compared with Brent crude and other international oil now trading at about \$120 per barrel.

Their importance to Russia rose after the 27-nation European Union, the main market for fossil fuels that supply most of Moscow's foreign income, agreed to stop most oil purchases by the end of this year.

"It seems a distinct trend is becoming ingrained now," said Matt Smith, lead analyst at Kpler tracking Russian oil flows. As shipments of Urals oil to much of Europe are cut, crude is instead flowing to Asia, where India has become the top buyer, followed by China. Ship tracking reports show Turkey is another key destination.

"People are realizing that India is such a refining hub, taking it at such a cheap price, refining it and sending it out as clean products because they can make such strong margins on that," Smith said.

In May, some 30 Russian tankers loaded with crude made their way to Indian shores, unloading about 430,000 barrels per day. An average of just 60,000 barrels per day arrived in January-March, according to the Helsinki, Finland-based Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, an independent think tank.

Chinese state-owned and independent refiners also have stepped up purchases. In 2021, China was the largest single buyer of Russian oil, taking 1.6 million barrels per day on average, equally divided between pipeline and seaborne routes, according to the International Energy Agency.

While India's imports are still only about a quarter of that, the sharp increase since the war began is a potential source of friction between Washington and New Delhi.

The U.S. recognizes India's need for affordable energy, but "we're looking to allies and partners not to increase their purchases of Russian energy," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said after a meeting of U.S. and Indian foreign and defense ministers in April.

Meanwhile, the U.S. and its European allies are engaged in "extremely active" discussions on coordinating measures, perhaps forming a cartel, to try to set a price cap on Russian oil, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told a Senate Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday.

The aim would be to keep Russian oil flowing into the global market to prevent crude oil prices, already up 60% this year, from surging still higher, she said.

"Absolutely, the objective is to limit the revenue going to Russia," Yellen said, indicating the exact strategy had not yet been decided on.

While Europe could find alternative sources for its purchases of about 60% of Russia's crude exports, Russia also has options.

India's foreign minister, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, has emphasized his country's intention to do what is in its best interests, bristling at criticism over its imports of Russian oil.

"If India funding Russian oil is funding the war ... tell me, then buying Russian gas is not funding the war? Let's be a little even-handed," he said at a recent forum in Slovakia, referring to Europe's imports of Russian gas.

India's imports of crude from Russia rose from 100,000 barrels per day in February to 370,000 a day in April to 870,000 a day in May.

A growing share of those shipments displaced oil from Iraq and Saudi Arabia, most of it going to refineries in Sika and Jamnagar on India's western coast. Up until April, Russian oil accounted for less than 5% of the crude processed at the Jamnagar oil refinery run by Reliance Industries. In May, it accounted for more than a quarter, according to Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air.

India's exports of oil products like diesel have risen to 685,000 barrels per day from 580,000 barrels per day before the invasion of Ukraine. Much of its diesel exports are sold in Asia, but about 20% was shipped via the Suez Canal, headed for the Mediterranean or Atlantic, essentially Europe or the US, said Lauri Myllyvirta, a lead analyst at CREA.

It's impossible to quantify the exact amount of Russian crude in refined products being shipped out of India, he said. Still, "India is providing an outlet for Russian crude oil to get through the market," he said.

China's imports also have risen further this year, helping Russian President Vladimir Putin's government record a current account surplus, the broadest measure of trade, of \$96 billion for the four months ending in April.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 19 of 57

It's unclear if such exports might eventually be subject to sanctions meant to cut the cash flowing to Russia.

Regarding the sanctions, "Are those measures effective? And if not, how is the oil market working around them?" Myllyvirta said.

1/6 panel to hear Trump campaign manager, probe election lie

By LISA MASCARO and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House committee investigating the Jan. 6 riot is delving deeper into what it calls "the big lie," Donald Trump's false claims of voter fraud that fueled his relentless effort to overturn the 2020 election and led a mob of his supporters to lay siege to the U.S. Capitol.

The 1/6 panel resumes its hearings Monday with live witnesses, including Trump's campaign manager, Bill Stepien, as committee members say they have uncovered enough evidence for the Justice Department to consider an unprecedented criminal indictment against the former president. Stepien was subpoenaed for his public testimony.

Chairman Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., and vice chair Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., are set to lead the morning hearing after last week's blockbuster session drew nearly 20 million Americans to see its prime-time findings.

For the past year, the committee has been investigating the most violent attack on the Capitol since the War of 1812 to ensure such an assault never happens again. Its findings come as Trump is considering another run for the White House, and some warn that his effort to overturn Joe Biden's election victory posed a grave threat to democracy.

Stepien, a longtime Trump ally, oversaw the "conversion" of Trump's presidential campaign to a "Stop the Steal" effort, according to a subpoena issued by the committee last fall. He is likely to face questions about what those in Trump's inner circle were telling the president about the election results. Stepien is now a top campaign adviser to the Trump-endorsed House candidate, Harriet Hageman, who is challenging Cheney in the Wyoming Republican primary election.

In addition to Stepien, the committee is also set to hear testimony from Chris Stirewalt, a former Fox News political editor closely involved in election night coverage who stood by the decision to declare Arizona as being won by Biden. He wrote about his experiences later in an op-ed and might be asked about Trump's actions as Fox News declared states Biden won.

A second group of witnesses testifying Monday will be made up of election officials, investigators and experts who are likely to discuss Trump's responses to the election, including dozens of failed court challenges, and how his actions diverged from U.S. norms.

Among them is the former U.S. attorney in Atlanta, BJay Pak, who abruptly resigned after Trump pressured Georgia state officials to overturn his presidential defeat. Trump wanted to fire Pak as disloyal, but Pak stepped down after Trump's call urging Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to "find" enough votes to overturn Biden's win in the state became public.

The panel will also hear from former Philadelphia City Commissioner Al Schmidt, the only Republican on the election board and who faced down criticism as the state's election was called for Biden; and noted Washington attorney and elections lawyer Benjamin Ginsberg.

As he mulls a White House run, Trump is decrying the investigation into his efforts to overturn Biden's election a "witch hunt." He said last week that Jan. 6 "represented the greatest movement in the history of our country."

Nine people died in the riot and its aftermath, including a Trump supporter shot and killed by police. More than 800 people have been arrested in the siege, and members of two extremist groups have been indicted on rare sedition charges over their roles leading the charge into the Capitol.

In its prime-time hearing, the committee laid out how Trump was told over and over again by his trusted aides and officials at the highest levels of government that there was no election fraud on a scale that could have changed the outcome. But Trump pursued his false claims about the election and beckoned

supporters to Washington on Jan. 6 to overturn Biden's victory as Congress was set to certify the Electoral College results.

Additional evidence is set to be released in hearings this week focusing on Trump's decision to ignore the outcome of the election and the court cases that ruled against him.

Monday's hearing will also turn to the millions of dollars Trump's team brought in fundraising in the run-up to Jan. 6, according to a committee aide who insisted on anonymity to discuss the details.

The committee has said most of those interviewed in the investigation are coming forward voluntarily, although some have wanted subpoenas to appear in public. It is unclear why Stepien was issued a subpoena. A Trump spokesman, Taylor Budowich, suggested that the committee's decision to call Stepien was politically motivated.

Lawmakers indicated that perhaps their most important audience member over the course of the hearings may be Attorney General Merrick Garland, who must decide whether his department can and should prosecute Trump. They left no doubt as to their own view whether the evidence is sufficient to proceed.

Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., said on CNN he doesn't intend to "browbeat" Garland but noted the committee has already laid out in legal pleadings criminal statutes they believe Trump violated.

"I think that he knows, his staff knows, the U.S. attorneys know, what's at stake here," Raskin said.

No president or ex-president has ever been indicted. Garland has not specified whether he would be willing to prosecute, which would be complicated in a political election season in which Trump has openly flirted with the idea of running for president again.

Jihadi attacks mount in Burkina Faso despite junta's efforts

By SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP) — The mutinous soldiers who ousted Burkina Faso's democratically elected president early this year vowed they would do a better job at stopping the jihadi violence rocking the country. Five months later, however, attacks are increasing and patience with the junta appears to be waning.

Many in Burkina Faso supported the military takeover in January, frustrated with the previous government's inability to stem Islamic extremist violence that has killed thousands and displaced at least 2 million. Lt. Col. Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, who led the coup and was later installed as interim president, vowed to restore security.

But violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State increased nearly 7% during the junta's first three months of rule compared with the three months prior, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project.

"Beyond the immeasurable suffering, the effects of the violence and conflict — which show no signs of abating — are likely to lead to renewed popular discontent," said Heni Nsaibia, senior researcher at ACLED.

Nearly 5,000 people have died in the last two years in Burkina Faso and conflict experts say there will be far-reaching consequences if the violence continues to worsen.

"The decline in Burkina Faso will absolutely fuel the spread of jihadist activity in the Gulf of Guinea states — Benin, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Togo — where there already is jihadist recruitment and violence," said Michael Shurkin, director of global programs at 14 North Strategies, a consultancy based in Dakar, Senegal.

Damiba has asked citizens to give him until September to see improvement. He's promoted younger officers with field experience and created a central coordination unit for military operations. His government also has supported local dialogues with jihadis to try to convince the fighters to put down their arms and return to their homes.

Yet violence is intensifying. Since April at least 30 security forces have been killed and two foreigners kidnapped: an American nun and a Polish citizen. Last week, 11 gendarmes were killed by jihadis in Seno province in the Sahel, said the army in a statement.

The government is losing control of swaths of land, particularly in the Center North and Sahel regions, as jihadis have increased their use of roadside bombs and use more sophisticated weapons.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 21 of 57

Government soldiers say they lack equipment and must resort to stealing guns and ammunition from jihadis they kill. Seeing so many of their colleagues die also has taken its toll, the soldiers say.

"Our situation is very difficult. Sometimes the enemy kills us because we're regularly exhausted," said a soldier, who spoke on condition of anonymity as he wasn't authorized to speak to journalists.

Jihadis are changing strategy. They are targeting water sources, destroying 32 facilities this year which has reduced access to nearly 300,000 people, said a group of aid organizations operating in the country.

"The conflict is now putting at risk the very thing no one can live without: clean water," said Rebecca Bouchet-Petersen, country director for Solidarity International in Burkina Faso.

Most of the destruction of water sources has been around Djibo in the arid Sahel region, which hosts the largest number of displaced people in the country and has been under siege for months. Last month local leaders in Djibo tried to negotiate an end to the blockade with the top jihadi in the country, Jafar Dicko, according to government officials.

It was the first time the government gave logistical support for local dialogues, which have been ongoing for years. While the talks partially succeeded in allowing freer movement in and out of Djibo, community leaders say it's a small improvement.

"I think it's when the government negotiates that we'll see more significant results," said Boubacari Dicko, the Emir of Djibo who led the talks.

But it's unclear if Damiba's government is prepared to take that step. The previous government was publicly against such negotiations, although it did hold some in secret around the November 2020 presidential election.

There's also growing discontent about Damiba's crackdown on civic freedoms. The junta has restricted political demonstrations that could "disturb public order or mobilize security forces who will be more useful for combat."

Yet locals in hard-hit parts of Burkina Faso see few alternatives to the junta and say they're willing to give it a little more time. In August last year, 45-year-old Awa Komi tried to return to her village to farm because her family had no food, but fled when jihadis started killing people, she said.

In a makeshift displacement camp in the northern town of Ouahigouya where she now lives, she's hoping Damiba will restore security so she can go home.

"He said things would change in five months," the outspoken mother of 11 said, pumping her fist for emphasis. "If it's not better in five months, we, the women, will kick him out."

The battle of Donbas could prove decisive in Ukraine war

By The Associated Press undefined

Day after day, Russia is pounding the Donbas region of Ukraine with relentless artillery and air raids, making slow but steady progress to seize the industrial heartland of its neighbor.

With the conflict now in its fourth month, it's a high-stakes campaign that could dictate the course of the entire war.

If Russia prevails in the battle of Donbas, it will mean that Ukraine loses not only land but perhaps the bulk of its most capable military forces, opening the way for Moscow to grab more territory and dictate its terms to Kyiv. A Russian failure could lay the grounds for a Ukrainian counteroffensive — and possibly lead to political upheaval for the Kremlin.

Following botched early attempts in the invasion to capture Kyiv and the second-largest city of Kharkiv without proper planning and coordination, Russia turned its attention to the Donbas, a region of mines and factories where Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian forces since 2014.

Learning from its earlier missteps, Russia is treading more carefully there, relying on longer-range bombardments to soften Ukrainian defenses.

It seems to be working: The better-equipped Russian forces have made gains in both the Luhansk and Donetsk regions that make up the Donbas, controlling over 95% of the former and about half of the latter.

Ukraine is losing between 100 and 200 soldiers a day, presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak told the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 22 of 57

BBC, as Russia has "thrown pretty much everything non-nuclear at the front." President Volodymyr Zelenskyy earlier put the daily death toll at up to 100.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov described the combat situation as "extremely difficult," using a reference to an ancient deity of sacrifice by saying: "The Russian Moloch has plenty of means to devour human lives to satisfy its imperial ego."

When the war was going badly for Russia, many thought President Vladimir Putin might claim victory after some gains in Donbas and then exit a conflict that has seriously bruised the economy and stretched its resources. But the Kremlin has made clear it expects Ukraine to recognize all the gains Russia has made since the start of the invasion — something Kyiv has ruled out.

Russian forces control the entire Sea of Azov coast, including the strategic port of Mariupol, the entire Kherson region — a key gateway to Crimea — and a large chunk of the Zaporizhzhia region that could aid a further push deeper into Ukraine, and few expect that Putin will stop.

On Thursday, he drew parallels between the Ukrainian conflict and the 18th century wars with Sweden waged by Peter the Great. Now, as in those czarist times, "our lot is to take back and consolidate" historic Russian lands, Putin said. Moscow has long regarded Ukraine as part of its sphere of influence.

Unlike earlier battlefield failures, Russia appears to be using more conservative tactics. Many had expected it to try to encircle Ukrainian forces with a massive pincer movement from the north and south, but instead it has used a series of smaller moves to force a retreat and not overextend its supply lines.

Keir Giles, a Russia expert at London's Chatham House think-tank, said Russia was "concentrating all of its artillery on a single section of the front line in order to grind its way forward by flattening everything in its path."

Western officials still praise the ability of Ukrainian forces to defend their country, fighting back fiercely and similarly relying on artillery and retreating in some sections while launching frequent counterattacks.

"Ukraine has been pursuing a policy of flexible defense, giving ground where it makes sense to do so instead of holding on to every inch of the territory," Giles said.

A senior Western official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the sensitive issue in public said the Russian campaign "continues to be deeply troubled at all levels," noting that Moscow's forces are taking "weeks to achieve even modest tactical goals such as taking individual villages."

Last month, the Russians lost nearly an entire battalion in a botched attempt to cross the Siverskyi Donets River and set up a bridgehead. Hundreds were killed and dozens of armored vehicles were destroyed.

"There is a sense of strategic improvisation or muddling through," the official said, predicting that over the summer the Russian military could reach a "point where they can no longer effectively generate offensive combat power."

Russia has a clear edge in artillery in the battle for Donbas, thanks to a bigger number of heavy howitzers and rocket launchers and abundant ammunition. The Ukrainians have had to be economical in using their artillery, with the Russians constantly targeting their supply lines.

Ukraine has begun to receive more heavy weapons from Western allies, who have provided dozens of howitzers and are now planning to start delivering multiple rocket launchers.

Putin has warned that if the West gives Kyiv longer-range rockets that could hit Russian territory, Moscow could hit targets in Ukraine that it has spared until now. Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also said that Russia could respond by seizing more land as a buffer zone from such weapons.

Moscow's earlier territorial gains in the south, including the Kherson region and a large part of the neighboring Zaporizhzhia region, have prompted Russian officials and their local appointees to ponder plans to fold those areas into Russia or declare them to be independent, like the so-called "people's republics" of Donetsk and Luhansk.

Ukrainian officials and Western analysts voiced concern that Moscow could try to press its offensive into the heavily populated and industrialized Dnipro region farther north, an advance that could potentially slice Ukraine in two and raise a new threat for Kyiv.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 23 of 57

"Russian objectives in the context of this war are shifting in relation to the situation on the ground," said Eleonora Tafuro Ambrosetti, an analyst with the Milan-based Italian Institute for International Political Studies.

"Their goals are sort of flexible enough to be adaptive to context on the ground," she said, noting that Russia could try to damage Ukraine's economy by seizing the entire coastline to deny access to shipping.

A top Russian general already has spoken of plans to cut off Ukraine from the Black Sea by seizing the Mykolaiv and Odesa regions all the way to the border with Romania, a move that would also allow Moscow to build a land corridor to Moldova's separatist region of Transnistria that hosts a Russian military base.

Such ambitions all hinge on Moscow's success in the east. A defeat in the Donbas would put Kyiv in a precarious position, with new recruits lacking the skills of battle-hardened soldiers now fighting in the east and supplies of Western weapons insufficient to fend off a potentially deeper Russian push.

Ukrainian officials brushed off such fears, voicing confidence that its military can hold out to stem the Russian advances and even launch a counterattack.

"Ukraine's plan is clear: Kyiv is wearing the Russian army out, trying to win time for more deliveries of Western weapons, including air defense systems, in the hope of launching an efficient counteroffensive," said analyst Mykola Sunhurovsky of the Razumkov Center, a Kyiv-based think tank.

Philip Breedlove, a retired U.S. Air Force general who was NATO's top commander from 2013 to 2016, warned against any cease-fire that would codify Russia's battlefield gains.

"This is like raising a 2-year-old," he said. "If you allow bad behavior to stand, or worse if you reward bad behavior, you're going to get more bad behavior."

When Russia invaded Georgia in 2008, Washington's response was inadequate, and when Moscow seized Crimea in 2014, "the West and the United States response to that was inadequate to task," Breedlove added.

Now that Russia has come back for more, the West gets another chance to respond. "How we finish this war will decide, in my opinion, whether we are going to see more of this in the future," he added.

Virus cluster at nightclub sets off new Beijing clampdown

BEIJING (AP) — China's capital has put school online in one of its major districts amid a new COVID-19 outbreak linked to a nightclub, while life has yet to return to normal in Shanghai despite the lifting of a more than two-month-long lockdown.

China has stuck to its "zero-COVID" policy requiring mass testing, quarantines and the sequestering of anyone who has come into contact with an infected person in concentrated locations where hygiene is generally poor.

A total of 166 cases have been linked to the Heaven Supermarket club in the downtown Gongti nightlife area after an infected person visited there Thursday. Of those, 145 were customers, while the rest were staff or people with whom customers had later contact.

The entire area, along with the adjacent Sanlitun shopping and dining complex, was shut down until further notice.

The outbreak prompted authorities in the sprawling Chaoyang district to put school back online, with the exception of students taking middle and high school placement exams. Sports gatherings in the city have also been put on hold.

Chaoyang has ordered daily mass testing, with long lines forming and wait times of two hours or more.

In Shanghai, 502 people have been linked to three positive tests detected June 9 among patrons of the Red Rose Beauty Salon. The individuals involved come from 15 districts across the city of 25 million people, prompting the first large-scale restrictions since the lockdown was formally ended June 1.

With mass testing and restrictions on movement back in force, streets and supermarkets emptied again over the weekend.

Failure to undergo testing will lead to a yellow code on a person's health status app, forbidding them access to all public places.

Most students remain at home and all but a few restaurants are open only for takeout. Many customers

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 24 of 57

simply partake of their food and drink on the steps beside blooming flower bushes outside the establishments.

While 22 million Shanghai residents were released from lockdown almost two weeks ago, 220,000 people are still restricted to their homes under a rule requiring that no positive cases are found within their residential compounds for more than 10 days. Another 600,000 are in control zones, where their movements are restricted within their compounds.

Corrugated steel fences and other barriers continue to block off neighborhoods and businesses, leading to further discontent and complaints from residents who remain in lockdown.

The strict implementation of lockdowns, along with a lack of information and poor distribution of food and other daily necessities, has led to rarely seen displays of anger and desperation. Residents have confronted workers and police who have become known as “big whites” for the protective gear they wear, circulated protest videos online and coordinated nightly screaming and pot-banging events to let off steam.

The loosening of restrictions led to an exodus of non-Shanghai residents, including foreigners, who had found themselves trapped in the lockdown.

Despite the recent outbreak, Beijing reported just 51 new cases on Monday, 22 of them asymptomatic. City residents are still undergoing regular testing — mostly every other day — and must wear masks and swipe a mobile phone app to enter public places and facilitate case tracing.

China has maintained its “zero-COVID” policy despite considerable economic costs and an assertion from the head of the World Health Organization that the policy isn’t sustainable.

Nationwide, China reported just 143 cases, almost all in Beijing and Shanghai. The death toll from the outbreak in mainland China remained static at 5,226.

Iraq’s ‘pearl of the south’ Lake Sawa dry amid water crisis

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

LAKE SAWA, Iraq (AP) — Hussam al-Aqouli remembers the exact spot along southern Iraq’s Lake Sawa where his two daughters once dipped their feet into clear waters. Now he stands there two years on and the barren earth cracks beneath him.

This year, for the first time in its centuries-long history, the lake dried up. A combination of mismanagement by local investors, government neglect and climate change has ground down its azure shores to chunks of salt.

Lake Sawa is only the latest casualty in this broad country-wide struggle with water shortages that experts say is induced by climate change, including record low rainfall and back-to-back drought. The stress on water resources is driving up competition for the precious resource among businessmen, farmers and herders, with the poorest Iraqis counting among the worst hit amid the disaster.

“This lake was known as the pearl of the south,” said al-Aqouli, 35, a native of the nearby city of Samawa, looking out onto the dry cavernous emptiness. “Now it is our tragedy.”

Between the capital Baghdad and the oil-rich heartland of Basra, Muthanna is among Iraq’s poorest provinces. The number of those living under the poverty line in the province is almost three times the national average.

Desert expanses dominate the landscape with a narrow ribbon of farmland along the Euphrates River in the north. Economic development was hindered by the country’s turbulent history, neglect by the Baath party regime since the 1980s, then later by wars and sanctions.

Locals call the area surrounding Lake Sawa “atshan” — or simply “thirsty” in Arabic.

Formed over limestone rock and studded with gypsum formations, the lake has no inlet or outlet and the source of its waters had mystified experts for centuries, fueling fantastical folklore and religious tales that locals recite as historical fact.

Al-Aqouli spent his childhood frequenting the lake with his family. He hoped he could do the same when he started a family, he said. Instead he spends his days on social media writing long blog posts and urging Iraqis to take action. Often, he feels hopeless.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 25 of 57

The lake rises 5 meters (16 feet) above sea level and is about 4.5 kilometers (3 miles) long and 1.8 kilometers (1 mile) wide.

Lake Sawa appears in some old Islamic texts. It is said the lake miraculously formed on the day the Prophet Muhammad was born in 570 A.D. Thousands of religious tourists visited the site annually to submerge themselves in its holy waters, which they believe are blessed by God.

The lake's rich mineral deposits are also considered a cure by some for skin diseases prevalent in historically neglected Muthanna.

Locals say the drying up of the waters of Lake Sawa presages the return of the Imam al-Mahdi, a revered figure in Shiite Islam and a descendent of the prophet.

"It means the end of days is near," said al-Aqouli, in jest.

For environmentalists, the doomsday predictions may not be far off.

Studies have shown the lake is fed by underground water sources through a system of cracks and fissures. It can also receive rainwater from surrounding valleys and heavy rainfall in past years has caused flash floods.

"The degradation of the water began over 10 years ago, but this summer was the first time we lost the entire wetland," said Laith Ali al-Obeidi, an environmental activist in southern Iraq.

Experts said the lake has not dried up for good but its disappearance this year is a concerning consequence of the thousands of illegal wells dug by businessmen in nearby cement factories and manufacturing zones, a result of drought and decreasing waters along the nearby Euphrates.

By early June, some water began to reappear because farmers, done with the harvest season, stopped diverting underground water.

Mounds of salt line the road to the river in Muthanna province and are overseen by enterprising locals who extract it by diverting groundwater and digging wells. The salt is used as a raw material in various industries in the area.

Mortadha Ali, 45, is involved in the salt business in Muthanna. He blames years of government neglect in the province for the disappearance of Lake Sawa. "They should provide people with jobs, so they aren't obliged to dig wells to make a living," he said.

Enforcing the closure of illegal wells and additional protective measures would have reversed Lake Sawa's decline, said Aoun Diab, an adviser to the Water Resources Ministry. But these would have directly affected the economic interests of provincial officials.

This has disrupted a delicate and interdependent ecosystem sustained by the rare desert oasis.

Species of fish, unfit for human consumption, were food for various vulnerable migratory birds that sojourned along its banks. With the fish gone, the birds too will have to reroute their seasonal passage or perish, said al-Obeidi.

And the future is poised to bring more hardship, with alarming predictions of more water stress. The Water Resources Ministry has said water levels decreased by 60% compared to last year in 2022.

Lake Sawa is "a case study for climate change in Iraq," al-Obeidi said. "This is the future."

But the lake is also a ghost of its former illustrious past.

The only body of water near to the city of Samawah, the area boasted thousands of tourists a year. Their waste — water bottles, soda cans and abandoned flip flops — remain along the dried up shores as an ode to what the impoverished area has lost.

Holiday installations built decades ago stand half-finished. Most were looted after the Gulf War in the 1990s and then after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that ousted dictator Saddam Hussein.

In 2014, Lake Sawa was named a Ramsar site, an international designation for important wetlands, gaining recognition as a rare area in need of protection. A large billboard marking the occasion overlooks the site. Local authorities hoped this would boost tourism and government resources to resume development of the area. Plans were drafted to pave roads and walkways around the lake, as well as electricity lines and water projects.

Ultimately, these failed to transpire.

The hot air was heavy as al-Aqouli took one last look of the lake before leaving. "Believe me, it was beautiful," he said.

North Korea plans crackdown as Kim pushes for internal unity

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his top deputies have pushed for a crackdown on officials who abuse their power and commit other "unsound and non-revolutionary acts," state media reported Monday, as Kim seeks greater internal unity to overcome a COVID-19 outbreak and economic difficulties.

It wasn't clear what specific acts were mentioned at the ruling Workers' Party meeting on Sunday. But possible state crackdowns on such alleged acts could be an attempt to solidify Kim's control of his people and get them to rally behind his leadership in the face of the domestic hardships, some observers say.

Kim and other senior party secretaries discussed "waging a more intensive struggle against unsound and non-revolutionary acts including abuse of power and bureaucratism revealed among some party officials," the official Korean Central News Agency said.

Kim ordered the authority of the party's auditing commission and other local discipline supervision systems to be bolstered to promote the party's "monolithic leadership" and "the broad political activities of the party through the strong discipline system," KCNA said.

Kim has previously occasionally called for struggles against "anti-socialist practices" at home in the past two years amid outside worries about his country's fragile economy that has been battered by pandemic-related border shutdowns, U.N. sanctions and his own mismanagement.

The North's elevated restrictions on movement in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak could cause a further strain on the country's economic difficulties, some experts say.

North Korea on May 12 admitted the omicron variant of the coronavirus had infected people, and it subsequently has said about 4.5 million people — more than 17% of its 26 million people — have fallen ill with fevers and only 72 have died. Foreign experts widely doubt the outbreak was North Korea's first, and they believe the statistics being disclosed in state media are manipulated to prevent political damage to Kim while bolstering internal control and promoting his leadership.

During a Workers' Party conference last week, Kim claimed the pandemic situation has passed the stage of "serious crisis" and ordered officials to remedy "the shortcomings and evils in the anti-epidemic work" and take steps to build up the country's anti-pandemic capability.

Man who carried Confederate flag into Capitol heads to trial

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

A federal judge's acquittal of a New Mexico man in April was a rare blemish on the Justice Department's record of securing convictions in U.S. Capitol riot cases. More than two months later, a Delaware father and son hope the same judge will clear them, too.

Widely published photographs showed Kevin Seefried carrying a Confederate battle flag inside the Capitol after he entered the building with his son, Hunter. The Seefrieds were "early, aggressive and active participants" in the Capitol breach and among the first rioters to enter the building on Jan. 6, 2021, prosecutors have said.

U.S. District Judge Trevor McFadden will hear testimony without a jury for the Seefrieds' bench trial, which is scheduled to start Monday. They waived their right to a jury trial, which means McFadden will decide their cases.

McFadden, whom President Donald Trump nominated in 2017, has criticized prosecutors' handling of Capitol riot cases. He suggested that the Justice Department has been unjustly tougher on Capitol riot defendants compared to people arrested at protests against police brutality and racial injustice after George Floyd's 2020 murder by a Minneapolis police officer.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 27 of 57

McFadden also has criticized prosecutors for seeking jail time for some nonviolent Capitol riot defendants but not for left-wing activists who protested Trump's nomination of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, The Washington Post reported.

In April, McFadden acquitted New Mexico resident Matthew Martin of misdemeanor charges that he illegally entered the Capitol and engaged in disorderly conduct after he walked into the building.

Martin testified that a police officer waved him into the building. A prosecutor rejected that testimony as "nonsense," but McFadden said it was reasonable for Martin to believe that outnumbered police officers allowed him to enter the Capitol through the Rotunda doors.

In March, McFadden acquitted a New Mexico elected official of engaging in disorderly conduct but convicted him of illegally entering restricted Capitol grounds. The judge said there was ample evidence that Otero County Commissioner Couy Griffin knew he was in a restricted area and didn't leave. However, McFadden concluded prosecutors didn't meet their burden to prove that Griffin engaged in disorderly conduct.

McFadden is the only judge to hold a bench trial for a Capitol riot case so far.

On Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly is scheduled to preside over a bench trial for Jesus Rivera, a Pensacola, Florida, man charged with four riot-related misdemeanors. President Bill Clinton nominated Kollar-Kotelly to the court in 1997.

At least four other Capitol riot defendants have bench trials scheduled for this year.

Juries have unanimously convicted five Capitol riot defendants of all charges, a perfect record for prosecutors so far. More than 300 others have pleaded guilty to riot offenses, mostly misdemeanors punishable by no more than one year in prison. Approximately 100 others have trial dates in 2022 or 2023. More than 800 people have been charged with federal crimes related to the Jan. 6 attack.

The Seefrieds traveled to Washington from their home in Laurel, Delaware, to hear Trump's speech at the "Stop the Steal" rally on Jan. 6. After the rally, they stopped by their car before joining the mob that stormed the Capitol, prosecutors say.

The Seefrieds climbed over a wall near a stairwell and scaffolding in the northwest section of the Capitol and were among the first rioters to approach the building near the Senate Wing Door, according to prosecutors. After watching other rioters use a police shield and a wood plank to break a window, Hunter Seefried used a gloved fist to clear a shard of glass in one of the broken windowpanes, prosecutors said.

"The defendants and scores of other rioters entered the Capitol building through that window," prosecutors wrote.

The Seefrieds joined other rioters in confronting Capitol police officer Eugene Goodman and in looking for members of Congress and the location where they would be counting the Electoral College votes for the 2020 presidential election, according to prosecutors.

Goodman, who is expected to testify at the Seefrieds' trial, has been hailed as a hero for leading a group of rioters away from Senate chamber and up a set of stairs to an area where other officers were waiting. Goodman also directed Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, to turn around and head away from the mob.

Kevin Seefried told the FBI that he threatened Goodman with violence, saying: "And then I threw my stick down. I said, 'You can shoot me, man, but we're comin' in,'" according to prosecutors.

Kevin Seefried brought a Confederate battle flag from home and was photographed displaying it on a large flagpole as he walked through the Capitol.

"Indeed, the flag that Kevin Seefried carried itself served to signal his intent: the Confederate Battle Flag, a symbol of violent opposition to the United States government," prosecutors wrote.

The charges against both Kevin and Hunter Seefried include a felony count of obstruction of an official proceeding, the joint session of Congress for certifying President Joe Biden's electoral victory.

Hunter Seefried told the FBI that he went to Washington because he was concerned about "fraud" tied to the election, prosecutors said.

Vulnerable Dems run against Washington — and their party

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Politics Writer

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 28 of 57

NEW YORK (AP) — Just like endangered Democrats in other states, Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto is running against Washington.

The Nevada Democrat, nearing the end of her first six-year term, ignores the fact that her party controls both chambers of Congress and the White House as she explains the rationale for her candidacy.

"I'm running for reelection because you deserve a senator who will cut through the gridlock and dysfunction in Washington and deliver real results for your family," Cortez Masto says on her campaign website. "I'll work with anyone — Democrats, Republicans and independents — to help Nevada's families succeed."

Cortez Masto, who will easily win her party's nomination for another term on Tuesday, is far from alone. Many of the nation's most vulnerable Democrats are actively trying to distance themselves from Washington — and their party. Responding to deep frustration from voters who will decide their fate in November, Democratic candidates in swing states like Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Nevada and New Hampshire are railing against the institutions their party has managed for the last 16 months.

It is a strategy born of necessity given the political climate Democrats are facing in 2022: President Joe Biden remains deeply unpopular and an overwhelming majority of U.S. adults believe the country is moving in the wrong direction. The Democrats who control Congress have failed to deliver on core campaign promises, and perhaps most concerning, the cost of basic goods like groceries and gasoline is soaring under their watch. The nationwide average price for a gallon of gasoline topped \$5 for the first time ever over the weekend.

Privately, Democrats concede they're trying to strike a delicate balance. Some of the gridlock on Capitol Hill is the result of division in their own ranks.

Two Democratic senators — Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona — have opposed key elements of Biden's agenda. At a Democratic fundraiser in California last week, Biden acknowledged as much, telling donors he needed "two more senators" to essentially overcome that resistance.

More fundamentally, Republicans are doing everything they can to undermine the Democrats' plans — on policy and politics. Senate Republicans have blocked Democratic legislation to address concerns about the economy, health care, climate change, gun violence and voting rights at almost every turn. The GOP is also devoting tremendous resources to undercutting the Democrats' political messaging.

Five months before Election Day, the Senate Republican campaign arm, backed by allied outside groups, has begun to unleash a nationwide advertising campaign attacking Democrats in key states. The barrage of ads is coming months before the GOP typically releases its initial major wave of television advertising.

Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., who leads the National Republican Senatorial Committee, said his organization began spending early "to make sure voters know that Senate Democrats have supported Joe Biden and his inflation-inducing, gas price-raising, border crisis-creating agenda almost 100% of the time."

Between the beginning of May through the end of this week, spending reports obtained by The Associated Press reveal that the NRSC and the allied nonprofit One Nation has spent nearly \$3.7 million combined on TV ads to weaken Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly; another \$3.3 million against Georgia Sen. Raphael Warnock; \$1.5 million against Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, the Democratic Senate nominee; \$958,000 against New Hampshire Sen. Maggie Hassan; and \$5.6 million to shape the Senate contest Wisconsin, which won't pick its Democratic nominee until Aug. 9.

The Republican groups have yet to run any attack ads against Cortez Masto, but they have placed television reserves exceeding \$4.9 million to run through the end of August.

Wisconsin has emerged as a top target months before Democrats decide which candidate to run against two-term incumbent Republican Sen. Ron Johnson.

In an interview, Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, a leading Democrat in the race, described the Democratic-controlled Senate as an "out-of-touch millionaire's club." He insisted he was not running against his party, although he had nothing positive to say about Biden when asked to assess the Democratic president's job performance.

"I'll be honest, voters are frustrated by a lack of action from people on both sides of the aisle. I agree with them. I'm frustrated, too," Barnes said. "In order to change Washington, we have to change the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 29 of 57

people we send there.”

It's much the same in Pennsylvania, where Fetterman released the opening ads of his general election campaign last week just days after securing his party's nomination.

“The big guy is running for Senate to take on Washington,” the narrator in one of the new ads says of Fetterman, who is 6 feet and 9 inches tall. Fetterman's message is even sharper in the other TV spot: “Washington, D.C., attacked towns like this for years,” the narrator says. “We need help. They just talk.”

And while it may be somewhat simple for candidates like Fetterman and Barnes, who have never served in Congress, to run against Washington, incumbent Democrats in Arizona, Georgia, Nevada and New Hampshire may have a more difficult task.

In New Hampshire, Hassan is asking voters to send her back to Washington, where she has served for almost six years. She's expected to face a challenging general election, even as Republicans struggle to rally behind a top-tier challenger.

In recent weeks, Hassan has condemned the Biden administration's withdrawal from Afghanistan and its policies on the U.S.-Mexico border. And in one of her campaign's first TV ads, Hassan said she was challenging fellow Democrats in Congress to do more to lower the price of gas.

“I'm taking on members of my own party to push a gas tax holiday and I'm pushing Joe Biden to release more of our oil reserves,” Hassan said in one ad titled “Relief.”

Democratic strategists suggest that most of the party's leading candidates have personal brands years in the making that would allow them to overcome concerns about their party's leadership in Washington. Indeed, Cortez Masto is a former Nevada attorney general and Hassan is a former New Hampshire governor.

“The Democratic Senate candidates who are up this cycle really have their own identities, their own record of work in their states,” said David Bergstein, spokesman for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. “And that's why they have a deep wellspring of support and popularity in their states that extend beyond the national party brand.”

To separate themselves from their national party brand, Democrats in key states hope to keep the focus on hyper local issues instead of making the November election a referendum on the party that controls Washington. History suggests it will be a difficult task.

Cortez Masto is focused on what she's accomplished for the people of Nevada instead of Washington dysfunction, said campaign spokesperson Josh Marcus-Blank.

“Sen. Cortez Masto took on the chaos of the pandemic in Nevada, delivering the federal support needed to bring the 30% unemployment rate down to pre-pandemic levels, and now she's leading the fight to take on the Big Oil companies squeezing Nevadans,” he said. “Her opponent is basing his entire campaign on Trump's Big Lie and has made millions at a firm representing those same companies, which is a contrast we welcome.”

'A Strange Loop' makes history at Tonys; 'Company' wins 5

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — “A Strange Loop,” an irreverent, sexually frank work about Blackness and queerness took home the best new musical crown at the Tony Awards on Sunday, as voters celebrated Broadway's most racially diverse season by choosing an envelope-pushing Black voice.

Michael R. Jackson's 2020 Pulitzer Prize drama winner is a theater meta-journey — a tuneful show about a Black gay man writing a show about a Black gay man. Jackson also won for best book. Many of the night's other Tonys were spread over several productions.

The victory of a smaller, more offbeat musical against more commercial offerings continues a recent trend, as when the intimate musical “The Band's Visit” beat the big brand-musicals “Frozen,” “Mean Girls” and “SpongeBob SquarePants” in 2018 or when “Hadestown” bested “Tootsie,” “Beetlejuice” and “Ain't Too Proud” a year later.

“A Strange Loop” beat “MJ,” a bio musical of the King of Pop's biggest hits, for the top prize, although the other Jackson musical nabbed four Tony Awards including for best choreography. Myles Frost moon-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 30 of 57

walked away with the award for best lead actor in a musical for playing Michael Jackson, becoming the youngest solo winner in that category. "Mom, I made it!" he said.

"MJ" represents the 22-year-old Frost's Broadway debut as he plays Jackson with a high, whispery voice, a Lady Diana-like coquettishness and a fierce embrace of Jackson's iconic dancing and singing style. "Heal the world," Frost said from the stage, channeling Jackson.

Joaquina Kalukango won the Tony for best leading actress in a musical for her work in "Paradise Square," a show about Irish immigrants and Black Americans jostling to survive in New York City around the time of the Civil War. Earlier in the night, she blew the house down with a stunning performance of the musical's "Let It Burn."

A gender-swapped revival of Stephen Sondheim's "Company" rode the fondness Broadway has for the late iconic composer by earning five statuettes, including best musical revival.

"Company" is an exploration of a single person's conflicted feelings about commitment, traditionally focusing on a 35-year-old bachelor. This time, it had a bachelorette and the sexes of several couples were swapped.

Marianne Elliott made Tony history by becoming the only woman to have won three Tonys for directing, the latest for "Company." She thanked Sondheim for letting her put a woman "front and center." She dedicated her award to everyone fighting to keep theaters open.

Patti LuPone won best featured actress in a musical for her work in the revival, thanking COVID-19 safety officials in her acceptance speech. Matt Doyle won for best featured actor in a musical for "Company."

"The Lehman Trilogy," spanning 150 years and running three and a half hours, follows the fortunes of a single family into the financial crash of 2008. It was crowned best new play and Sam Mendes won for best direction of a play, praising the season for its "rampant creativity." One of its three stars, Simon Russell Beale, won for best actor in a play and thanked the audience for coming to see a trio of British actors tell a New York story.

Deirdre O'Connell won for best actress in a play for her work in "Dana H.," about a real woman kidnapped by a former convict and white supremacist. O'Connell never speaks, instead, lip-syncing to an edited recording of the survivor. On Sunday, O'Connell urged the crowd to ignore safe options and "make the weird art."

"Take Me Out" won for best play revival, and "Modern Family" star Jesse Tyler Ferguson won the Tony for best featured actor in a play for his work in it. "Mom, Dad, thank you for letting me move to New York when I was 17-years-old. I told you it would be OK," said Ferguson, who also thanked his understudy and his husband.

Host Ariana DeBose kicked off her portion of the show in a sparkling white jumpsuit and wide-brimmed hat, dancing and singing to the song "This Is Your Round of Applause," which mashed up shards of musical theater favorites, like "Chicago," "The Wiz," "Evita," "Rent," "Hair," "Cabaret," "Hairspray" and "West Side Story," the movie remake for which she recently won an Oscar.

Still panting while welcoming viewers, she told the crowd that this was the season "Broadway got its groove back."

Phylicia Rashad won best featured actress in a play for "Skeleton Crew." The Dominique Morisseau play is about blue-collar job insecurity set in a Detroit auto stamping plant. "It's wonderful to present humanity in all its fullness," Rashad said.

And the Tonys ushered in the latest EGOT winner: Jennifer Hudson, who has an Emmy, Grammy and Oscar, and joined that elite group Sunday when "A Strange Loop" won best musical — she's a producer.

A starry revival of the classic show "The Music Man" with Hugh Jackman and Sutton Foster walked away empty-handed despite six nominations and being a box office smash, regularly pulling in more than \$3 million a week.

The season was marked by the embrace of seven Black playwrights, from contemporary writers like Dominique Morisseau, Keenan Scott II and Antoinette Nwandu, to underappreciated historical playwrights like Alice Childress and Ntozake Shange. DeBose said Broadway was more representative.

DeBose celebrated the Black voices and onstage talent — as well as noting that two Broadway theaters were being renamed for Black icons James Earl Jones and Lena Horne — saying that The Great White

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 31 of 57

Way was now a nickname "as opposed to a how-to guide."

DeBose also hailed the heroic efforts of understudies, swings and standbys to keep shows going throughout pandemic spikes, noting that she and many other Tony nominees had once been unheralded understudies and swings. After the cast of "Six" performed, DeBose noted that one was a fill-in at the last minute.

Having been freed of handling the technical awards, the main telecast had a less frantic, more airy feel. DeBose was an assured, funny and versatile host, one who roamed the seats, sat in Andrew Garfield's lap, danced with Sam Rockwell and prompted Laurence Fishburne to do a Daffy Duck imitation. She closed the show with a medley of the musical nominees, at one point making "MJ" part of the Dylan show: "You've been hit by/A rolling stone."

Some of the show highlights included the massive cast of "The Music Man" filling the massive Radio City stage with "Seventy-Six Trombones," as well as Prince Jackson and Paris Jackson introducing the show about their father before the "MJ" cast danced to an energetic "Smooth Criminal."

Billy Crystal taught the crowd "Yiddish scatting," and the original cast of the 2007 Tony-winning musical "Spring Awakening" — including Lea Michele and Jonathan Groff — reunited for a performance.

Many acceptance speeches thanked the audiences for braving spikes in COVID-19 to come to see shows, and Marsha Gay Harden cheered 150 safety officers invited as guests to the Tonys.

Earlier, Darren Criss and Julianne Hough kicked off the four-hour awards, handing out mostly design awards. Criss opened the telecast with the original song, "Set the Stage," as he and Hough energetically danced up ladders, on laundry hampers and in sliding theater seats to celebrate the artists who keep theater alive.

The first award of the night — for best score — went to "Six: The Musical," with music and lyrics by Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss. Marlow became the first out nonbinary composer-lyricist to win a Tony. "Six: The Musical" also picked up the award for best costumes for a musical.

The season — with 34 new productions — represents a full return to theaters after nearly two years of a pandemic-mandated shutdown. At the last Tonys nine months ago, the winners were pulled from just 18 eligible plays and musicals, and many of the competitive categories were depleted.

Sondheim, the iconic composer who died in late 2021, was honored in a special segment by Bernadette Peters singing his song "Children Will Listen." Angela Lansbury, who was honored with a lifetime achievement Tony, wasn't present so her "Sweeney Todd" co-star Len Cariou accepted on her behalf.

Many baby formula plants weren't inspected because of COVID

By MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. regulators have historically inspected baby formula plants at least once a year, but they did not inspect any of the three biggest manufacturers in 2020, according to federal records reviewed by The Associated Press.

When they finally did get inside an Abbott Nutrition formula plant in Michigan after a two-year gap, they found standing water and lax sanitation procedures. But inspectors offered only voluntary suggestions for fixing the problems, and issued no formal warning.

Inspectors would return five months later after four infants who consumed powdered formula from the plant suffered bacterial infections. They found bacterial contamination inside the factory, leading to a four-month shutdown and turning a festering supply shortage into a full-blown crisis that sent parents scrambling to find formula and forced the U.S. to airlift products from overseas.

The gap in baby formula plant inspections, brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, is getting new scrutiny from Congress and government watchdogs investigating the series of missteps that led to the crisis. A recent bill would require the Food and Drug Administration to inspect infant formula facilities every six months. And the government's inspector general for health has launched an inquiry into the FDA's handling of Abbott's facility, the largest in the U.S.

Abbott resumed production at the plant early this month under a legally binding agreement with the FDA, but the shutdown and nationwide shortage exposed how concentrated the industry has become in

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 32 of 57

the U.S., with a handful of companies accounting for roughly 90% of the market.

As COVID-19 swept across the U.S. in early 2020, the FDA pulled most of its safety inspectors from the field, skipping thousands of routine plant inspections.

The FDA did conduct more than 800 "mission critical" inspections during the first year of the pandemic, the agency said in a statement. Regulators selected facilities for inspections based on whether they carried a specific safety risk or were needed to produce an important medical therapy.

Only three of the nation's 23 facilities that make, package or distribute formula made the cut. The FDA resumed routine inspections in July 2021.

The inspection records reviewed by the AP show gaps as large as 2 1/2 years between FDA's 2019 inspections and when regulators returned to plants owned by the three leading formula manufacturers: Abbott, Reckitt and Gerber.

In fact, the FDA still has yet to return to one key plant owned by Reckitt and two owned by Gerber, according to agency records. All those facilities are operating around the clock to boost U.S. formula production.

"The FDA would have had more chances to catch these issues if they'd been inspecting during the pandemic," said Sarah Sorscher, a food safety specialist with the Center for Science in the Public Interest. She acknowledged the difficult trade-off the FDA faced in pulling its inspectors to reduce their exposure to COVID-19. "Certainly there was a price to pay for protecting their workers during that time."

Baby formula manufacturers were "consistently identified as a high priority during the pandemic," and there is currently no backlog of inspections, the agency told the AP in response to inquiries about the gaps. The agency said it skipped about 15,000 U.S. inspections due to COVID, but it has already made up about 5,000 of those, exceeding its own goals.

Under current law, the FDA is only required to inspect formula facilities every three to five years, but the agency has consistently inspected facilities annually — until the pandemic.

"Our top priority now is addressing the urgent need for infant formula in the U.S. market, and our teams are working night and day to help make that happen," FDA stated.

But outside experts say the gap in inspections speaks to a blind spot in the government's response effort, which was successful at preventing shortages of drugs and other medical supplies.

FDA Commissioner Robert Califf says regulators knew shutting down Abbott's plant would create supply problems, but there was little evidence of urgency between when inspectors shuttered the plant in February and recent emergency measures to allow more imports from abroad.

Longtime food safety specialists see a deeper problem at the highest levels of the FDA, where physicians and medical scientists for decades have prioritized oversight of drugs and medical products over food.

"It's very challenging for them to get engaged at all in this area because they don't have the background, the knowledge and the experience in it," said Steven Mandernach, executive director of the Association of Food and Drug Officials, which represents state-level inspectors.

The FDA shares oversight of food production and safety with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. FDA inspections of food facilities peaked in 2011 and have declined most years since, despite increased funds and powers by Congress. The FDA said that while U.S. inspections have declined, foreign facility inspections have increased.

There's no certainty that extra inspections during COVID-19 would have prevented the contamination problems at the Sturgis, Michigan, plant that was shut down. And Abbott says that its products have not been directly linked to the infections, two of which were fatal.

But the plant did have earlier problems, including a 2010 formula recall due to possible contamination with insect parts.

"I think facilities that had known problems that could cause a food safety risk should have been part of FDA's mission critical work," Mandernach said. "And this facility would have been among those."

Not having regular inspections — or even the threat of them — can lead to changes in culture at plants like Abbott's, Mandernach noted.

"If you're driving down the highway and you know the state troopers have been furloughed, might you

go a little faster than if you knew there was a trooper on duty?" Mandernach asked.

Belongings of missing men found tied underwater in Amazon

By FABIANO MAISONNAVE Associated Press

ATALAIA DO NORTE, Brazil (AP) — Brazil's search for an Indigenous expert and a journalist who disappeared in a restive area of the Amazon a week ago advanced with the discovery of a backpack, laptop and other personal belongings of the men submerged in a river.

The items were found Sunday afternoon, and were carried by Federal Police officers by boat to Atalaia do Norte, the closest city to the search. In a statement Sunday night, police said they had identified the items as the belongings of both missing men, including a health card and clothes of Bruno Pereira, the Brazilian Indigenous expert.

The backpack, which was identified as belonging to freelance journalist Dom Phillips of Britain, was found tied to a tree that was half-submerged, a firefighter told reporters in Atalaia do Norte. It is the end of the rainy season in the region and part of the forest is flooded.

The development came a day after police reported finding traces of blood in the boat of a fisherman who is under arrest as the only suspect in the disappearance. Officers also found organic matter of apparent human origin in the river. The materials are being analyzed.

Search teams that found the laptop and other items Sunday had concentrated their efforts around a spot in the Itaquai river where a tarp from the boat used by the missing men was found Saturday by volunteers from the Matis Indigenous group.

"We used a little canoe to go to the shallow water. Then we found a tarp, shorts and a spoon," one of the volunteers, Binin Beshu Matis, told The Associated Press.

Pereira, 41, and Phillips, 57, were last seen June 5 near the entrance of the Javari Valley Indigenous Territory, which borders Peru and Colombia. They were returning alone by boat on the Itaquai to Atalaia do Norte but never arrived.

That area has seen violent conflicts between fishermen, poachers and government agents. Violence has grown as drug trafficking gangs battle for control of waterways to ship cocaine, although the Itaquai is not a known drug trafficking route.

Authorities have said a main line of the police investigation into the disappearance has pointed to an international network that pays poor fishermen to fish illegally in the Javari Valley reserve, which is Brazil's second-largest Indigenous territory.

One of the most valuable targets is the world's largest freshwater fish with scales, the arapaima. It weighs up to 200 kilograms (440 pounds) and can reach 3 meters (10 feet). The fish is sold in nearby cities, including Leticia, Colombia, Tabatinga, Brazil, and Iquitos, Peru.

The only known suspect in the disappearances is fisherman Amarildo da Costa de Oliveira, also known as Pelado, who is under arrest. According to accounts by Indigenous people who were with Pereira and Phillips, he brandished a rifle at them the day before the pair disappeared.

The suspect denies any wrongdoing and said military police tortured him to try to get a confession, his family told The Associated Press.

Pereira, who previously led the local bureau of the Brazilian government's Indigenous agency, known as FUNAI, has taken part in several operations against illegal fishing. In such operations, as a rule the fishing gear is seized or destroyed, while the fishermen are fined and briefly detained. Only the Indigenous can legally fish in their territories.

"The crime's motive is some personal feud over fishing inspection," the mayor of Atalaia do Norte, Denis Paiva, speculated to reporters without providing more details.

AP had access to information police shared with Indigenous leadership. But while some police, the mayor and others in the region link the pair's disappearances to the "fish mafia," federal police have not ruled out other lines of investigation, such as narco trafficking.

Fisherman Laurimar Alves Lopes, who lives on the banks of Itaquai, told AP that he gave up fishing inside

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 34 of 57

the Indigenous territory after being detained three times. He said he endured beating and starvation in jail.

Lopes, who has five children, said he only fishes near his home to feed his family, not sell.

"I made many mistakes, I stole a lot of fish. When you see your child dying of hunger you go get it where you have to. So I would go there to steal fish to be able to support my family. But then I said: I'm going to put an end to this, I'm going to plant," he said during an interview on his boat.

Lopes said he was taken to local federal police headquarters in Tabatinga three times, charging he was beaten and left without food.

In 2019, Funai official Maxciel Pereira dos Santos was gunned down in Tabatinga in front of his wife and daughter-in-law. Three years later, the crime remains unsolved. His FUNAI colleagues told AP they believe the slaying was linked to his work against fishermen and poachers.

Rubber tappers founded all the riverbank communities in the area. In the 1980s, however, rubber tapping declined and they resorted to logging. That ended, too, when the federal government created the Javari Valley Indigenous Territory in 2001. Fishing has become the main economic activity since then.

An illegal fishing trip to the vast Javari Valley lasts around one month, said Manoel Felipe, a local historian and teacher who also served as a councilman. For each illegal incursion, a fisherman can earn at least \$3,000.

"The fishermen's financiers are Colombians," Felipe said. "In Leticia, everybody was angry with Bruno. This is not a little game. It's possible they sent a gunman to kill him."

Brazil police: Items owned by missing men found in Amazon

By FABIANO MAISONNAVE Associated Press

ATALAIA DO NORTE, Brazil (AP) — Search teams found a backpack, laptop and other personal items that belonged to Indigenous expert Bruno Pereira and freelance British journalist Dom Phillips, who went missing in a remote area of Brazil's Amazon a week ago, Federal Police said Sunday night.

Phillips' backpack was discovered Sunday afternoon tied to a tree that was half-submerged, a firefighter told reporters in Atalaia do Norte, the closest city to the search area, which is near the Javari Valley Indigenous Territory. It is the end of the rainy season in the region and part of the forest is flooded.

Officers with the Federal Police brought the items by boat to Atalaia do Norte later in the afternoon. In a statement a few hours later, they said they had identified the belongings of both missing men, such as Pereira's health card and clothes.

A tarp from the boat used by the men was found Saturday by Matis volunteers, members of an Indigenous group of recent contact, one of them told The Associated Press.

"We used a little canoe to go to the shallow water. Then we found a tarp, shorts and a spoon," said Binin Beshu Matis.

After that find, the search teams concentrated their efforts around that spot in the Itaquai river.

On Saturday, police reported finding traces of blood in the boat of a fisherman who is under arrest as the only suspect and organic matter of apparent human origin inside the river. Both materials are under forensic analysis, and no more details were provided.

Pereira, 41, and Phillips, 57, were last seen June 5 near the entrance of the Indigenous territory, which borders Peru and Colombia. They were returning alone by boat on the Itaquai river to Atalaia do Norte but never arrived.

That area has seen violent conflicts between fishermen, poachers and government agents. Violence has grown as drug trafficking gangs battle for control of waterways to ship cocaine, although the Itaquai is not a known drug trafficking route.

Authorities have said that a main line of the police investigation into the disappearance has pointed to an international network that pays poor fishermen to fish illegally in the Javari Valley reserve, which is Brazil's second-largest Indigenous territory.

One of the most valuable targets is the world's largest freshwater fish with scales, the arapaima. It weighs up to 200 kilograms (440 pounds) and can reach 3 meters (10 feet). The fish is sold in nearby

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 35 of 57

cities, including Leticia, Colombia, Tabatinga, Brazil, and Iquitos, Peru.

The only known suspect in the disappearances is fisherman Amarildo da Costa de Oliveira, also known as Pelado, who is under arrest. According to accounts by Indigenous people who were with Pereira and Phillips, he brandished a rifle at them the day before the pair disappeared.

The suspect denies any wrongdoing and said military police tortured him to try to get a confession, his family told The Associated Press..

Pereira, who previously led the local bureau of the government's Indigenous agency, known as FUNAI, has taken part in several operations against illegal fishing. In such operations, as a rule the fishing gear is seized or destroyed, while the fishermen are fined and briefly detained. Only the Indigenous can legally fish in their territories.

"The crime's motive is some personal feud over fishing inspection," the mayor of Atalaia do Norte, Denis Paiva, speculated to reporters without providing more details.

AP had access to information police shared with Indigenous leadership. But while some police, the mayor and others in the region link the pair's disappearances to the "fish mafia," federal police have not ruled out other lines of investigation, such as narco trafficking.

Fisherman Laurimar Alves Lopes, who lives on the banks of Itaquai, told AP that he gave up fishing inside the Indigenous territory after being detained three times. He said he endured beating and starvation in jail.

Lopes, who has five children, said he only fishes near his home to feed his family, not sell.

"I made many mistakes, I stole a lot of fish. When you see your child dying of hunger you go get it where you have to. So I would go there to steal fish to be able to support my family. But then I said: I'm going to put an end to this, I'm going to plant," he said during an interview on his boat.

Lopes said he was taken to local federal police headquarters in Tabatinga three times, charging he was beaten and left without food.

In 2019, Funai official Maxciel Pereira dos Santos was gunned down in Tabatinga in front of his wife and daughter-in-law. Three years later, the crime remains unsolved. His FUNAI colleagues told AP they believe the slaying was linked to his work against fishermen and poachers.

Rubber tappers founded all the riverbank communities in the area. In the 1980s, however, rubber tapping declined and they resorted to logging. That ended, too, when the federal government created the Javari Valley Indigenous Territory in 2001. Fishing has become the main economic activity since then.

An illegal fishing trip to the vast Javari Valley lasts around one month, said Manoel Felipe, a local historian and teacher who also served as a councilman. For each illegal incursion, a fisherman can earn at least \$3,000.

"The fishermen's financiers are Colombians," Felipe said. "In Leticia, everybody was angry with Bruno. This is not a little game. It's possible they sent a gunman to kill him."

US: Pfizer COVID-19 shot appears effective for kids under 5

By MATTHEW PERRONE and MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal health officials said Sunday that kid-sized doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccines appear to be safe and effective for kids under 5, a key step toward a long-awaited decision to begin vaccinating the youngest American children.

The Food and Drug Administration posted its analysis of the Pfizer shot ahead of a Wednesday meeting where outside experts will vote on whether the shots are ready for the nation's 18 million babies, toddlers and preschoolers. Kids under 5 are the only group not yet eligible for COVID-19 vaccination in the U.S.

Late last week the FDA posted a similar analysis of Moderna's shots for children under 6.

If regulators clear the shots by one or both companies, vaccinations could begin as soon as next week with the drugmakers ready to rapidly ship doses ordered by the government. Parents have been pressing federal officials for months for the opportunity to protect their smallest children as more adults shed masks and abandon other public health precautions.

While only about 3% of U.S. COVID cases are in the age group 6 months to 4 years, hospitalization and

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 36 of 57

death rates in that group are higher than those for older children, according to the FDA's analysis — one reason experts have said protecting this group is important.

The FDA said children who received Pfizer's shots during testing developed high levels of virus-fighting antibodies expected to protect them against coronavirus. That's the basic threshold needed to win FDA authorization. But additional testing turned up key differences, with stronger results for Pfizer.

Pfizer's vaccine, given as a three-shot series, appeared 80% effective in preventing symptomatic COVID-19, although that calculation was based on just 10 cases diagnosed among study participants. The figure could change as Pfizer's study continues.

Moderna's two-dose series was only about 40% to 50% effective at preventing milder infections, though the two companies' shots were tested at different times during the pandemic, when different variants were circulating. Moderna has begun testing a booster for tots.

On Wednesday, the FDA will ask an independent panel of vaccine experts to debate both companies' data before voting. The FDA is not required to follow the group's recommendations, but the process is seen as a key step in publicly vetting the shots.

The FDA is expected to make its official decision shortly after Wednesday's all-day meeting. The next step: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which recommends how to use vaccines, will convene its own expert panel to debate which tots need vaccinations.

It's not clear how much demand there will initially be for the shots. A recent survey suggests only 1 in 5 parents of young children would get their kids vaccinated right away. Vaccines have been available since November for older U.S. schoolchildren, yet less than a third of those ages 5 to 11 have gotten the two recommended doses, according to government figures.

For the youngest children, each company is offering different dose sizes and number of shots, beginning at 6 months through 4 years for Pfizer and through 5 years for Moderna.

Pfizer and its partner BioNTech plan to offer two shots three weeks apart followed by a third at least two months later — each one-tenth the dose given to adults. Pfizer is currently the only company with a COVID-19 vaccine for older U.S. children.

Moderna is seeking FDA clearance for two shots, each a quarter of its adult dose, given about four weeks apart.

The FDA currently allows Moderna's vaccine to be used only in adults. But some countries allow full-size doses for teens and half-size shots for kids ages 6 to 11 — a step the FDA also is considering.

More than 30,000 U.S. children younger than 5 have been hospitalized with COVID-19 and nearly 500 coronavirus deaths have been reported in that age group, according to U.S. health officials.

The government allowed pharmacies and states to start placing orders for tot-sized doses last week, with 5 million initially available — half made by Pfizer and half by Moderna.

Jan. 6 panelists: Enough evidence uncovered to indict Trump

By HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of the House committee investigating the Capitol riot said Sunday they have uncovered enough evidence for the Justice Department to consider an unprecedented criminal indictment against former President Donald Trump for seeking to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

The committee announced that Trump's campaign manager, Bill Stepien, is among the witnesses scheduled to testify at a hearing Monday that focuses on Trump's effort to spread his lies about a stolen election. Stepien was subpoenaed for his public testimony.

As the hearings unfold, Rep. Adam Schiff said he would like the department to "investigate any credible allegation of criminal activity on the part of Donald Trump." Schiff, D-Calif., who also leads the House Intelligence Committee, said that "there are certain actions, parts of these different lines of effort to overturn the election that I don't see evidence the Justice Department is investigating."

The committee launched its public hearings last week, with members laying out their case against Trump to show how the defeated president relentlessly pushed his false claims of a rigged election despite

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 37 of 57

multiple advisers telling him otherwise and how he intensified an extraordinary scheme to overturn Joe Biden's victory.

Additional evidence is to be released in hearings this week, Democrats say, that will demonstrate that Trump and some of his advisers engaged in a "massive effort" to spread misinformation, pressured the Justice Department to embrace his false claims, and urged then-Vice President Mike Pence to reject state electors and block the vote certification on Jan. 6, 2021.

Stepien, a longtime Trump ally, is now a top campaign adviser to the Trump-endorsed House candidate in Wyoming's Republican primary, Harriet Hageman, who is challenging Rep. Liz Cheney, the committee's vice chair and a vociferous critic of the former president. A Trump spokesman, Taylor Budowich, suggested that the committee's decision to call Stepien was politically motivated.

Monday's witness list also includes BJay Pak, the top federal prosecutor in Atlanta who left his position on Jan. 4, 2021, a day after an audio recording was made public in which Trump called him a "never-Trumper"; Chris Stirewalt, the former political editor for Fox News; noted Washington elections attorney Benjamin Ginsberg; and Al Schmidt, a former city commissioner in Philadelphia.

The panel will also focus on the millions of dollars Trump's team brought in fundraising in the run-up to Jan. 6, according to a committee aide who insisted on anonymity to discuss the details.

The committee has said most of those interviewed in the investigation are coming forward voluntarily, although some have wanted subpoenas to appear in public. Filmmaker Nick Quested, who provided documentary footage of the attack, said during last week's hearing he received a subpoena to appear.

Committee members said they would present clear evidence that "multiple" GOP lawmakers, including Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa., had sought a pardon from Trump, which would protect him from prosecution. Perry on Friday denied he ever did so, calling the assertion an "absolute, shameless, and soulless lie."

"We're not going to make accusations or say things without proof or evidence backing it," said Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill.

Lawmakers indicated that perhaps their most important audience member over the course of the hearings may be Attorney General Merrick Garland, who must decide whether his department can and should prosecute Trump. They left no doubt as to their own view whether the evidence is sufficient to proceed.

"Once the evidence is accumulated by the Justice Department, it needs to make a decision about whether it can prove to a jury beyond a reasonable doubt the president's guilt or anyone else's," Schiff said. "But they need to be investigated if there's credible evidence, which I think there is."

Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., said he doesn't intend to "browbeat" Garland but noted the committee has already laid out in legal pleadings criminal statutes they believe Trump violated.

"I think that he knows, his staff knows, the U.S. attorneys know, what's at stake here," Raskin said. "They know the importance of it, but I think they are rightfully paying close attention to precedent in history as well, as the facts of this case."

Garland has not specified whether he would be willing to prosecute, which would be unprecedented and may be complicated in a political election season in which Trump has openly flirted with the idea of running for president again.

No president or ex-president has ever been indicted.

Richard Nixon resigned from office in 1974 as he faced an impeachment and a likely grand jury indictment on charges of bribery, conspiracy and obstruction of justice. President Gerald Ford later pardoned his predecessor before any criminal charges related to Watergate could be filed.

Legal experts have said a Justice Department prosecution of Trump over the riot could set an uneasy precedent in which an administration of one party could more routinely go after the former president of another.

"We will follow the facts wherever they lead," Garland said in his speech at Harvard University's commencement ceremony last month.

A federal judge in California said in a March ruling in a civil case that Trump "more likely than not" committed federal crimes in seeking to obstruct the congressional count of the Electoral College ballots on Jan. 6, 2021. The judge cited two statutes: obstruction of an official proceeding, and conspiracy to defraud the

United States. Trump has denied all wrongdoing.

Schiff appeared on ABC's "This Week," Raskin spoke on CNN's "State of the Union," and Kinzinger was on CBS's "Face the Nation."

Senate negotiators announce a deal on guns, breaking logjam

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate bargainers on Sunday announced the framework of a bipartisan response to last month's mass shootings, a noteworthy but limited breakthrough offering modest gun curbs and stepped-up efforts to improve school safety and mental health programs.

The proposal falls far short of tougher steps long sought by President Joe Biden and many Democrats. Even so, the accord was embraced by Biden and enactment would signal a significant turnabout after years of gun massacres that have yielded little but stalemate in Congress.

Biden said in a statement that the framework "does not do everything that I think is needed, but it reflects important steps in the right direction, and would be the most significant gun safety legislation to pass Congress in decades."

Given the bipartisan support, "there are no excuses for delay, and no reason why it should not quickly move through the Senate and the House," he said.

Leaders hope to push any agreement into law rapidly — they hope this month — before the political momentum fades that has been stirred by the recent mass shootings in Buffalo, New York, and Uvalde, Texas. Participants cautioned that final details and legislative language remain to be completed, meaning fresh disputes and delays might emerge.

In a consequential development, 20 senators, including 10 Republicans, released a statement calling for passage. That is potentially crucial because the biggest obstacle to enacting the measure is probably in the 50-50 Senate, where at least 10 GOP votes will be needed to attain the usual 60-vote threshold for approval.

"Families are scared, and it is our duty to come together and get something done that will help restore their sense of safety and security in their communities," the lawmakers said. The group, led by Sens. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., John Cornyn, R-Texas, Thom Tillis, R-N.C., and Krysten Sinema, D-Ariz., produced the agreement after two weeks of closed-door talks.

The compromise would make the juvenile records of gun buyers under age 21 available when they undergo background checks. The suspects who killed 10 Black people at a grocery store in Buffalo and 19 students and two teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde were both 18, and many perpetrators of recent years' mass shootings have been young.

The agreement would offer money to states to enact and put in place "red flag" laws that make it easier to temporarily take guns from people considered potentially violent, plus funds to bolster school safety and mental health programs.

Some people who informally sell guns for profit would be required to obtain federal dealers' licenses, which means they would have to conduct background checks of buyers. Convicted domestic abusers who do not live with a former partner, such as estranged ex-boyfriends, would be barred from buying firearms, and it would be a crime for a person to legally purchase a weapon for someone who would not qualify for ownership.

Congressional aides said billions of dollars would be spent expanding the number of community mental health centers and suicide prevention programs. But they said some spending decisions are unresolved, as are final wording on juvenile records and other gun provisions that might prove contentious.

Yet underscoring election-year pressures from Buffalo and Uvalde, the parties' shared desire to demonstrate a response to those shootings suggested momentum toward enactment was strong.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., called the accord "a good first step to ending the persistent inaction to the gun violence epidemic" and said he would bring the completed measure to a vote as soon as possible.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who has supported the talks, was more restrained. He

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 39 of 57

praised the bargainers' work and said he is hoping for a deal that makes "significant headway on key issues like mental health and school safety, respects the Second Amendment, earns broad support in the Senate, and makes a difference for our country."

The agreement was quickly endorsed by groups that support gun restrictions including Brady, Everytown for Gun Safety and March for Our Lives, which organized rallies held around the country on Saturday.

The National Rifle Association said in a statement that it opposes gun control and infringing on people's "fundamental right to protect themselves and their loved ones," but supports strengthening school security, mental health and law enforcement. The group has long exerted its sway with millions of firearms-owning voters to derail gun control drives in Congress.

The agreement represents a lowest common denominator compromise on gun violence, not a complete sea change in Congress. Lawmakers have demonstrated a newfound desire to move ahead after saying their constituents have shown a heightened desire for congressional action since Buffalo and Uvalde, but Republicans still oppose more sweeping steps that Democrats want and Sunday's agreement omits.

These include banning assault-style firearms such as the AR-15 style rifles used in Buffalo and Uvalde, or raising the legal age for buying them. AR-15s are popular and powerful semi-automatic weapons that can fire high-capacity magazines and have been used in many of the nation's highest-profile slaughters in recent years. One of them, the killing of 49 people at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, occurred six years ago Sunday.

Democrats have also wanted to ban high capacity magazines and to expand required background checks to far more gun purchases. None of those proposals has a chance in Congress.

Highlighting that, the Democratic-controlled House approved sweeping bills this past week barring sales of semiautomatic weapons to people under age 21 and large-capacity magazines, and giving federal courts the power to rule when local authorities want to remove guns from people considered dangerous. Currently, only 19 states and the District of Columbia have red-flag laws. Those measures will go nowhere in the Senate, where Republicans can block them.

The last major firearms restrictions enacted by lawmakers was the 1994 assault weapons ban, which Congress let expire 10 years later.

For years, congressional Republicans representing rural, pro-gun voters have blocked robust restrictions on firearms purchases, citing the Constitution's Second Amendment.

Democrats, whose voters overwhelmingly favor gun restrictions, have been reluctant to approve incremental steps that they have thought would let GOP lawmakers argue they have tried stemming the tide of violence without meaningfully addressing the problem.

French projections: Macron's centrists will keep a majority

By SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron's centrist alliance is expected to keep its parliamentary majority after the first round of voting Sunday, but will likely have far fewer seats than five years ago, according to projections.

Projections based on partial election results showed that at the national level, Macron's party and its allies got about 25%-26% of the vote. That was neck-and-neck with estimates for a new leftist coalition composed of hard-left, Socialists and Green party supporters. Yet Macron's candidates are projected to win in a greater number of districts than their leftist rivals, giving the president a majority.

More than 6,000 candidates, ranging in age from 18 to 92, ran Sunday for 577 seats in France's National Assembly in the first round of the election.

France's two-round voting system is complex and not proportionate to the nationwide support for a party. For races that did not have a decisive winner on Sunday, up to four candidates who got at least 12.5% support each will compete in a second round of voting on June 19.

Following Macron's reelection in May, his centrist coalition was seeking an absolute majority that would enable it to implement his campaign promises, which include tax cuts and raising France's retirement age

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 40 of 57

from 62 to 65.

Yet Sunday's projection shows Macron's party and allies could have trouble getting more than half the seats at the Assembly, much less than five years ago, when they won 361 seats. Polling agencies estimated that Macron's centrists could win from 255 to over 300 seats, while the leftist coalition led by Jean-Luc Mélenchon could win more than 200 seats.

Sunday's turnout reached a record low for a parliamentary election, with less than half of France's 48.7 million voters casting ballots.

Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne said "we have one week of action, one week to convince, one week to get a strong and clear majority."

"Faced with the situation in the world and the war at Europe's doors, we cannot take the risk of instability," she said, urging voters to gather behind Macron's alliance in the second round. "Faced with extremes, we will not yield."

Mélenchon, who had hoped the election would vault him into the prime minister's post, did not accept the preliminary projections, insisting that his coalition came in first.

"Projections in numbers of seats at this hour make quite no sense," he said.

Mélenchon urged the French to choose his coalition's candidates in the second round and "definitively reject the doomed projects of the majority of Macron." His platform included a significant minimum wage increase, lowering the retirement age to 60 and locking in energy prices, which have been soaring due to the war in Ukraine.

Even though Macron beat far-right rival Marine Le Pen in the presidential runoff, France's parliamentary election is traditionally a difficult race for far-right candidates. Rivals from other parties tend to coordinate or step aside to boost the chances of defeating far-right candidates in the second round.

Projections showed that Le Pen's far-right National Rally party could get 10 to 30 seats — up from eight five years ago. If it passes the threshold of 15 seats, it can form a parliamentary group and gain greater power at the assembly.

Le Pen, who ran for reelection in her stronghold of Henin-Beaumont, in northern France, praised Sunday's results.

"Next Sunday, it is important not to let Emmanuel Macron get an absolute majority, which he will abuse to implement his self-centered and brutal methods and impose his anti-social project," she said.

Le Pen called on voters to vote blank or not go to the polls in districts that have only Macron's or Mélenchon's candidates.

Outside a voting station in a working-class district of Paris, voters debated whether to support Macron's party for the sake of smooth governance and keeping out extremist views, or to back his opponents to ensure that more political perspectives are heard.

"When you have a parliament that's not completely in line with the government, that enables more interesting conversations and discussions," said Dominique Debarre, retired scientist. "But on the other hand, (a split) is always in some way a sign of failure."

PGA chief slams Saudi-funded league as series of exhibitions

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

BROOKLINE, Mass. (AP) — PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan described the Saudi-funded league that has signed up Dustin Johnson, Phil Mickelson and Bryson DeChambeau as a "series of exhibition matches" that spends billions of dollars on players without getting a return on its investment.

Monahan also said players paid an exorbitant amount of money would "have to be living under a rock" to not know they would be criticized for the source of the money. LIV Golf is backed by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund.

"I would ask any player that has left, or any player that would ever consider leaving, 'Have you ever had to apologize for being a member of the PGA Tour?'" Monahan said from Toronto on the CBS telecast of the RBC Canadian Open.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 41 of 57

They were Monahan's first public comments since Thursday, when Greg Norman's LIV Golf series began and Monahan suspended all PGA Tour members who played at Centurion Golf Club outside London.

The LIV Golf Series has eight tournaments this year — five in the United States — with \$25 million in prize money for each one, 54-hole events with no cut and 48-man fields. Charl Schwartzel won the first one Saturday and earned \$4.75 million.

More than prize money, some players received enormous signing fees. The Daily Telegraph reported Johnson received \$150 million, while Mickelson did not deny a report that he was paid \$200 million for the startup venture. It was not clear for how many years they are committed.

In recent days, Norman announced DeChambeau and Patrick Reed have signed up and are expected to play the first U.S. event in Oregon at the end of the month. None of the top 10 players in the world has expressed interest in the new league.

Monahan said he suspended the players for violating tournament regulations. They were denied releases to compete in the London event and chose to play anyway. Players typically get three releases for overseas events, and two dozen got them for the Saudi International.

Monahan said that was a single event associated with a recognized tour (Asian Tour), compared with a series of events that poses a direct challenge to the PGA Tour by playing in the U.S.

"It's my job to protect, defend and celebrate our loyal PGA Tour members, our partners and our fans, and that's exactly what I did," Monahan said.

Norman and some players in the LIV Golf event have talked about being free agents, able to play wherever they wanted, and have positioned the new league as adding to world golf instead of competing with the PGA Tour.

Johnson, Sergio Garcia and Graeme McDowell were among those who resigned their PGA Tour membership. Mickelson, already at The Country Club on Sunday to start preparing for the U.S. Open, has said he plans to keep the lifetime membership he earned with 45 wins and six majors.

Asked why players couldn't play both tours, Monahan answered with a question of his own.

"Why do they need us so badly?" he said. "Those players have chosen to sign multiyear, lucrative contracts to play in a series of exhibition matches against the same players over and over again. You look at that versus what we see here today."

The Canadian Open featured Rory McIlroy, Justin Thomas and Tony Finau contending for the title, and Justin Rose challenging to shoot 59 or lower until he had to settle for a 60.

"You've got true, pure competition, the best players in the world here at the RBC Canadian Open, with millions of fans watching. And in this game, it's true and pure competition that creates the profiles and presences of the world's greatest players. And that's why they need us. That's what we do," Monahan said.

"But we're not going to allow players to free ride off of our loyal members."

Still unclear was how the situation proceeds. The USGA has said it will not deny a player who earned his spot in the field at the U.S. Open, and the R&A is likely to honor the "open" nature of the British Open next month at St. Andrews.

Lawsuits are likely if PGA Tour players try to enter an event after being suspended for signing up and playing with LIV Golf. Norman has said LIV Golf would support its players.

Monahan did not say if there was a way back for players who joined Norman's league, nor how it affects players who had never been a PGA Tour member.

Monahan was particularly biting on the money coming from the Public Investment Fund in Saudi Arabia, which has been accused of "sports washing" for using such a tour to take attention away from its history of human rights abuses.

He was asked how big of an issue the source of funding was.

"It's not an issue for me, because I don't work for the Saudi Arabian government," Monahan said, a veiled dig at the notion of being a free agent. "But it probably is an issue for players who chose to go and take that money. I think you have to ask yourself a question: Why."

"Why is this group spending so much money — billions of dollars — recruiting players and chasing a

concept with no possibility of a return?" he said. "At the same time, there's been a lot of questions, a lot of comments, about the growth of the game. And I ask, 'How is this good for the game?'"

Moscow-backed officials try to solidify rule in Ukraine

By DAVID KEYTON and JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Kremlin-installed officials in occupied southern Ukraine celebrated Russia Day on Sunday and began issuing Russian passports to residents in one city who requested them, as Moscow sought to solidify its rule over captured parts of the country.

At one of the central squares in the city of Kherson, Russian bands played a concert to celebrate Russia Day, the holiday that marks Russia's emergence as a sovereign state after the collapse of the Soviet Union, according to Russia's state news agency RIA Novosti.

In the neighboring Zaporizhzhia region, Moscow-installed officials raised a Russian flag in Melitopol's city center.

Ukrainian media reported that few, if any, local residents attended the Russia Day festivities in the two cities.

Russia Day was also celebrated in other occupied parts of Ukraine, including the ravaged southern port of Mariupol, where a new city sign painted in the colors of the Russian flag was unveiled on the outskirts and Russian flags were flown on a highway leading into the city.

Also, the Russia-aligned administration in Melitopol started handing out Russian passports to those who applied for Russian citizenship. RIA Novosti posted video of a Moscow-backed official congratulating new Russian citizens and telling them: "Russia will not go anywhere. We are here for good."

President Vladimir Putin earlier this year issued a decree fast-tracking Russian citizenship for residents of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. In captured cities in the south and east, Moscow has also introduced the ruble as official currency, aired Russian news broadcasts and taken steps to introduce a Russian school curriculum.

The Kremlin's administrators in the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions have voiced plans to incorporate the areas into Russia, despite protests and signs of an insurgency among local residents.

Russian-installed officials Sunday in Melitopol reported an explosion in a garbage bin near the city's police headquarters and said two residents were injured.

Another blast was reported at an electrical substation in the city of Berdyansk, which is also under Russian control. The Kremlin-backed administration pronounced it a terrorist attack, and officials said electricity was shut down in parts of the city.

On the battlefield, Russia said it is using missiles to destroy a large depot in western Ukraine that contained anti-tank and air-defense weapons supplied to Kyiv by the U.S. and European countries. It said the attack took place near the city of Chortkiv in the Ternopil region.

Ternopil Gov. Volodymyr Trush said four Russian missiles damaged a military installation and four residential buildings in Chortkiv. More than 20 people were wounded, including a 12-year-old girl, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

"This strike had no tactical or strategic sense, just like the absolute majority of other Russian strikes. It is terror, just terror," he said in a video address.

In light of the strike, Zelenskyy made another plea for modern missile defense systems from the U.S. and other Western countries, saying, "These are lives that could have been saved, tragedies that could have been prevented if Ukraine had been listened to."

Also, heavy fighting continued for control of Sievierodonetsk, an eastern city in Luhansk province with a prewar population of 100,000 that has emerged as central to Russia's campaign to capture the Donbas, Ukraine's industrial heartland.

Russian forces shelled a Sievierodonetsk chemical plant where up to 500 civilians, 40 of them children, were holed up, Luhansk Gov. Serhii Haidai said.

An official with the pro-Moscow, self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic, Rodion Miroshnik, said 300

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 43 of 57

to 400 Ukrainian troops also remained inside the plant. He said that efforts were underway to evacuate the civilians.

Leonid Pasechnik, head of the Luhansk People's Republic, said the Ukrainians making their stand in Sievierodonetsk should save themselves the trouble.

"If I were them, I would already make a decision" to surrender, he said. "We will achieve our goal in any case."

Lawmakers from Iraq's biggest bloc resign amid impasse

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Dozens of lawmakers who make up the biggest bloc in Iraq's parliament resigned on Sunday amid a prolonged political impasse, plunging the divided nation into political uncertainty.

The 73 lawmakers from powerful Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's bloc submitted their resignation based on his request, to protest a persisting political deadlock eight months after general elections were held.

Parliament Speaker Mohammed Halbousi accepted their resignation.

Al-Sadr, a maverick leader remembered for leading an insurgency against U.S. forces after the 2003 invasion, emerged as the winner in the election held in October.

The election was held several months earlier than expected, in response to mass protests that broke out in late 2019, and saw tens of thousands rally against endemic corruption, poor services and unemployment.

The vote brought victory for powerful Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr who won 73 out of Parliament's 329 seats, and was a blow for his Iran-backed Shiite rivals, who lost about two-thirds of their seats and have rejected the results.

Al-Sadr has been intent on forming, along with his allies, a majority government that excludes them. But he has not been able to corral enough lawmakers to parliament to get the two-thirds majority needed to elect Iraq's next president — a necessary step ahead of naming the next prime minister and selecting a Cabinet.

Speaker Halbousi tweeted later that he "reluctantly" accepted the resignations based on al-Sadr's wishes and after sincere efforts to discourage him from this step. "For the sake of the country and the people, he decided to proceed with this decision," he posted.

It was not immediately clear how the resignation of the biggest bloc in parliament would play out. A veteran Iraqi politician expressed concern that the resignations could lead to chaos in the country.

According to Iraqi laws, if any seat in parliament becomes vacant, the candidate who obtains the second highest number votes in their electoral district would replace them.

This would benefit al-Sadr's opponents from the so-called Coordination Framework, a coalition led by Iran-backed Shiite parties, and their allies - something al-Sadr would be unlikely to accept.

There are already concerns that the stalemate and tension could boil over and lead to street protests by supporters of al-Sadr, turning into violence between them and rival armed Shiite militias.

Al-Sadr, one of Iraq's most influential political leaders with a large following, has repeatedly alluded to the capabilities of his militia, Saraya Salam, which recently opened the doors for recruits in Babylon and Diyala provinces.

#ChurchToo revelations growing, years after movement began

By PETER SMITH and HOLLY MEYER Associated Press

A withering report on sexual abuse and cover-up in the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant denomination in the U.S.

A viral video in which a woman confronts her pastor at an independent Christian church for sexually preying on her when she was a teen.

A TV documentary exposing sex abuse of children in Amish and Mennonite communities.

You might call it #ChurchToo 2.0.

Survivors of sexual assault in church settings and their advocates have been calling on churches for years

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 44 of 57

to admit the extent of abuse in their midst and to implement reforms. In 2017 that movement acquired the hashtag #ChurchToo, derived from the wider #MeToo movement, which called out sexual predators in many sectors of society.

In recent weeks #ChurchToo has seen an especially intense set of revelations across denominations and ministries, reaching vast audiences in headlines and on screen with a message that activists have long struggled to get across.

"For us it's just confirmation of what we've been saying all these years," said Jimmy Hinton, an advocate for abuse survivors and a Church of Christ minister in Somerset, Pennsylvania. "There is an absolute epidemic of abuse in the church, in religious spaces."

Calls for reform will be prominent this week in Anaheim, California, when the Southern Baptist Convention holds its annual meeting following an outside report that concluded its leaders mishandled abuse cases and stonewalled victims.

The May 22 report came out the same day an independent church in Indiana was facing its own reckoning. Moments after its pastor, John B. Lowe II, confessed to years of "adultery," longtime member Bobi Gephart took the microphone to tell the rest of the story: She was just 16 when it started, she said.

The video of the confrontation has drawn nearly 1 million views on Facebook. Lowe subsequently resigned from New Life Christian Church & World Outreach in Warsaw.

In an interview, Gephart said she's not surprised that so many cases are now coming out. She has received words of encouragement from all over the world, with people sharing their own "heartbreaking" stories of abuse.

"Things are shaking loose," Gephart said. "I really feel like God is trying to make things right."

For many churches, she said, "It's all about covering up, 'Let's keep the show going.' There are hurting people, and that's not right. I still don't think a lot of the church gets it."

Hinton — who turned in his own father, a former minister now imprisoned for aggravated indecent assault — said the viral video demonstrates the potency of survivors telling their own stories.

"Survivors have far more power than they ever think imaginable," he said on his "Speaking Out on Sex Abuse" podcast.

#ChurchToo revelations have emerged in all kinds of church groups, including liberal denominations that preach gender equality and depict clergy sexual misconduct as an abuse of power. The Episcopal Church aired stories from survivors at its 2018 General Convention, and an archbishop in the Anglican Church of Canada resigned in April amid allegations of sexual misconduct.

But many recent reckonings are occurring in conservative Protestant settings where a "purity culture" has been prominent in recent decades — emphasizing male authority and female modesty and discouraging dating in favor of traditional courtship leading to marriage.

On May 25 reality TV personality Josh Duggar was sentenced in Arkansas to more than 12 years in prison for receiving child pornography. Duggar was a former lobbyist for a conservative Christian organization and appeared on TLC's since-canceled "19 Kids and Counting," featuring a homeschooling family that stressed chastity and traditional courtship. Prosecutors said Duggar had a "deep-seated, pervasive and violent sexual interest in children."

On May 26 the Springfield (Missouri) News-Leader reported on a spate of sex abuse cases involving workers at Kanakuk Kamps, a large evangelical camp ministry.

Emily Joy Allison, whose abuse story launched the #ChurchToo movement, said the sexual ethic preached in many conservative churches — and the shame and silence it breeds — are part of the problem. She argues that in her book, "#ChurchToo: How Purity Culture Upholds Abuse and How to Find Healing."

Allison told The Associated Press that addressing abuse requires both a change in church policy and theology. But she knows the latter is unlikely in the SBC.

"They need to undergo a transformation so radical they would be unrecognizable at the end. And that will not happen," Allison said. Reform work focused on "harm reduction" is a more realistic approach, she said.

Some advocates hope the front-burner focus on abuse could lead to lasting reforms — if not in churches,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 45 of 57

then in the law.

Misty Griffin, an advocate for fellow survivors of sexual assault in Amish communities, recently launched a petition drive seeking a congressional "Child's Rights Act." As of early June, it had drawn more than 5,000 signatures.

It would require that all teachers, including those in religious schools and homeschool settings, be trained about child abuse and neglect and subject to reporting mandates, and would also require age-appropriate instruction on abuse prevention for students. Griffin said such legislation is crucial because in authoritarian religious systems, victims often don't know help is available or how to get it.

"Without that, nothing's going to change," said Griffin, a consulting producer on the documentary "Sins of the Amish."

The two-episode documentary, which premiered on Peacock TV in May, examines endemic abuse in Amish and Mennonite communities, saying it is enabled by a patriarchal authority structure, an emphasis on forgiving offenders and reluctance to report wrongdoing to law enforcement.

The Southern Baptist Convention, whose doctrine also calls for male leadership in churches and families, has been particularly shaken by the #ChurchToo movement after years of complaints that leadership has failed to care for survivors and hold their abusers accountable.

At its annual meeting, the SBC will consider proposals to create a task force that would oversee a listing of clergy credibly accused of abuse. But survivors criticized that proposal and are calling for a more powerful and independent commission to perform that task and also review allegations of abuse and cover-up. They're also seeking a "survivor restoration fund" and memorial dedicated to survivors.

Momentum for change grew as survivors such as Jules Woodson, who went public in 2018 with a sexual assault accusation against her former youth pastor, were emboldened to tell their stories.

"I felt like, 'Thank God there's a space where we can tell these stories,'" Woodson said.

Such accounts led to the independent investigation, whose 288-page report detailed how the SBC's Executive Committee prioritized protecting the institution over victims' well-being and preventing abuse.

The committee has apologized and made public a long-secret list of ministers accused of abuse.

Woodson said seeing her abuser's name on it felt like a double-edged sword.

"It was in some ways validating that my abuser was on there, but it was also devastating to see that they knew and yet nobody in the SBC spoke up to warn others," she said.

Woodson added that she is still waiting for meaningful change: "They have offered minimal words acknowledging the problem, but they have offered zero reform and true action which would show genuine repentance or care and concern for survivors or the vulnerable people who have yet to be abused."

Latino activism leads in grassroots efforts on climate change

By ANITA SNOW Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Students at a largely Hispanic elementary school in Phoenix have long lined up for morning classes on a dusty patch of dirt under a broiling sun.

So when Tony Mada learned of plans to plant 75 young trees at Borman Elementary School, the 30-year-old and his daughter Lilyth, 10, joined scores of volunteers to increase shade on campus.

Desert willows, oaks and mesquites just a few feet tall were among trees planted at the event organized by the local nonprofit Trees Matter and the environmental organization The Nature Conservancy, which is expanding its focus beyond the wildlands to urban areas impacted by climate-fueled heat.

"I'll do anything to cool things down for my kids in this hot neighborhood," Mada said one Saturday this spring as he and Lilyth, a student at the school, freed an acacia tree from the wooden box holding its roots.

After experiencing global warming's firsthand effects, U.S. Latinos are leading the way in activism around climate change, often drawing on traditions from their ancestral homelands.

"There has been a real national uprising in Latino activism in environmentalism in recent years," said Juan Roberto Madrid, an environmental science and public health specialist based in Colorado for the national nonprofit GreenLatinos. "Climate change may be impacting everyone, but it is impacting Latinos more."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 46 of 57

U.S. Latinos often live in ignored, lower income neighborhoods that are degrees hotter than nearby areas because they have a higher population density and limited tree canopy. Hispanics are also disproportionately affected by chronic health conditions aggravated by extreme heat, like diabetes and heart and kidney disease.

Latino activists are now sounding the alarm about the risks of global warming for their neighborhoods and the world. They include a teen who protested every Friday for weeks outside U.N. headquarters in New York, a Southern California academic who wants more grassroots efforts included in global climate organizing and a Mexico-born advocate in Phoenix who teaches young Hispanics the importance of protecting Earth for future generations.

"Many members of the Latinx community have Indigenous roots," said Masavi Perea, organizing director for Chispa Arizona, a program of the League of Conservation Voters. "A lot of us grew up on ranches, so many of us already have a relationship with nature."

Walking through rows of kale, corn and squash at Chispa's plot in a south Phoenix garden, the 47-year-old said he works to increase the group's base and educate young members about environmental issues like climate change.

Perea, a naturalized U.S. citizen originally from Mexico, said Chispa members include Central Americans he calls "climate refugees" who fled countries battered by hurricanes and droughts.

Recent research shows most Latinos in the U.S. consider climate change an important concern.

A Pew Research Center study released last fall showed about seven in 10 Latinos say climate change affects their communities at least some, while only 54% of non-Latinos said it affects their neighborhoods. The self-administered web survey of 13,749 respondents had a margin of error of plus or minus 1.4 percentage points.

Colorado College's Conservation in the West Poll published this year showed notably higher percentages of Latino, Black and Indigenous voters in eight western states concerned about climate change, pollution and the impact of fossil fuels.

Latino and other communities of color are disproportionately affected by climate change, such as more frequent, intense and longer heat waves in Phoenix, Las Vegas, Palm Springs and other arid western communities.

A study by researchers from the University of California, Davis and the American University of Beirut concluded last year that poor and Latino neighborhoods in 20 metro regions around the Southwest endure temperatures several degrees higher on the hottest days, creating greater risks for heat-related illness.

Phoenix, the hottest big city in the U.S., in recent years has seen some of its hottest summers, with a heat wave a year ago pushing temperatures up to 118 degrees (48 Celsius).

The city earlier this year worked with the conservation nonprofit American Forests to create the first of 100 "cool corridors" by planting shade trees for pedestrians and cyclists alongside a south Phoenix park named for the late Latino activist Cesar Chavez.

"It's much hotter here now than when I first moved here," Democratic U.S. Rep. Ruben Gallego, who lives nearby, said as he toured the 259 newly planted drought resistant elm, ash, sissoo and Chinese pistache trees.

Gallego, who was born in Chicago and raised there by his Colombian mother, said segregation in Phoenix once forced Blacks and Latino residents to live in the city's south, which meant fewer trees and other investments there.

He has teamed up with fellow Democrat U.S. Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman, of New Jersey, on a bill to create \$30 million in federal grants annually for several years to ease the effects of urban heat, especially in low-income communities of color.

While many Latino activists focus their climate advocacy on their own neighborhoods, teenager Alexandria Villaseñor takes activism to the world stage.

Inspired by Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, Villaseñor spent many Fridays outside United Nations headquarters in New York in 2019, protesting global inaction on climate change.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 47 of 57

Now 17, she is a co-founder of Earth Uprising, a climate change education group.

Climate policy scholar Michael Méndez, author of the book "Climate Change from the Streets," said grassroots organizing is equally important.

Méndez grew up the son of Mexican immigrants in Los Angeles County's Fernando Valley, where he saw Latino neighbors fight against air pollution and dumping of toxic waste.

"It's not an abstract idea for us," said Méndez, who teaches at the University of California, Irvine. "For Latinos, climate change is about how to protect our families, our children."

With 'Jurassic World 3,' dinosaurs rule again at box office

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

Move over Maverick, the dinosaurs have arrived to claim their throne.

"Jurassic World: Dominion" took a mighty bite out of the box office with \$143.4 million in North American ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. Including earnings from international showings — the film opened in various markets last weekend — "Jurassic World: Dominion," released globally by Universal Pictures, has already grossed \$389 million. And it's just getting started.

"We couldn't be happier," said Jim Orr, Universal's head of domestic distribution. "Jurassic World: Dominion" had a very broad and ridiculously enthusiastic audience."

The hefty haul is yet another sign that the box office is continuing to rebound this summer. With the blockbuster successes of films like "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness," "Top Gun: Maverick" and now "Jurassic World 3," audiences are coming back to movie theaters more consistently.

The film, which had a reported \$185 million price tag not accounting for marketing and promotion costs, opened on 4,676 screens in the U.S. and Canada, starting with preview showings Thursday. Audiences were 56% male and 54% over the age of 25, according to Universal.

Critics were not kind to the dino extravaganza, but audiences seem to be enjoying themselves based on exit polls. Moviegoers gave it an A- CinemaScore and an 81% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes, suggesting that word of mouth will be strong in the coming weeks.

"You want to see dinosaurs on the big screen, it doesn't matter what critics thought," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore.

And many moviegoers did opt for the biggest screens possible. Globally, IMAX showings of "Jurassic World: Dominion" represented \$25 million of the total. The 3D format also accounted for around 25% of worldwide ticket sales.

"The appetite for the colossal creatures in this franchise is still voracious, and the way audiences want to experience this movie is in 3D," said Travis Reid, the CEO and president of Cinema for RealD, in a statement.

Both "Top Gun: Maverick" and "Jurassic World: Dominion" are an important caveat for an industry that continues to learn new lessons about pandemic-era moviegoing every week. Although both films are legacy sequels, neither are of the superhero variety, which, for a long time, had seemed like the only pandemic-proof genre.

"Top Gun: Maverick" is still coasting in rarefied skies too: It fell only 44% in its third weekend with an estimated \$50 million to take second place, bringing its North American total north of \$393.3 million. "Doctor Strange 2," in its sixth weekend, was a distant third with \$4.9 million.

This weekend is only the third of the pandemic era in which the total domestic box office surpassed \$200 million, according to box office tracker Comscore. The others were "Spider Man: No Way Home," in December, and "Doctor Strange 2," in May. But this is the first time there has been space for two movies to do well.

"Pretty much all the big blockbuster weekends that we've had over the pandemic have been dominated by one movie," Dergarabedian said. "In this case, we have two big blockbusters in theaters at once. This is the recipe for success that theater owners have been waiting for over the course of the pandemic. It's an important milestone."

"Dominion," a co-production of Universal Pictures and Amblin Entertainment, is the third film in the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 48 of 57

"Jurassic World" trilogy, which began in 2015 and introduced characters played by Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard. The newest installment brings back actors Laura Dern, Sam Neill and Jeff Goldblum from Steven Spielberg's 1993 "Jurassic Park."

Colin Trevorrow, who stewarded the "World" trilogy and directed the first film, returned to direct "Dominion," in which dinosaurs are no longer contained and locusts are threatening the world's food supply.

The filmmakers have said "Dominion" is intended to be the last of the "Jurassic World" films, which have been enormously profitable with over \$3 billion in ticket sales. The first earned over \$1.7 billion globally alone. Including the original "Jurassic Park" trilogy, that number skyrockets to \$5 billion.

"Jurassic World 3" should continue performing throughout the summer, Orr said. Universal Pictures also has a number of diverse, high-profile and theatrical-only releases coming in the next few weeks, including the horror film "The Black Phone," "Minions: The Rise of Gru" and Jordan Peele's "Nope." And this vote of confidence in movie theaters is promising.

"This is a tremendous start to our summer," Orr said.

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

1. "Jurassic World: Dominion," \$143.4 million.
2. "Top Gun: Maverick," \$50 million.
3. "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness," \$4.9 million.
4. "The Bob's Burgers Movie," \$2.3 million.
5. "The Bad Guys," \$2.3 million.
6. "Downton Abbey: A New Era," \$1.7 million.
7. "Everything Everywhere All At Once," \$1.3 million.
8. "Firestarter," \$820,000.
9. "Sonic the Hedgehog 2," \$710,000.
10. "Ante Sundaraniki," \$620,000.

UK Rwanda deportation ruling appealed as prince sparks row

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Opponents of the British government's plan to deport migrants to Rwanda are preparing for an appeals court hearing Monday amid the political backlash following reports that Prince Charles had privately described the policy as "appalling."

A coalition of groups including immigration rights advocates and public employee unions will ask the Court of Appeal in London to reverse a lower court ruling allowing the first deportation flight to go ahead as scheduled on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative government in April announced plans to send some undocumented migrants to Rwanda, where their claims for asylum in the east African nation would be processed. If successful, those migrants would stay in Rwanda. Britain paid Rwanda 120 million pounds (\$158 million) upfront and will make additional payments based on the number of people deported.

The program is aimed at discouraging migrants from risking their lives by crossing the English Channel in small boats after a surge in such journeys over the past two years. But human rights groups say the policy is illegal, inhumane and will only magnify the risks for migrants.

The debate filled Britain's news media over the weekend after the Times of London reported that an unidentified person had heard Prince Charles express opposition to the policy "several times" in private conversations.

"He said he thinks the government's whole approach is appalling," the newspaper quoted the source as saying.

Charles' office, Clarence House, refused to comment on "anonymous private conversations," but stressed that the prince remains "politically neutral."

Charles's comments are problematic because he is the heir to the throne and the British monarch is

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 49 of 57

supposed to remain above the political fray.

The reported conversations raise concerns about whether Charles can be a neutral monarch after a lifetime of speaking out on issues ranging from ocean plastic to architectural preservation. Charles, 73, has taken on an increasingly central role in recent months as health problems have limited the activities of Queen Elizabeth II, his 96-year-old mother.

The comments set off a firestorm in British newspapers, with the Daily Express warning the Prince of Wales: "Stay out of politics Charles!" The Mail on Sunday said: "We will not back down on Rwanda, Charles." Johnson's government shows no signs of changing course.

Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis, who represented the government on Britain's Sunday morning TV programs, offered a robust defense of the plan, saying the British government wants to upend the business model of people smugglers.

"The reality is this is a policy that is going to deliver — to ensure that modern slavery and these people smugglers know that their criminal methods will be broken down," he told Sky News.

More than 28,500 people entered Britain on small boats last year, up from 1,843 in 2019, according to government statistics. The risk of such crossings was made clear on Nov. 24, when 27 people died after their inflatable boat sank in the waters between Britain and France.

The Home Office, the agency that oversees border enforcement, launched its own defense of the policy on Sunday, posting comments from a Rwandan government spokesperson on social media.

"It's about protecting and ensuring the wellbeing and development of both migrants and Rwandans in Rwanda," the Rwandan spokesperson, Yolande Makolo, said.

A High Court judge in London on Friday rejected a request from opponents of the plan to block Britain's Rwanda asylum flights until the court had reached a decision on whether the program is illegal. The decision allows the flights to begin even as the broader legal challenge moves forward.

That ruling has been appealed to the Court of Appeal, which will hear the petition on Monday.

Government lawyer Mathew Gullick said Friday that 37 people were originally scheduled to be aboard Tuesday's flight, but six had their deportation orders canceled. The government still intends to operate the flight, he said.

The government has not provided details of those selected for deportation, but refugee groups say they include people fleeing Syria and Afghanistan.

Rwanda is already home to tens of thousands of refugees. Competition for land and resources contributed to ethnic and political tensions that culminated in Rwanda's 1994 genocide, in which more than 800,000 ethnic Tutsi and the moderate Hutu who tried to protect them were killed.

President Paul Kagame's government has achieved significant economic progress since the genocide, but critics say it has come at the cost of strong political repression.

The United Nations' refugee agency has opposed Britain's plans, saying it's an effort to export the country's legal obligations to provide asylum to those seeking a safe haven.

"People fleeing war, conflict and persecution deserve compassion and empathy," said Gillian Triggs, UNHCR's assistant high commissioner for protection. "They should not be traded like commodities and transferred abroad for processing."

In Jan. 6 cases, 1 judge stands out as the toughest punisher

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

An Ohio couple climbed through a broken window of the U.S. Capitol and livestreamed a video of themselves inside. A Texas mortgage broker posed for a selfie in front of rioters breaching the building. An Indiana hair salon owner celebrated on Facebook a day after she joined the pro-Donald Trump mob.

Federal prosecutors did not seek prison time for any of them after they pleaded guilty to petty offenses for their actions on Jan. 6, 2021.

The judge had other ideas.

U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan put them all behind bars, describing it as the appropriate punishment

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 50 of 57

for their participation in the riot that halted the certification of President Joe Biden's victory, sent lawmakers running for their lives and left dozens of police officers beaten and bloodied.

As the number of people sentenced for crimes in the insurrection nears 200, an Associated Press analysis of sentencing data shows that some judges are divided over how to punish the rioters, particularly for the low-level misdemeanors arising from the attack.

"We're asking judges to do what they think is right, and they don't agree on what's right," said Greg Hunter, a lawyer defending several Jan. 6 defendants.

A House committee that held its first public hearing on Thursday cast a wide net in its investigation of the insurrection, examining how President Trump and his allies tried to undermine the election results. So far, the Justice Department's criminal investigation has focused primarily on the hundreds of Trump supporters who broke through police barricades, shattered windows, attacked officers and stormed into the Capitol.

Chutkan, a former assistant public defender who was nominated to the bench by President Barack Obama, has consistently taken the hardest line against Jan. 6 defendants of any judge serving on Washington's federal trial court, which is handling the more than 800 cases brought so far in the largest prosecution in Justice Department history.

Chutkan has handed out tougher sentences than the department was seeking in seven cases, matched its requests in four others and sent all 11 riot defendants who have come before her behind bars. In the four cases in which prosecutors did not seek jail time, Chutkan gave terms ranging from 14 days to 45 days.

Overall, the 20 judges who have sentenced riot defendants have given lighter sentences than prosecutors were seeking in nearly three-fourths of the cases. The judges have exceeded prosecutors' recommendation for about only 10% of the defendants, according to AP's analysis.

Most judges — appointed by presidents of both political parties — have gone easier on defendants than prosecutors wanted in most or all of their cases so far. While some judges have sentenced few Jan. 6 defendants, no other judge besides Chutkan has exceeded prosecutors' recommended punishment in most of the cases assigned to them.

"Depending on the judge you get, the same facts could get you anything from probation to months in jail," said Hunter, the defense lawyer. "When you can literally look at who the judge is, who has been assigned to a case, and know that every defendant is going to get more time or less time because of the judge they drew ... that doesn't promote respect for the law," he added.

In one case, two friends from Indiana, Dona Sue Bissey and Anna Morgan-Lloyd, both pleaded guilty to the same misdemeanor offense for engaging in essentially the same conduct inside the Capitol. Prosecutors did not seek jail time for either, noting their lack of a criminal record.

Chutkan sentenced Bissey to 14 days in jail. A different judge sentenced Bissey's friend to probation.

While Judge Royce Lamberth did not send Morgan-Lloyd to jail, he has also been among the toughest judges on defendants. In one case, Lamberth, who was nominated by President Ronald Reagan, gave a Pennsylvania man two months behind bars for a misdemeanor when prosecutors were seeking only two weeks.

More than 300 people have pleaded guilty in connection with the insurrection to crimes ranging from misdemeanors to felony seditious conspiracy. Five others have been convicted at trial. A judge decided two other cases without a jury, acquitting one defendant and partially acquitting the other.

The Jan. 6 cases pose a unique challenge for judges in that even though the riot was unlike anything the country has seen before, hundreds of people were charged only with misdemeanors such as illegal entry that typically do not land first-time offenders behind bars.

Some judges have criticized prosecutors for what they see as disparities in prosecutors' charging decisions across the cases and their recommendations for punishment. Chief Judge Beryl Howell, an Obama nominee, has sharply questioned whether prosecutors are letting some rioters off too easy with misdemeanor plea deals even as they describe the insurrection as an attack on democracy.

To be sure, every case and defendant is different. Also, judges must weigh a slew of factors, including the seriousness of the crime, the person's criminal history, whether the defendant admitted guilt and showed remorse and what sentences similarly situated defendants have received in order to avoid unwarranted disparities.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 51 of 57

In the case of a Maryland man who sprayed a fire extinguisher at officers defending the Capitol, prosecutors sought more than four years in prison.

But Judge Randolph Moss sentenced Matthew Ryan Miller to less than three years, noting that the man was just 22 years old on Jan. 6, 2021, was intoxicated when he stormed the Capitol and has shown remorse.

Before handing down the punishment, Moss said he believes judges have done a good job at ensuring the punishments are consistent while also weighing the individual factors of each case.

"When one looks at these sentencing decisions that have been made by this court across many judges, it's remarkable how consistent sentencing has been," said Moss, an Obama nominee. "When I see differences, I'm able to go back through the record and look at it and understand the basis for those differences."

In case after case, Chutkan has expressed her belief that prison can be a powerful deterrent against the threat of another insurrection.

"Every day we're hearing about reports of anti-democratic factions of people plotting violence, the potential threat of violence, in 2024," she said before sentencing a Florida man who attacked police officers to more than five years behind bars — the longest sentence so far in the attack.

"It has to be made clear that trying to violently overthrow the government, trying to stop the peaceful transition of power and assaulting law enforcement officers in that effort is going to be met with absolutely certain punishment," she said.

Of the more than 190 defendants sentenced so far, about 20 admitted to felony charges, including nine who assaulted police officers. The rest pleaded guilty to misdemeanors punishable by no more than one year imprisonment. Prosecutors recommended prison terms in more than 70% of the cases. Judges have agreed to prison in about 45% of them, with terms ranging from nine days to more than five years.

In one case, prosecutors sought a month in prison for California bartender Kevin Cordon, who pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor. Judge Trevor McFadden, who was nominated by Trump, said jail time was not appropriate given his lack of criminal record.

"In my experience as a judge and former prosecutor, it's almost unheard of for someone who is essentially a first-time offender to get jail time for a nonviolent misdemeanor," McFadden said. "I think it's important that I'm consistent in sentencing, not only compared with other judges in Jan. 6 cases but also with an eye to how misdemeanors are handled more generally outside of this politically fraught event."

McFadden has condemned the Jan. 6 riot as a "national embarrassment," while also suggesting that the Justice Department was being too hard on those who broke into the Capitol compared with the people arrested during racial injustice protests following George Floyd's 2020 murder.

Without naming her colleague, Chutkan slammed McFadden's suggestion days later.

"People gathered all over the country last year to protest the violent murder by the police of an unarmed man. Some of those protesters became violent," Chutkan said during an October hearing.

"But to compare the actions of people protesting, mostly peacefully, for civil rights, to those of a violent mob seeking to overthrow the lawfully elected government is a false equivalency and ignores a very real danger that the Jan. 6 riot posed to the foundation of our democracy."

Amid abortion debate, clinic asks: Who's caring for moms?

By LEAH WILLINGHAM Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Miracle Allen used her last tank of gas to drive an hour and 15 minutes to the closest clinic that would care for her and her unborn baby.

Allen, 29, was four months pregnant when Hurricane Ida ripped through her Houma, Louisiana, community. She spent three nights in the remnants of a house with a torn roof and no electricity. Her car was all she had left. So Allen — along with her 6-year-old daughter, her mother and a niece — fled in it to the rural Mississippi town of Kosciusko, where family lives.

Her first priority was finding a doctor to check on her baby boy. But the lone local obstetrician splits her work between two rural counties and wasn't taking new patients. Allen couldn't find another doctor even within an hour's drive — certainly not one who'd take a patient without insurance or an ID, which was

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 52 of 57

destroyed in her home by Ida.

Finally, a Jackson-area hospital that turned her away suggested the Sisters in Birth clinic. On that last tank of gas, she arrived in a panic. Would they see her? Had the stress of the storm affected her pregnancy? Where would she go if this place turned her away?

Almost all the mothers served at the clinic in Mississippi's capital are Black women without insurance, like Allen. Many haven't been to a doctor for years, until they became pregnant and qualified for Medicaid. Most are at risk for conditions such as hypertension and heart disease. Nearly all have nowhere else to go.

Clinic CEO and founder Getty Israel says Mississippi leaders are failing these women every day. As state Republican officials spend time and resources trying to ban abortion and awaiting a ruling that could overturn *Roe v. Wade*, advocates say nothing is being done to support women who choose to give birth.

"We're doing everything wrong," Israel said. "Mississippi is pro-birth, but not pro-life. If we really are a pro-life state, we have to do more than try to end abortion and make sure that women are healthy."

Mississippi has the highest infant death rate in the nation, and Black babies die at roughly twice the rate of white children, federal statistics show. Mississippi also ranks among states with the highest maternal death numbers, with Black women again disproportionately affected. And rural hospitals are closing at an alarming rate, leaving gaps in health care, while about 20 percent of Mississippi women are uninsured, according to census figures.

All these issues plagued Mississippi before the pandemic, but Israel and others said COVID-19 made matters worse, with overwhelmed hospitals and a flailing economy.

Israel opened her clinic amid the pandemic need, in June 2021. She wanted to teach patients, especially Black women who she's seen taken advantage of in the medical system, how to take control of their bodies and advocate for themselves.

Sisters in Birth is a midwifery clinic that provides education and care to pregnant patients — ultrasounds, prenatal vitamins, checkups with the nurse midwife and doctor on staff. But Israel also tries to focus on more than medical care; she said she takes a holistic approach to women's physical, social and emotional health.

The clinic's community health workers help create eating and exercise plans, meet with patients at home, and join them in the hospital for labor. Employees help with enrollment in Medicaid and community college. In particular, Israel wants Sisters in Birth to address any health disparities before patients — many of whom are at risk for complications given demographics and prior lack of access to care — give birth and offer them social support.

When Allen arrived, she was greeted by art of female activists on the comforting sea green walls: Toni Morrison, Dolores Huerta and Madonna Thunder Hawk. Magazines with Black women on the covers sit in front of colorful couches.

Staff members agreed to see Allen — a single mother and waitress who lost her job of 12 years during the pandemic — without insurance. They helped her submit a Medicaid application, set up exercise and nutrition plans, and offered her gas money to get home.

"I felt like I could finally breathe," Allen said.

Once she reached month seven, Allen said thanks to Sisters in Birth, she'd already had more medical care than in her entire last pregnancy. Israel calls her on days when the clinic is closed to check in.

The stability has helped her transition to life in Mississippi — finding a place to live, replacing documents, enrolling for food stamps — all while pregnant.

"They know me by name when I walk in," she said. "You don't have to remind them who you are and what you're going through."

Now, Israel wants to expand — but she needs money to do it. With the help of Mississippi's only Black and Democratic congressman, Rep. Bennie Thompson, she is pursuing \$3 million in federal money from the Community Project Funding program to open Mississippi's first birth center. She imagines a place where Black women can give natural births and reclaim their agency.

Currently, there's a nurse midwife on staff — one of a handful of midwives in Mississippi. Despite shrink-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 53 of 57

ing numbers, there's a rich history of midwifery in southern states. For generations, most Black babies were delivered by midwives because of racist policies that barred Black women from hospitals. In the late 1950s and 1960s, midwives were pushed out of the industry as hospitals became desegregated and white physicians sought control over the birth market.

Israel wants to hire more midwives, for a total of four, and offer training. She also plans a cabin for women to stay so they're on site and supported before labor.

Although Sisters in Birth does not provide abortions — the clinic generally doesn't counsel women on them, either, as the focus is providing services to women who want to give birth — Israel expects that if abortion banned, she'll see an increase in patients.

"Poor women who are now pregnant, because they can't get an abortion, will be looking for clinics like mine that don't have a limit on the number of Medicaid patients they accept," she said. "Support makes a difference, whether a woman wants to have an abortion or not."

She wants to be able to support more women, and for them to have the opportunity to give birth at the center instead of at hospitals. There, Israel said she often sees doctors pushing inductions and cesarean sections that aren't medically necessary. Federal data show Mississippi has the highest rate of c-sections in the U.S. Black women have experienced the highest c-section delivery rates in the country since the 1990s.

In 2018, a five-year study conducted by the federal government comparing birth centers with other forms of maternal birth care for women on Medicaid revealed a dramatic reduction of preterm, low-weight and cesarean births for patients at birth centers. The results showed a reduction in racial inequities — there were no differences by race for rates of cesarean birth and breastfeeding, for example — and Israel wants to replicate that for the women of Mississippi.

Yasmin Gabriel of Jackson said she sought out Israel's clinic because she wanted to have a woman of color in the room when she gave birth.

"So often, we just get ignored," she said. "I wanted our babies to come into this world without stress, without me having anxiety, because of the fact that I've experienced other people not listening to our threshold of pain or listening to what we would desire.

"I just wanted to make sure that I had someone who looked like me who understood what I was going through."

Stamkos scores twice, Lightning beat Rangers 2-1 in Game 6

By FRED GOODALL AP Sports Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — The Tampa Bay Lightning's bid for a three-peat is alive and well.

With captain Steven Stamkos leading the way, the two-time defending champions beat the New York Rangers 2-1 in Game 6 of the Eastern Conference final Saturday night, securing a berth in the Stanley Cup Final for the third straight year.

"It's going to be tough to get out of the moment and look back and realize what a special group we have here because there's still some games to be played," Stamkos said. "You're still not at the end of our goal, but in saying that this group is pretty amazing and pretty special."

Stamkos scored two goals and Andrei Vasilevskiy had 20 saves for the Lightning, who won the series 4-2 — winning four straight games after losing the first two on the road — and will face the Colorado Avalanche in the Cup final.

Game 1 is Wednesday night in Denver.

"It's probably not the greatest word to use, but I'm damn impressed by this group," coach Jon Cooper said.

"It's impressive what they've done. ... I'm just utterly impressed by what they do to win a hockey game," he added. "And the fact that they they have every excuse in the world to not win because nobody would fault them by saying hey, you won one, you won two and to come back and and go for a third. I'm impressed."

Stamkos put the Lightning ahead for good in the third period just 21 seconds after New York's Frank

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 54 of 57

Vatrano scored on the power play with the Tampa Bay captain in the penalty box for holding.

Nikita Kucherov and Ondrej Palat assisted on the winner with 6 1/2 minutes left, with the puck deflecting off Stamkos' knee into the net after Rangers goalie Igor Shesterkin stopped the initial shot.

Stamkos also scored on a wrist shot from the top of the right circle midway through the second period.

"I obviously was a little disappointed in myself for taking the penalty. ... It's easy to say now, but for some reason I wasn't as rattled as I usually am in those situations," Stamkos said. "I was just confident in our group that we would find a way, whether it was in regulation or was in overtime. We deserved to win the game. That was the feeling we had from puck drop."

The Lightning are the first team to make three consecutive appearances in the Cup final since Edmonton did it from 1983-85. They are trying to become the first to win three straight championships since the New York Islanders claimed four in a row from 1980-83.

The Rangers, down 3-2 in a series for the third straight round, were 5-0 in elimination games this post-season before Saturday night.

The only teams to win more elimination games in a single postseason were the 1975 New York Islanders (eight), 2014 Los Angeles Kings (seven) and 2003 Minnesota Wild (six).

"It's hard right now. But we played well, we battled hard, we had a chance to win all those games," Rangers coach Gerard Gallant said. "They found a way to get the big goal at the big time."

New York dropped three of the first four games before winning three straight elimination games to beat the Pittsburgh Penguins in the opening round. It lost the first two on the road at Carolina before rebounding to oust the Hurricanes in seven games to reach the East final.

It was a different story Saturday night, with the Lightning limiting New York's scoring opportunities while outshooting the Rangers 31-21.

Vasilevskiy went long stretches without being tested. He faced just seven shots in the opening period, six in the second and eight in the third.

Shesterkin, meanwhile, stopped 29 of 31 shots and made big save after big save to give New York a chance.

"I thought Igor was outstanding. He gave us a chance to win every night. We got outchanced in a lot of the games, but he was outstanding. He was our best player all year long and again in this series," Gallant said.

"Shesterkin was unbelievable. He made some unbelievable saves to keep them in it, but I think I just felt kind of a calming presence because of the group," Stamkos said. "It was just one of those nights where whether it was the next shift after, whether I scored or someone else scored, it was just a feeling that we were going to get it done."

NOTES: The Lightning played again without forward Brayden Point, who's missed 10 games since suffering a lower-body injury during Tampa Bay's Game 7 victory over Toronto in the first round. He was the NHL's leading goal scorer the previous two postseasons. ... Lightning defenseman Victor Hedman exited in the second period after appearing to be elbowed in the head by New York's Alexis Lafreniere. He returned at the start of the third period.

Renaissance synagogues being restored in Venice's ghetto

By CHRIS WARDE-JONES Associated Press

VENICE, Italy (AP) — Venice's Jewish ghetto is considered the first in Europe and one of the first in the world, and a new effort is underway to preserve its 16th-century synagogues for the Jews who have remained and tourists who pass through.

For nearly two years, restorers have been peeling away paint and discovering the original foundations of three of the ghetto's synagogues, which are considered the only Renaissance synagogues still in use, art historian David Landau said.

Landau is spearheading the fundraising effort to restore the synagogues and nearby buildings both for Venice's small Jewish community, which numbers around 450 people, and for tourists who can visit them

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 55 of 57

on a guided tour through the Jewish Museum of Venice.

"I was really deeply offended by the state of the synagogues," said Landau, a Renaissance specialist who bought a home in Venice 12 years ago. "I felt that the synagogues were in very bad condition. They had been altered beyond recognition over the centuries, and needed to be kind of cared for and loved."

He has secured about 5 million euros to date and expects workers can complete the restoration process by the end of 2023 if the rest of the funding comes through, although the original outstanding 4 million euros has now ballooned to 6 million euros because of soaring building costs.

Venice's ghetto dates from 1516, when the republic forced the growing numbers of Jews into the district where the old foundries, or "geti" as they were known, had been located. The area, which was locked down at night, became what is considered Europe's first ghetto and remains the hub of Venice's Jewish community in the Cannaregio area.

The first synagogue dates from 1528 and was built by German Ashkenazi Jews. Others followed and served different groups, including one for Spanish Sephardic Jews and one for Italian Jews.

None is visible from the street, as strict rules imposed by Venice's rulers didn't allow Jews to practice their faith openly. All the synagogues are hidden away on the top floors of seemingly normal buildings that on the lower levels held cramped living spaces for Jewish families.

The synagogues have remained operational continuously, except for the years of World War II during the German occupation.

The head of Venice's Jewish community, Dario Calimani, said the restoration project was necessary both to maintain the religious and cultural life of Venice's Jews today and to preserve the community's history.

"They are a testimony to the life that it was, to the history of our community, small community," he said.

Russian-owned successor of McDonald's opens in Moscow

By JIM HEINTZ Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Three months after McDonald's suspended operations in Russia, hundreds of people streamed into its famous former outlet on Moscow's Pushkin Square as the restaurant reopened Sunday under a Russian owner and a new name.

In March, McDonald's halted operations of its company-run restaurants in Russia. Although some run by franchisees stayed open, the action by the multinational fast-food chain was among the most visible responses by foreign companies to Russia sending troops into Ukraine.

Two months later, McDonald's decided to leave Russia altogether and sold its 850 restaurants to Alexander Govor, who held licenses for 25 franchises in Siberia.

Govor is moving fast to reopen the shuttered outlets. It wasn't until a couple of hours before the Pushkin Square restaurant opened that the Russian chain's new name was announced: Vkusno-i Tochka (Tasty-period).

The logo is different, but still evokes the golden arches: a circle and two yellow oblongs — representing a beef patty and french fries — configured into a stylized M.

Fifteen of the former McDonald's were set to reopen in Moscow on Sunday. Oleg Paroev, the chain's general director, said he aims to have 200 open by the end of the month.

As part of the sales deal, whose monetary terms were not announced, the new operation agreed to retain all 62,000 people employed by McDonald's prior to its exit.

The crowd at the Pushkin Square outlet, however sizable and lively, was no match for the turnout for the McDonald's opening in 1990, when people waited in line for hours. At that time, McDonald's had psychological and political resonance beyond hamburgers.

The opening was the first taste most Muscovites had of Western consumerism and service efficiency, as well as a sign the Soviet Union was slowly dropping its guard and allowing foreign culture into the country.

On Sunday, that earlier symbolism echoed through Sunday's reopening with a note of nostalgia.

"This is a historic place — the flagship of McDonald's," Govor told reporters. "I'm sure it will be the flagship for us."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 56 of 57

Inside, the restaurant resembled a fraternal twin of its former self. There were touchscreens for placing orders and counter workers wearing familiar polo-shirt uniforms.

"We're sure that our customers won't notice a difference between us," Paroev said. However, he said, the company will seek a new soft drinks supplier as it has limited stocks of Coca-Cola.

Today in History: June 13, Johnson nominates Marshall

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, June 13, the 164th day of 2022. There are 201 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 13, 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Solicitor-General Thurgood Marshall to become the first Black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

On this date:

In 1865, Nobel Prize-winning poet-playwright William Butler Yeats was born in Dublin, Ireland.

In 1942, a four-man Nazi sabotage team arrived on Long Island, New York, three days before a second four-man team landed in Florida. (All eight men were arrested after two members of the first group defected.) President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Office of Strategic Services and the Office of War Information.

In 1966, the Supreme Court ruled in *Miranda v. Arizona* that criminal suspects had to be informed of their constitutional right to consult with an attorney and to remain silent.

In 1971, The New York Times began publishing excerpts of the Pentagon Papers, a secret study of America's involvement in Vietnam from 1945 to 1967 that had been leaked to the paper by military analyst Daniel Ellsberg.

In 1977, James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., was recaptured following his escape three days earlier from a Tennessee prison.

In 1981, a scare occurred during a parade in London when a teenager fired six blank shots at Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1983, the U.S. space probe Pioneer 10, launched in 1972, became the first spacecraft to leave the solar system as it crossed the orbit of Neptune.

In 1996, the 81-day-old Freemen standoff ended as 16 remaining members of the anti-government group surrendered to the FBI and left their Montana ranch.

In 1997, a jury voted unanimously to give Timothy McVeigh the death penalty for his role in the Oklahoma City bombing. The Chicago Bulls captured their fifth NBA championship in seven years with a 90-86 victory over the Utah Jazz in game six.

In 2005, a jury in Santa Maria, California, acquitted Michael Jackson of molesting a 13-year-old cancer survivor at his Neverland ranch.

In 2016, a day after the Orlando, Florida, nightclub shooting rampage that claimed 49 victims, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton offered drastically different proposals for stemming the threat of terrorism and gun violence; Trump focused heavily on the nation's immigration system (even though the shooter was U.S. born) and redoubled his call for temporarily banning Muslims from the United States, while Clinton said that as president she would prioritize stopping "lone wolf" attackers and reiterated her call for banning assault weapons.

In 2020, Atlanta's police chief resigned, hours after the fatal police shooting of Rayshard Brooks; protests over the shooting grew turbulent, and the Wendy's restaurant at the scene of the shooting was gutted by flames.

Ten years ago: Federal prosecutors dropped all charges against former Democratic vice-presidential candidate John Edwards after his corruption trial ended the previous month in a deadlocked jury. Matt Cain pitched the 22nd perfect game in major league history and the first for the San Francisco Giants, beating the Houston Astros 10-0.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, June 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 341 ~ 57 of 57

Five years ago: A comatose Otto Warmbier (WARM'-beer), released by North Korea after more than 17 months in captivity, arrived in Cincinnati aboard a medevac flight; the 22-year-old college student, who had suffered severe brain damage, died six days later. Rolling Stone magazine agreed to pay \$1.65 million to settle a defamation lawsuit filed by a University of Virginia fraternity over a debunked story about a rape on campus.

One year ago: Israel's parliament narrowly approved a new coalition government, ending the historic 12-year rule of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and sending the polarizing leader into the opposition; Naftali Bennett, a former ally of Netanyahu, became prime minister after the 60-59 vote. Character actor Ned Beatty, whose films included "Deliverance," "Network" and "Superman," died at his Los Angeles home at 83. Novak Djokovic came all the way back after dropping the first two sets to beat Stefanos Tsitsipas in the French Open final for his 19th Grand Slam title. A Pekingese named Wasabi won best in show at the Westminster Kennel Club, notching a fifth-ever win for the toy breed. (Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the event was held outdoors in a New York suburb in June instead of at Madison Square Garden in February, and it was closed to the public.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Bob McGrath is 90. Actor Malcolm McDowell is 79. Former U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is 78. Singer Dennis Locorriere is 73. Actor Richard Thomas is 71. Actor Jonathan Hogan is 71. Actor Stellan Skarsgard is 71. Comedian Tim Allen is 69. North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper is 65. Actor Ally Sheedy is 60. TV anchor Hannah Storm is 60. Rock musician Paul De Lisle (deh-LYL') (Smash Mouth) is 59. Actor Lisa Vidal is 57. Singer David Gray is 54. R&B singer Deniece Pearson (Five Star) is 54. Rock musician Soren Rasted (Aqua) is 53. Actor Jamie Walters is 53. Singer-musician Rivers Cuomo (Weezer) is 52. Country singer Susan Haynes is 50. Actor Steve-O is 48. Country singer Jason Michael Carroll is 44. Actor Ethan Embry is 44. Actor Chris Evans is 41. Actor Sarah Schaub is 39. Singer Raz B is 37. Actor Kat Dennings is 36. Actor Ashley Olsen is 36. Actor Mary-Kate Olsen is 36. DJ/producer Gesaffelstein is 35. Actor Aaron Johnson is 32.