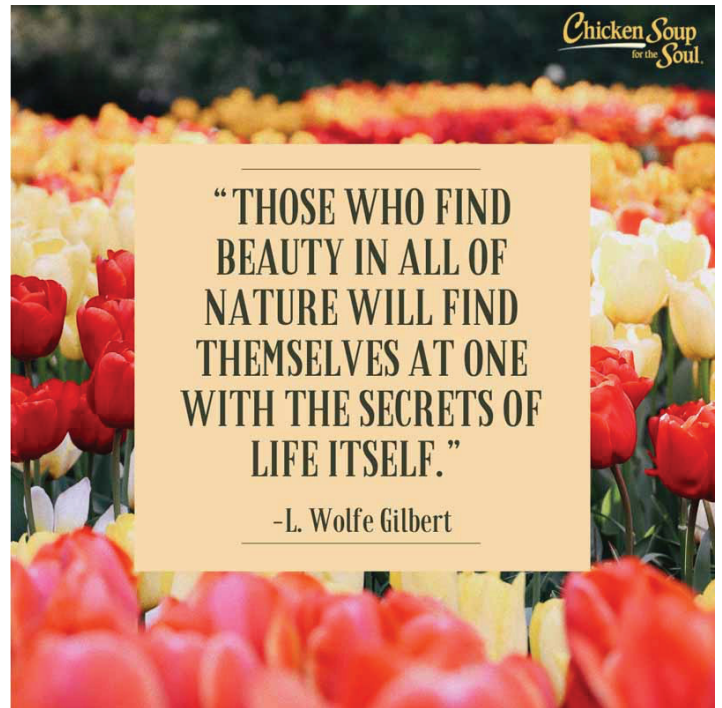


Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 1 of 72

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- Groton Jr. Teeners Takes Victory Over Aberdeen, lose second game](#)
- [2- With Pierce On The Mound, Groton Legion Shuts Out Webster](#)
- [6- That's Life/Tony Bender](#)
- [7- School Board Hand-outs](#)
- [16- Weather Pages](#)
- [21- Daily Devotional](#)
- [22- 2022 Community Events](#)
- [23- Subscription Form](#)
- [24- News from the Associated Press](#)



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.

Cancelled: U12 hosts Hannigan, DH
6 p.m.: T-Ball Scrimmage

June 15

Senior Menu: Chicken Tetrizzini, 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

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

June 18

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

10 a.m.: Firemen's Triathlon (Trap shoot, golf, bowling)

U12 at Webster

At 10:30 Clark vs Groton

At 12 Groton vs Webster

June 18-19

Jr. Legion at Milbank Tourney

Jr. Teeners at Milbank Tourney

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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

© 2022 Groton Daily Independent

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 2 of 72

Groton Jr. Teeners Takes Victory Over Aberdeen, lose second game

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U beat Aberdeen 7-3 on Monday in games played in Groton.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U notched three runs in the third inning. The big inning was thanks to a walk by Kellen Antonsen, a single by Carter Simon, and by Karter Moody.

Gavin Englund was the winning pitcher for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The righty lasted six innings, allowing seven hits and three runs while striking out eight.

PlayerD took the loss for Aberdeen. PlayerD went two innings, allowing two runs on one hit and striking out three.

Jarogoskie started the game for Aberdeen. The pitcher surrendered five runs on seven hits over two and two-thirds innings, striking out five

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U totaled eight hits. Simon, Karsten Flihs, and Jarrett Erdmann all had multiple hits for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. Erdmann, Flihs, and Simon each managed two hits to lead Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. Simon led Groton Jr. Teeners 14U with three stolen bases, as they ran wild on the base paths with ten stolen bases.

PlayerC went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Aberdeen in hits. Aberdeen was sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Glover had the most chances in the field with eight.

Groton Jr. Teeners lost its first game of the season in the second game to Aberdeen, 10-5. The game was tied at three after three innings before Aberdeen scored four runs in the fourth and three in the seventh to pull away for the win. Groton had five runs on 10 hits. McGannon and Groeblichhoff each had two hits for Groton.

With Pierce On The Mound, Groton Legion Shuts Out Webster

Pierce Kettering threw a gem on Monday for Groton Legion Post #39, allowing zero runs and besting Webster by a score of 13-0

Groton Legion Post #39 opened up scoring in the first inning, when Jackson Cogley singled on a 0-1 count, scoring two runs.

Groton Legion Post #39 notched three runs in the fifth inning. The offensive onslaught by Groton Legion Post #39 was led by Dillon Abeln, Cogley, and Cade Larson, who all drove in runs.

One bright spot for Webster was a single by Brent Bearman in the fourth inning.

Kettering was the winning pitcher for Groton Legion Post #39. The pitcher went five innings, allowing zero runs on one hit and striking out eight.

Carter Williams took the loss for Webster. The bulldog lasted two and two-thirds innings, allowing five hits and seven runs while striking out one.

Groton Legion Post #39 totaled eight hits. Kettering and Bradin Althoff each managed multiple hits for Groton Legion Post #39. Althoff and Kettering each managed two hits to lead Groton Legion Post #39. Groton Legion Post #39 was sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Larson had the most chances in the field with eight.

Bearman led Webster with one hit in two at bats.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 3 of 72

Aberdeen **3 - 7** Groton Jr. Teeners 14U

📍 Home 📅 Monday June 13, 2022

	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E
ABRD	0	0	1	0	1	1	3	7	0
GRTN	0	2	3	2	0	X	7	8	1

BATTING

Aberdeen	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Olson (SS)	3	1	1	0	0	1
PlayerC (CF)	3	0	2	0	0	0
Jarogoskie (P)	3	0	1	1	0	1
B Willems (1B)	3	0	0	0	0	1
Bahr (2B)	2	1	0	0	1	2
PlayerA	2	0	1	0	0	0
Herzig	2	0	1	0	0	1
Glover (LF, C)	3	0	0	1	0	1
A Graves (LF)	2	1	0	0	1	1
J Peterson	2	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	25	3	7	2	2	8

TB: Olson, J Peterson, PlayerA, Jarogoskie, PlayerC 2, Herzig, **SAC:** Herzig, **HBP:** PlayerA, **SB:** Olson, J Peterson, Jarogoskie, PlayerC 3, **LOB:** 8

PITCHING

Aberdeen	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Jarogoskie	2.2	7	5	5	2	5	0
PlayerD	2.0	1	2	2	4	3	0
Totals	5.0	8	7	7	6	9	0

L: PlayerD, **P-S:** Jarogoskie 72-40, PlayerD 49-23, **HBP:** Jarogoskie 2, **BF:** Jarogoskie 17, PlayerD 11

Groton Jr. Teeners	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
T McGannon (CF)	2	1	0	0	1	1
K Flihs (C)	3	1	2	0	0	0
J Erdmann (LF)	2	1	2	0	1	0
N Morris (SS)	2	0	0	1	1	2
C Simon (3B)	3	1	2	1	0	0
K Antonsen (2B)	1	1	0	1	1	0
K Moody (1B)	2	0	1	0	0	1
N Groeblinghoff	3	0	1	1	0	2
L Krause (RF)	1	1	0	0	1	1
R Jangula (RF)	1	0	0	0	0	1
G Kroll	1	1	0	0	1	1
Totals	21	7	8	4	6	9

3B: K Flihs, **TB:** K Moody, J Erdmann 2, K Flihs 4, N Groeblinghoff, C Simon 2, **HBP:** K Moody, K Antonsen, **SB:** K Moody 2, J Erdmann, K Antonsen 2, T McGannon, N Groeblinghoff, C Simon 3, **LOB:** 7

Groton Jr. Teeners	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
G Englund	6.0	7	3	2	2	8	0
Totals	6.0	7	3	2	2	8	0

W: G Englund, **P-S:** G Englund 97-62, **HBP:** G Englund, **BF:** G Englund 29

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 4 of 72

Aberdeen 10 - 5 Groton Jr. Teeners 14U

📍 Home 📅 Monday June 13, 2022

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
ABRD	0	2	1	4	3	10	8	1
GRTN	1	0	2	0	2	5	10	0

BATTING

Aberdeen	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Olson (C)	2	1	2	0	1	0
S Larson (RF)	3	1	2	1	1	1
Jarogoskie (1B)	4	1	1	2	0	0
B Willems	3	0	1	2	1	1
Herzig (CF)	2	1	1	1	0	1
PlayerC (SS)	2	0	1	0	0	1
Bahr (P)	1	2	0	1	2	0
Glover (3B)	2	1	0	0	1	1
Tobert (2B)	1	2	0	1	2	0
Peterson (LF)	1	1	0	0	1	1
Totals	21	10	8	8	9	6

TB: Jarogoskie, Olson 2, PlayerC, B Willems, Herzig, S Larson 2, **SF:** Herzig, **HBP:** Olson, PlayerC, Peterson, **SB:** Jarogoskie, Olson, PlayerC 3, Bahr 3, B Willems, Herzig, Tobert, Glover 2, **LOB:** 9

PITCHING

Aberdeen	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Bahr	5.0	10	5	4	4	3	0
Totals	5.0	10	5	4	4	3	0

P-S: Bahr 93-55, **HBP:** Bahr, **BF:** Bahr 24

Groton Jr. Teeners	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
T McGannon (3B,...)	3	2	2	0	0	0
J Erdmann (CF, P)	2	2	1	1	1	0
K Fliehs (2B, 3B)	2	1	1	1	1	0
N Morris (C)	2	0	1	1	1	1
N Groeblichhoff (...)	3	0	2	1	0	0
G Englund	2	0	1	0	0	0
K Moody	0	0	0	0	0	0
C Simon (P, 1B)	1	0	0	0	0	0
K Antonsen (SS)	1	0	1	0	1	0
G Kroll (LF)	2	0	0	0	0	2
R Jangula (RF)	1	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	19	5	10	4	4	3

TB: N Groeblichhoff 2, N Morris, K Antonsen, J Erdmann, R Jangula, T McGannon 2, G Englund, K Fliehs, **CS:** N Morris, K Moody, G Englund, **HBP:** R Jangula, **SB:** K Antonsen, J Erdmann 3, T McGannon 2, **LOB:** 4

Groton Jr. Te	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
C Simon	3.0	5	3	3	4	2	0
N Groeblich...	1.0	3	5	5	3	2	0
J Erdmann	1.0	0	2	2	2	2	0
Totals	5.0	8	10	10	9	6	0

P-S: N Groeblichhoff 38-19, J Erdmann 32-15, C Simon 48-25, **HBP:** J Erdmann 2, C Simon, **BF:** N Groeblichhoff 9, J Erdmann 7, C Simon 18

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 5 of 72

◀ Search LTE

5:49 AM

📶 97%



Mon, Jun 13

Groton Legion Pos... **13** FINAL **0** Webster

[🔄 Replay GameStream](#)

2B: B Althoff

TB: B Althoff 3, P Kettering 2, D Abeln 1, J Cogley 1, E Nehls 1, T Larson 1

SB: P Kettering 2, J Cogley, C Simon, T Larson

Recap	Plays							Box Score	Info		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E	
GRTN	2	3	2	3	3	X	X	13	8	0	
WBST	0	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	1	1	

PITCHING	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
P Kettering (W)	5.0	1	0	0	2	8
TEAM	5.0	1	0	0	2	8

HBP: P Kettering

Pitches-Strikes: P Kettering 74-47

Batters Faced: P Kettering 19

GROTON LEGION POST #39

LINEUP	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
P Kettering (P)	3	1	2	2	1	0
C Simon (2B)	3	1	0	0	1	1
B Althoff (1B)	3	3	2	1	1	0
T Larson	2	3	1	0	2	0
D Abeln (LF, 3B)	2	1	1	1	2	0
J Cogley (3B, SS)	3	0	1	4	1	0
C Larson (C)	1	0	0	1	3	1
R Groebl...hoff (SS)	1	0	0	0	0	0
D Heminger (LF)	0	1	0	0	1	0
K Antonsen (LF)	1	0	0	0	1	1
E Nehls (RF)	2	1	1	0	0	1
L Ring...berg (RF)	1	1	0	0	0	0
A Marzahn (CF)	1	1	0	0	2	0
TEAM	23	13	8	9	15	4

WEBSTER

LINEUP	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
J Schimmel (1B)	2	0	0	0	1	1
C Williams (P, SS)	2	0	0	0	0	0
I Lesnar (SS, P)	2	0	0	0	0	1

That's Life/Tony Bender

Robins fly

Writer's note: I stumbled across this column written when India headed off to college. Time flies. She's back and will be interning at a law office this year with law school on the horizon.

Mama Robin built a nest a scant six feet from the front door this year. Brave girl, that one, or perhaps just trusting. The azure eggs were visible just below eye level, and India and I watched the progression from broken shells to featherless, famished babies with gaping mouths, as their gaunt, overworked mother retrieved worms and bugs from the lawn. Almost overnight it seemed, the nest grew crowded by the fully-feathered fledglings.

"How are you doing?" friends have been asking lately when they see me.

"Well, she's off to college," I say. "I'm already walking around in my underwear, peeing with the door open and drinking from the milk carton. Hard telling what it will be like in a month." Then come the lines I've repeated like a lame haiku:

It's very quiet now...

Just Gus and Me and the Cat...

That's the way Life goes...

For the first time in a quarter century, I am alone. I used to be so good at it. Craved solitude. I moved from city to city, from one microphone to another, never looking back, friends and lovers lost in my wake. Then marriage, kids, light, darkness, divorce, and then light again.

It's been just India and me for a few years, now. Plus Gus the Wonder Pug and Squirrel the World's Grumpiest Cat. They both seem morose. Perhaps I'm just anthropomorphizing. Pugs naturally look sad and that cat... his bellicosity increases with his years. Feline nature or maybe he just wants the litter box changed.

I take Gus for a ride a couple times a week. This is what I've become—a pug chauffeur. I try to scratch his ears more often and tell him he's a good boy, although he really isn't all that good—a bit of a maniac, really, barking at everything that moves and some things that don't.

There are people in the guesthouse, but Gus snoozed through their late arrival, so this morning he went out to bark at their parked cars. He usually doesn't miss a thing. He has successfully defended this household from ax murderers disguised as UPS and FedEx drivers as well as suspicious tractors and butterflies with bad intent. And the wind. You can't trust the wind.

I took up gardening this year, possibly in a subconscious effort to keep occupied. Then again, maybe I just like flowers. With nearly a score of containers planted, I wavered on planting anything in the window boxes on India's old playhouse. A friend suggested I plant them for India with her choice of flowers. She chose marigolds, because she doesn't know much about flowers and it was the only thing that came to mind. Though they started small, they are in full bloom, pungent and vibrant, bursting from the boxes. As I water them and appreciate the blooms, it dawns on me that those marigolds really might be for me. A wise friend, indeed.

We text, we talk, we laugh, we sass and pretend it doesn't ache a little. Sadly, Gus doesn't really get that somehow that's "his India" on that FaceTime screen coming through that anemic speaker. But he cocks his head and tries to understand.

"Did you listen to the song?" India asked the other day. I hadn't. India and Dylan send me music often but I don't always listen right away. I didn't realize this one was an original composition—A Song For Home. Melancholy and sweet, guitar strings ringing in the key of something, it's wistful and hopeful, a metaphor for life's journey.

Was I leaving for you, for the fame and fortune?

Or just to spread my roots and grow...

Can I make a promise on the fastest comet?

I'll be home before too long...

It's been three weeks and 1,295 miles ago. When I got home from the airport, after two hours of windshield contemplation, before I faced the echoes inside, I glanced at the robin's nest. They'd flown.

© Tony Bender, 2018

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 7 of 72

Superintendent's Report to the Groton Area School District 06-6 Board of Education

June 13, 2022

Elementary Roof. Hub City Roofing is anticipating work to begin on the elementary roof in "late June or early July" and anticipates the work will take approximately two weeks to complete.

ARS Roofing Inspections. Architectural Roofing and Sheet Metal anticipates resumption of their inspection program in "late June or early July" after they've caught up from emergency roof work necessitated after the spring storms caused significant damage to eastern and southeastern South Dakota.

Summer Maintenance. Summer maintenance work is well underway. Three different crews have been working in the elementary, MS/HS Classrooms, and Arena Addition clearing rooms, cleaning carpets, furniture, windows, lights, etc. and performing maintenance in those areas. Some painting and hard floor waxing has begun as well. The arena floor work is scheduled to take place between June 27 and July 10.

Results from the SDHSAA Constitutional Amendment Votes. SDHSAA Constitutional Amendment #7 (Free/Reduced used for classification) received approval (65%) from South Dakota schools. This multiplier will be used for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 alignment period.

Staff Computers. The batch of computers ordered for teachers and staff for the 22-23 school year back in February have arrived. Mr. Helvig has begun working to prepare them for use. Thus far, these are the only machines we've received.

Staffing Update. [Handout]

Out-of-Office. I will be out of the office on staycation from June 15-20 and June 29-July 4.

Jury Duty. I have been selected for the jury duty pool for a six month period beginning on June 30.

Fall Pictures. School pictures next fall (October 6) will be with Tailfeather Photography from Webster, SD in place of the Lifetouch Pictures we've been using.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 8 of 72

Groton Area School District 06-6

FISCAL YEAR 2023 - PROJECTION

Updated 6/13/2022

Total Capital Outlay Expenditures Budget

\$2,191,475

	Item Total	Category Sub Ttl	FY 2022	Net Change
Elementary Budget				
Mathematics Consumable Curriculum	\$33,500	<i>Notes: 5 Years Envisions 2.0</i>		
Science Curriculum	\$10,000	<i>Science Fusion(2 Yrs)</i>		
KG Handwriting Curriculum	\$750			
Elementary Tables	\$7,500			
Elementary Equipment	\$10,500			
SubTotal		\$62,250	\$10,536	\$51,714
MS Budget				
Replacement Science Books	\$300			
MS Equipment	\$1,275			
SubTotal		\$1,575	\$3,500	-\$1,925
High School Budget				
New CTE Curriculum	\$18,000			
Student Desks (x25)	\$10,000			
HS Math Equipment (Calculators)	\$5,000			
High School Equipment	\$12,500			
SubTotal		\$45,500	\$10,000	\$35,500
JK/Northern High Tech				
Junior Kindergarten - Equipment	\$500			
Northern High Tech	\$4,000			
SubTotal		\$4,500	\$4,550	-\$50
SPED				
Special Education Equipment	\$2,500			
SubTotal		\$2,500	\$4,336	-\$1,836
ELL/Title/Nursing				
ELL - Books	\$550			
Nurse (AED Equipment)	\$3,000			
SubTotal		\$3,550	\$1,500	\$2,050
Library				
HS Library - Media/Equipment (<i>Laminator</i>)	\$7,000			
Elementary Library - Media/Equipment	\$4,500			
SubTotal		\$11,500	\$8,510	\$2,990
Technology				
Budget	\$252,355			
SubTotal		\$252,355	\$156,570	\$95,785
Administrative				

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 9 of 72

Groton Area School District 06-6

FISCAL YEAR 2023 - PROJECTION

Updated 6/13/2022

Equipment	\$1,500			
HS Office	\$200			
SubTotal		\$1,700	\$9,900	-\$8,200
Facilities, Acquisitions, Construction Carried from other worksheet		\$313,750	\$174,218	\$139,533
Care and Upkeep				
Vacuums (3)	\$1,800			
Fire Marshall Repairs	\$6,000			
Budget	\$15,000			
SubTotal		\$22,800	\$69,600	-\$46,800
Vehicle Service/Maintenance				
Used Vehicle Replacement	\$45,000			
Bus Budget - Mini Bus/Clean Diesel Bus	\$150,000			
SubTotal		\$45,000	\$120,000	-\$75,000
Debt Service Payments				
Managed Print Contract - A&B	\$20,400			
Laptop Lease Payments	\$57,500			
Capital Certificate	\$708,605	East Side Addition (Exp. FY24); Elementary Project		
SubTotal		\$786,505	\$745,643	\$40,862
Athletics				
Budget (Scale, VB Standards, Coaches Shir	\$18,500			
Wrestling Uniforms	\$5,040			
Home BBB	\$5,000			
SubTotal		\$28,540	\$38,500	-\$9,960
Music				
K-5 Music	\$2,100			
9-12 Music	\$9,150			
SubTotal		\$9,150	\$10,575	-\$1,425
Debate/OI, Other Co-Curricular				
Debate	\$300			
SubTotal		\$300	\$350	-\$50
Transfer to General Fund	\$600,000			
Subtotal		\$600,000	\$600,000	\$0
Totals		\$2,191,475	\$1,968,287	\$223,188

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 10 of 72

Principal's Report

MS/HS Building

Mrs. Sombke

June 13, 2022

- 1) **2021-2022 2nd semester SDHAA:** South Dakota High School Activities Association Academic Achievement Team Award Certificate areas of: Boys Basketball, Boys Basketball Cheerleaders, Boys Track and Field, Boys Wrestling, Girls Basketball, Girls Basketball Cheerleaders, Girls Golf, and Girls Track and Field.
- 2) **Summer vacation!** Students and teachers are home for the summer for a break from our regular academic, competitive, and performance schedule. We do continue to have athletic camps, individual and small group athletic training and ESY services continuing throughout the summer. Classrooms, lockers, hallways, and gym spaces are being cleaned and prepared for everyone to return. We are grateful for the hours spent cleaning, waxing, and scrubbing to get everything sparkling in time to welcome our students back next fall.
- 3) **Class scheduling/student registrations:** Student registrations are nearly complete and entered for the 2022-2023 school year. Students that have registered for Dual Credit courses should continue to check their email throughout the summer as the Board of Regents Universities and Technical Colleges will work to reach students via email first if needing additional information or to schedule an Accuplacer test.
- 4) **MS/HS Student Handbook:** Middle School/High School Student Handbook for school year 2022-2023. The MS/HS Student Handbook has been updated with next year's staff information, school calendar, and any course offerings changes. There were no recommended changes for the 2022-2023 school year. The handbook has been uploaded to the Datebook site and our delivery date for the 2022-2023 Student Handbooks is currently August 16th. All students in grades 6-8 receive a 8.5 x 11 inch agenda and all students in grades 9-12 receive a 5.5 x 8.5 inch agenda. Students and teachers will continue to use the student agendas to promote positive individual organizational skills for each student, and general class and school organization by utilizing the "student pass/hall pass" area found within each week to record student restroom use, hall passes, office passes, and written communication between parent and teacher in the "notes" section.

Broton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 11 of 72

SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION



804 N. Euclid, Suite 102 • P.O. Box 1217 • Pierre, South Dakota 57501
Telephone (605) 224-9261 • FAX (605) 224-9262 • www.sdhsaa.com

DR. DANIEL SWARTOS
Executive Director

To: High School Principal
From: Cindy Bresee, Administrative Assistant
Subject: ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT TEAM AWARD CERTIFICATES

The SDHSAA Academic Achievement Team Award program began during the 1996-1997 school year and is designed to recognize varsity athletic teams and fine arts groups for their academic excellence. The enclosed certificate(s) are to be a symbol of that achievement and should be viewed with pride for the school, teams, and students who have earned them.

The SDHSAA believes that high school students learn in two distinct ways: inside the classroom and outside the classroom on the stage and the athletic field. As a matter of fact the various studies which have been conducted indicate that athletic and fine arts activity participants tend to have higher GPA's than non-participating students.

The SDHSAA Academic Achievement Team Award program is designed to create a positive environment, as well as an incentive, to encourage school "teams" to have their members excel both in the classroom and the activity. This program can be used to motivate students towards academic excellence and to promote academic encouragement from all teammates.

Please find an appropriate location to display the enclosed Academic Achievement Team Award certificate(s) and congratulate the team members for their academic success.

Thank you!

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 12 of 72

2022-2023 Groton Area School District Staff

Administration

Schwan, Joe	Superintendent
Sombke, Kiersten	MS/HS Principal
Schwan, Brett	Elem. Principal
Weber, Mike	Business Manager
Peterson, Kristi	Asst Business Mgr

Elementary

Person	Grade
Johnson, Paula	PreSchool (NCSEC)
Brudvig, Ashley	Junior Kindergarten
Gibbs, Ann	Kindergarten
DeHoet, Lindsey	Kindergarten
Eichler, Emily	1st Grade
Milbrandt, Julie	1st Grade
Zoellner, Anne	2nd Grade
Dinger, Emily	2nd Grade
Smith, Missi	3rd Grade
Rowen, Heather	3rd Grade
Fjeldheim, Susan	4th Grade
Guthmiller, Joel	4th Grade/Drivers Ed
Lone, Janel	5th Grade
Hendrickson, Shelby	5th Grade
Weisenberger, Carrie	Special Education
Vogel, Dustin	Special Education
Erdmann, Julie	Special Education
Glodt, Scott	Elementary Music
Gerlach, Kyle	Elementary PE
Grieve, Lynette	Title I/Elementary PE
VanGerpen, Emily	K-12 School Counselor
Schuring, Alexa	Title I Math

MS/HS

Person	Subject
Carson, Jordan	Math
Bortnem, Jordyn	Special Education
Donley, Don	Industrial Tech
Glodt, Scott	Vocal
Fuhrman, Reilly	Special Education
Franken, Adam	Ag Ed
Gerlach, Kyle	PE/Health
Gonsoir, Kristen	Science
Hanten, Sarah	English
Harry, Janene	Art
Hawkins, Lance	MS Math/Science
Helvig, Aaron	Tech Coordinator
Hubsch, Becky	Business/Computers
OPEN	MS Reading/ELA/SS
Kjellsen, Greg	Math
Kjellsen, Jordan	Math
Kurth, Travis	Science/Health
Kurtz, Diane	MS/HS English
Pederson, Rachael	MS Reading/SS
Peterson, Todd	Special Education
Schwan, Jodi	Opportunity Coordinator
Thorson, Scott	Social Sc.
Tietz, Lindsey	FACS
VanGerpen, Emily	K-12 School Counselor
Wanner, Shaun	Social Sc./Drivers Ed
Kurtz, Sydney	Special Education
Yeigh, Desiree	MS Band

Secretaries

Wattier, Sue	Middle/High School
Homsombath, Alexandria	Office/Study Hall
Krueger, Heidi	Elementary

Nurse

Gustafson, Beth

Custodians

Person	Area
Nehls, Mike	Bldgs/Grounds Supervisor
Farmen, Butch	GHS Arena
Pigors, Tom	Elementary
Lea Wimmer	MS/HS
Flihs, Duane	HS Gym Area
Rita Kampa/Lois Krueger	MS/HS/Elementary
Claire Flihs	MS/HS

Cooks

Person	Position
Clocksene, Brandon	Director/Head Cook
Bartell, Karin	Asst. Cook/Baker
Johnson, Karen	
Kampa, Rita	
OPEN	
OPEN	
Tietz, Deb	

Aides

Person	Position
Bisbee, Amanda	Elementary SPED
Dolan, Kristen	ELL
OPEN	MS/HS SPED
Foertsch, Teri	Kindergarten Para
Groeblichhoff, Joni	Kindergarten Para
Hoffman, Jan	MS/HS SPED
Krueger, Jill	Elementary SPED
Lewandowski, Becky	PK/JK Para
OPEN	Elementary SPED
Lipp, Kami	RtI Para/Keyboarding
Mitchell, Jaimie	HS SPED
Schinkel, Jasmine	MS/HS SPED
Sippel, Lisa	Elementary SPED
Weber, Kim	OST Coordinator/SPED

Librarians

Person	Position
Madsen, Brenda	MS/HS Librarian
Dunker, Tasha	Elem. Librarian

Bus Drivers

Person	Area
Bahr, Damian	Trans. Manager
Bahr, Damian	Route #1; Claremont
Franken/Farmen	Route #2; Olson Addition
Guthmiller, Joel	Route #3; Conde/Ferney
Hjermstad, Randy	Route #4; Stratford
Donley, Joann	Route #5; Columbia
Tietz, Debbie	Route #6; Bristol/Andover
Donley, Don	Route #7; Bath

Area

Middle/High School
Office/Study Hall
Elementary

Extra-Curriculars

Athletic Director

Brian Dolan

Volleyball

Head - Chelsea Hanson
Asst. - Jenna Strom

8th - OPEN

7th - Reilly Furhman

Basketball Girls

Head - Matt Locke
Asst. - Trent Traphagen

8th - OPEN

7th - Lynette Grieve

Football

Head - Shaun Wanner
Asst. - Travis Kurth
Asst. - Seth Erickson
MS - Lance Hawkins
MS - Ryan Scepaniak

Basketball Boys

Head - Brian Dolan
Asst. - Kyle Gerlach
JH - Greg Kjellsen
JH - Travis Kurth

Wrestling

Head - Darin Zoellner
Asst. - Ryan Scepaniak

Soccer

Boys - OPEN
Girls - Chris Kucker

Track

Wanner, Shaun
Aaron Helvig
Lynette Grieve

JH Track

Jordan Kjellsen
Travis Kurth

Golf

Joel Guthmiller

Cheerleading

FB - Harry/Schinkel
BBB - Harry/Schinkel
GBB - Harry/Schinkel

Cross Country

Adam Franken

Yearbook

Kristi Peterson

Debate/OI

OPEN

Student Council

Sombke, Kiersten
Schwan, Jodi

DI

Julie Milbrandt
Joni Groeblichhoff

All-School Play

OPEN

Senior Class Advisor

B Madsen/D Kurtz

FFA Advisor

Adam Franken

FBLA Advisor

OPEN

FCCLA Advisor

Lindsey Tietz

Show Choir

OPEN

K-12 Vocal Music

Glodt, Scott

9-12 Instrumental

Desiree Yeigh

Beg./JH Instrumental

Desiree Yeigh

Assignment Change

New Staff

OPEN

Updated 6/13/2022

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 13 of 72

Groton Area School District 06-6

Capital Outlay Projection - Facilities, Acquisitions, Construction

Last Updated: 06/09/2022

Facilities, Acquisitions, Construction	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	Unassigned
FISCAL YEAR TOTAL	\$313,750	\$322,500	\$305,000	\$320,000	\$304,500	\$679,500

Elementary Roofing Replacement (Sections C/Library) - Pd \$35,500 in F)	\$51,500					
Elementary Landscaping	\$15,000					
Security Camera Additions - South Exterior, WR Room, Storage	\$7,500					
HS - 1957 Hallway Lighting Upgrades	\$4,500					
Replace Goal Posts - FB Field	\$5,750					
Repair/Replace Interior Elementary Doors (Restrooms/Gym)	\$15,000					
Replace Interior HS Doors (HS Cafeteria/Girls Gym)	\$5,000					
Replace Doors @ Old Gym Entrance (Interior/Exterior)	\$52,000					
Crow's Nest Replacement	\$80,000					
Siding/Roofing Custodial Maintenance Garage	\$12,500					
Replace Fulton Boiler - 1969 HS Addition	\$65,000					
Elementary Roofing Replacement (Section A/Lower Pod)	\$125,000					
Replace AO Smith Boilers - 1969 HS Addition	\$75,000					
Stage Renovations (Curtains, Rigging, Acoustical)	\$27,500					
Replace Old Gym Air Handling Units	\$70,000					
1957 English Classroom Renovation	\$25,000					
Football Field Grading			\$65,000			
Elementary Roofing Replacement (Sections B/JK&D/Upper Pod)			\$225,000			
Sidewalk Repairs/Replacement			\$15,000			
Replace Elementary Gym Floor				\$75,000		
Roofing - HS Gym (Pending Roofing Inspection)				\$60,000		
Unit Vent Replacements (Arena Addition)				\$75,000		
Replace 1969 Gymnasium Bleachers				\$75,000		
1969 Gymnasium Public Restroom Renovations				\$35,000		
Replace 1969 Gymnasium Flooring					\$100,000	
2009 Addition Carpeting					\$29,500	
Heat Pump Replacements (Geothermal System)					\$150,000	
Playground Equipment Upgrades					\$25,000	
Replace Tile Flooring - MS Science Room						\$18,000

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 14 of 72

Groton Area School District 06-6

Levy Projections

Updated 12/1/2021

Calendar Year	Property Valuation	Levy (in Dollars)	Max Levy (in Dollars)	Mil Levy	Net Change - Mil Levy	Max Levy - Actual Levy
CY2027	\$1,278,654,842	\$1,876,937	\$2,177,674	1.468	0.015	\$300,737
CY2026	\$1,266,817,511	\$1,840,135	\$2,147,792	1.453	0.015	\$307,657
CY2025	\$1,255,324,956	\$1,804,054	\$2,119,731	1.437	0.036	\$315,678
CY 2024	\$1,261,967,949	\$1,768,680	\$2,131,914	1.402	0.037	\$363,234
CY 2023	\$1,270,484,606	\$1,734,000	\$2,110,695	1.365	-0.006	\$376,695
CY 2022	\$1,239,760,237	\$1,700,000	\$2,127,258	1.371	0.036	\$427,258
CY 2021**	\$1,273,503,229	\$1,700,000	\$1,989,000.00	1.335	-0.468	
CY 2020	\$943,125,596	\$1,700,000	\$2,829,376.79	1.803	-0.015	
CY 2019	\$935,109,232	\$1,700,000	\$2,805,327.70	1.818	0.397	
CY 2018	\$1,055,437,503	\$1,500,000	\$3,166,312.51	1.421	0.611	
CY 2017	\$1,233,853,577	\$1,000,000	\$3,701,560.73	0.810	-0.114	
CY 2016	\$1,081,691,041	\$1,000,000	\$3,245,073.12	0.924		

**SDCL 13-16-7.2: Starting with taxes payable in 2021, a school district is limited to the maximum taxes allowed pursuant to 13-16-7 or three thousand four hundred dollars for each enrolled student as determined in the fall enrollment count set forth in 13-13-10.1 for the prior school year, whichever is less. For 2022 and subsequent years, the maximum amount for each enrolled student shall increase by the lesser of three percent or the index factor, as defined in 10-13-18.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 15 of 72

Groton Area School District 06-6

Fund Projections

Updated 6/13/2022

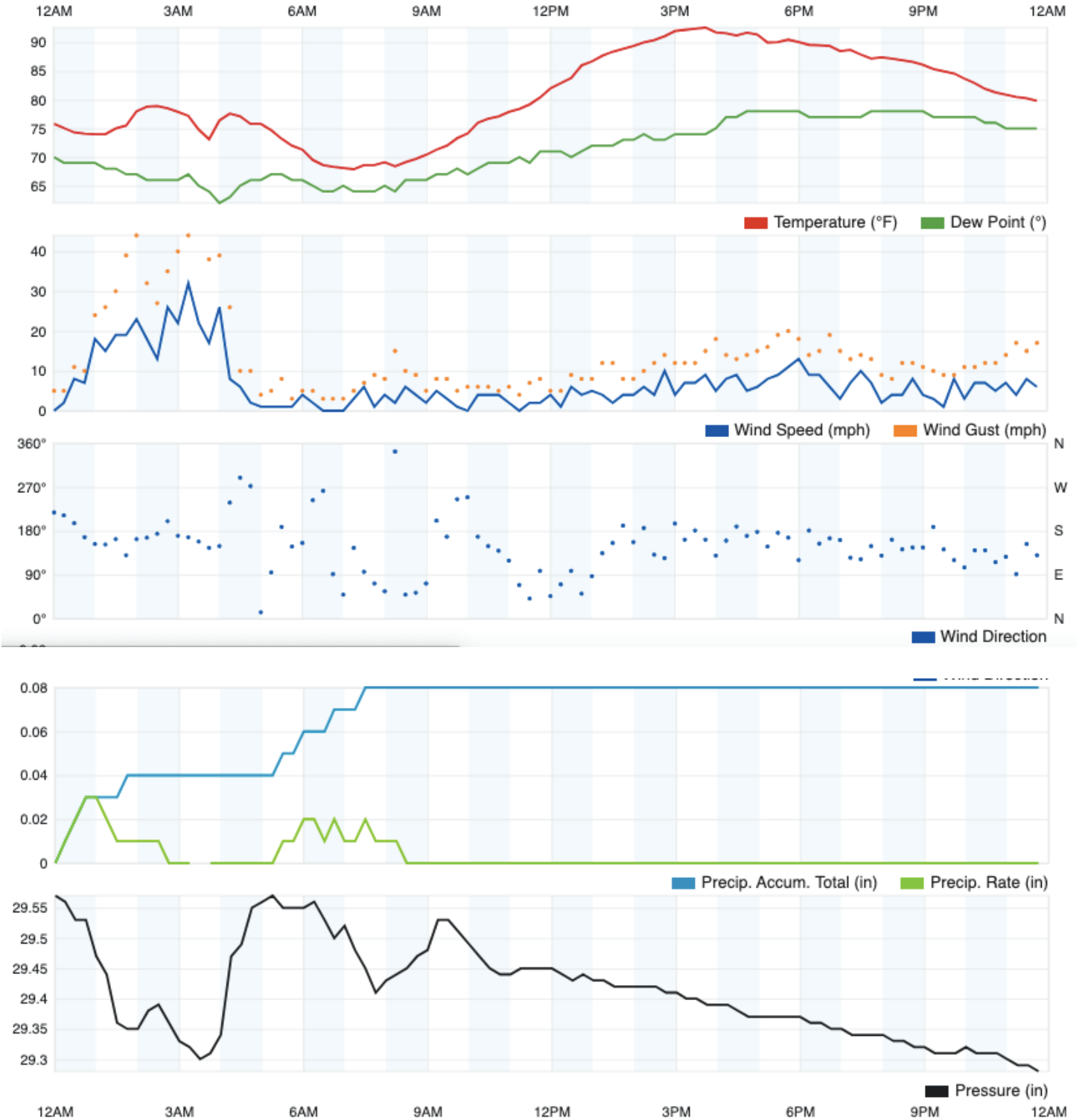
Fiscal Year		Local Tax Effort	Other Revenue Sources	Total Revenue	Maximum Levy	Budgeted Expenditures	Surplus/Deficit	Fund Balance
FY 2027	2027 Half	\$938,469						
	2026 Half	\$920,067						80.8%
		\$1,858,536		\$1,858,536	\$2,162,733	\$1,854,600	\$115,212	\$1,499,414
FY 2026	2026 Half	\$920,067						
	2025 Half	\$902,027						68.4%
		\$1,822,094		\$1,822,094	\$2,133,762	\$2,024,088	-\$201,994	\$1,384,202
FY 2025	2025 Half	\$902,027						
	2024 Half	\$884,340						82.3%
		\$1,786,367		\$1,786,367	\$2,125,822	\$1,927,515	-\$25,497	\$1,586,196
FY 2024	2024 Half	\$884,340						
	2023 Half	\$867,000						83.1%
		\$1,751,340		\$1,751,340	\$2,121,304	\$1,938,420	-\$70,775	\$1,611,693
FY 2023	2023 Half	\$867,000						
	2022 Half	\$850,000						76.8%
		\$1,717,000		\$1,717,000	\$2,118,976	\$2,191,475	-\$342,987	\$1,682,468
FY 2022	2022 Half	\$850,000						
	2021 Half	\$850,000						110.7%
		\$1,700,000		\$2,083,361	\$2,058,129	\$1,830,165	\$400,506	\$2,025,454
FY 2021 **	2021 Half	\$850,000						
	2020 Half	\$850,000						92.4%
		\$1,700,000		\$1,889,387	\$2,409,188	\$1,758,871	\$130,516	\$1,624,948
FY 2020	2020 Half	\$850,000						
	2019 Half	\$850,000						82.3%
		\$1,700,000		\$1,737,263	\$2,817,352	\$1,815,767	-\$78,504	\$1,494,432
FY 2019	2019 Half	\$850,000						
	2018 Half	\$750,000						
	Time - Bond Revenue (Elem. Project)	\$800,000						86.6%
		\$2,400,000		\$2,726,718	\$2,985,820	\$1,815,766	\$910,952	\$1,572,936
FY 2018	2018 Half	\$750,000						
	2017 Half	\$500,000						32.9%
		\$1,250,000		\$1,145,836	\$3,433,937	\$1,486,180	-\$340,344	\$489,434
FY 2017	2017 Half	\$500,000						
	2016 Half	\$500,000						77.3%
		\$1,000,000		\$1,040,009	\$3,473,317	\$1,039,464		\$803,014

Note: Maximum Transfer of Capital Outlay Funds to General Fund is 45% of CO revenues collected in FY.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 16 of 72

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 17 of 72

Today



Severe Thunderstorms then Mostly Sunny and Breezy

High: 78 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: 55 °F

Wednesday



Mostly Sunny then Sunny and Breezy

High: 77 °F

Wednesday Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 59 °F

Thursday



Sunny and Breezy

High: 82 °F

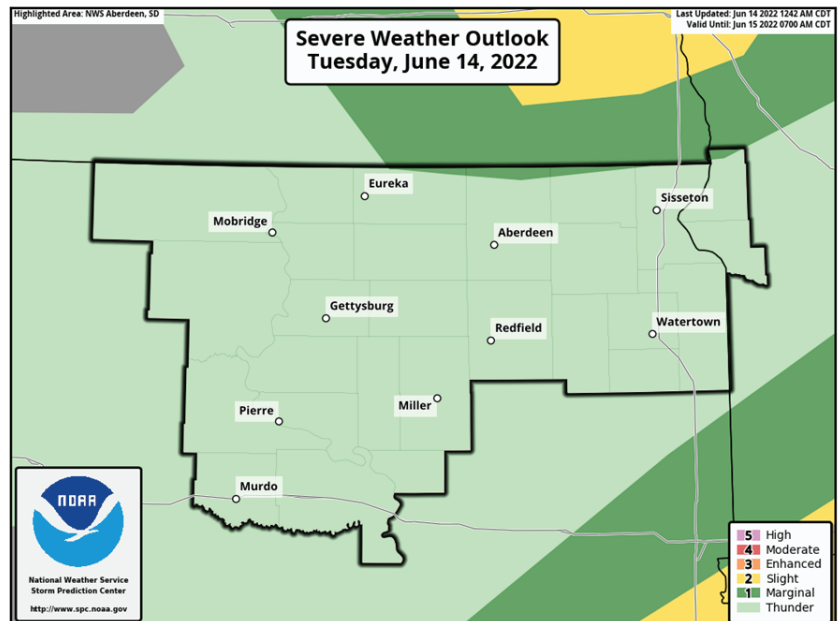


Severe Threat For Today

June 14, 2022
1:41 AM

Overview

- Early storms over central SD will exit into ND this morning.
- More development possible this afternoon.
- Highest severe threats are for Eastern ND and Minnesota this afternoon and evening.



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

A frontal boundary will move across the eastern Dakotas and into Minnesota today. Showers and thunderstorms are expected along this weather feature, especially over eastern North Dakota, and parts of Minnesota this afternoon and evening. #sdwx mnwx

Broton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 18 of 72



Next Several Days High Temperatures

June 14, 2022
2:15 AM

Today

Chance of Storms, Highs 66-89°

Wednesday

A few showers east, Highs 66-82°

Thursday

Dry and turning warmer. Highs 77-88°

Outlook for Sat/Sun

*Turning **HOT**. Highs pushing 100°*



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 19 of 72

Today in Weather History

June 14, 1970: An estimated F3 tornado moved northeast from just southeast of Mound City. Barns and sheds were said to have been blown away on three farms.

June 14, 1985: A thunderstorm produced golf ball size hail in the Castlewood area causing considerable damage to grain, corn, soybeans, and gardens. Some areas just south of Castlewood had hail piled up to six inches deep. Leaves were stripped from several trees. Wind gusts to 60 mph accompanied the hail.

Another thunderstorm produced high winds and damaging hail in Grant and Roberts Counties. North of Milbank along both sides of Highway 15, crops incurred considerable damage. An area 17 miles northeast of Sisseton into Browns Valley, to Mud Lake, saw crop damage from golf ball size hail.

June 14, 2009: An upper-level disturbance combined with a warm front and very unstable air brought severe thunderstorms to parts of central and north-central South Dakota. Hail up to the size of golf balls, flash flooding, along with several tornadoes occurred with these storms. Heavy rain caused flash flooding on the Moreau River with the bridge on Route 14 being overtopped. The bridge had to be closed west of Green Grass. A basement was also flooded three miles east of Green Grass along with several roads in the area in Dewey Country. A tornado touched down west of Hayes in Stanley County and traveled almost a mile before lifting. No damage occurred. A second tornado touched down east of Hayes with no damage occurring.

1903 - The Heppner Disaster occurred in Oregon. A cloudburst in the hills sent a flood down Willow Creek, and a twenty foot wall of water swept away a third of the town in minutes, killing 236 residents and causing 100 million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1961 - The temperature in Downtown San Francisco, CA, soared to 106 degrees to establish an all-time record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thirty-two cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. The high of 97 degrees at Flint, MI, tied their record for June, and the high of 101 at Milwaukee WI marked their first 100 degree reading in 32 years. Thunderstorms brought much needed rains to South Texas, drenching McAllen with 3.2 inches in one hour. A thunderstorm soaked the town of Uncertain with 2.3 inches of rain in one hour. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thirty cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from the Central Gulf States to the Middle Atlantic Coast Region during the day and into the night. There were 62 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Thunderstorm winds caused 28 million dollars damage in Montgomery County MD. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 20 of 72

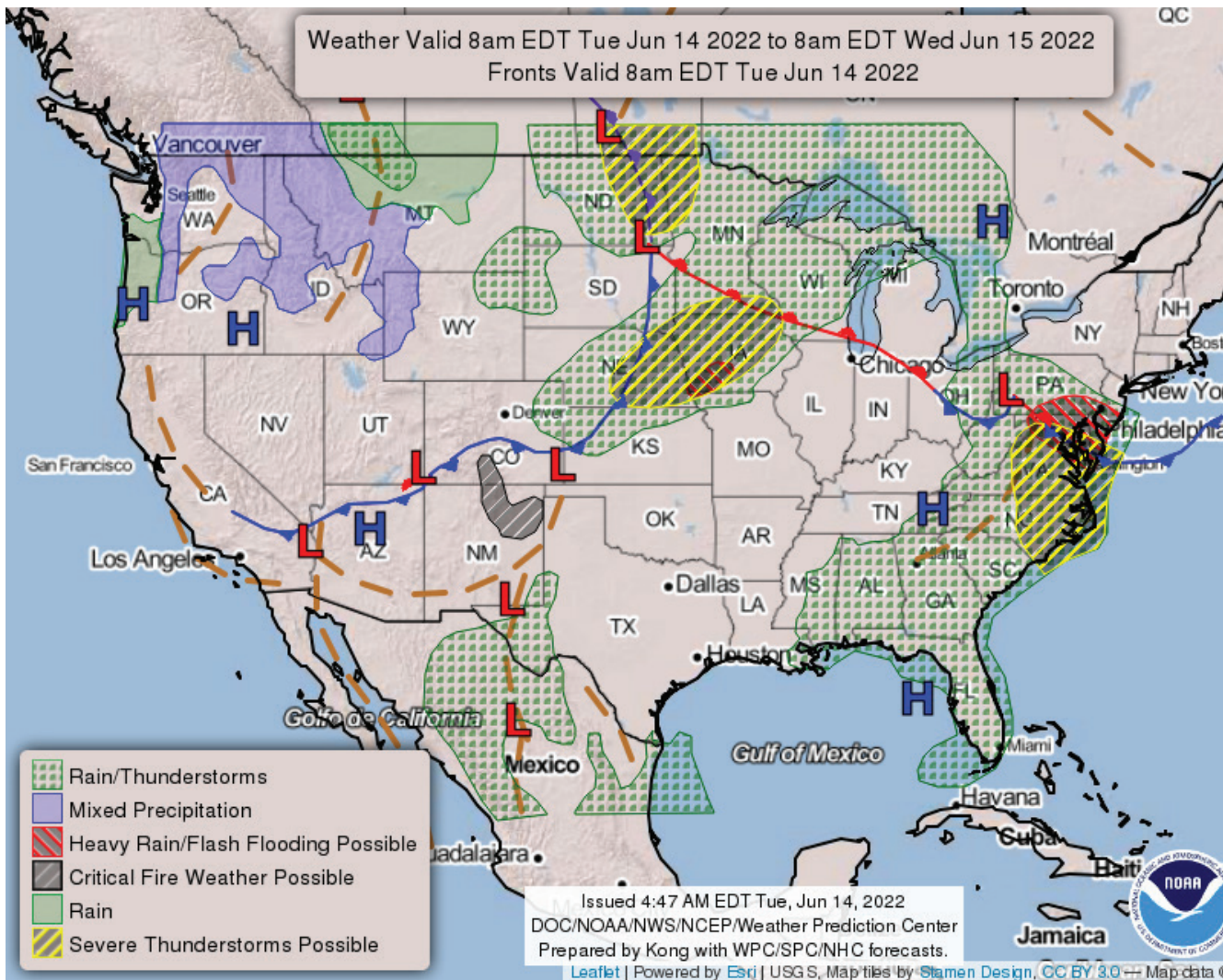
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 93 °F at 3:36 PM
Low Temp: 68 °F at 7:12 AM
Wind: 46 mph at 3:02 AM
Precip: 0.08

Day length: 15 hours, 42 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 99 in 1933
Record Low: 34 in 1969
Average High: 80°F
Average Low: 55°F
Average Precip in June.: 1.65
Precip to date in June.: 0.10
Average Precip to date: 8.90
Precip Year to Date: 11.26
Sunset Tonight: 9:24:03 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:41:24 AM



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 21 of 72



Delighting God!

The word "delight" is often a disarming word. Why? What might delight me would not delight you. It's a word that is in one sense personal, but in another way, universal. It always implies that something has happened to bring joy or satisfaction to another. Or, when used in the Bible, it brings great pleasure to God.

The Psalmist wrote: "The Lord takes great delight in His people." Not all people or certain people or educated people or even wise people. He only takes delight in His people. Notice, also, that it is more than mere delight, it is a great delight.

So the question we must ask ourselves is this: "Who are His people?" Does God have favorites? Are there some people whom God loves more than others? Can anything be done to become one of His people that bring Him great delight? How can we get into that "inner circle" who are recognized as "His people?"

When this verse was written, however, "His people" were those who were in a covenant relationship with Him. The verses that precede this verse describe people who, in particular, are praising the Lord. They are singing and dancing and making music by playing harps and tambourines - all signs of joyful worship to their God.

However, today we know that we are "saved by faith" through the New Covenant that He established through His Son. Faith in Christ is the first step if we want to become one of "His" people and enter into his Kingdom. To do so, we must accept His Son as our Savior.

Worship signifies humility – bowing down before God our Creator and Lord. Only humble people are willing to accept Christ and worship the Lord. His people are humble people.

Prayer: Lord, true worship means that we bow down before You - and only You - in humility and surrender. Humbly we bow and seek Your mercy. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Bible Verse: The Lord takes great delight in His people Psalm 149:4a

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 22 of 72

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

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 23 of 72

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: 247,000,000

Powerball

02-27-42-44-51, Powerball: 25, Power Play: 2

(two, twenty-seven, forty-two, forty-four, fifty-one; Powerball: twenty-five; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$258,000,000

Rapid City hotel owners sued by relative over media post

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The owners of Rapid City hotel are facing a lawsuit over a social media post by one of them that promised to ban Native Americans from the property.

The lawsuit comes from a shareholder who happens to be a relative of the family that owns the Gateway Hotel.

Judson Uhre recently filed a lawsuit in Pennington County against his mother, Connie Uhre, and his brothers, Nick and Chad Uhre, as well as the company that operates the hotel, Retsel Corporation.

Judson is alleging a breach of fiduciary duty, shareholder oppression and interference in the hotel's operation, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Connie Uhre, Retsel's president, garnered widespread attention last spring when she said on social media that she would no longer allow American Indians on the property following a fatal shooting at the hotel involving two teenagers which police said were Native American.

Amid protests, the hotel shut down for about a month. After reopening, Connie Uhre was arrested May 31 for allegedly spraying a cleaning product at demonstrators outside the hotel. The demonstrators were members of the NDN Collective, an Indigenous-led activist organization.

"Connie Uhre had a duty of care to ensure that she conducts herself in a manner not prejudicial to the business of the corporation, however, she went ahead and made a racially charged rant which was posted on a website with wide coverage and this led to financial loss of clients for the hotel as well as the damage to the hotel's reputation," Judson Uhre said in his lawsuit.

Judson's filing seeks any and all damages due as a result of his family's action.

Connie, Nick and Chad Uhre did not immediately return a phone message for comment.

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 con-

Broton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 25 of 72

tributions. 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.

Russians control 80% of contested city in eastern Ukraine

By YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

LVIV, Ukraine (AP) — Sievierodonetsk, the main focus of the fighting in eastern Ukraine in recent weeks, isn't yet blocked off by Russian troops even though they control about 80% of the city and have destroyed all three bridges leading out of it, an official said Tuesday.

"There is still an opportunity for the evacuation of the wounded, communication with the Ukrainian military and local residents," Luhansk regional governor Serhiy Haidai told The Associated Press by phone.

He acknowledged that Ukrainian forces have been pushed out to the industrial outskirts of the city because of "the scorched earth method and heavy artillery the Russians are using."

About 12,000 people remain in Sievierodonetsk, a city with a pre-war population of 100,000. More than 500 civilians are sheltering in the Azot chemical plant, which is also being relentlessly pounded by the Russians, according to Haidai.

In all, a total of 70 civilians have been evacuated from the Luhansk region over the past 24 hours, the governor said.

Two people were killed and another wounded in the Luhansk region, according to Ukrainian authorities.

MORE STORIES ON THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR:

- Ukrainians use humor to cope with the trauma of war
- German leader is coy about plans to visit Ukraine
- US State Department officials meet with Griner's WNBA team

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS:

Ukraine says that its air defense system shot down two Russian cruise missiles targeting the Odesa region. Serhiy Bratchuk, spokesman for the Odesa regional military administration, thanked the country's air defense forces for striking down "two enemy" cruise missiles.

There was no independent confirmation and it was not clear if any missiles hit their targets.

Reports of overnight shelling came from other Ukrainian regions as well, with five people were wounded in the Kharkiv region.

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.

Refugees in Rwanda warn of challenges for arrivals from UK

By IGNATIUS SSUUNA Associated Press

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — As Britain plans to send its first group of asylum-seekers to Rwanda on Tuesday amid outcries and legal challenges, some who came to this East African country under earlier arrangements tell The Associated Press the new arrivals can expect a difficult time ahead.

"Sometimes I play football and in the evening I drink because I have nothing to do," said Faisal, a 20-year-old from Ethiopia who was relocated to Rwanda from Libya in 2019 in the first group of refugees resettled under a deal with the United Nations. "I pray daily to God that I leave this place."

Giving only his first name out of fear of retaliation, he remains at the Gashora center built to house refugees who had languished in Libya while trying to reach Europe. Gashora is called a transit center, but some like Faisal see nowhere to go.

A British court on Monday refused to stop the government from deporting asylum-seekers to Rwanda despite arguments by rights advocates that the planned flights would undermine the "basic dignity" of people escaping war and oppression. The U.K. government's deportation plan has been widely criticized, including by Prince Charles, according to newspaper reports.

Rwanda is one of the most densely populated countries in the world and still among the least developed despite its focus on modernizing since the country's 1994 genocide. The migrants who sought better lives in Britain are expected to find fewer chances to pursue their dreams here, even as Rwandan officials describe their country as having a proud history of welcoming those in need.

One of those who has found a foothold is Urubel Tesfaye, a 22-year-old from Ethiopia who is happy he found a part-time job in a bakery in Rwanda's capital, Kigali. But his friends speak of moving on to Canada or the Netherlands.

"They have a disease in the head and cannot settle here," he said of their determination to move.

Hundreds of people sent previously to Rwanda under the deal with the U.N. have since been resettled in third countries, according to the U.N. refugee agency. But those sent to Rwanda under the deal with Britain must apply for asylum in Rwanda.

Rwandan President Paul Kagame told diplomats in Kigali after the agreement with Britain was signed in April that his country and the U.K. aren't engaged in buying and selling people, but instead trying to solve a global migration problem.

British Home Secretary Priti Patel said at the time that "access to the U.K.'s asylum system must be based on need, not on the ability to pay people smugglers."

Rwandan authorities have said the agreement would initially last for five years, with the British government paying 120 million pounds (\$158 million) upfront to pay for housing and integrating the asylum-seekers. Britain is expected to pay more as Rwanda accepts more migrants, although the exact number of people the U.K. is expected to send isn't known.

Those set to arrive under Rwanda's new agreement with Britain will be housed in shelters around Kigali with features like private rooms, televisions and a swimming pool. At one, the Hope Hostel, a security

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 27 of 72

guard patrols outside, and clocks in the lobby show the times in London and Paris.

"This is not a prison," manager Bakinahe Ismail said.

But the Gashora center for previous arrivals in a rural area outside the capital offers more basic shared living facilities instead.

"The U.K. government, my message to them is that human beings are human beings. You cannot tell them 'Go and stay here' or 'Go and do this or that.' No. Because if they feel better in the U.K., then the U.K. is better for them," said Peter Nyuoni, a refugee from South Sudan.

"There is nothing for me to want to stay here," he said.

Even those who came straight to Rwanda to escape troubles at home say the country, while peaceful, isn't easy.

"When you are not employed, you cannot survive here," said Kelly Nimubona, a refugee from neighboring Burundi. "We cannot afford to eat twice a day. There is no chance to get a job or do vending on the street." But he described Rwanda as an oasis of order in the region.

Sensitivities around the arrival of the first asylum-seekers from Britain are so high that Rwandan officials are barring media from interviewing the new arrivals.

"Maybe later when they have settled," said Claude Twishime, spokesman for the ministry of emergency management, which will take charge of their care.

Rwanda is already home to more than 130,000 refugees and migrants from other African nations and countries such as Pakistan, the government has said.

The prospect of taking in more is criticized by some in Rwanda. Opposition leader Victoire Ingabire has said the government instead should focus on the internal political and social issues that push some Rwandans to become refugees elsewhere.

For years, human rights groups have accused Rwanda's government of cracking down on perceived dissent and keeping tight control on many aspects of life, from jailing critics to keeping homeless people off the streets of Kigali. The government denies it.

Such tensions are expected to be just under the surface this month when Rwanda hosts the Commonwealth heads of government summit. Britain will be central there as it continues to face questions about its deal with Rwanda.

Some Rwandans said the local economy isn't ready to handle the people arriving from Britain.

"Look, many people are unemployed here," said Rashid Rutazigwa, a mechanic in the capital. He said he didn't see many opportunities even for people with skills and training.

"But if the government promises to pay salaries to (the migrants), then it will be fine," he added.

Election 2022: Nevada GOP contest crucial to Senate control

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and KEN RITTER Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Adam Laxalt is one of Nevada's most prominent Republicans, someone who has already won statewide office and attracted support from both former President Donald Trump and Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell.

Yet in the final weeks before Tuesday's U.S. Senate primary, Nevada's former attorney general has faced a surprisingly spirited challenge from Sam Brown. A retired Army captain and Purple Heart recipient, Brown has appeared before swelling crowds drawn to his profile as a political outsider. He bolstered his campaign with strong fundraising numbers, particularly among small-dollar donors who often represent the party's grassroots.

Regardless of the outcome, Brown's late-stage inroads could signal a restlessness among the GOP base and interest in sending political newcomers to Washington, a sentiment Trump himself rode to the White House six years ago. The ultimate winner will go on to face Democratic Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto in what may be the GOP's best opportunity to flip a Senate seat and regain control of the chamber.

Despite the intrigue surrounding the race, many Republicans still see Laxalt as best positioned win the nomination, in no small part because of Trump's backing.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 28 of 72

"President Trump is the most popular Republican official in America by a long shot," said Corry Bliss, a Republican strategist who works on campaigns around the U.S. "If you have his endorsement and you have resources to advertise that, you should win."

Republicans in Nevada are also choosing a nominee to challenge Democratic Gov. Steve Sisolak. Elsewhere, Republicans in South Carolina are weighing whether to support two U.S. House members who have crossed Trump. And two longtime rivals in Maine are poised to advance to what will likely be one of the most competitive governor's races in the U.S. this fall.

Still, Nevada's Senate race is the highest-profile contest Tuesday.

In a final push in the days leading up to the primary, Laxalt held a telephone rally with Trump and campaigned in Nevada with his son Donald Trump Jr. and his former acting director of national intelligence Richard Grenell, a Trump loyalist.

Laxalt is well-known in the state for having served for four years as Nevada's attorney general and campaigned unsuccessfully for governor in 2018. He's also the grandson of former U.S. Sen. Paul Laxalt.

And perhaps most importantly in GOP circles, he's got close ties to the two Florida men seen as the party's most likely choices for 2024 presidential nominee: Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who was Laxalt's roommate in the Navy and joined him at an April rally in Las Vegas.

Laxalt worked on Trump's reelection campaign and promoted his lies about election fraud in the state after the 2020 election, including spearheading legal challenges to the vote-counting process. Both Trump and DeSantis appeared in recent campaign ads for Laxalt, describing him as they look into the camera as someone who can be trusted in a fight to "save" the country.

But the party's anti-establishment base has muscled behind Brown, who was badly burned by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan and has highlighted his personal story in his outsider crusade.

"I wasn't born into power," Brown declared in a recent campaign ad in which he recounted how he nearly died in Afghanistan. He then smiles, saying, "It turns out I'm hard to kill."

Brown, to the surprise of many in the state, won the endorsement of the Nevada Republican Party at a convention vote in late April and a straw poll of the Las Vegas-area GOP at a May gathering. Recent polls have shown him closing in on Laxalt, though the state, with a transient population and many late-shift workers due to the state's tourism and casino industry, is considered fickle for pollsters.

Though Laxalt is still considered the favorite to win, both candidates are expected to have a similar chance in November at defeating Cortez Masto, who is expected to handily win her party's endorsement over several little-known competitors.

"I imagine that Laxalt would be a stronger candidate in the general than Brown, but I don't think it's a substantial difference," said Kenneth Miller, an assistant professor of political science at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

That's because Cortez Masto, the first Latina elected to the Senate and successor of the late Sen. Harry Reid, is considered one of the most vulnerable Democrats running for reelection this year.

Democrats broadly are facing headwinds this year, burdened by an unpopular president and rising costs. In Nevada, high prices for gas are acutely felt by residents of Las Vegas' sprawling suburbs or those commuting from far-flung rural areas.

Those same factors could imperil the reelection of Sisolak, whose Republican challenger will emerge from Tuesday's primary.

In the Nevada governor's race, Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo is considered the favorite in a crowded field and has earned the coveted endorsement from Trump.

The former president notably snubbed another Republican candidate in the race, former U.S. Sen. Dean Heller. Heller was once a critic of Trump and stalled a GOP health care plan, earning Heller a public scolding from the then-president. But Heller eventually embraced Trump and yoked his 2018 reelection campaign to the man. Heller lost, and Trump blamed it on the senator having once been "really hostile" to him.

Also challenging Lombardo is Joey Gilbert, a northern Nevada lawyer and former professional boxer who was outside the U.S. Capitol when it was stormed on Jan. 6, 2021. Like Brown in the Senate race,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 29 of 72

Gilbert has picked up support from the party's base.

Trump's false claims of fraud in the 2020 election are laced throughout some of Tuesday's contests, including what's normally a little-watched race for Nevada secretary of state. Republican Barbara Cegavske, who was censured by the Nevada GOP for declaring there was no fraud and defending the results as accurate, is term-limited. A crowded field of Republicans who have embraced "election integrity" concerns to varying degree are vying to replace her.

In South Carolina, two Republicans in the U.S. House who've drawn Trump's displeasure are facing challengers solicited by the former president.

U.S. Rep. Nancy Mace, who is running in the state's swingy 1st Congressional District, is being challenged by former state lawmaker Katie Arrington. She has criticized Mace for having "turned her back" on Trump for criticizing his role in the Jan. 6 insurrection. Mace has still sought to demonstrate support for him and even made a video in front of Trump Tower in New York.

In South Carolina's 7th Congressional District, Trump recruited a challenger for U.S. Rep. Tom Rice, who was among 10 House Republicans to support Trump's second impeachment. Trump is backing Rice's top challenger, state Rep. Russell Fry.

South Carolina also has five Democrats, including former U.S. Rep. Joe Cunningham, vying to win their party's nomination for governor. The winner will take on Republican Gov. Henry McMaster, who is expected to easily defeat two GOP rivals.

In Maine, the primary will be similarly easy for the one Republican and one Democrat running. But it will mark the official start of a fierce general election race between Democratic incumbent Janet Mills and former two-term Republican Gov. Paul LePage, who was known nationally for making vulgar remarks and declared himself to be "Trump before there was Trump."

Like Trump, LePage moved to Florida after leaving office, but moved back in 2020 and decided to run for a third-term.

Elections are also being held Tuesday in North Dakota, but Republican U.S. Sen. John Hoeven is expected to easily win his primary.

Victim of pandemic, Hong Kong floating restaurant towed away

By KATIE TAM and ZEN SOO Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — A landmark floating restaurant that fed Cantonese cuisine and seafood to Queen Elizabeth II, Tom Cruise and millions of other diners was towed from the Hong Kong harborfront Tuesday after being closed by the pandemic.

The parent company of Jumbo Floating Restaurant couldn't find a new owner and lacked funds to maintain it after months of COVID-19 restrictions.

The massive floating restaurant designed like a Chinese imperial palace on Aberdeen Harbour was known for its Cantonese cuisine and seafood dishes. It received over 30 million guests since its establishment in 1976.

But Jumbo Floating Restaurant was forced to close in 2020 due to the pandemic, and all staff were laid off. Parent company Aberdeen Restaurant Enterprises said it had become a financial burden to shareholders, as millions of Hong Kong dollars were spent on inspection and maintenance of the floating restaurant every year even though the restaurant was not in operation.

"We do not foresee that (Jumbo Floating Restaurant) can resume business in the immediate future," the company said. It said potential deals to keep the restaurant open were thwarted by the high operating costs.

Tugboats towed the restaurant away Tuesday but it wasn't clear where it will berth next. The company planned to move it to a lower-cost site where maintenance could still be conducted.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam had previously rejected suggestions to bail out the restaurant, despite calls from lawmakers to preserve the iconic landmark.

Lam said last month that the government had no plans to invest taxpayers' money into the restaurant

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 30 of 72

as the government was “not good” at running such premises, despite calls from lawmakers to preserve the restaurant.

Some Hong Kong residents recalled the heyday of Jumbo Kingdom, and expressed disappointment in seeing the restaurant go. It was famed for its lavish banquet meals, with dishes such as roasted suckling pig, lobster and double-boiled bird’s nest, a Chinese delicacy.

Wong Chi-wah, a boat operator in Aberdeen Harbour, said that in the glory days of the Jumbo Kingdom in the 1990s, flocks of Japanese tourists would visit the restaurants.

“The streets were full of parked vehicles as visitors arrived in big groups,” he said.

Encore Sin, 71, said Hong Kong was losing something unique.

“If the restaurant leaves today, there is definitely a sense of loss, not just for people who live around this area but for the whole of Hong Kong,” said Sin.

“Over the past few decades, I’ve been to many places around the world to take photographs, but where else in the world are there such floating restaurants? I don’t think there are any left.”

War isn’t funny but humor helps Ukrainians cope with trauma

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Because he’ll shortly be deployed as a soldier on the battlefields of Ukraine, Serhiy Lipko and Anastasia Zukhvala chose to marry first, like a growing number of couples being torn asunder by war with Russia.

Like others, their nuptials were rushed and smaller than they would have been during peacetime, with just a few dozen close friends and family. She wore a simple crown of blue flowers in her hair. And then, because laughter can be medicinal and because Lipko was building a career as a comic before the defense of his country called, they headed to a stand-up comedy club in Ukraine’s capital, Kyiv.

There, with his new wife watching from the wings, he took the stage in olive-green fatigues and soon had the crowd in stitches with close-to-the-bone humor about army and married life. He joked that military training with NATO instructors had been a great opportunity for him to practice his English, and how nervous he’d been about handling expensive military gear, for fear of breaking it.

The war isn’t remotely funny, but Ukrainians are learning to laugh about the awfulness of it all. Not necessarily because they want to, but because they have to — to stay sane in the brutality that has killed tens of thousands of people, is upending Ukraine, millions of lives and the world order as it rages on front lines in the east and south of the country.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his troops, especially dead and wounded ones, are favorite targets of dark Ukrainian wartime humor. But there are red lines: Ukrainian dead aren’t laughed about and the grimmest battles, among them the brutal siege of Mariupol and the port city’s Azovstal steelworks, are far too raw for jokes. The same is true of atrocities in Bucha and elsewhere.

“Tragedies cannot and will never be the object of humor,” said Zukhvala, who also works as a stand-up comic, as she and Lipko hugged with the tenderness of newlyweds after his show and scooped up armfuls of bouquets, wondering aloud how they’d find space for them at home.

“This is an absolutely crazy time, beyond ordinary experience,” she said. “Our life now is made of paradoxes, and it can even be funny.”

Ukraine’s most famous comedian is Volodymyr Zelenskyy, now the country’s president, elected in 2019. In the TV comedy series “Servant of the People,” the former stand-up comic and actor played a lovable high school teacher who accidentally becomes president — before he later actually became one for real. But Zelenskyy hasn’t had much cause for comedy since the Feb. 24 invasion thrust him into the role of wartime leader. His daily video addresses to the nation are often grim and forceful.

But while he works to rally international support and soldiers fight with tanks, artillery and tons of Western-supplied armaments, Ukrainians away from the front are using jokes and humor as weapons — against war-time anxiety and moroseness, against Russia and to feel as one, both laughing and crying together in their sorrow and anger.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 31 of 72

Yuliia Shytko, 29, said she felt in far higher spirits after chortling loudly with the rest of the crowd through Lipko and other comedians' routines in the basement comedy club, the vast majority of their jokes revolving around war-related themes.

"Laughing and stuff, that's how you cope," Shytko said.

Lipko and Zelenskyy crossed paths in comedy before war utterly altered their trajectories. The future president, then still an entertainer, was a juror in 2016 on the TV game show, "Make a comedian laugh." Lipko was a contestant. He wore camouflage fatigues because he was in the midst of military service and rattled off jokes about his army experiences. He made Zelenskyy laugh by quipping that he'd buy a PlayStation if he won the top prize — which he eventually did. They spoke in Russian then; they both stick to Ukrainian in public now.

Lipko is still riffing off army life, even as he prepares within days to leave behind his bride to fight. The army gave him a day off to tie the knot, a quick in-and-out of a marriage office where their comedian friends ruffled the registrar's feathers by joking around.

"We laughed a lot," said stand-up comic Anton Tymoshenko, who attended and also performed later that night at the club.

Lipko's nickname in the army is "the comedian." During his routine, he joked that some things his fellow soldiers say and do are so funny he can't help but use them as fodder for his stand-up, despite having told them he wouldn't. Afterward, he said his comic outlook should help him endure in battle.

"I am a comedian who temporarily became a serviceman," he said. "I have plans and creative projects for after the war. There are things to live for."

Zukhvala said she tells herself that "we will win and everything will be fine." She wants a big wedding celebration when peace returns.

Tymoshenko said he and their other comedian friends will look after her while Lipko is away.

But he has worries of his own: He has been trying to persuade his parents to leave their village in the south that he feels is too close to the Russian advance, but to his dismay they're laughing off the danger. His mother quipped that should Russian missiles churn up her potato plot, that would spare her the spade work.

"My mother never joked before the war," he said. "They use my weapons against me ... and that's unfair."

Wall Street slips into a bear market; here's what that means

By STAN CHOE and ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street opened the week with heavy losses that put the benchmark S&P 500 at a level considered to be a so-called bear market.

Rising interest rates, high inflation, the war in Ukraine and a slowdown in China's economy have led investors to reconsider what they're willing to pay for a wide range of stocks, from high-flying tech companies to traditional automakers. Big swings have become commonplace and Monday was no exception.

The last bear market happened just two years ago, but this would still be a first for those investors that got their start trading on their phones during the pandemic. Thanks in large part to extraordinary actions by the Federal Reserve, stocks have for years seemed to go largely in only one direction: up. The "buy the dip" rallying cry after every market slide has grown fainter after stinging losses and severe plunges in risky assets like cryptocurrencies. Bitcoin fell below \$23,000 on Monday. The price for Bitcoin neared \$68,000 late last year.

Here are some common questions asked about bear markets

WHY IS IT CALLED A BEAR MARKET?

A bear market is a term used by Wall Street when an index like the S&P 500, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, or even an individual stock, has fallen 20% or more from a recent high for a sustained period of time.

Why use a bear to represent a market slump? Bears hibernate, so bears represent a market that's re-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 32 of 72

treating, said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA. In contrast, Wall Street's nickname for a surging stock market is a bull market, because bulls charge, Stovall said.

The S&P 500, Wall Street's main barometer of health, slid 3.9%. It's 21.8% below its record set early this year and now in a bear market.

The Dow industrials sank 2.8% and the tech-heavy Nasdaq composite, which already was in a bear market, tumbled 4.7%.

The most recent bear market for the S&P 500 ran from February 19, 2020 through March 23, 2020. The index fell 34% in that one-month period, the shortest bear market ever.

WHAT'S BOTHERING INVESTORS?

Market enemy No. 1 is interest rates, which are rising quickly as a result of the high inflation battering the economy. Low rates act like steroids for stocks and other investments, and Wall Street is now going through withdrawal.

The Federal Reserve has made an aggressive pivot away from propping up financial markets and the economy with record-low rates and is focused on fighting inflation. The central bank has already raised its key short-term interest rate from its record low near zero, which had encouraged investors to move their money into riskier assets like stocks or cryptocurrencies to get better returns.

Last month, the Fed signaled additional rate increases of double the usual amount are likely in upcoming months. Consumer prices are at the highest level in four decades, and rose 8.6% in May compared with a year ago.

The moves by design will slow the economy by making it more expensive to borrow. The risk is the Fed could cause a recession if it raises rates too high or too quickly.

Russia's war in Ukraine has also put upward pressure on inflation by pushing up commodities prices. And worries about China's economy, the world's second largest, have added to the gloom.

SO, WE JUST NEED TO AVOID A RECESSION?

Even if the Fed can pull off the delicate task of tamping down inflation without triggering a downturn, higher interest rates still put downward pressure on stocks.

If customers are paying more to borrow money, they can't buy as much stuff, so less revenue flows to a company's bottom line. Stocks tend to track profits over time. Higher rates also make investors less willing to pay elevated prices for stocks, which are riskier than bonds, when bonds are suddenly paying more in interest thanks to the Fed.

Critics said the overall stock market came into the year looking pricey versus history. Big technology stocks and other winners of the pandemic were seen as the most expensive, and those stocks have been the most punished as rates have risen. But the pain is spreading widely, with retailers signaling a shift in consumer behavior.

Stocks have declined almost 35% on average when a bear market coincides with a recession, compared with a nearly 24% drop when the economy avoids a recession, according to Ryan Detrick, chief market strategist at LPL Financial.

SO I SHOULD SELL EVERYTHING NOW, RIGHT?

If you need the money now or want to lock in the losses, yes. Otherwise, many advisers suggest riding through the ups and downs while remembering the swings are the price of admission for the stronger returns that stocks have provided over the long term.

While dumping stocks would stop the bleeding, it would also prevent any potential gains. Many of the best days for Wall Street have occurred either during a bear market or just after the end of one. That includes two separate days in the middle of the 2007-2009 bear market where the S&P 500 surged roughly 11%, as well as leaps of better than 9% during and shortly after the roughly monthlong 2020 bear market.

Advisers suggest putting money into stocks only if it won't be needed for several years. The S&P 500

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 33 of 72

has come back from every one of its prior bear markets to eventually rise to another all-time high.

The down decade for the stock market following the 2000 bursting of the dot-com bubble was a notoriously brutal stretch, but stocks have often been able to regain their highs within a few years.

HOW LONG DO BEAR MARKETS LAST AND HOW DEEP DO THEY GO?

On average, bear markets have taken 13 months to go from peak to trough and 27 months to get back to breakeven since World War II. The S&P 500 index has fallen an average of 33% during bear markets in that time. The biggest decline since 1945 occurred in the 2007-2009 bear market when the S&P 500 fell 57%.

History shows that the faster an index enters into a bear market, the shallower they tend to be. Historically, stocks have taken 251 days (8.3 months) to fall into a bear market. When the S&P 500 has fallen 20% at a faster clip, the index has averaged a loss of 28%.

The longest bear market lasted 61 months and ended in March 1942. It cut the index by 60%.

Possible successor to Abbas warns Israel, but works with it

By JOSEPH KRAUSS and JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Hussein al-Sheikh, a senior Palestinian official increasingly seen as a successor to the 86-year-old President Mahmoud Abbas, says relations with Israel have gotten so bad that Palestinian leaders cannot go on with business as usual.

But even if they are serious this time around, they have few options. And they appear unlikely to do anything that undermines their own limited power in parts of the occupied West Bank, which largely stems from their willingness to cooperate with Israel.

In an exclusive interview with The Associated Press on Monday, al-Sheikh defended the Palestinian leadership in the West Bank, saying it was doing the best it could under the difficult circumstances of Israel's 55-year-old military occupation. As the point man in charge of dealing with Israel, he said there is no choice but to cooperate to meet the basic needs of Palestinians.

"I am not a representative for Israel in the Palestinian territories," he said. "We undertake the coordination because this is the prelude to a political solution for ending the occupation."

Al-Sheikh saw his profile rise further last month after Abbas named him the secretary-general of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The appointment has generated speculation that al-Sheikh is being groomed for the top job — as well as criticism that the autocratic Abbas, who has not held a nationwide election since 2006, is once again ignoring the wishes of his people.

Al-Sheikh, 61, declined to say whether he wants to succeed Abbas. He said the next president should be chosen through elections, but that they could only be held if Israel allows voting in all of east Jerusalem, effectively giving it a veto over any alternative leadership.

"The Palestinian president cannot be appointed, or come to power by force, or come because of some regional or international interest, or arrive on an Israeli tank," he said.

Al-Sheikh recited a familiar litany of complaints: Israel's government is beholden to right-wing nationalists, its prime minister opposed to Palestinian statehood. Settlements are expanding, Palestinians are being forcibly relocated, and the U.S. and Europe seem powerless to stop it.

"The Palestinian leadership is on the verge of making major and difficult decisions," al-Sheikh said, when asked about Abbas' threat to cut security ties or even withdraw recognition of Israel, a cornerstone of the Oslo peace process in the 1990s. "We have no partner in Israel. They don't want a two-state solution. They don't want to negotiate."

But the Israelis meet with al-Sheikh all the time.

As head of the Palestinian body that coordinates Israeli permits — and a close aide to Abbas — he meets with senior Israeli officials more often than any other Palestinian.

Israeli officials view him as "a very, very positive player in the Palestinian arena," said Michael Milshtein, an Israeli expert on Palestinian affairs who used to advise COGAT, the military body in charge of civilian

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 34 of 72

affairs in the West Bank.

"Because of his close relations with Israel, he can achieve a lot of positive things for the Palestinian people," including permits and development projects, he said. But most Palestinians "cannot really accept this kind of image of a Palestinian leader who actually is the one who serves Israel's interest."

Al-Sheikh's career follows the trajectory of his generation of Palestinian leaders — aspiring revolutionaries transformed into local power brokers by the failed, decades-long peace process.

His official biography says he was imprisoned by Israel from 1978-1989 and took part in the first intifada, or uprising against Israeli rule, upon his release. After the Palestinians secured limited self-rule in Gaza and parts of the occupied West Bank through the 1993 Oslo agreements, al-Sheikh joined the nascent security forces, rising to the level of colonel. He says he was a wanted man during the second and more violent intifada in the early 2000s.

He is a lifelong member of Fatah, a movement launched by Yasser Arafat in the late 1950s. Today Fatah dominates the PLO, which is supposed to represent all Palestinians, and the Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the West Bank and cooperates with Israel on security.

Abbas, who was elected in 2005 after Arafat's death, is opposed to armed struggle and committed to a two-state solution. But during his 17 years in power the peace process has become a distant memory, the Palestinians have been split politically and geographically by the rift with the Islamic militant group Hamas, and the PA has become increasingly unpopular.

Diana Buttu, a Palestinian lawyer who used to advise the PA, said Abbas believes "that the future of the Palestinian people is tied up to him as an individual," surrounding himself with loyalists who won't challenge him.

Abbas called off the first elections in 15 years in April 2021, a vote in which his Fatah party was widely expected to suffer a humiliating defeat. He said he was delaying the vote until Israel explicitly allowed voting in all of east Jerusalem. But only a small number of voters in the city require Israeli permission, and the PA refused to consider alternative arrangements.

Israel annexed east Jerusalem in a move not recognized internationally and views the entire city as its unified capital. The Palestinians want east Jerusalem — which includes major holy sites sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims — to be the capital of their future state.

"If the price of elections is that I concede on Jerusalem, it is impossible. You won't find a single Palestinian who will agree to that," al-Sheikh said.

That may be true, but it could also effectively prevent the Palestinians from replacing the current leadership, leaving it entrenched for years to come.

Dimitri Diliani, a senior member of Fatah who supports an anti-Abbas faction, said none of the president's inner circle are electable, pointing to recent polls showing that nearly 80% of Palestinians want Abbas to resign.

Diliani described al-Sheikh as "an active, smart person," a pragmatist who who seizes opportunities — but who was also short-sighted. "Abu Mazen is a sinking ship, and whoever is on it is going down with him," Diliani said.

Still, al-Sheikh has a unique lever of power that could prove more important than electability — access to Israeli permits.

He has been in charge of the General Authority of Civil Affairs since 2007. That's where Palestinians must apply if they want to enter Israel for work, family visits or medical care; to import or export anything; or to get national ID cards.

"If you need anything, absolutely anything, in Palestine, he's your go-to man. He's actively hated among Palestinians, but he's also very, very much needed for that reason," said Tahani Mustafa, a Palestinian analyst at the International Crisis Group.

"If succession was to happen through legitimate channels, there's no way Hussein al-Sheikh would withstand a popular vote," she said. "If you are to impose that kind of leadership on Palestinians, then absolutely you are going to face pushback."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 35 of 72

Al-Sheikh says there's no alternative to the coordination. "The movement of Palestinians, the crossings, the borders, are all under Israeli control," he said. "I'm an authority under occupation."

Analysis: However it ends, these NBA Finals may be a classic

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

The series won't end until Thursday, or maybe Sunday. A champion will be crowned, an NBA Finals MVP trophy will be hoisted, one side will spray a few gallons of champagne and the other side will head out into a summer of lament.

The winner: Still to be determined.

But this much is already clear: Even without a single game decided by single digits through the first five contests, these 2022 NBA Finals are on the brink of going down as a classic.

It's Golden State 3, Boston 2 going into Game 6 on the Celtics' home floor on Thursday night. The Warriors grabbed the lead in the series with a 104-94 win on Monday in San Francisco, the latest entry on a long list of gut-check moments in this series and the first time either of these teams found a way to win consecutive games in this matchup.

"It feels good," Golden State's Klay Thompson said. "But we haven't done anything yet."

It looked easy early for his team in Game 5, with the Warriors up 16 before long and taking a 12-point lead into halftime. Boston roared back in the third, taking as much as a five-point lead before Golden State restored order and pulled away in the fourth — the latest entry on a list of wild back-and-forth swings that has defined this series.

The basketball hasn't always been pretty. Even the most prolific 3-point shooter ever, the Warriors' Stephen Curry, clanked all nine of his tries from deep in Game 5. The combined shooting numbers in these NBA Finals are the lowest for a title series since 2016, and so is the scoring average. But that's more a byproduct of two teams with a propensity for cranking up defense when they must, more than lackluster offense.

"Our team came out with a lot of fight," Golden State's Jordan Poole said after Game 5.

Such has been the story of these NBA Finals — the guys with more fight walk off winners. Such has really been the story for Boston most of the way in these playoffs. The Celtics won a Game 7 in Round 2 to oust defending champion Milwaukee. Went on the road in the Eastern Conference finals to win a Game 7 at Miami to get here. And now they know, they'll need to win another Game 7 if they're going to win this title.

"The message to the guys is to be confident going home, get your rest, let's get ready to bring it back here," Celtics coach Ime Udoka said. "For us, it's really about consistency. That's the thing we're not having throughout a full game, consistent efforts, sustained effort, more so offensively than anything."

The entire series has been a pair of heavyweights throwing knockout punches. The 48-18 run by the Celtics to turn a 15-point third-quarter deficit into a 15-point fourth-quarter lead in Game 1. The 35-14 third quarter that the Warriors turned into an easy win in Game 2. The way the Celtics wasted a big lead, then outscored the Warriors 34-17 to close Game 3. Curry scoring 43 points, even yelling at the crowd along the way, to lead Golden State to a road win in Game 4.

And then came Monday.

It didn't disappoint. Celtics fans had to be disappointed, sure, but Game 5 didn't disappoint.

"Our backs are against the wall," the Celtics' Al Horford said. "We have to see what we're made of."

Boston started the game by missing its first 12 3-point tries, then made its next eight from beyond the arc, a dichotomy the likes of which has never before been seen in NBA Finals history. Most of those eight makes came in a third-quarter outburst that gave the Celtics the lead. It took a banked-in, beat-the-clock 33-foot 3-pointer by Poole on the final play of the third quarter to put Golden State up 75-74.

Poole's shot was part of a 13-0 run that decided matters Monday, and now the Warriors know that a title — which would be their fourth in eight years — is just one win away.

After seeing Kevin Durant get hurt and then leave for Brooklyn, after seeing Klay Thompson get hurt

— three years to the day from Monday — in the 2019 finals and then get hurt again on his way back, after falling to the bottom of the NBA in 2020 and then just missing the playoffs last year, the Warriors are on the brink.

“Here we are,” Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. “We have a chance. We have two cracks at getting one win. But we also know how difficult it’s going to be. Nobody’s celebrating, but we’re excited to be in this spot.”

He’s right. If this series has proven anything, that win won’t come easy.

Yellowstone officials assess damage after historic floods

By AMY BETH HANSON Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — A torrent of rain combined with a rapidly melting snowpack caused a deluge of flooding that forced the evacuation of some parts of Yellowstone National Park, cutting off electricity and forcing park officials to close all entrances indefinitely, just as the summer tourist season was ramping up.

While numerous homes and other structures were destroyed, there were no immediate reports of injuries. Yellowstone officials said they were assessing damage from the storms, which washed away bridges, caused mudslides and left small cities isolated, forcing evacuations by boat and helicopter.

It’s unclear how many visitors are stranded or have been forced to leave the park and how many people who live outside the park have been rescued and evacuated.

Some of the worst damage happened in the northern part of the park and Yellowstone’s gateway communities in southern Montana. National Park Service photos of northern Yellowstone showed a mudslide, washed out bridges and roads undercut by churning floodwaters of the Gardner and Lamar rivers.

The flooding cut off road access to Gardiner, Montana, a town of about 900 people near the confluence of the Yellowstone and Gardner rivers, just outside Yellowstone’s busy North Entrance. Cooke City was also isolated by floodwaters and evacuations were also issued for residents in Livingston.

Officials in Park County, which encompasses those cities, said on Facebook Monday evening that extensive flooding throughout the county had made drinking water unsafe in many areas. Evacuations and rescues were ongoing and officials urged people who were in a safe place to stay put overnight.

The Montana National Guard said Monday it sent two helicopters to southern Montana to help with the evacuations.

Cory Mottice, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Billings, Montana, said rain is not in the immediate forecast, and cooler temperatures will lessen the snowmelt in coming days.

“This is flooding that we’ve just never seen in our lifetimes before,” Mottice said.

Scientists say climate change is responsible for more intense and more frequent extreme events such as storms, droughts, floods and wildfires, although single weather events usually cannot be directly linked to climate change without extensive study.

The Yellowstone River at Corwin Springs crested at 13.88 feet (4.2 meters) Monday, higher than the previous record of 11.5 feet (3.5 meters) set in 1918, according to the National Weather Service.

At a cabin in Gardiner, Parker Manning got an up-close view of the water rising and the river bank sloughing off in the raging Yellowstone River floodwaters just outside his door.

“We started seeing entire trees floating down the river, debris,” Manning, who hails from Terra Haute, Indiana, told The Associated Press. “Saw one crazy single kayaker coming down through, which was kind of insane.”

On Monday evening, Manning watched as the rushing waters undercut the opposite riverbank, causing a house to fall into the Yellowstone River and float away mostly intact.

Floodwaters inundated a street in Red Lodge, a Montana town of 2,100 that’s a popular jumping-off point for a scenic, winding route into the Yellowstone high country. Twenty-five miles (40 kilometers) to the northeast, in Joliet, Kristan Apodaca wiped away tears as she stood across the street from a washed-out bridge, The Billings Gazette reported.

The log cabin that belonged to her grandmother, who died in March, flooded, as did the park where

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 37 of 72

Apodaca's husband proposed.

"I am sixth-generation. This is our home," she said. "That bridge I literally drove yesterday. My mom drove it at 3 a.m. before it was washed out."

On Monday, Yellowstone officials evacuated the northern part of the park, where roads may remain impassable for a substantial length of time, park Superintendent Cam Sholly said in a statement.

But the flooding affected the rest of the park, too, with park officials warning of yet higher flooding and potential problems with water supplies and wastewater systems at developed areas.

The rains hit during the high tourism season: June, at the onset of an annual wave of over 3 million visitors that doesn't abate until fall, is one of Yellowstone's busiest months.

Yellowstone got 2.5 inches (6 centimeters) of rain Saturday, Sunday and into Monday. The Beartooth Mountains northeast of Yellowstone got as much as 4 inches (10 centimeters), according to the National Weather Service.

In south-central Montana, flooding on the Stillwater River stranded 68 people at a campground. Stillwater County Emergency Services agencies and crews with the Stillwater Mine rescued people Monday from the Woodbine Campground by raft. Some roads in the area are closed because of flooding and residents have been evacuated.

"We will be assessing the loss of homes and structures when the waters recede," the sheriff's office said in a statement.

The flooding happened while other parts of the U.S. burned in hot and dry weather. More than 100 million Americans were being warned to stay indoors as a heat wave settles over states stretching through parts of the Gulf Coast to the Great Lakes and east to the Carolinas.

Elsewhere in the West, crews from California to New Mexico are battling wildfires in hot, dry and windy weather.

Wiggins delivers on both ends, Warriors lead NBA Finals 3-2

By JANIE McCAULEY AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Exhibiting a determined confidence and grit all game, Andrew Wiggins single-handedly took the pressure off Stephen Curry and delivered the best game yet of his eight-year career.

Now, the first-time All-Star is on the cusp of becoming a first-time NBA champion — and helping Curry capture yet another title.

"It's something I dreamt about for sure, being in the league, and this is the ultimate stage," Wiggins said. "It doesn't get bigger than this."

Wiggins had 26 points and 13 rebounds, Klay Thompson scored 21 points and the Golden State Warriors beat the Boston Celtics 104-94 on Monday night for a 3-2 NBA Finals lead.

"Coming into this year, he was an All-Star starter for a reason," Draymond Green said. "... The bigger the challenge has been that we've thrown in front of him, the bigger he's responded. You want a guy like that. When the stage gets big, they respond and play their best basketball, and that's what he's been doing."

One game after his 43-point performance, Curry contributed 16 points and eight assists but was 0 for 9 from 3-point range. The career 3-point leader's NBA-record streak of 132 straight postseason games with at least one 3 ended, along with his NBA-best run of 233 consecutive games with a 3 between regular season and playoffs combined.

"Uh, keep shooting, very simple," Curry said, grinning. "I'm not afraid to go 0-fer or whatever because I'm going to keep shooting."

Green knows how Curry will respond: "He's going to be livid going into Game 6. That's exactly what we need."

Capping his brilliant performance on both ends, Wiggins drove through the lane for an emphatic one-handed slam with 2:10 left.

"Bottom line is he's just having fun playing basketball," Curry said.

The Warriors can win their fourth title in eight years when the series resumes in Boston on Thursday

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 38 of 72

night. If the Celtics can win at home, the series will return to the Bay Area for a winner-take-all Game 7 on Sunday. All five games so far have been decided by 10 or more points.

Jayson Tatum had 27 points and 10 rebounds for the Celtics, who lost consecutive games for the first time in the postseason. Marcus Smart was whistled for a technical foul then an offensive foul in a one-second span early in the fourth. He overcame a slow start to score 20 points.

Jordan Poole knocked down a 33-foot 3 from the left wing to beat the third-quarter buzzer as the Warriors took a 75-74 lead into the final 12 minutes after the Celtics roared back in the third.

The Celtics found their own third-quarter magic that has long defined Golden State's success in the second half. Boston trailed 51-39 at the break before charging back with a 35-point outburst in the third.

Al Horford hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 6:28 left in the period that made it 58-55 as the Celtics finally found their shooting groove from deep. Boston made eight straight made 3 after missing the initial 12.

"Definitely we weren't as sharp as we needed to be during times there. Just tough," Horford said. "Definitely now, our backs are against the wall, and we have to see what we're made of."

Jaylen Brown was 2 for 11 to start the game and finished with 18 points on 5-of-18 shooting and missed all five of his 3-point tries.

Tatum gave Boston its first 3-pointer on the night 4:34 before halftime and the Celtics wound up 11 of 32 from deep overall. The Celtics were sloppy in stretches, committing 18 turnovers.

"When we're at our best, it's simple ball movement. I think the third quarter showed that. The drive and kick was beautiful, was working, getting guys wide-open shots," coach Ime Udoka said.

Golden State wound up 9 of 40 from beyond the arc — Wiggins 0 of 6. Curry didn't make a 3-pointer for the first time since going 0 for 4 in a 134-111 loss to the Bucks on Nov. 18, 2018.

"A night that he didn't have it going we found offense elsewhere," said Green, who had eight points, eight rebounds and seven assists before fouling out with 3:01 remaining.

KLAY'S DAY

Thompson shot 7 for 14 with five 3-pointers in another shining playoff moment.

Monday marked exactly three years since Thompson tore the ACL in his left knee and had surgery before later tearing his right Achilles tendon while working back from the first injury — forcing him to miss more than 2 1/2 years.

Thompson was hurt in the deciding Game 6 of the 2019 NBA Finals as Toronto clinched the franchise's first championship playing on the Warriors' previous home floor in Oracle Arena.

Entering Game 5, Thompson's 35.8% shooting was the lowest for any NBA Finals he has played, and he is making just 34.2% from deep — down from 58.5% on 3s in the 2019 finals.

QUARTER-CENTURY MARK

In a trip down memory lane, Steve Kerr coached the Warriors on the 25th anniversary of his game-winning shot in Game 6 of NBA Finals as the Bulls beat the Jazz to clinch Chicago's fifth championship.

He thought back to that special moment before the game.

"An incredible memory obviously. Something every young basketball player dreams of. So to be able to live that was pretty amazing," Kerr said, smiling. "And then the fact that it's 25 years ago just makes me feel old, of course."

TIP-INS

Celtics: Robert Williams III had 10 points and eight rebounds, starting and playing without limits for the Celtics after aggravating his surgically repaired left knee in Game 4. .

Warriors: Gary Payton II had 15 points off the bench and Poole 14. The Warriors missed their initial four 3-point tries before Thompson connected at the 5:14 mark of the first. ... Otto Porter Jr. started for a second straight game with Kevon Looney coming off the bench.

SILVER SIDELINED

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver missed the game, entering the league's health and safety protocols.

The NBA didn't offer further details, such as specifying whether Silver tested positive for COVID-19 or was a close contact with someone who had.

Experts: Anti-LGBTQ rhetoric could galvanize extremists

By REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — As hate speech targeting LGBTQ people increases among some far-right influencers and others online, experts are warning that extremist groups may see the rhetoric as a call to action.

Such may have been the case when 31 members of the neo-Nazi group Patriot Front were arrested in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on Saturday and charged with conspiracy to riot at a Pride event, said Sophie Bjork-James, an assistant professor in anthropology at Vanderbilt University who researches the white nationalist movement, racism and hate crimes in the U.S. The arrests came as a toxic brew of anti-LGBTQ rhetoric has been on the rise in Idaho and elsewhere.

"There is a very clear relationship between normalizing this hateful content and having extremist groups try to mobilize around that in hateful actions," she said. "We can see a direct relationship between the spectrum of anti-LGBT rhetoric from statehouses into these extremist groups."

Domestic extremist groups see conservatives as potential allies, Bjork-James said, and they've found anti-LGBTQ sentiment is one of the easiest ways to "build a broader coalition among the radical right."

"Unfortunately, I think it is a strategy that is working," she said.

Last month, a fundamentalist Idaho pastor told his small Boise congregation that gay, lesbian and transgender people should be executed by the government. Another fundamentalist pastor in Texas gives similar sermons.

Rep. Heather Scott, an Idaho Republican lawmaker, recently told an audience that drag queens and other LGBTQ supporters are waging a "war of perversion against our children." And last week, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said he would consider sending child protective services to investigate parents who take their kids to drag shows.

The Department of Homeland Security warned last week that white nationalists and supremacists are using social media platforms like Instagram, Telegram and TikTok to present skewed framing of divisive issues like abortion, guns and LGBTQ rights, potentially driving extremists to attack public places across the U.S. in the coming months.

Online court records do not yet show if the Patriot Front members have obtained attorneys. All were released from jail after posting \$300 bond, and court dates have yet to be set for the misdemeanor charges.

Thomas Rousseau, a 23-year-old from Grapevine, Texas, has been identified by the Southern Poverty Law Center as the Patriot Front founder and was among those arrested. He did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment.

Police say the men piled into a U-Haul truck wearing balaclavas and bearing riot gear, with plans to instigate a riot at the park where families, children and supporters were gathered to celebrate the LGBTQ community. Those arrested came from at least 11 states, including Illinois, Arkansas and Virginia.

Coeur d'Alene Police Chief Lee White said Monday that since the arrests, his agency had received nearly 150 calls, evenly split between people thanking officers for averting a riot and people angry about the arrests. Many of the calls included death threats, Lee said, and some came from as far away as Norway.

Jennifer McCoy, a professor of political science at Georgia State University, said that when people with influence like political figures, sports or entertainment stars, religious leaders or media figures engage in rhetoric against specific groups, supporters can interpret it as a call for action.

"This can happen regardless of the intent or specific wording of the message, and is common in highly polarized contexts such as the U.S. is currently experiencing," McCoy wrote in an email Monday.

For Bree Latimer, a 22-year-old trans woman from Boise, the news of the arrests was alarming. Even in Boise, one of the most progressive cities in deep-red Idaho, harassment or hostility is a daily risk, Latimer said. Just last week Boise police were investigating after dozens of pride flags were stolen or damaged from a scenic neighborhood boulevard for the second year in a row.

"I always wonder as I walk past people in the grocery store aisles — do they know that I'm trans? If they do know, are they going to say something? Are they going to follow me into the parking lot? Am I

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 40 of 72

going to get called a groomer or something? It's just constantly living in fear," Latimer said.

She gets frustrated when people call the anti-LGBTQ rhetoric a "culture war," saying it feels much more ominous.

"That diminishes what we're going through. We feel like there's almost an impending trans genocide," Latimer said. "They want us to stop having access to our hormone therapy, to be banned from talking to trans youth — they want you to be so unhappy with your life that you kill yourself. And now the hate speech is getting even scarier."

Still, she tries to focus on her computer science studies at Boise State University. On the weekends, she plays board games with friends, or occasionally heads out for an evening downtown.

"Being trans is a big part of my identity, but it's definitely not everything," Latimer said. "Still, the reality is, it's scary being a trans person in America right now."

Northern Idaho has long been associated with extremist groups, most prominently the Aryan Nations, which was often in the news in the 1990s. The area drew disaffected people after white supremacist Richard Butler moved there in 1973 from California.

After the Aryan Nations' heyday, many local officials tried to disassociate the region from extremism. But in recent years, some politicians, civic leaders and real estate agents have boasted about northern Idaho's conservatism to draw like-minded people.

At a news conference Monday, Coeur d'Alene Mayor Jim Hammond said the city is no longer a locus of hate.

"We are not going back to the days of the Aryan Nations. We are past that," he declared.

Scott, the northern Idaho lawmaker who said drag queens are waging a "war of perversion" on kids, did not respond to an email request for comment.

Elsewhere around the country, authorities in the San Francisco Bay Area are investigating a possible hate crime after a group of men allegedly shouted anti-LGBTQ slurs during Drag Queen Story Hour at the San Lorenzo Library over the weekend.

Charter business thrives as US-expelled Haitians flee Haiti

By JULIE WATSON, GISELA PEREZ de ACHA, KATIE LICARI, TRENTON DANIEL and PATRICIA LUNA
Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — With jokes, upbeat Caribbean music and vacation scenes of sun-kissed beaches and palm trees, Haitian influencers on YouTube and TikTok advertise charter flights to South America.

But they are not targeting tourists.

Instead, they are touts for a thriving, little-known shadow industry that is profiting from the U.S. government sending people back to Haiti, a country besieged by gang violence.

More than a dozen South American travel agencies have rented planes from low-budget Latin American airlines — some of them as large as 238-seat Airbuses — and then sold tickets at premium prices. Many of the customers are Haitians who had been living in Chile and Brazil before they made their way to the Texas border in September, only to be expelled by the Biden administration and prevented from seeking asylum. They are using the charter flights to flee Haiti again and return to South America.

Some, clearly, plan to make another try to enter the United States.

Rodolfo Noriega of the National Coordinator of Immigrants in Chile said Haitians are being exploited by businesses taking advantage of their desperation. They "are at the end of a chain of powerful businesses making money from this circuit of Haitian migration," he said.

The airlines and travel agencies say they work within the legal norms of the countries where they are operating from and are simply providing a service to the Haitian diaspora in South America.

The thriving business model was revealed in an eight-month investigation by The Associated Press in partnership with the University of California, Berkeley's Human Rights Center and its Investigative Reporting Program.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 41 of 72

This story is part of an ongoing Associated Press series, "Migration Inc.," which investigates individuals and companies that profit from the movement of people who flee violence and civil strife in their homelands.

Haitians sick of the deprivations of their island home resettled in Chile or Brazil, many after Haiti's catastrophic 2010 earthquake. Then, last fall, struggling as the pandemic hit local economies and beset by racism, thousands decided to make their way to the Texas border town of Del Rio. There, they ran afoul of a public health order, invoked by the Trump administration and continued under the Biden administration, that blocks migrants from requesting asylum.

Authorities returned them not to South America, where some of their children were born, but to their original homeland — Haiti.

Some interviewed by the AP said they feared for their lives there and wanted to return to South America. But airlines had stopped direct commercial flights from Haiti to Chile and Brazil during the pandemic; their remaining option was the charters.

The flights from Haiti became a lucrative business as restrictions aimed at controlling the spread of the coronavirus decimated tourism, according to the travel agents. Planes arrive empty to Haiti but return to South America full.

From November 2020 until this May, at least 128 charters were rented by travel agencies in Chile and Brazil for flights from Haiti, according to flight tracking information, online advertisements matching the flights to agencies and other independent verification by the AP and Berkeley.

Since taking office in January 2021, the Biden administration has sent more than 25,000 Haitians back to Haiti despite warnings from human rights groups that the expulsions would only contribute to Haiti's travails and feed more Haitian migration to Latin America and the U.S.

Not all of the passengers on the charters had tried to immigrate to the U.S., but based on interviews with dozens of travel agents, Haitian migrants and advocates, and an analysis of flight data using the Swedish service Flightradar24, it is clear that the charters have become a major means to flee Haiti.

Some who took charter flights back to South America have headed north again on the network of underground routes that wind through Central America and Mexico and that ultimately lead to the United States, according to immigration attorneys, advocates and interviews with dozens of Haitians.

Many of the Haitians go back to Chile and Brazil, rather than places close to the U.S. like Mexico, because they have visas and other legal paperwork to get into those countries. And having lived there, they can find jobs quickly to make money for the trip north.

Some, like Armstrong Jean-Baptiste, also have children who were born in South America. The 33-year-old father of two said he spent \$6,000 on a harrowing trip from Chile to Texas, only to be sent back to Haiti.

He said he had knives pulled on him, forged rivers that carried others away to their deaths and encountered highway robbers. In the end, he said the Haitians were handcuffed and "treated like animals" by U.S. immigration authorities. He said his son caught pneumonia in the immigration detention center.

As he waited in Port-au-Prince for a charter flight back to Santiago, news from northern Chile underscored why he wanted to go to the United States in the first place: A demonstration against immigrants drew thousands of protesters who turned violent and destroyed the belongings of migrants living in a camp.

Would he try to go to the U.S. again? He did not rule it out.

"The risks are so numerous that this shouldn't be an experience to repeat," he said. "However, one should never say never."

Ana Darcelin, a travel agent with Travel VIP, a Santiago-based agency that rents planes for flights from Haiti to Chile, said Haitians who migrated north from the South American country, only to be sent back to Haiti, are scrambling to leave Haiti and get back to Chile again.

"Everyone is offering charter flights. There is a lot of demand," she said.

Travel agencies in Brazil and Chile said in interviews that they pay anywhere from \$100,000 to \$200,000 to rent an aircraft. At that rate, the three airlines that rented planes for 128 charter flights between Haiti and either Brazil or Chile would have been paid a total of anywhere from \$12 million to \$25 million.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 42 of 72

Meanwhile, some prices for one-way tickets from Haiti to Chile have more than doubled in eight months, from \$625 to more than \$1,600.

In Brazil, many agencies offering flights from Haiti rented from the low-cost Azul S.A. airlines, which was started by JetBlue founder David Neeleman.

Most of the charters to Chile are on planes rented from SKY Airline, owned by the Chilean Paulmann family, which is worth billions.

Neither Neeleman nor Holger Paulmann, chairman of SKY, responded to emails and LinkedIn messages requesting comment.

SKY also signed a \$1.8 million contract in April with the previous administration of Chilean President Sebastián Piñera to fly Latin American immigrants, mostly Venezuelans and Colombians expelled from Chile, back to their homelands. SKY earned about \$670 for each expelled immigrant it flies to Central and South America. Under the contract obtained by the AP and Berkeley, the carrier must complete at least 15 flights carrying 180 passengers each.

John Paul Spode, who has worked 35 years in the travel industry and manages NewStilo, which rents planes from SKY for the flights, said Haiti is not the only place in crisis that offers an attractive market for the charter flight business.

His agency also offers charter flights between Venezuela and Chile. But there are few places with the demand for charter flights like Haiti, though he said it's not an easy place to do business. In March, protesters stormed the tarmac at an airport in the countryside and set a small plane on fire. Gangs also operate in and around the airport, he said.

"Unfortunately, we have had many passengers who have not been able to board because there are people who stand outside (the airport) with some kind of a list and some kind of uniform and they started charging, saying 'You are not on the list, sir, but for \$250 you can be added,' and then they let them enter the airport," Spode said.

Some passengers said once inside the airport they were blocked again by so-called airport business employees and told that their names were still not on the list, and they must pay again, Spode said. Many do before they reach the ticket counter where they finally are checked in by a legitimate employee with the flight.

But would-be passengers brave all that. "It's tough to sell tickets from Santiago to Port-au-Prince. The plane leaves usually almost empty," Spode said. "But we know that on the return trip it's going to be full, literally, like people practically hanging from the plane, so to speak."

The demand has been so great that a second low-cost airline based in Ecuador, Aeroregional, entered the Chilean market for the first time and started offering charter flights from Haiti to Chile. At least 11 Aeroregional charters have arrived from Haiti to Chile since December.

Dan Foote, a former U.S. envoy to Haiti who resigned over the Biden administration's handling of Haitians at the Texas border, said he is not surprised to hear Haitians expelled from the U.S. are making their way back to South America, and that businesses are lining up to help them.

"Until the root causes of instability are truly attacked in a patient, systematic, holistic way, it's going to keep going," Foote said.

The travel agencies and airlines denied they are facilitating Haitian migration.

Aeroregional's managing director, Luis Manuel Rodriguez, said in a statement via LinkedIn that the airline's role is simply to transport people. He said that the immigration status of its passengers is checked by immigration authorities of the countries involved.

Azul confirmed by email that it has provided charter flights between Haiti and Brazil, but said those contracts have confidentiality clauses. The company did not respond to a follow-up request for more information.

Carmen Gloria Serrat, the business manager of SKY, said in a statement that the company offers safe, legal transportation "for whoever wants it and needs it." She said airlines are responsible for validating the paperwork of passengers and must eat the costs of returning anyone who is denied entry to a country.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 43 of 72

She said the flights run four times monthly on average and represent a minuscule part of SKY's business. "The act of providing safe and legal transportation is a guarantee to avoid the possibility of abuses," Serrat said. "It's important to point out that in SKY we operate within the established norms for entering a country and always in coordination and under the supervision of immigration authorities."

At least one travel agency is open about offering to help those who hope to reach the United States. Alta Tour Turismo Travel Agency rents planes for charter flights between Haiti and Chile.

A TikTok account with the handle @altatourtravelagency posted a video on June 14, 2021, discussing how to avoid the Darien Gap, a treacherous, roadless area of thick jungle between Colombia and Panama traversed by migrants from South America heading north.

In the video, two men are talking about different routes north as they show a big boat at sea.

"Considering the level of mistreatment Haitians endured from the Colombians in the jungle, I will never go through the jungle," says one as the camera zooms in on the boat on the horizon.

It was unclear if the video was meant to connect people to boats or was a marketing tool to attract customers in need of flights to South America who intended to then take the migrant route north.

Alta Tour Turismo started with a video on Facebook at the start of 2021 that informed viewers that Bolivia was not deporting people. The agency incorporated a month later.

The slogan of the Santiago-based agency is "travel with joy." Reservations for flights are largely done through WhatsApp. The agency's social media accounts have nearly 40,000 followers; they promote travel from Haiti to such countries as Brazil, Guyana, Suriname, Chile and Mexico.

Ezechias Revanget said he started the agency with three other Haitian immigrants in Chile to rent planes so fellow Haitians in Chile could go back home to see family. His agency has leased 186-seat Airbus planes from SKY airlines.

"Our objective is to work with our compatriots, and there are also other people — such as Chileans, Bolivians, Dominicans, anyone, any nationality can buy tickets at our agency," he said.

Alta Tour Turismo also advertised flights to Suriname. In an April 2021 post, the agency posted on its Facebook page that Haitians who had only a passport and wanted to leave Haiti should not miss this opportunity, asserting: "you know if you arrive in Suriname you can go to other places too," followed by three smiling emoji and the agency's numbers.

Revanget, who also uses the name Dave Elmyr, refused to answer more questions.

"They should be investigating these flights — they should," said Carolina Rudnick Vizcarra, an attorney and director of LIBERA, a Santiago-based nonprofit combatting human trafficking. "And by now, everyone knows that Haitians are vulnerable — they don't have the money" or places to stay.

U.S. officials told the AP they were unaware of the charter flights from Haiti. Some South American nations have taken action to prevent their use by migrants and smugglers. Last year, Suriname stopped charter flights from Haiti and issuing visas to Haitians, according to Suriname's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

That same year, neighboring French Guiana complained about Haitians coming across its border.

"What was strange was that in the middle of a pandemic, so many flights were arriving from Haiti ... there were unaccompanied minors on the flight, as well as several Haitians without visas," Antoine Joly, the former French ambassador in Suriname told the French Guiana TV station, Guyane la 1ere in a video posted May 4.

Shortly after that, Guyana, which also borders Suriname, canceled an earlier order allowing Haitians in without a visa, contending the country was being used as a destination for human smugglers who were taking migrants into neighboring Brazil where they would stay briefly before heading north to Mexico and the U.S.

Giuseppe Loprete, chief of mission in Haiti of the International Organization of Migration, said the United Nations agency learned about charter flights from Haiti to Chile in interviews with migrants who had been sent back from the United States and Mexico.

"We tried to find out more, but we don't have the means to investigate these flights," he wrote in an

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 44 of 72

email to the AP on April 22. "Our assumption was that from Chile they move on to other countries heading (to) the Mexican-USA border, if not right away, after some time. Probably when they have collected enough money and information to move forward."

The Azul charter flights started on Nov. 14, 2020, from Port-au-Prince to Manaus, Brazil. The city of 2.2 million boasts one of Brazil's biggest airports, is the capital of the Amazon region with a Haitian immigrant population and is also a well-known jumping-off point for Haitian migrants who travel by boats from there along a river connecting the Colombian, Peruvian and Guyanese borders before continuing north.

Flight data showed that 54 Azul planes flew charter flights from Port-au-Prince to Manaus. The flights stopped in October. That same month, the Brazilian embassy in Haiti stopped issuing all visas to Haitians, according to a document from the Brazilian ambassador in Haiti obtained by AP and Berkeley.

Jean Robert Jean Baptiste, 49, said he bought a \$1,400 ticket for an Azul flight in December 2020 to Brazil. He spent a month in Haiti after he was deported from Louisiana, where he was held at an immigration detention center following his arrest on a DUI charge. Back in Haiti, he said an enemy threatened to kill him and had the backing of the police.

He said he decided to fly to Brazil because he had a visa to get into the country after living there from 2011 to 2012 before making his way to the United States in 2016 and settled in Alabama.

In 2021, he made his way from Brazil by bus and on foot. He walked for a week, most of it in the rain, through the Darien Gap, where he said he saw dead bodies of those who didn't make it. He said he had to pay bandits who blocked his path; robbers stole his phone and \$500 from him.

All told, he said it cost him about \$7,000 to return to Tijuana, where he was trying to find a way back to the U.S. He's driven, he said, by a determination to "have a good life" for his children.

The Paulmann family's SKY, meanwhile, is the charter of choice between Haiti and Chile; of 71 such flights since 2020 that AP and Berkeley tracked, 60 were on SKY. The Paulmanns run one of Latin America's biggest retail companies, Cencosud, and have a net worth of \$3.3 billion, according to Forbes magazine. SKY charter planes also flew three flights between Haiti and Brazil in 2021.

Etienne Ilienses said she was sent back to Haiti from Texas on Dec. 14. She talked to the AP before flying to Santiago with her three children on a Jan. 30 charter flight on SKY. "To get to the USA, I braved hell," she said. Still, she did not dismiss the possibility of doing it again "because Haiti offers nothing to its children. We are forced to suffer humiliations, affronts everywhere."

But just because Haitians fly to Chile, it doesn't mean they can stay. Dozens have been held by immigration officials after arriving in Santiago in recent months. One group spent weeks sleeping at the airport before Chile's Supreme Court on Jan. 31 ordered police to release them and allow them to request asylum.

Others were sent back to Haiti within hours of landing.

SKY's Serrat said the airline works closely with immigration officials to avoid that situation, while the marketing aimed at passengers is the responsibility of the travel operators. (Aeroregional's manager did not respond to questions about flying in Haitians who were later expelled.)

Theleon Marckenson, 31, was sent back to Haiti from Texas last fall. He said he spent \$1,650 for a charter flight on Aeroregional to return to Chile, where he had lived since 2017.

After Marckenson landed in Santiago, Chilean authorities told him the application he had submitted for permanent residency before he left for the U.S. border had expired. Hours later he was put on another Aeroregional flight to Haiti with six others.

"I don't have any more money," Marckenson said by phone after landing back in Port-au-Prince. "I don't know what I am going to do. But I can't stay here. There is only hunger. There is no life."

Asian benchmarks decline after bear market hits Wall Street

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares fell across the board Tuesday after Wall Street tumbled into a bear market, indicating that major U.S. benchmarks and individual stocks have fallen 20% or more from a recent high

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 45 of 72

for a sustained period of time.

Benchmarks fell in Japan, Australia, South Korea and China. The Japanese yen's continuing slide against the dollar paused.

At the center of the selloff was the U.S. Federal Reserve, which is scrambling to get inflation under control. Its main method is to raise interest rates, a blunt tool that could slow the economy too much and risk a recession if used too aggressively.

Some economists are speculating the Fed on Wednesday may raise its key rate by three-quarters of a percentage point. That's triple the usual amount and something the Fed hasn't done since 1994.

"Another day to digest the recent U.S. inflation data, and another day closer to the June FOMC meeting, and global markets, we well as those here in Asia have been demonstrating that they don't like where the global economy sits right now," Robert Carnell, regional head of research Asia-Pacific at ING, said in a report.

Japan's Nikkei 225 shed 1.9% in morning trading to 26,476.71. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 dipped 4.8% to 6,598.30 after reopening from a holiday on Monday. South Korea's Kospi lost 1.0% to 2,479.23. Hong Kong's Hang Seng slipped 1.4% to 20,782.63, while the Shanghai Composite edged down 0.8% to 3,230.41.

Adding to worries about the fragile Japanese economy is the sliding yen, recently at 135, the lowest level against the U.S. dollar since 1998. The U.S. dollar fell to 134.40 Japanese yen from 134.46 yen, as the yen's weakness was mitigated somewhat by Bank of Japan Gov. Haruhiko Kuroda's comments expressing concern about its decline.

The euro cost \$1.0418, up from \$1.0409.

"Against this backdrop, equities in Asia are unlikely to be spared pain," said Tan Boon Heng at Mizuho Bank in Singapore.

On Wall Street, the S&P 500 index sank 3.9% to 3,749.63. It's 21.8% below its record set early this year and now in a bear market. The Dow lost 876.05, or 2.8%, to 30,516.74 on Monday, after falling more than 1,000 points. The Nasdaq composite dropped 4.7% to 10,809.23.

The decline was the first chance for investors to trade after having the weekend to reflect on Friday's news that inflation is getting worse, not better.

With the Fed seemingly pinned into having to get more aggressive, prices fell in a worldwide rout for everything from bonds to bitcoin, from New York to New Zealand. Some of the sharpest drops hit what had been big winners of the easier low-rate era, such as high-growth technology stocks and other former darlings of investors. Tesla slumped 7.1%, and Amazon dropped 5.5%. GameStop tumbled 8.4%.

"The best thing people can do is to not panic and don't sell at the bottom," said Randy Frederick, managing director of trading and derivatives at the Schwab Center for Financial Research, "and we're probably not at the bottom."

Markets are bracing for more bigger-than-usual hikes, on top of some discouraging signals about the economy and corporate profits, including a record-low preliminary reading on consumer sentiment soured by high gasoline prices.

The economy is still holding up overall, but the danger is that the job market and other factors are so hot that they will feed into higher inflation.

Wall Street's sobering realization that inflation is accelerating, not peaking, has sent U.S. bond yields to their highest levels in more than a decade. The two-year Treasury yield shot to 3.36% from 3.06% late Friday in its second straight major move. It earlier touched its highest level since 2007, according to Tradeweb.

The 10-year yield jumped to 3.37% from 3.15%, and the higher level will make mortgages and many other kinds of loans more expensive. It touched its highest level since 2011.

The higher yields mean prices are tumbling for bonds. That happens rarely and is a painful hit for older and more conservative investors who depend on them as the safer parts of their nest eggs.

Some of the biggest hits came for cryptocurrencies, which soared early in the pandemic as ultralow rates encouraged some investors to pile into the riskiest investments. Bitcoin tumbled more than 14% from a day earlier and dropped below \$23,400, according to Coindesk. It's back to where it was in late

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 46 of 72

2020 and down from a peak of \$68,990 late last year.

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude rose 11 cents to \$121.04 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gained 26 cents to \$120.93 on Monday.

Brent crude, the international standard, added 11 cents to \$122.38 a barrel.

Yellowstone floods wipe out roads, bridges, strand visitors

By AMY BETH HANSON Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Massive floodwaters ravaged Yellowstone National Park and nearby communities Monday, washing out roads and bridges, cutting off electricity and forcing visitors to evacuate parts of the iconic park at the height of summer tourist season.

All entrances to Yellowstone were closed due to the deluge, caused by heavy rains and melting snow-pack, while park officials ushered tourists out of the most affected areas.

There were no immediate reports of injuries, though dozens of stranded campers had to be rescued by raft in south-central Montana. Authorities also said they would be assessing a potential “loss of homes and structures” in Montana’s Stillwater County.

Elsewhere, some of the worst damage happened in the northern part of the Yellowstone and the park’s gateway communities in southern Montana. National Park Service photos of northern Yellowstone showed a landslide, a bridge washed out over a creek, and roads badly undercut by churning floodwaters of the Gardner and Lamar rivers.

The flooding cut off road access to Gardiner, Montana, a town of about 900 people near the confluence of the Yellowstone and Gardner rivers, just outside Yellowstone’s busy North Entrance.

At a cabin in Gardiner, visitor Parker Manning of Terra Haute, Indiana, got an up-close view of the water rising and the river bank sloughing off in the raging Yellowstone River floodwaters just outside his door.

“We started seeing entire trees floating down the river, debris,” Manning told The Associated Press. “Saw one crazy single kayaker coming down through, which was kind of insane.”

The Yellowstone River at Corwin Springs crested at 13.88 feet (4.2 meters) Monday, higher than the previous record of 11.5 feet (3.5 meters) set in 1918, according to the National Weather Service.

Floodwaters inundated a street in Red Lodge, a Montana town of 2,100 that’s a popular jumping-off point for a scenic, winding route into the Yellowstone high country. Twenty-five miles (40 kilometers) to the northeast, in Joliet, Kristan Apodaca wiped away tears as she stood across the street from a washed-out bridge, The Billings Gazette reported.

The log cabin that belonged to her grandmother, who died in March, flooded, as did the park where Apodaca’s husband proposed.

“I am sixth-generation. This is our home,” she said. “That bridge I literally drove yesterday. My mom drove it at 3 a.m. before it was washed out.”

Yellowstone officials were evacuating the northern part of the park, where roads may remain impassable for a substantial length of time, park Superintendent Cam Sholly said in a statement.

But the flooding affected the rest of the park, too, with park officials warning of yet higher flooding and potential problems with water supplies and wastewater systems at developed areas.

“We will not know timing of the park’s reopening until flood waters subside and we’re able to assess the damage throughout the park,” Sholly said in the statement.

The park’s gates will be closed at least through Wednesday, officials said. It was unclear how many visitors have been forced to leave the park.

The rains hit right as summer tourist season was ramping up. June, at the onset of an annual wave of over 3 million visitors that doesn’t abate until fall, is one of Yellowstone’s busiest months.

Remnants of winter — in the form of snow still melting off and rushing off the mountains — made for an especially bad time to get heavy rain.

Yellowstone got 2.5 inches (6 centimeters) of rain Saturday, Sunday and into Monday. The Beartooth Mountains northeast of Yellowstone got as much as 4 inches (10 centimeters), according to the National

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 47 of 72

Weather Service.

"It's a lot of rain, but the flooding wouldn't have been anything like this if we didn't have so much snow," said Cory Mottice, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Billings, Montana. "This is flooding that we've just never seen in our lifetimes before."

The rain will likely abate while cooler temperatures lessen snowmelt in coming days, Mottice said.

In south-central Montana, flooding on the Stillwater River stranded 68 people at a campground. Stillwater County Emergency Services agencies and crews with the Stillwater Mine rescued people Monday from the Woodbine Campground by raft. Some roads in the area were closed due to flooding, and residents have been evacuated.

"We will be assessing the loss of homes and structures when the waters recede," the sheriff's office said in a statement.

The flooding happened while other parts of the U.S. burned in hot and dry weather. More than 100 million Americans were being warned to stay indoors as a heat wave settles over states stretching through parts of the Gulf Coast to the Great Lakes and east to the Carolinas.

Elsewhere in the West, crews from California to New Mexico battled wildfires in hot, dry and windy weather.

Scientists say climate change is responsible for more intense and more frequent extreme events such as storms, droughts, floods and wildfires, though single weather events usually cannot be directly linked to climate change without extensive study.

Tentative Senate gun deal has surprises, and loose ends

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The outline of a bipartisan Senate agreement to rein in gun violence has no game-changing steps banning the deadliest firearms. It does propose measured provisions making it harder for some young gun buyers, or people considered threatening, to have weapons.

And there are meaningful efforts to address mental health and school safety concerns. It all reflects election-year pressure to act both parties feel after mass shootings in May killed 10 people in Buffalo, New York, and 21 more in Uvalde, Texas.

Details of the plan remain in negotiation between Democrats and Republicans, with disagreements over how tightly the initiatives should be drawn. That means the proposal's potency — and perhaps whether some parts survive — remain undetermined as it's translated into legislation.

Here's what's in and out of the agreement:

A STRENGTHENING, NARROWLY, OF BACKGROUND CHECKS

When people age 18 to 20 try buying firearms, the required federal background check would for the first time include their juvenile crime and mental health records. To allow time for getting data from state and local authorities, the process' current three-day maximum would be extended up to seven more days, according to aides following the talks. Once the 10 days lapse, the buyer could get the weapon, even if the record search is incomplete.

Currently, dealers considered in the "business" of selling guns are required to get federal firearms licenses. Such sellers must conduct background checks. Bargainers want to cover more people who, while not running a formal business, occasionally sell weapons.

OTHER MEASURED CURBS

The framework calls for grants to help states enforce or enact "red flag" laws that let authorities get court orders temporarily taking guns from people deemed dangerous. Nineteen states and the District of Columbia have such statutes, but some lack funds to enforce them robustly.

Penalties would be toughened for so-called straw purchasers, those buying guns for others who don't qualify. More current or former romantic partners convicted of domestic abuse, or targeted with restraining orders by their victims, would be barred from getting guns. The ban applies today if the couple was married, lived together or had children together.

Inclusion of the tougher restrictions against straw purchasers and estranged partners were surprises

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 48 of 72

because they'd been blocked by Republicans before.

ADDRESSING BROADER PROBLEMS

Democrats say there will be billions of dollars to expand mental health initiatives. This would pay for more community behavioral health centers, strengthened suicide prevention and violence intervention efforts and increased access to mental telehealth visits.

There would be new sums for school safety. These could include better security at building entrances, training for staff and violence prevention programs. The dollar amount is unclear.

HURDLES AHEAD

Democrats responsive to constituents who strongly favor gun curbs want the new law to be as stringent as possible. Republicans want nothing that would turn their adamantly pro-gun voters against them.

This means tough bargaining on the fine print of the legislation.

How narrowly will a new definition of which sellers need federal firearms licenses be written? Are there limits on which juvenile records would be accessible during background checks for younger buyers?

What conditions would states have to meet to qualify for "red flag" funds? What legal protections would people have if the authorities consider them too risky to have firearms?

How much money will the package cost? No one has said, though people familiar with the discussions say a ballpark \$15 billion is possible. And how will it be paid for?

A leader of the effort, Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., told reporters Monday that bargainers plan to pay for the costs with offsetting spending cuts or new revenues. The latter could be a no-go for Republicans.

Leaders hope the package can be written and approved before Congress begins its July 4 recess.

WHAT'S OUT?

President Joe Biden has proposed reviving the 1994 assault weapons ban, which expired after a decade, or raising the minimum age for buying one from 18 to 21. He wants to ban high-capacity magazines.

He'd repeal the legal immunity from liability protecting gun makers. He wants safe storage requirements for guns and a federal "red-flag" law to cover states without one.

None of those made it into the bill; nor did universal background checks. Biden backs the agreement anyway in the name of a compromise that would produce an achievement.

PROSPECTS AHEAD?

Ten senators from each party joined in announcing the gun outline and saying they backed it. Those numbers are not a coincidence.

They signal potentially enough support for passage by the 50-50 Senate, where Democrats will need at least 10 GOP backers to reach the usual 60-vote threshold. Besides Murphy, the other lead negotiators were Sens. John Cornyn, R-Texas, Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., and Thom Tillis, R-N.C.

Approval in the Democratic-run House is expected, though complications could always emerge.

MORE RESTRICTIONS?

Another bargainer, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., said he hopes Republicans will see that "the gun lobby is weaker than they think." But there are signs that approving future restrictions will be challenging.

For one thing, this spurt of action on guns is Congress' most significant since the now-expired assault weapons ban was enacted three decades ago. That spotlights how hardened positions can be lasting.

Another clue is the makeup of the agreement's 20 announced supporters. Blumenthal and Sen. Mark Kelly, D-Ariz., are the only two running for reelection this year.

Four others, all Republicans, are retiring in January: Sens. Roy Blunt of Missouri, Richard Burr of North Carolina, Rob Portman of Ohio and Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania.

The rest don't face reelection until 2024 or 2026.

They are Republican Sens. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, Susan Collins of Maine, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Mitt Romney of Utah.

The Democrats are Sens. Cory Booker of New Jersey, Chris Coons of Delaware, Martin Heinrich of New Mexico, Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Debbie Stabenow of Michigan.

Independent Sen. Angus King of Maine, allied with Democrats, also backed the proposal.

South Korea says North completed prep for new nuclear test

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — South Korea's top diplomat said Monday that North Korea has completed preparations for a new nuclear test and that only a political decision by the country's top leadership can prevent it from going forward.

After talks with Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Washington, South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin said the North would pay a price if it goes ahead, as feared, with what would be its seventh nuclear test in the coming days.

"North Korea has completed preparations for another nuclear test and I think only a political decision has to be made," Park said. Prior to Monday, U.S. and South Korean officials had said only that the North was nearing completion of such preparations.

"If North Korea ventures into another nuclear test, I think it will only strengthen our deterrence and also international sanctions," Park said. "North Korea should change its mind and make the right decision."

Apart from sanctions, Park did not say what that price the North would pay or outline how the deterrence policy would change, but Blinken said the United States and treaty allies South Korea and Japan could adjust their military postures in response.

"We're preparing for all contingencies this in very close coordination with others and we are prepared to make both short and longer-term adjustments to our military posture," Blinken said. He added that in addition, "the pressure will be sustained, it will continue and, as appropriate, it will be increased."

Both Park and Blinken men stressed the door to negotiations without any preconditions remains open for North Korea. But Blinken, repeating comments from numerous U.S. officials in recent days, lamented that North Korea continues to ignore overtures for dialogue.

On Sunday, North Korea test-fired what appeared to be artillery shells toward the sea, according to South Korea's military, days after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for greater defense capability to cope with outside threats.

The North's artillery tests draw less outside attention than its missile launches, of which it has conducted more so far this year than in any previous year. But its forward-deployed long-range artillery guns are a serious security threat to South Korea's populous metropolitan region, which is only 40-50 kilometers (25-30 miles) from the border with North Korea.

The suspected artillery launches were the latest in a spate of weapons tests by North Korea this year in what foreign experts call an attempt to pressure its rivals Washington and Seoul to relax international sanctions against Pyongyang and make other concessions.

In March, North Korea test-launched an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of reaching the mainland U.S. in breach of a 2018 moratorium on big missile tests.

A possible new nuclear test by North Korea would be the seventh of its kind. Some experts say North Korea will likely use the test to build warheads to be mounted on tactical nuclear weapons aimed at hitting targets in South Korea.

Jan. 6 panel hears: Trump 'detached from reality' in defeat

By LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump's closest campaign advisers, top government officials and even his family were dismantling his false claims of 2020 election fraud ahead of Jan. 6, but the defeated president seemed "detached from reality" and kept clinging to outlandish theories to stay in power, the committee investigating the Capitol attack was told Monday.

With gripping testimony, the panel is laying out in step-by-step fashion how Trump ignored his own campaign team's data as one state after another flipped to Joe Biden, and instead latched on to conspiracy theories, court cases and his own declarations of victory rather than having to admit defeat.

Trump's "big lie" of election fraud escalated and transformed into marching orders that summoned supporters to Washington and then sent them to the Capitol on Jan. 6 to block Biden's victory.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 50 of 72

"He's become detached from reality if he really believes this stuff," former Attorney General William Barr testified in his interview with the committee.

Barr called the voting fraud claims "bull—," "bogus" and "idiotic," and resigned in the aftermath. "I didn't want to be a part of it."

The House 1/6 committee spent the morning hearing delving into Trump's claims of election fraud and the countless ways those around him tried to convince the defeated Republican president they were not true, and he had simply lost the election.

The witnesses Monday, mostly Republicans and many testifying in prerecorded videos, described in blunt terms and sometimes exasperated detail how Trump refused to take the advice of those closest to him, including his family members. As the people around him splintered into a "team normal" headed by former campaign manager Bill Stepien and others led by Trump confidant Rudy Giuliani, the president chose his side.

On election night, Stepien said, Trump was "growing increasingly unhappy" and refusing to accept the grim outlook for his presidency.

Son-in-law Jared Kushner tried to steer Trump away from Giuliani and his far-flung theories of voter fraud. The president would have none of it.

The back-and-forth intensified in the run-up to Jan. 6. Former Justice Department official Richard Donoghue recalled breaking down one claim after another — from a truckload of ballots in Pennsylvania to a missing suitcase of ballots in Georgia — and telling Trump "much of the info you're getting is false."

Still, he pressed on with his false claims even after dozens of court cases collapsed.

On Monday an unrepentant Trump blasted the hearings in his familiar language as "ridiculous and treasonous" and repeated his claims.

The former president, mulling another run for the White House, defended the Capitol attack as merely Americans seeking "to hold their elected officials accountable."

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

During the hearing, the panel also provided new information about how Trump's fundraising machine collected some \$250 million with his campaigns to "Stop the Steal" and others in the aftermath of the November election, mostly from small-dollar donations from Americans. One plea for cash went out 30 minutes before the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection.

"Not only was there the big lie, there was the big ripoff," said Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif.

Chairman Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., opened Monday's hearing saying Trump "betrayed the trust of the American people" and "tried to remain in office when people had voted him out."

As the hearings play out for the public, they are also being watched by one of the most important viewers, Attorney General Merrick Garland, who must decide whether his department can and should prosecute Trump. No sitting or former president has ever faced such an indictment.

"I am watching," Garland said Monday at a press briefing at the Justice Department, even if he may not watch all the hearings live. "And I can assure you the Jan. 6 prosecutors are watching all of the hearings as well."

Biden was getting updates but not watching "blow by blow," said White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre.

Stepien was to be a key in-person witness Monday but abruptly backed out of appearing live because his wife went into labor. Stepien, who is still close to Trump, had been subpoenaed to appear. He is now a top campaign adviser to Trump-endorsed House candidate Harriet Hageman, who is challenging committee vice chair Rep. Liz Cheney in the Wyoming Republican primary.

The panel marched ahead after a morning scramble and delay, with witness after witness saying Trump embraced and repeated his claims about the election although those closest told him the theories of stolen ballots or rigged voting machines were simply not true.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 51 of 72

Stepien and senior adviser Jason Miller described how the festive mood at the White House on Election Night turned grim as Fox News announced Trump had lost the state of Arizona to Joe Biden, and aides worked to counsel Trump on what to do next.

But he ignored their advice, choosing to listen instead to Giuliani, who was described as inebriated by several witnesses. Giuliani issued a general denial Monday, rejecting "all falsehoods" he said were being said about him.

Stepien said, "My belief, my recommendation was to say that votes were still being counted, it's too early to tell, too early to call the race."

But Trump "thought I was wrong. He told me so."

Barr, who had also testified in last week's blockbuster opening hearing, said Trump was "as mad as I'd ever seen him" when the attorney general later explained that the Justice Department would not take sides in the election.

Barr said when he would tell Trump "how crazy some of these allegations were, there was never, there was never an indication of interest in what the actual facts were."

For the past year, the committee has been investigating the most violent attack on the Capitol since the War of 1812, which some believe posed a grave threat to democracy.

Monday's hearing also featured live witnesses, including Chris Stirewalt, a former Fox News Channel political editor who was part of a team that declared on Election Night that Arizona was being won by Biden. Also appearing was the former U.S. attorney in Atlanta, BJay Pak, who abruptly resigned after Trump pressured Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to find enough votes to overturn his defeat.

The panel also heard from elections lawyer Benjamin Ginsberg, who discussed the norms of election campaign challenges, and former Philadelphia City Commissioner Al Schmidt, the only Republican on the city's election board, who told the panel that regardless of how "fantastical" some of the claims that Trump and his team were making, the city officials investigated. He discussed facing threats after Trump criticized him in a tweet.

Western wildfires force evacuations in Arizona, California

By FELICIA FONSECA Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — The Western U.S. on Monday marked another day of hot, dry and windy weather as crews from California to New Mexico battled wildfires that had forced hundreds of people to leave their homes.

Roughly 2,500 homes have been evacuated because of two wildfires burning on the outskirts of Flagstaff in northern Arizona, officials said at an afternoon briefing.

"We all have felt the pain of watching our beautiful mountain burn. We acknowledged what an incredibly difficult time this is for those who have been evacuated and for those whose homes have been threatened," Coconino County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Patrice Horstman said.

The wildfire prompted the county to declare an emergency. It's been fueled by high winds that have grounded aircraft as an option for firefighting. Crews are planning on being able to use aircraft Tuesday as winds moderate, authorities said.

Incident Cmdr. Aaron Graeser said the Flagstaff-area fire is one of the country's top priorities for firefighting resources.

"Every potential fire source was a problem today, and every potential unburned area was receptive to fire today," Graeser said. "That puts us in an interesting situation of trying to, again, assign resources the best we can based on that."

Current conditions have also kept fire managers from being able to better map it by air but the fire is estimated to be 8 square miles (20 square kilometers).

Crews were expecting wind gusts up to 50 mph (80 kph) as they battled the blaze that has burned through parts of the footprint left by another springtime fire that destroyed over two dozen homes as well as parts of other fire scars.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 52 of 72

So far, one home and a secondary structure have been lost in the fire first reported Sunday, Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Bret Axlund said.

The Arizona Snowbowl ski resort closed as a precaution because of the wildfire — the second to hit the area this year.

"It's literally like *déjà vu*," said Coconino County sheriff's spokesman Jon Paxton. "We are in the same exact spot doing the same exact thing as we were a month and a half ago. People are tired."

Two other smaller wildfires northeast of the blaze were also burning Monday.

Wildfires broke out early this spring in multiple states in the Western U.S., where climate change and an enduring drought are fanning the frequency and intensity of forest and grassland fires.

The number of square miles burned so far this year is more than double the 10-year national average, and states like New Mexico already have set records with devastating blazes that destroyed hundreds of homes while causing environmental damage that is expected to affect water supplies.

Nationally, more than 6,200 wildland firefighters were battling nearly three dozen uncontained fires that had charred over 1 million acres (4,408 square kilometers), according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

Even in Alaska, forecasters have warned that many southwestern fires have grown exceptionally over the last week, which is unusual for that area. Southwest Alaska normally experiences shorter periods of high fire danger because intermittent rain can provide relief, but since mid-May the region has been hot and windy, helping to dry out vegetation.

Favorable weather Monday helped slow the progression of a tundra wildfire just over 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) away from an Alaska Native village. Moderate temperatures and a shift in the wind that had been driving the fire toward St. Mary's will allow firefighters to directly attack the flames and increase protections for the Yup'ik community.

The lightning-sparked fire is estimated at about 193 square miles (500 square kilometers). It's burning dry grass and shrubs in southwest Alaska's mostly treeless tundra.

In California, evacuations were ordered for about 300 remote homes near a wildfire that flared up over the weekend in forest land northeast of Los Angeles near the Pacific Crest Trail in the San Gabriel Mountains.

The blaze saw renewed growth Sunday afternoon and by midday Monday had scorched about 1.5 square miles (3.9 square km) of pine trees and dry brush, fire spokesperson Dana Dierkes said.

"The fuel is very dry, so it acts like a ladder, carrying flames from the bottom of the trees to the very top," Dierkes said. Crews were also contending with unpredictable winds that were expected to strengthen later in the day, she said.

Aside from mandatory evacuations for some, the remainder of the mountain town of Wrightwood, with about 4,500 residents, was under an evacuation warning. Several roads also were closed.

The fire was 18% contained.

Five people were rescued from a dangerous area after a wildfire broke out Monday near Dulzura in San Diego County near the Mexican border and spread to nearly 600 acres (242 hectares), authorities said.

Two of those rescued were taken to a hospital but there was no immediate word on how they were injured or their conditions, fire officials said.

Fire conditions were elevated because of warm and dry weekend weather across Southern California. Monday was expected to be cooler, but another heat wave was expected at midweek, the National Weather Service said.

In Northern California, a 50-mile (80-km) stretch of State Route 70 was closed indefinitely on Monday after mud, boulders and dead trees inundated lanes during flash floods along a wildfire burn scar.

Several drivers were rescued Sunday evening from debris flowing on the highway when hillsides burned bare by last year's enormous Dixie Fire came loose. No injuries were reported.

The causes of the latest California fires were under investigation.

U.S. Forest Service law enforcement officers cited a 57-year-old camper for lighting toilet paper on fire and placing it under a rock Saturday near the origin of the Arizona wildfire. The fire was reported a day

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 53 of 72

later. Court documents show the man told authorities he tried to put the fire out with his sleeping bag, but his attorney said in federal court Monday that doesn't mean his client was responsible for sparking the blaze.

Flagstaff resident Janetta Kathleen rode her horse, Squish, up a hill to get a better look at the wildfire Sunday evening and watched it creep toward homes in the shadow of the mountain. Her home isn't directly in the fire's path, but her family, two bulldogs and horses are ready to go at a moment's notice.

"I need to know what's going on because I have decisions to make for my family," she said. "If the winds shift, we'll be in trouble."

Hikers, campers and others who were out enjoying the forest also had to leave Sunday. A shelter was set up at a middle school.

Strong winds sent embers across U.S. Route 89, the main route to the turnoff for the Grand Canyon's east rim entrance, through the Navajo Nation and up into Utah. Many people commute between the reservation and Flagstaff for work. Parts of the highway remained closed Monday.

"We're not working directly on suppressing the fire to get the whole thing out right now," said Coconino National Forest spokesman Brady Smith. "That's not our focus and it's not possible right now. Right now, it's going to be focused on protecting life and property."

Smoke from the fire near Flagstaff caused hazy skies in Colorado on Monday, obscuring views of the Rocky Mountains from Denver and other cities along the state's Front Range.

Meanwhile, firefighters worked to contain a small wildfire burning in juniper and piñon pine that briefly caused evacuation orders Sunday in the San Luis Valley's Rio Grande National Forest in southern Colorado.

The National Weather Service issued red flag warnings for high fire danger in central and southern parts of Colorado as well as parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

Winds are expected to ease after Monday with some moisture moving in later this week in parts of the Southwest, the weather service said.

Search continues for missing men in Brazilian Amazon

By FABIANO MAISONNAVE Associated Press

ATALAIA DO NORTE, Brazil (AP) — The search for an Indigenous expert and a journalist who disappeared in a remote area of Brazil's Amazon continued Monday following the discovery of a backpack, laptop and other personal belongings submerged in a river.

The items were taken by Federal Police officers by boat to Atalaia do Norte, the closest city to the search, and police said Sunday night they had identified the items as belonging to the 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.

Paulo Marubo, president of local Indigenous association Univaja, for which Pereira was an adviser, told The Associated Press that search parties from the army, navy, Federal Police, Civil Defense, firefighters and Military Police were working in the area where the belongings were found.

Upon returning to Atalaia do Norte after a full day of searching Monday, a Federal Police officer told reporters they had not found either man's body or other items.

Federal police issued a statement earlier Monday denying media reports that the two men's bodies had been found. Last week, police recovered organic matter of apparent human origin in the river, which has been sent for analysis. They haven't detailed what the material is, but President Jair Bolsonaro told local radio Monday that it was "human viscera."

Police have also reported finding traces of blood in the boat of a fisherman who is under arrest as the only suspect in the disappearance.

Search teams 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.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 54 of 72

"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 AP.

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.

Hundreds of people from several Indigenous groups took to Atalaia do Norte's narrow streets to protest the pair's disappearance Monday.

With traditional garments, bows and arrows and mobile phones, they carried placards criticizing President Jair Bolsonaro, who is widely seen as an opponent of Indigenous rights.

The Javari Valley has seven known Indigenous groups — some only recently contacted, such as the Matis. The valley also has at least 11 uncontacted groups, making the region the largest concentration of isolated tribes in the world.

Officially, the Indigenous territory has a population of about 6,300 people. Many of them live in the small urban center so their children can attend non-Indigenous public schools. They also go to the city to seek medical treatment and collect federal benefits.

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 police are investigating possible links 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.

But federal police have not ruled out other lines of investigation, such as drug trafficking.

The only known suspect in the disappearances is fisherman Amarildo da Costa de Oliveira, also known as Pelado, who is under arrest. Indigenous people who were with Pereira and Phillips say he brandished a rifle at them the day before they disappeared. He denies any wrongdoing and said military police tortured him to try to get a confession, his family told the AP.

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.

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 the 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 (the city of) Leticia, everybody was angry with Bruno. This is not a little game. It's possible they sent a gunman to kill him."

Ohio governor signs bill allowing armed school employees

By ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS and MARK GILLISPIE Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Ohio school districts could begin arming employees as soon as this fall under a bill signed into law Monday by GOP Gov. Mike DeWine.

The law, as enacted, requires up to 24 hours of training before an employee can go armed, and up to eight hours of annual training. The training programs must be approved by the Ohio School Safety Center,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 55 of 72

and DeWine announced he's ordering the center to require the maximum 24 hours and the maximum eight hours.

Schools can provide additional training if they wish, DeWine said.

Before announcing the bill signing, the governor outlined several other school safety measures he and lawmakers have promoted, including \$100 million for school security upgrades in schools and \$5 million for upgrades at colleges.

The state is also adding 28 employees to the school safety center to work with districts on safety issues and to provide training under the new law. Ohio has also provided \$1.2 billion in wellness funding for schools to address mental health and other issues, the governor said.

The new law "is giving schools an option, based on their particular circumstances, to make the best decision they can make with the best information they have," DeWine said.

The governor said his preference remains that school districts hire armed school resource officers, but said the law is another tool for districts that want to protect children. He emphasized that it's optional, not a requirement.

Several big-city Ohio mayors — all Democrats — joined together Monday afternoon to criticize the measure and failure of Republican lawmakers to consider any gun control proposals. The mayors are seeking universal background checks, red flag laws to take firearms away from anyone who is perceived a threat, raising the legal age for gun purchases to 21, and a ban on assault rifles like the kind used in the Uvalde, Texas, school shooting that killed 19 elementary students and two teachers.

"All of these things are common sense," said Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz. "We're in a situation where we can't pass legislation that 95% of our citizens support."

Also Monday, former Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, DeWine's Democratic opponent for governor, criticized DeWine for signing the armed school employees bill, saying he had failed to make good on his promise to address gun violence after a mass shooting in Dayton killed nine people and wounded more than two dozen in August 2019.

Whaley also criticized DeWine for previously signing bills that eliminated Ohioans' duty to retreat before using force — the so-called "stand your ground" bill — and made a concealed weapons permit optional for those legally allowed to carry a weapon. The concealed weapons change took effect Monday.

"The politics got hard and Mike DeWine folded," Whaley said. "Nine people in Dayton was worth the political risk."

In the wake of the Dayton massacre, DeWine announced his "STRONG Ohio" plan to address gun violence. His proposals include higher penalties for violent felons caught with guns and ensure that mentally ill people don't have guns if a court deems them dangerous to themselves and others.

Cracking down on violent felons is also a way to protect children, the governor said. "We're seeing a lot of children who are killed not in school, but in their own homes, on their own streets," DeWine said. "And they're killed by violent offenders, and they're usually repeat violent offenders, who are shooting randomly, or shooting at somebody and the kid gets in the way."

Last year, 120 children died of gunfire, compared to 96 in 2020 and 71 in 2019, according to state Health Department data.

DeWine on Monday once again called on fellow Republican lawmakers to approve those measures, though they've shown no interest in the bills so far.

Democrats have said the law sends the wrong message coming so soon after the Uvalde massacre. Republicans say the measure could prevent such shootings. Lawmakers fast-tracked the legislation to counter the impact of a court ruling that said, under current law, armed school workers would need hundreds of hours of training.

The measure is opposed by major law enforcement groups, gun control advocates, and the state's teachers unions. It's supported by a handful of police departments and school districts.

Officer hailed as hero testifies at Capitol riot trial

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 56 of 72

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A police officer lauded for his bravery during the U.S. Capitol riot testified Monday that a man carrying a Confederate battle flag jabbed at him with the flagpole before joining the mob that chased him up a staircase.

In his first public testimony since the Jan. 6, 2021, siege, Capitol Police officer Eugene Goodman described his encounter with the flag-toting Delaware man, Kevin Seefried, and his adult son, Hunter, at their trial on charges that they stormed the Capitol together.

Goodman has been hailed as a hero for leading a group of rioters away from the Senate chamber as senators and then-Vice President Mike Pence were being evacuated. Goodman also directed Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, to turn around and head away from the mob.

Goodman recalled seeing Kevin Seefried standing alone in an archway and telling him to leave. Instead, Seefried cursed at him and jabbed at the officer with the base end of the flagpole three or four times without making contact with him, Goodman said.

"He was very angry. Screaming. Talking loudly," Goodman said. "Complete opposite of pleasant."

U.S. District Judge Trevor McFadden is hearing testimony without a jury for the Seefrieds' bench trial, which started Monday and is scheduled to resume Tuesday. The Seefrieds waived their right to a jury trial, which means McFadden will decide their cases.

Widely published photographs showed Kevin Seefried carrying a Confederate battle flag inside the Capitol after he and his son entered the building through a broken window.

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 Joe Biden's victory over then-President Donald Trump in the 2020 presidential election.

During the trial's opening statements, defense attorneys said the Seefrieds never intended to interfere with the Electoral College vote count.

"Indeed, (Kevin Seefried) was not even aware that the electoral count was happening or was happening in the Capitol," one of his lawyers, Elizabeth Mullin, told the judge.

After rioters chased Goodman up a set of stairs, another Capitol police officer who confronted the mob near the Senate chamber recalled that Kevin Seefried asked, "Why are you protecting them?"

"I assumed he was talking about Congress," Officer Brian Morgan testified.

Before his encounter with the mob inside the Capitol, Goodman joined other officers in trying to hold back rioters as they clashed with police outside the building.

"It was like something out of medieval times, with one huge force clashing with another opposing force," Goodman said. "I've never seen anything like that ever."

Goodman said he had to retreat inside the building after getting pepper sprayed and exposed to tear gas deployed by police.

The Seefrieds aren't charged with assaulting any officers.

Mullin conceded that Kevin Seefried is guilty of two misdemeanor charges that he knowingly entered a restricted building and illegally demonstrated in the Capitol.

Hunter Seefried, then 22, may have acted "stupidly" but didn't intend to block Congress from certifying the election results, defense attorney Edson Bostic said.

Goodman recalled that Hunter Seefried was smirking but didn't see him acting aggressively or hear him yelling at police.

"He was just disobeying commands," Goodman said.

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.

They 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 wooden 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.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 57 of 72

In a court filing, prosecutors said the Confederate battle flag that Kevin Seefried brought from home was "a symbol of violent opposition to the United States government."

Mullin said Seefried didn't intend "to send any kind of message" by carrying the flag into the Capitol and regrets doing so.

McFadden, whom Trump nominated in 2017, is the only judge to hold a bench trial for a Capitol riot case so far.

In April, he 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.

In March, McFadden acquitted a New Mexico elected official of engaging in disorderly conduct but convicted him of illegally entering restricted Capitol grounds.

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

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 other defendants 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.

Bucolic Ukraine forest is site of mass grave exhumation

By OLEKSANDR STASHEVSKYI Associated Press

BUCHA, Ukraine (AP) — The lush green beauty of a pine forest with singing birds contrasted with the violent deaths of newly discovered victims of Russia's war in Ukraine, as workers exhumed bodies from another mass grave near the town of Bucha on Kyiv's outskirts.

The hands of several victims were tied behind their backs. The gruesome work of digging up the remains coincided with the Ukrainian police chief's report that authorities have opened criminal investigations into the killings of more than 12,000 people since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24.

Workers wearing white hazmat suits and masks used shovels to exhume bodies from the soil of the forest, marking each section with small yellow numbered signs on the ground. The bodies, covered in cloth and dirt, attracted flies.

"Shots to the knees tell us that people were tortured," Andriy Nebytov, head of the Kyiv regional police, said at the scene. "The hands tied behind the back with tape say that people had been held (hostage) for a long time and (enemy forces) tried to get any information from them."

Since the withdrawal of Russian troops from the region at the end of March, authorities say they have uncovered the bodies of 1,316 people, many in mass graves in the forest and elsewhere.

The horrors of Bucha shocked the world after Russian troops left. The mass grave that reporters saw Monday was just behind a trench dug out for a military vehicle. The bodies of seven civilians were retrieved. Two of the bodies were found with their hands tied and gunshot wounds to the knees and head, Nebytov said.

National police chief Igor Klimentko told the Interfax-Ukraine news agency on Monday that criminal investigations into the deaths of more than 12,000 Ukrainians included some found in mass graves. He said the mass killings also were done by snipers firing from tanks and armored personnel carriers. Bodies were found lying on streets and homes, as well as in mass graves.

He didn't specify how many of the more than 12,000 were civilians and how many were military.

Complete information about the number of bodies in mass graves or elsewhere isn't known, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told the American Jewish Committee on Sunday. He cited the case of two

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 58 of 72

children who died with their parents in the basement of an apartment building in Mariupol in a Russian bombing. Zelenskyy, who is Jewish and lost relatives in the Holocaust, asked:

"Why is this happening in 2022? This is not the 1940s. How could mass killings, torture, burned cities, and filtration camps set up by the Russian military in the occupied territories resembling Nazi concentration camps come true?"

MORE STORIES ON THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR:

- The battle of Donbas could prove decisive in Ukraine war
- Mexican president slams NATO policy in Ukraine
- Japan philanthropic group begins fundraising for Ukrainians

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS:

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Ukrainian forces had driven the Russians out of more than 1,000 settlements since the war began, and he vowed Monday they would liberate all occupied territory, including Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014.

In his nightly video address, he said the battle over the Donbas "will surely go down in military history as one of the most brutal battles in and for Europe."

"The price of this battle for us is very high," he said. "It's just terrible."

The total war front in the country, he said, is now 2,500 kilometers long (1,550 miles).

Amnesty International, in a report Monday, accused Russia of indiscriminate use of banned cluster munitions in strikes on Kharkiv, killing and wounding hundreds of civilians.

Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, has been subject to intensive shelling since Russia began attacking Ukraine.

"The repeated use of widely banned cluster munitions is shocking, and a further indication of utter disregard for civilian lives," said Donatella Rovera, Amnesty International's senior crisis response adviser. "The Russian forces responsible for these horrific attacks must be held accountable for their actions, and victims and their families must receive full reparations."

The report cited doctors in Kharkiv hospitals who showed researchers distinctive fragments they had removed from patients' bodies, as well as survivors and witnesses of the attacks.

Luhansk governor Serhiy Haidai told The Associated Press that fierce street fighting continued Monday in Sievierodonetsk, one of two large cities in the Donbas region still to be fully captured by Russian troops.

During the day, Haidai updated his estimate of how much of the city Russians control from 70% to 80%. Ukrainian forces are fighting the enemy "block by block, street by street, house by house with a varying degree of success," he told The AP.

More than 10,000 people remain in the city. Haidai said efforts to evacuate them have been halted because Russian troops destroyed two of the three bridges connecting Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk, the second city in Luhansk not yet overrun by Moscow. The remaining bridge is old, decrepit and unsafe, the governor said.

Lysychansk remains under Ukrainian control, but is regularly shelled by the Russian forces. On Sunday, Haidai said, the shelling killed three civilians in the city, including a 6-year-old boy.

Eduard Basurin, an official of the Russia-backed separatists in Donetsk, claimed Monday that Sievierodonetsk has been blocked off and Ukrainian fighters have no choice but to surrender. Haidai dismissed that as "a lie."

"There is no threat of our troops being encircled in the Luhansk region," he said.

Russia-backed separatists in the Donetsk region said Monday that the Ukrainian forces shelled a market in the city of Donetsk, killing three civilians and injuring 18 more. It was the fiercest shelling by Ukrainian forces since 2015, according to the Russian news agency RIA Novosti.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 59 of 72

The head of the Russian-backed government in Donetsk, Denis Pushilin, also cited heavy shelling, and said on his Telegram channel that more forces — especially Russians — were being called in to help.

The Russian military said Monday it destroyed “a large number of weapons and military equipment” that Ukrainian forces had received from the U.S. and Europe.

Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said “high-precision air-launched missiles” hit the supplies near the Udachna railway station in the Donetsk region in eastern Ukraine. Konashenkov also said “a temporary deployment point for foreign mercenaries” and a Ukrainian radar station of the Buk-M1 anti-aircraft missile system were destroyed in the neighboring Luhansk region.

Two batteries of multiple-launch rocket systems were destroyed in the Luhansk and Kharkiv regions, Konashenkov said.

There was no immediate confirmation of the Russian claim from Ukraine.

The Dutch government said it will host a ministerial conference next month on accountability in Ukraine aimed at strengthening and coordinating war crimes investigations.

Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra said Monday that the international community already has taken swift action to investigate alleged atrocities in Ukraine but there is “an urgent need to further coordinate existing efforts on this front.”

The July 14 meeting in The Hague will be hosted by the Dutch government, International Criminal Court Prosecutor Karim Khan and European Commissioner for Justice Didier Reynders.

Khan already has launched an investigation and deployed his largest ever team of prosecutors to Ukraine to gather evidence, including to Bucha, near the capital of Kyiv, where bodies littered the streets after Russian forces retreated early in the war.

Philip Baker Hall, of ‘Hard Eight,’ ‘Seinfeld,’ dies at 90

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Philip Baker Hall, the prolific character actor of film and theater who starred in Paul Thomas Anderson’s first movies and who memorably hunted down a long-overdue library book in “Seinfeld,” has died. He was 90.

Holly Wolfle Hall, the actor’s wife of nearly 40 years, on Monday said Hall died Sunday surrounded by loved ones in Glendale, California. She said Hall had been well until a few weeks earlier, and spent his final days in warm spirits, reflecting on his life.

“His voice at the end was still just as powerful,” said Wolfle Hall. Her husband, she added, never retired from acting.

In a career spanning half a century, Hall was a ubiquitous hangdog face whose doleful, weary appearance could shroud a booming intensity and humble sensitivity. His range was wide, but Hall, who had a natural gravitas, often played men in suits, trench coats and lab coats.

“Men who are highly stressed, older men, who are at the limit of their tolerance for suffering and stress and pain,” Hall told the Washington Post in 2017. “I had an affinity for playing those roles.”

Born in Toledo, Ohio, Hall initially devoted himself more to theater in Los Angeles, after moving out in 1975, than TV and movies. While shooting bit parts in Hollywood (an episode of “Good Times” was one of his first gigs), Hall worked with the L.A. Actor Theatre. There he played Richard Nixon in the one-act play “Secret Honor,” a role he reprised in Robert Altman’s 1984 film adaptation. Critic Pauline Kael wrote that Hall “draws on his lack of a star presence and on an actor’s fears of his own mediocrity in a way that seems to parallel Nixon’s feelings.”

Hall made an impression in the smallest of roles in other films, like 1988’s “Midnight Run.” But outside of theater, Hall was mostly doing guest roles in television. That changed when he was shooting a PBS program in 1992. Hall then encountered a production assistant in his early 20s named Paul Thomas Anderson. The two would hang out, smoking cigarettes and drinking coffee between scenes. Anderson,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 60 of 72

believing Hall hadn't gotten his due in film, asked him to look at a script he had written for a 20-minute short film titled "Cigarettes & Coffee."

"I'm reading this script, and I truly had trouble believing that that kid wrote this script," Hall told the AV Club in 2012. "I mean, it was just so brilliant, resonating with nuance all over the place, like a playwright. Certainly, as a film, I'd never really seen anything like it. It was staggering."

After the \$20,000 short made it into the Sundance Film Festival, Anderson expanded it into his feature debut, 1997's "Hard Eight," which catapulted Hall's career. In it, Hall played a wise and courteous itinerate gambler named Sydney who schools a young drifter (John C. Reilly) on the craft. In one indelible scene, Philip Seymour Hoffman's first with Anderson, a hot-shot gambler chides Hall as "old-timer."

Anderson would cast Hall again as adult film theater magnate Floyd Gondolli who warns Burt Reynolds' pornography producer about the industry's future in "Boogie Nights." In Anderson's "Magnolia," Hall played Jimmy Gator, the host of a kids game show.

"I have a particular fascination with character actors, with wanting to turn them into lead actors," Anderson told The Los Angeles Times in 1998. "I see Philip Baker Hall, he's just . . . an actor that I love. There's no one else with a face like that, or a voice like that."

To many, Hall was instantly recognizable for one of the most powerfully funny guest appearances on "Seinfeld." In the 22nd episode of the sitcom in 1991, Hall played Lt. Joe Bookman, the library investigator who comes after Seinfeld for a years-overdue copy of "Tropic of Cancer." Hall played him like a hardboiled noir detective, telling Seinfeld: "Well, I got a flash for ya, Joy-boy: Party time is over."

Hall was brought back for the "Seinfeld" finale and by Larry David on "Curb Your Enthusiasm." David once said no other actor ever made him laugh more than Hall.

Among Hall's many other credits were Michael Mann's "The Insider," as "60 Minutes" producer Don Hewitt, and Lars von Trier's "Dogville." Hall appeared in "Say Anything," "The Truman Show," "The Talented Mr. Ripley," "Zodiac," "Argo" and "Rush Hour." Hall played the neighbor Walt Kleezak on "Modern Family." His last performance was in the 2020 series "Messiah."

Hall, who was married to Dianne Lewis for three years in the early 1970s, is survived by his wife, four daughters, four grandchildren and his brother.

New this week: J.Lo doc, 'Martin' reunion and 'Spiderhead'

By The Associated Press undefined

Here's a collection curated by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists of what's arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

MOVIES

— The streamers have an embarrassment of riches to offer film fans this week, starting with a few charming highlights from this year's Sundance Film Festival: "Good Luck to You, Leo Grande," debuts on Hulu on June 17, and "Cha Cha Real Smooth," starts streaming on Apple TV+ Friday as well. "Cha Cha" looks at post-grad malaise from the eyes of 22-year-old Andrew (played by writer-director Cooper Raiff), who strikes up a friendship with a single mom (Dakota Johnson) and her daughter (Vanessa Burghardt) while working as a bar-mitzvah party starter. "Leo Grande" focuses on a character in a different stage of life: Emma Thompson plays a 50-something widow and retired teacher who hires a handsome young sex worker to (played by breakout Daryl McCormack) to break her out of her funk. It is much sweeter than it might sound.

— Netflix also has some high-profile films coming this week. First up is the Jennifer Lopez documentary "Halftime," which starts streaming Tuesday. The doc focuses on the months leading up to her halftime performance at the Super Bowl in 2020 and promises candid and vulnerable moments, including the morning she found out she did not get an Oscar nomination for "Hustlers." Then, on Friday, the sci-fi thriller "Spiderhead" debuts. Based on a George Saunders short story, Chris Hemsworth plays an eccentric scientist who runs a state-of-the-art penitentiary and is administering experimental emotion-controlling drugs on the inmates (Miles Teller, Jurnee Smollett among them). It's directed by Joseph Kosinski who is flying high after the success of "Top Gun: Maverick." The AP's review says the film is "a little unsure of

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 61 of 72

what it is or what it's supposed to be."

— And over on HBO Max, there is a new "Father of the Bride" remake coming Thursday. Andy Garcia and Gloria Estefan play the parents of the bride (Adria Arjona). Not only are the parents having their own marital problems, but Sophie's fiancé, Adam (Diego Boneta), is Mexican, leading to some cultural clashes with her Cuban family. The stars have said they were excited to be part of a story that represents different Latin cultures without stereotypes.

— AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr

MUSIC

— The members of Foals feel like dancing and who can blame them? The British indie darlings spent 2019 putting out a complex social commentary in two parts — "Everything Not Saved Will Be Lost" — and now it's time for some fun. "Life Is Yours" is a shimmering album of airy, uplifting songs, highlighted by "2001," a brilliant slice of disco-smear funk, and "2AM," a propulsive ode to not going home alone. The electronic-driven "Wild Green" could have come out in 1982 and frontman Yannis Philippakis's falsetto fuels a sunshine-drenched "Crest of the Wave."

— Alanis Morissette once famously sang "I am not the doctor" but she's got some calming advice this summer. The Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter will release "The Storm Before the Calm," an album of guided meditations co-written with Dave Harrington on Friday. The 11-tracks have names like "Calling Generation X" and "The Other Side of Stillness." The "Jagged Little Pill" creator said, "Making the record kept me super connected and accountable during COVID, when I felt like I was just going to disappear and float away."

— Two iconic music acts — The Beach Boys and Frank Zappa — have streaming offerings this week. "Sounds of Summer: The Very Best of The Beach Boys," originally released in 2003, has been updated in both number of songs and audio quality, expanding the original 30 tracks for a total of 80. And "Zappa/Erie" is a new six-disc boxed set/digital collection that contains more than seven hours of unreleased material, including a trio of live shows recorded 1974-76. Of the 71 tracks, only 10 minutes have been released before.

— AP Entertainment Writer Mark Kennedy

TELEVISION

— Queen Elizabeth II had her Platinum Jubilee extravaganza, and now Queen Elizabeth I would appreciate your attention to her 16th-century back story. "Becoming Elizabeth," out this week on Starz, stars Alicia von Rittberg as the orphaned teenager who is destined for the English throne — but not without a struggle, as depicted by series creator-writer Anya Reiss. When King Henry VIII is succeeded by his 9-year-old son, Henry (Oliver Zetterström), the boy, Elizabeth and their sister Mary (Romala Garai) are caught in a struggle between English insiders and European outsiders to control the country.

— Here's whazzup: It's been 30 years since "Martin" debuted, and BET+ is marking the anniversary with "Martin: The Reunion." Original cast members Martin Lawrence, Tisha Campbell, Tichina Arnold and Carly Anthony Payne II revisit the 1992-97 sitcom with music and celebrity guests including Snoop Dogg, Brian McKnight, Tracy Morgan and Marla Gibbs. Debuting Thursday, the program includes a tribute to the late Thomas Mikal Ford, who played Tommy Strawn in the Fox series. It was a network hit, but marred by Campbell's allegations of sexual harassment.

— The Robertson family of "Duck Dynasty" fame has a new venture with "Duck Family Treasure," a 10-part series debuting Sunday, on the Fox Nation streaming service. Brothers Jase and Jep Robertson are center stage as they search for, yes, buried treasure, including artifacts and gems, with help from uncle Si Robertson and friend Murry Crowe. The brothers' wives and other family members will be part of the show, along with "people, places and lessons" they find along the way.

— AP Television Writer Lynn Elber

55 people killed in latest attack in northern Burkina Faso

Associated Press undefined

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 62 of 72

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP) — Gunmen killed at least 55 people over the weekend in northern Burkina Faso, authorities said Monday, the latest attack in the West African country where mounting violence is blamed on Islamic extremists.

Suspected militants targeted civilians in Seytenga in Seno province, government spokesman Wendkouni Joel Lionel Bilgo said at a news conference. While the government put the official toll at 55, others put the figure far higher.

Attacks linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group are soaring in Burkina Faso, particularly in the north. Jihadists killed at least 160 people in an attack in the town of Solhan in June 2021.

In January, mutinous soldiers ousted the democratically elected president, promising to secure the nation, but violence has only increased. The government is asking people to remain united in the fight against the insurgents.

While no group claimed the weekend attack, conflict analysts say it was likely carried out by the Islamic State group.

"In recent weeks, the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara have been the most aggressive group, notably in Seno and Oudalan provinces. In addition to attacks against security forces, civilians have also been targeted," said Rida Lyammouri, senior fellow at the Policy Center for the New South, a Moroccan-based organization focused on economics and policy.

"This is a major blow to security forces and puts them on the back foot again, indicating they are far from being able to secure the area and protect civilians," he said.

Nearly 5,000 people have died over the last two years in Burkina Faso because of violence blamed on Islamic extremists. Another 2 million people have fled their homes, deepening the country's humanitarian crisis.

55 people killed in latest attack in northern Burkina Faso

Associated Press undefined

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP) — Gunmen killed at least 55 people over the weekend in northern Burkina Faso, authorities said Monday, the latest attack in the West African country where mounting violence is blamed on Islamic extremists.

Suspected militants targeted civilians in Seytenga in Seno province, government spokesman Wendkouni Joel Lionel Bilgo said at a news conference. While the government put the official toll at 55, others put the figure far higher.

Attacks linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group are soaring in Burkina Faso, particularly in the north. Jihadists killed at least 160 people in an attack in the town of Solhan in June 2021.

In January, mutinous soldiers ousted the democratically elected president, promising to secure the nation, but violence has only increased. The government is asking people to remain united in the fight against the insurgents.

While no group claimed the weekend attack, conflict analysts say it was likely carried out by the Islamic State group.

"In recent weeks, the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara have been the most aggressive group, notably in Seno and Oudalan provinces. In addition to attacks against security forces, civilians have also been targeted," said Rida Lyammouri, senior fellow at the Policy Center for the New South, a Moroccan-based organization focused on economics and policy.

"This is a major blow to security forces and puts them on the back foot again, indicating they are far from being able to secure the area and protect civilians," he said.

Nearly 5,000 people have died over the last two years in Burkina Faso because of violence blamed on Islamic extremists. Another 2 million people have fled their homes, deepening the country's humanitarian crisis.

Crowds returned to Milan Furniture Fair after 2-year hiatus

By COLLEEN BARRY Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Italy's furniture and design industry embraced the Milan Furniture Fair after a two-year pandemic delay with unapologetic, over-the-top statement pieces, multi-purpose furnishings adapted to small spaces, and sustainable creations by young designers pushing the industry toward a greener path.

After a surprising pandemic redecorating boom, the industry is looking to an uncertain future. There are raw materials shortages, higher transport costs and general economic uncertainty generated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Sales of Italian furnishings surged to 16 billion euros (about \$16.7 billion) in 2021, a 16% increase over 2019 and 25% more than 2020.

Despite the murky outlook, the world's premiere furniture and design fair, known in Italian as Salone del Mobile, kept the focus on innovation as it recorded a rebound in attendance during six days of previews that closed Sunday.

"Attendance was above expectations," reaching some 400,000 at both Salone and collateral events that spill out into the city, said Alessia Cappello, Milan's top economic development official. Two-thirds were from overseas.

Eye-catching novelties included an oversize gild-framed NFT; benches that convert to workstations or shaded beds for the homeless; and an elegant, dignified walker whose purpose was disguised by its sculpted shape.

"It was fantastic to be back at Salone del Mobile," said Alana Stevens, president of the U.S. furniture maker Knoll. "Much more than a fair, rather a gathering of an incredible global community of those passionate about design. The intersection of designers, artists and the business of design was inspiring."

German fashion designer Philipp Plein unveiled his inaugural furniture collection in collaboration with the Dutch brand Eichholtz, which has furnished many of Plein's own homes in Europe and the United States.

Plein's entry into home design closes a circle for the designer, whose first enterprise was designing dog beds. Fittingly, the new collection includes a leather dog bed on a golden frame for a well-appointed pooch.

"He represents over-the-top luxury, and people want that right now," said Eichholtz COO Robin Goemans.

Jet-setters aspiring to Plein's rock 'n' roll aesthetic can settle into a curved velvet sofa with gold studding. They can admire their wardrobe on a marble-pedestal clothing rack fit for a diva, and their sneaker collection in a standing trunk with mirrored interior. A marble table doubles as a pingpong table, and unique NFTs are digitalized into logoed mirrors.

Plein is just the latest fashion brand to enter the world of furniture design starting in the early 1990s, often by way of homes collections featuring bedding, pillows and towels close to their textile roots.

"The fashion world understood at a certain point that design was able to capture the popular imagination in a way that was extremely interesting also for clothing brands," said Marco Sammiceli, director of design at the Triennale design museum.

On the sidelines of Salone, Sammiceli curated a show at the Triennale of the Memphis Group, a post-modern design movement founded by Ettore Sottsass that made its world debut at the Milan Furniture Fair in 1981.

The movement pushed the limits between the commercial and the artistic, tensions that still exist between the trade fair, with its commercial aims, and the myriad of collateral events where the focus is often more on artistic statements.

"Memphis is the example that gives the best interpretation of Italian design after Olivetti and before Alessi," Sammiceli said, referring to the Olivetti business machine manufacturer best known for its typewriter, and the Alessi tableware and décor brand.

Alessi celebrated its 100th anniversary at Salone with a cutlery collaboration with the late Off-White designer Virgil Abloh. It held an exhibition looking at the family-owned company's journey from a metal factory to a laboratory for design, and a dinner where invited guests included some of the 300 designers who have worked with the brand in recent decades.

Abloh's three-piece cutlery set, dubbed "Occasional Object," features an industrial design reminiscent

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 64 of 72

of a mess kit, with a carabiner to clip the pieces together and onto the body as a fashion extension easily paired with the popular Off-White 200-centimeter industrial belt.

Nigerian designer Lani Adeoye won top prize at the SaloneSatellite event with the walker she designed for her grandfather, who rejected the more standard, medical-looking versions. An interlocking arch that represents unity gives her walker a sculptural flair, and the cording made out of water hyacinth connects both local artistry with sustainable materials.

"He is a dignified man, who worked at the bank for many years and finds it embarrassing to be out with a walker," said the 32-year-old designer. "You can have it in your environment, and it looks artistic. No one knows it is a walker."

Satellite is open to designers under 35 years old, and aims to help them develop relationships with manufacturers and find ways to realize projects that were developed "in full liberty, without needing to take into account production processes," said Maria Porro, president of Salone.

The younger generation's natural hewing to sustainable materials and processes also presents a challenge to the wider industry. Bigger brands are more often heralding sustainable materials.

That included recycled plastics in the latest iterations of Kartell's famed Louis Ghost chair by Philippe Starck, but also the Re-Chair collaboration with illy coffee that is made from discarded coffee pods, alleviating somewhat the guilt of the home capsule consumer.

Knoll introduced an oak chair, bench and stool series by Antonio Citterio called Klismos. Cotton chord is woven into a seat with a light elastic give, and the wood is notched together, so it doesn't require glue, typically sourced from petroleum products. Leather cushions filled with vegetable fibers are optional.

While responsibly sourced materials are important, Porro said, the real challenge to the industry is to reduce its energy footprint, doing things like replacing electric light with natural light and producing by order instead of creating stock. Toward that end, the Federlegno association of Italian furniture makers joined the UN Global Compact committing to responsible business practices during the 60th Salone last week.

"We need sustainable production, that is the real challenge," Porro said. "It is a question of culture."

Carrie Underwood amps up her wattage with new album, tour

By KRISTIN M. HALL AP Entertainment Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — No one can accuse Carrie Underwood of underdressing — or underdelivering — when the country superstar puts out her latest record "Denim & Rhinestones" during the same weekend of CMA Fest and giving tens of thousands of fans a stadium-sized performance.

After a two-year hiatus because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 49th annual music festival returned in-person last Thursday with crowds of fans getting autographs, going to fan club parties and watching artists from morning to late night at stages all around Nashville, Tennessee. An estimated 80,000 people attended the festival over four days.

"This is the first time I've ever put an album out during this crazy, awesome week, and it was definitely by design," Underwood said. "Everybody's going to be out and about, you know, having fun anyway. Like, why not? Why not make a thing out of it and choose this week to release 'Denim & Rhinestones'?"

Denim and rhinestones were definitely the fashion along the streets of lower Broadway as massive crowds mingled downtown, popping in and out of bars, honky-tonks and musical stages. Underwood opened a pop-up site where fans could see her custom-made gowns and stage costumes from past award show performances and put themselves in scenes inspired by songs from her new record.

"We have different vignettes for people to be able to go and take pictures in," she said. "There's denim walls. There's like pink champagne. It looks like a giant bathtub with bubbles kind of in it."

The multiple Grammy-winner put on several performances during the week of her album drop, including an Amazon Music livestream, a fan club party, two performances at the Grand Ole Opry and headlining Saturday night's CMA Fest at Nissan Stadium.

Underwood's stage shows have only gotten bigger and more elaborate over the years, incorporating 360-degree stages, surprise guests, huge video productions, rising stages, smoke, confetti and wind. Her

next tour starts Oct. 15 and hits 43 cities, with direction from Barry Lather, who has worked on tours for Mariah Carey, Usher and Rihanna.

Fresh off a Las Vegas residency where she learned acrobatic skills to swing over the stage, Underwood said she just keeps trying to find new ways to entertain a crowd.

"I think it is so important to be able to just maximize the entertainment value when you're putting on a show," Underwood said. "People don't want to go to a concert and just see somebody stand up there and stand behind the microphone and just sing. And I feel like, as a woman, I can get away with all the wardrobe changes and just really take all the things that I love to do and just multiply them by a million and put on a good show."

Underwood's last two records showed off another side of her singing, including a gospel album and a holiday music record. But she's back to her style of country pop, with tinges of '80s synths and rock, on her ninth studio record that is tailored for a summer festival season that is just rebounding after the pandemic.

"We decided not to fight against things if they didn't sound a certain way," Underwood said. "I feel like over the past couple of years, we've all needed to have happy things to focus on. And when we were writing the album and recording the album, it was like, 'We are going to write this, record this, make music as if we know we're going to be going on the road,' even though we didn't."

Sanctions sought against FBI over Civil War gold dig videos

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM Associated Press

The FBI either lied to a federal judge about having video of its secretive 2018 dig for Civil War-era gold, or illegally destroyed the video to prevent a father-son team of treasure hunters from gaining access to it, an attorney for the duo asserted in new legal filings that allege a government cover-up.

The FBI has long insisted its agents recovered nothing of value when they went looking for the fabled gold cache. But Finders Keepers, a treasure-hunting company that led agents to the remote woodland site in Pennsylvania in hopes of getting a finder's fee, suspect the FBI found tons of gold and made off with it.

After Finders Keepers began pressing the government for information about the dig, the FBI initially said it could produce 17 relevant video files. Then, without explanation, the FBI reduced that number to four. Last week, under court order, the agency finally revealed what it said were the contents of those four videos — and it turns out all had been provided to the FBI by Finders Keepers co-owner Dennis Parada himself, weeks before the dig, at a time when he was offering his evidence for buried treasure.

The FBI did not say it had any video of the actual excavation, which is what Finders Keepers is seeking. The treasure hunters say they have evidence the FBI indeed shot video of the dig — and they are seeking sanctions against the FBI for what their lawyer cast as a blatant, bad-faith effort to mislead.

On March 13, 2018, Parada's hidden trail camera captured what appears to be an FBI agent in front of a video camera at the hillside dig site, with other agents in the background. The trail-cam image was included in a legal filing late Friday by lawyer Anne Weismann, who represents Finders Keepers in its Freedom of Information Act lawsuit against the government.

The photo "suggests either the FBI has falsely claimed to have no other responsive videotapes or the FBI illegally destroyed responsive videotapes in an effort to circumvent the FOIA's disclosure requirements," Weismann wrote.

She asked a judge to order the Justice Department to pay a portion of Finders' Keepers legal fees to compensate for the legal wrangling over the videos, and hold the FBI accountable for "covering up the results of its excavation ... that highly advanced scientific technology indicated contained multiple tons of gold."

A message was sent to the FBI seeking comment Monday.

The government's initial court-ordered release of documents last month included a geophysical survey commissioned by the FBI that suggested an object with a mass of up to 9 tons and a density consistent with gold was buried at the site. The FBI used the consultant's work to obtain a warrant to seize any gold

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 66 of 72

found at the site at Dent's Run, about 135 miles (220 kilometers) northeast of Pittsburgh, where legend says an 1863 shipment of Union gold was either lost or stolen on its way to the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia.

The agency has adamantly denied it found anything. The treasure hunters say the FBI has consistently stonewalled.

"For the FBI to now say it has no videotapes of the dig strains credulity and takes this whole affair to the next level," Warren Getler, who has worked closely with Finders Keepers, said Monday. "We have incontrovertible photographic evidence of them videotaping the dig and interviewing their operational leader at the site. It raises a lot of serious questions."

In addition to seeking legal fees, Weismann also asked the court to give Finders Keepers the ability to depose three FBI officials: Jacob Archer of the FBI's art crime team in Philadelphia, who oversaw the dig; the unidentified videographer shown in the trail-cam still; and Michael Seidel, the FBI section chief for records dissemination.

"We want to answer two questions. Did the FBI create videotapes during the excavation? The picture certainly seems to answer that question. And if so, what happened to those videotapes? It seems to me these are the people best situated to have that information," Weismann, a veteran FOIA lawyer who formerly worked at the Justice Department, said in an interview Monday.

Weismann indicated in court documents that the Justice Department opposes both requests.

Amber Heard says she doesn't blame jury in Depp libel case

NEW YORK (AP) — Amber Heard says she doesn't blame the jury that awarded Johnny Depp more than \$10 million after a contentious six-week libel trial in her first post-verdict interview.

"I don't blame them," Heard told "Today" co-host Savannah Guthrie in an interview clip aired Monday on NBC. "I actually understand. He's a beloved character and people feel they know him. He's a fantastic actor."

"Today" plans to air more of its interview with Heard on Tuesday and Wednesday. The interview is airing nearly two weeks after the verdict, which also saw Heard awarded \$2 million over her claim that one of Depp's attorneys defamed her.

Depp sued Heard for libel in Virginia over a December 2018 op-ed she wrote in The Washington Post describing herself as "a public figure representing domestic abuse." His lawyers said he was defamed by the article even though it never mentioned his name.

The verdicts brought an end to a televised trial that Depp hopes will help restore his reputation, though it turned into a spectacle that offered a window into a volatile marriage and both actors emerged with unclear prospects for their careers.

Guthrie pressed Heard on her credibility and what it meant to jurors in the clips released Monday. "There's no polite way to say it. The jury looked at the evidence you presented. They listened to your testimony and they did not believe you," she said. "They thought you were lying."

Heard responded, "How could they not come to that conclusion? They had sat in those seats and heard over three weeks of non-stop, relentless testimony from paid employees" and witnesses the actor described as "randos" or random people.

Depp, who has not yet done a formal interview about the case, has said the verdict "gave me my life back." Heard said in a statement after the verdict that she was heartbroken, while her attorney said in a separate "Today" interview that her client was "demonized" on social media and she plans to appeal the judgment.

"I don't care what one thinks about me or what judgments you want to make about what happened in the privacy of my own home, in my marriage, behind closed doors. I don't presume the average person should know those things, and so I don't take it personally," Heard told Guthrie.

"You still couldn't look me in the eye and tell me that you think on social media there's been a fair representation. You cannot tell me that you think that this has been fair," Heard said.

The Heard interview will also be featured in Friday's "Dateline" episode.

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 BBC, as Russia has "thrown pretty much everything non-nuclear at the front."

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 — including its 2014 annexation of the Crimean Peninsula — 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. Few expect that Putin will stop.

On Thursday, he drew parallels between the war in Ukraine and the 18th-century wars with Sweden waged by Peter the Great "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 now. Many had expected it to try to encircle Ukrainian forces with a massive pincer movement, but instead it has used smaller moves to force a Ukrainian 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."

Russian forces shelled residential blocks, a hotel and a medical facility late Sunday in the Ukrainian town of Bakhmut. Firefighters extinguished blazes from the shelling, which injured three people.

Western officials still praise the ability of Ukrainian forces to defend their country, fighting back fiercely, 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."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 68 of 72

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.

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.

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 move toward folding those areas into Russia or declaring 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.

"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. She noted that Russia could try to damage Ukraine's economy further by seizing its 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, saying that would only 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 so was its response when Moscow seized Crimea in 2014, he said.

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.

Justices rule against detained immigrants seeking release

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court has ruled against immigrants who are seeking their release from long periods of detention while they fight deportation orders.

In two cases decided Monday, the court said that the immigrants, who fear persecution if sent back to their native countries, have no right under a federal law to a bond hearing at which they could argue for their freedom no matter how long they are held.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 69 of 72

The justices also ruled 6-3 to limit the immigrants ability to band together in court, an outcome that Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote "will leave many vulnerable noncitizens unable to protect their rights."

In recent years, the high court has taken an increasingly limited view of immigrants' access to the federal court system under immigration measures enacted in the 1990s and 2000s.

"For a while, it seemed like the court was going to push back a bit. In extreme cases, it would interpret a statute to allow for as much judicial review as possible," said Nicole Hallet, director of the immigrants rights clinic at the University of Chicago law school. "Clearly now, the court is no longer willing to do that."

The immigrants who sued for a bond hearing are facing being detained for many months, even years, before their cases are resolved.

The court ruled in the cases of people from Mexico and El Salvador who persuaded Homeland Security officials that their fears are credible, entitling them to further review.

Their lawyers argued that they should have a hearing before an immigration judge to determine if they should be released. The main factors are whether people would pose a danger or are likely to flee if set free.

Sotomayor wrote the court's opinion in one case involving Antonio Arteaga-Martinez, who had previously been deported to Mexico. He was taken into custody four years ago, and won release while his case wound through the federal courts. His hearing on whether he can remain in the United States is scheduled for 2023.

But Sotomayor wrote that the provision of immigration law that applies to people like Arteaga-Martinez simply doesn't require the government to hold a bond hearing.

The court, however, left open the issue of the immigrants' ability to argue that the Constitution does not permit such indefinite detention without a hearing.

Justice Samuel Alito wrote the court's opinion holding that federal judges can only rule in the case of the immigrants before them, not a class of similarly situated people.

Sotomayor dissented from that decision, joined by Justices Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan. She wrote that the ability to join together in a class was especially important for people who have no right to a lawyer and "are disproportionately unlikely to be familiar with the U.S. legal system or fluent in the English language."

The cases are Johnson v. Arteaga-Martinez, 19-896, and Garland v. Aleman Gonzalez, 20-322.

Texas shooting records could be blocked by legal loophole

By ACACIA CORONADO Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — As public pressure mounts for more information on the deadly Uvalde school shooting, some are concerned that Texas officials will use a legal loophole to block records from being released — even to the victims' families — once the case is closed.

Since the May 24 shooting at a Texas elementary school that left 19 kids and two teachers dead, law enforcement officials have provided little or conflicting information, sometimes withdrawing statements hours after making them. State police have said some accounts were preliminary and may change as more witnesses are interviewed.

A number of questions remain unanswered by authorities: Why did police take more than an hour to enter the classroom and confront the gunman? What do their body cameras show? How did law enforcement officers communicate with one another and the victims during the attack? What happened when dozens of officers gathered outside the classroom, yet refrained from pursuing the shooter?

Officials have declined to release more details, citing the investigation. In a letter received Thursday by The Associated Press and other media outlets, a law firm representing the City of Uvalde asked for the Texas attorney general's office to rule on records requested in relation to the shooting, citing 52 legal areas — including the section containing the loophole — that they believe exempt the records from being released. Amid the growing silence, lawyers and advocates for the victim's families are beginning to fear they may never get the answers, that authorities will close the case and rely on the exception to the

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 70 of 72

Texas Public Information law to block the release of any further information.

"They could make that decision; they shouldn't have that choice," said Democratic state Rep. Joe Moody of El Paso, who since 2017 has led several efforts to amend the loophole. "To understand what our government is doing should not be that difficult — and right now it is very difficult."

The law's exception protects information from being released in crimes for which no one has been convicted. The Texas Attorney General's Office has ruled that it applies when a suspect is dead. Salvador Ramos, the 18-year-old man who police say was responsible for the mass killing at Robb Elementary School, was fatally shot by law enforcement.

The loophole was created in the 1990s to protect those wrongfully accused or whose cases were dismissed, according to Kelley Shannon, executive director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. "It is meant to protect the innocent," Shannon said. But she said that in some cases "it is being used and misused in a way that was never intended."

Following the shooting, Texas House of Representatives Speaker Dade Phelan, a Republican, took to Twitter to voice his continued support for closing the loophole during the Texas Legislature's next session, which begins in January 2023.

"More than anything, the families of the Uvalde victims need honest answers and transparency," Phelan tweeted. He said it would be "absolutely unconscionable" to deny information based on the "dead suspect loophole."

Charley Wilkison, executive director of the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas, said the organization was opposed and "will always be opposed" to a loophole amendment proposed in previous years that he said would have allowed the release of records pertaining to law enforcement officers, even those falsely accused of wrongdoing. He said that would negatively affect the officers' ability to keep working. But Wilkison said he would be willing to participate in future discussions in an attempt to find a middle ground.

Public focus in the Uvalde shooting has been on school district police Chief Pete Arredondo. Steven McCraw, head of the Texas Department of Public Safety, said recently that Arredondo believed the active shooting had turned into a hostage situation, and that he made the "wrong decision" to not order officers to breach the classroom more quickly to confront the gunman.

Arredondo has not responded to requests for comment from The Associated Press. In an interview with The Texas Tribune published Thursday, however, he said he did not consider himself in charge of the law enforcement response and assumed someone else had taken control.

The New York Times reported Thursday that it obtained documents showing police waited for protective equipment as they delayed entering the campus, even as they became aware that some victims needed medical treatment.

If efforts to amend the public information loophole fail and law enforcement continues to refuse to release information, families could turn to any involved federal agencies. In one case in Mesquite, Texas, the parents of an 18-year-old who died after being arrested received records from federal authorities showing that police had used more force against their son than they had originally understood. The police had refused to turn over any information under the legal loophole.

"If someone dies in police custody, this is when we would want to open all of our records," the father, Robert Dyer, said as he testified before the legislature in 2019 in favor of amending the legal exception.

Mayra Guillen said she and her family were stymied by the state loophole when they tried to get details on a case involving her sister Vanessa Guillen. Authorities say the 20-year-old soldier was killed at a Texas military base by fellow soldier Aaron Robinson, who then disposed of her body.

Military officials and law enforcement said Robinson pulled a gun and shot himself as police were trying to make contact with him. But local police wouldn't allow Vanessa Guillen's family to view the officers' body camera footage of the confrontation because the suspect hadn't been convicted, Mayra Guillen said.

"We were honestly just trying to receive closure and see if what was being said was true," Guillen said. "It is only right to have these records be public to some extent. It is so hard to tell whether there will be justice or not."

Kevin Spacey to face London court on sexual offense charges

LONDON (AP) — Actor Kevin Spacey has been formally charged with sexual offenses against three men in Britain and is expected to appear in a court in London this week, British police said Monday.

Spacey, 62, is accused of four counts of sexual assault and one count of causing a person to engage in penetrative sexual activity without consent.

Spacey is due to appear at London's Westminster Magistrates Court on Thursday.

The alleged incidents took place in London between March 2005 and August 2008, and one in western England in April 2013. The victims are now in their 30s and 40s.

The Crown Prosecution Service authorized charges against Spacey last month.

Spacey, a double Academy Award winner, was questioned by British police in 2019 about claims by several men that he had assaulted them. The former "House of Cards" star ran London's Old Vic theater between 2004 and 2015.

Spacey won a best supporting actor Academy Award for the 1995 film "The Usual Suspects" and a lead actor Oscar for the 1999 movie "American Beauty."

But his celebrated career came to an abrupt halt in 2017 when actor Anthony Rapp accused the star of assaulting him at a party in the 1980s, when Rapp was a teenager. Spacey denies the allegations.

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.

UK reports 104 more cases of monkeypox, mostly in men

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 342 ~ 72 of 72

LONDON (AP) — British health officials have detected another 104 cases of monkeypox in England in what has become the biggest outbreak beyond Africa of the normally rare disease.

The U.K.'s Health Security Agency said Monday there were now 470 cases of monkeypox across the country, with the vast majority in gay or bisexual men. Scientists warn that anyone, regardless of sexual orientation, is susceptible to catching monkeypox if they are in close, physical contact with an infected person or their clothing or bed sheets.

According to U.K. data, 99% of the cases so far have been in men and most are in London.

In May, a leading adviser to the World Health Organization said the monkeypox outbreak in Europe and beyond was likely spread by sex at two recent raves in Spain and Belgium.

Last week, WHO said 1,285 cases of monkeypox had been reported from 28 countries where monkeypox was not known to be endemic. No deaths have been reported outside of Africa. After the U.K., the biggest numbers of cases have been reported in Spain, Germany and Canada.

WHO said many people in the outbreak have "atypical features" of the disease which could make it more difficult for doctors to diagnose. The U.N. health agency also said while close contact can spread monkeypox, "it is not clear what role sexual bodily fluids, including semen and vaginal fluids, play in the transmission."

Meanwhile, countries in Africa have reported more than 1,500 suspected cases including 72 deaths from eight countries. Monkeypox is considered endemic in Central and West Africa.

Today in History: June 14, Continental Army is created

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, June 14, the 165th day of 2022. There are 200 days left in the year. This is Flag Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 14, 1775, the Continental Army, forerunner of the United States Army, was created.

On this date:

In 1777, the Second Continental Congress approved the design of the original American flag.

In 1846, a group of U.S. settlers in Sonoma proclaimed the Republic of California.

In 1911, the British ocean liner RMS Olympic set out on its maiden voyage for New York, arriving one week later. (The ship's captain was Edward John Smith, who went on to command the ill-fated RMS Titanic the following year.)

In 1919, John Alcock and Arthur Whitten Brown embarked on the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean. (Flying a Vickers Vimy biplane bomber, they took off from St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada and arrived 16 1/2 hours later in Clifden, Ireland.)

In 1940, German troops entered Paris during World War II; the same day, the Nazis began transporting prisoners to the Auschwitz (OWSH'-vitz) concentration camp in German-occupied Poland.

In 1943, the U.S. Supreme Court, in West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette, ruled 6-3 that public school students could not be forced to salute the flag of the United States.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure adding the phrase "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.

In 1967, California Gov. Ronald Reagan signed a bill liberalizing his state's abortion law.

In 1972, the Environmental Protection Agency ordered a ban on domestic use of the pesticide DDT, to take effect at year's end.

In 1982, Argentine forces surrendered to British troops on the disputed Falkland Islands.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton nominated Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2005, Michelle Wie, 15, became the first female player to qualify for an adult male U.S. Golf Association championship, tying for first place in a 36-hole U.S. Amateur Public Links sectional qualifying tournament.

Ten years ago: In dueling speeches in the battleground state of Ohio, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, speaking in Cincinnati, described the Obama administration as the very "enemy" of people