

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 1 of 50

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- Groton City Water Restrictions](#)
- [3- Olive Grove Firecracker Tourney](#)
- [4- Bethesda Lutheran Church ad](#)
- [5- Weather Pages](#)
- [10- Daily Devotional](#)
- [11- 2022 Community Events](#)
- [12- Subscription Form](#)
- [13- News from the Associated Press](#)



July 5  
5 p.m.: Jr. Legion hosts Watertown, DH  
5:30 p.m.: U12 hosts Hannigan, 1 game  
5 p.m.: U10 vs. Flash at Foundation Fields, Watertown, DH (B/W)  
6 p.m.: U12 SB hosts Webster, DH  
6 p.m.: U10 SB at Britton, DH  
6 p.m.: U8 SB at Britton, DH

July 6  
5:30 p.m.: Jr. Teeners at Redfield, DH  
7:30 p.m.: U12 at Claremont, 1 game  
7:30 p.m. U10 at Claremont, 1 game, (R/B)  
5:30 p.m.: T-Ball Gold at Claremont

July 7  
5:30 p.m.: Jr. Teeners host Warner, DH  
6 p.m.: U8 at Webster, DH (R/B)  
6 p.m.: U8 SB at Mellette, 1 game  
7 p.m.: U10 SB at Mellette, 1 game  
8 p.m.: U12 SB at Mellette, DH

July 7-9  
Legion at Clark Tourney

July 8  
6 p.m.: T-Ball Scrimmage

July 8-11  
**Groton Daily Independent**  
**PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445**  
**Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460**

U12 State Tourney in Parker

July 11  
5:30 p.m.: U8 hosts Webster, DH (All Groups), Nelson Field  
5:30 p.m.: U8 hosts Doland, 1 game (All Groups), Falk Field  
6:30 p.m.: U10 hosts Doland, 1 game (R/W)  
6 p.m.: U12 SB at Webster, DH

July 12  
6 p.m.: Legion at Milbank, 1 game  
5:30 p.m.: Jr. Legion at Milbank, DH  
6 p.m.: U12 SB at Britton, DH  
6 p.m.: U8 SB at Clark, DH

July 13  
5 p.m.: Legion at Mobridge, 1 game  
6:30 p.m.: Jr. Legion at Mobridge, 1 game  
5:30 p.m.: U10 vs. Renegades in Watertown, DH,

**OPEN:** **Recycling Trailer in Groton**  
The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.  
© 2022 Groton Daily Independent

# ***CITY OF GROTON***

**ODD NUMBER HOUSES MAY  
WATER ON ODD NUMBER DAYS  
BETWEEN 5PM AND 10AM**

**EVEN NUMBER HOUSES MAY  
WATER ON EVEN NUMBER DAYS  
BETWEEN 5PM AND 10AM**

**ABSOLUTELY NO WATERING FROM  
10AM-5PM!**



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 3 of 50

## Olive Grove Firecracker Tournament Sponsored by the Schuelke Family

### Championship Flight

- 64- Clint Neumann and Carley Jeffery
- 68- Joel and Carly Guthmiller
- 69- Brad and Dar Larson
- 69- Mari Jordan and Erica Gartner
- 70- Mark Pastein and Suzie Touya
- 70- Joe and Jessica Gourneau
- 72- Lance and Sammy Bonn



**Championship Flight Winners**  
Clint Neumann and Carley Jeffery



**First Flight Winners**  
Tina and Cade Guthmiller

### First Flight

- 73- Cade and Tina Guthmiller
- 74- Teri and Mark Kline
- 77- Tom Mahan and Mavis Rossow
- 78- Lonnie and Penny Frost
- 78- Brad and Brenda Waage
- 83- Nikki Schuelke and Jay Baars



**Second Flight Winners**  
Deb and Austin Schuelke

### Second Flight

- 74- Austin and Deb Schuelke
- 74- Randy and Tyler Wenbouine
- 75- Jarod and Kristie Flihs
- 77- Jesse and Krissie Zak
- 78- Randy and Sue Stanley
- 78- Lorin and Julie Flihs
- 80- Skip Kettering and Suzie Easthouse
- 83- Chad and Haley Ellingson
- 86- Steve and Betty Dunker



**Third Flight Winners**  
Jon and Jerrie Vedvei

### Third Flight

- 84- Jon and Jerrie Vedvei
- 84- JJ Jenkins and Travis Johnson
- 86- Larry and Shirlee Frohling
- 86- Kyle and Tyhe Gerlach
- 87- Torre and Denise Raap
- 88- Lance and Cindy Frohling
- 88- Rich and Tami Zimney
- 89- Mike and Katie Jeffery
- 94- Corey Harrell and Amanda Fair
- 101- Spencer and Kellie Locke

### Pin Awards

- Men's Closest to the Pin - #8: Mark Papstein
- Longest Putt - #9: Lance Bonn
- Putting Contest: Betty Dunker
- Women's Closest to the Pin - #4: Carley Jeffery

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 4 of 50

## *"Sunshine, Lollipops and Rainbows"*

Wednesday, July 13 at Noon  
Ladies Luncheon & Program

Silent Auction  
10:30 - 11:30  
Door Prizes

Ty Eschenbaum  
will be the speaker

Advance tickets re-  
quired \$10.00

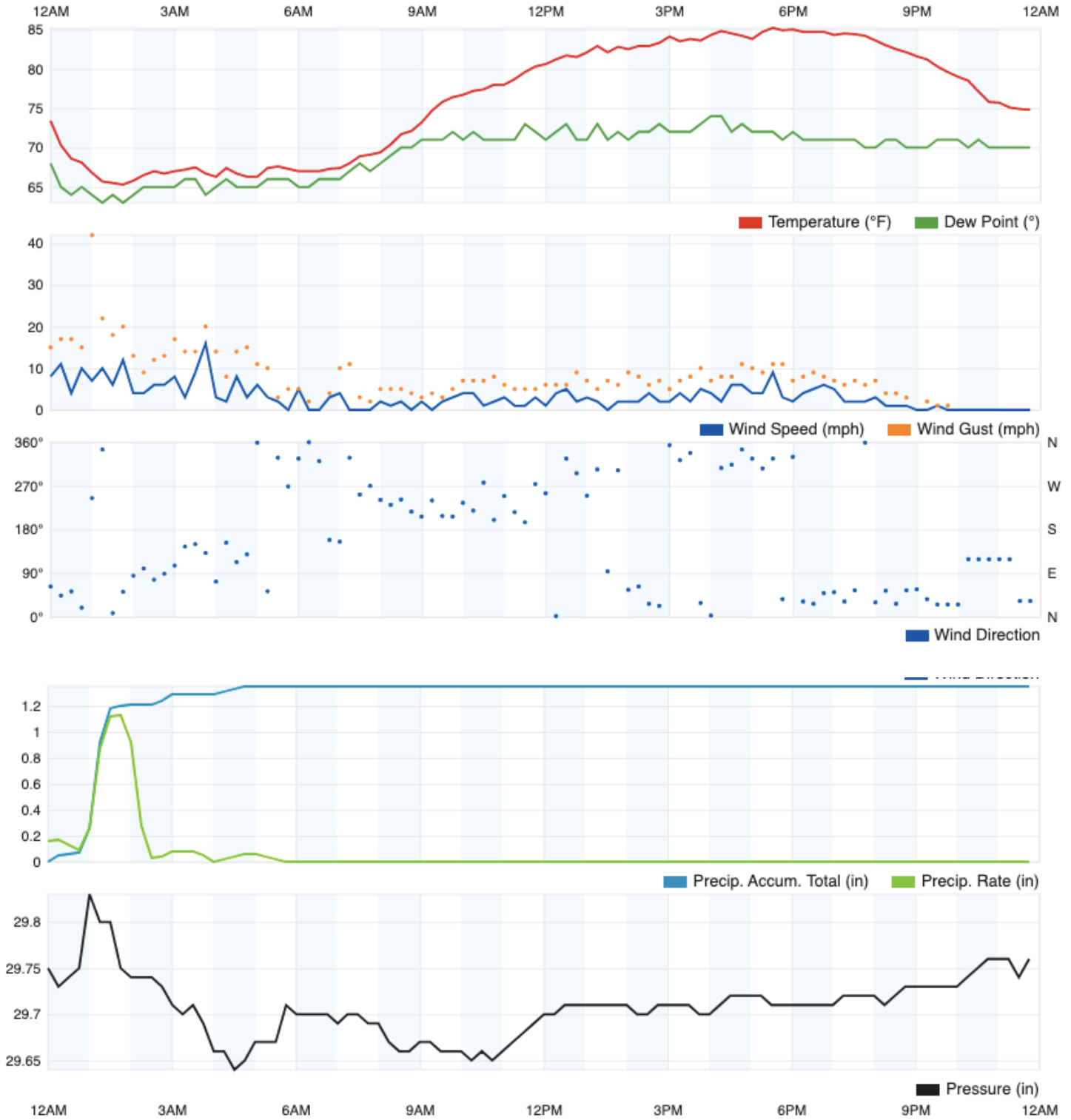


Call Kay Espeland 492-3507 or  
Alice Jean Peterson 216-2835

# Groton Daily Independent






Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 5 of 50

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Broton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 6 of 50

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
				
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy then Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms	Partly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms
High: 86 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 84 °F	Low: 68 °F	High: 86 °F



## Early Afternoon Thunderstorm Risk Area

June 23, 2022  
2:55 PM

### Overview

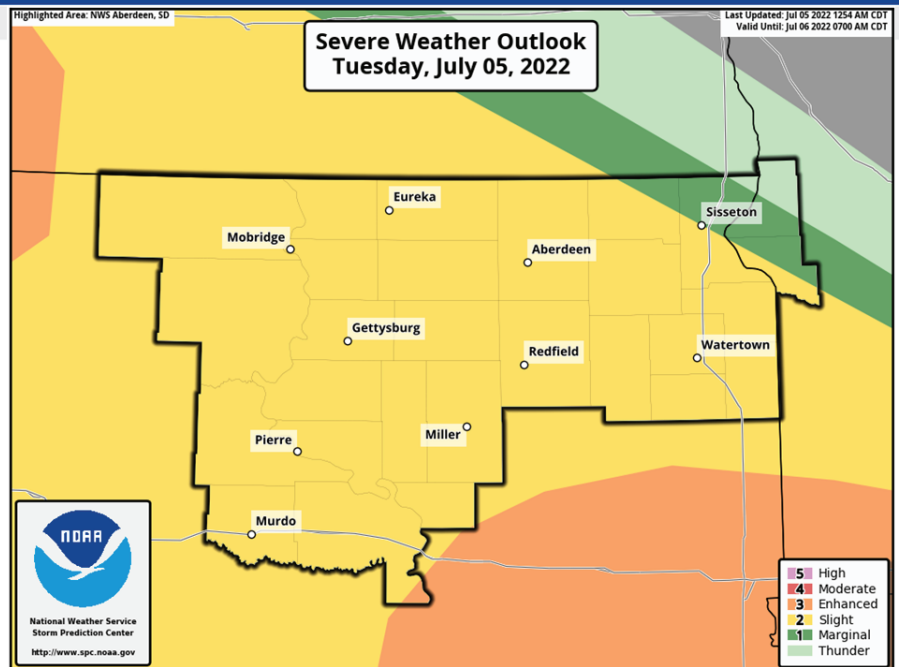
Storms form upstream in the western Dakotas & trek southeast through the afternoon. Primary threats are hail, damaging winds and heavy rain.

### Actions



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

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



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Storms will move in from the western Dakotas through the late morning and early afternoon, trekking southeast across the CWA. The main threat with these storms is hail, damaging winds and heavy down-pours.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 7 of 50



## Storm Timing

June 23, 2022  
2:55 PM

### Probability of Thunder Forecast

	7/5 Tue																							
	3am	4am	5am	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm	11pm			
<b>Aberdeen</b>	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	11	11	28	16	21	34	31	22	15	0	0	0	0	0			
<b>Britton</b>	0	0	11	12	0	0	0	0	16	31	0	0	0	16	26	0	0	0	0	0	0			
<b>Eagle Butte</b>	0	0	15	19	22	29	32	32	37	37	32	29	15	10	14	11	0	0	13	34	43			
<b>Eureka</b>	0	10	16	24	0	0	14	27	26	22	21	23	37	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0			
<b>Gettysburg</b>	0	0	12	14	0	0	0	25	28	28	33	31	36	24	10	12	0	0	0	15	25			
<b>Kennebec</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	20	26	30	34	37	33	29	21	24	25	18	30			
<b>McIntosh</b>		13	28	26	42	40	37	50	36	38	26	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	35			
<b>Milbank</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	20	13	0	0	0	0			
<b>Miller</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	23	31	26	37	26	40	23	20	15	0	11	18			
<b>Mobridge</b>		10	18	20	17	27	21	25	28	28	28	30	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	21			
<b>Murdo</b>	0	0	11	10	0	0	0	0	18	23	43	33	28	33	29	32	21	26	24	19	36			
<b>Pierre</b>	0	0	10	11	0	0	0	22	22	29	37	24	29	28	26	20	14	15	23	19	31			
<b>Redfield</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	24	27	30	30	40	25	14	0	0	0	0			
<b>Sisseton</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	23	0	0	0	0	0			
<b>Watertown</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	35	24	23	18	0	0	0			
<b>Webster</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	13	41	30	21	14	0	0	0	0			
<b>Wheaton</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0			



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

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Here is an idea of when storms will affect your area.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 8 of 50

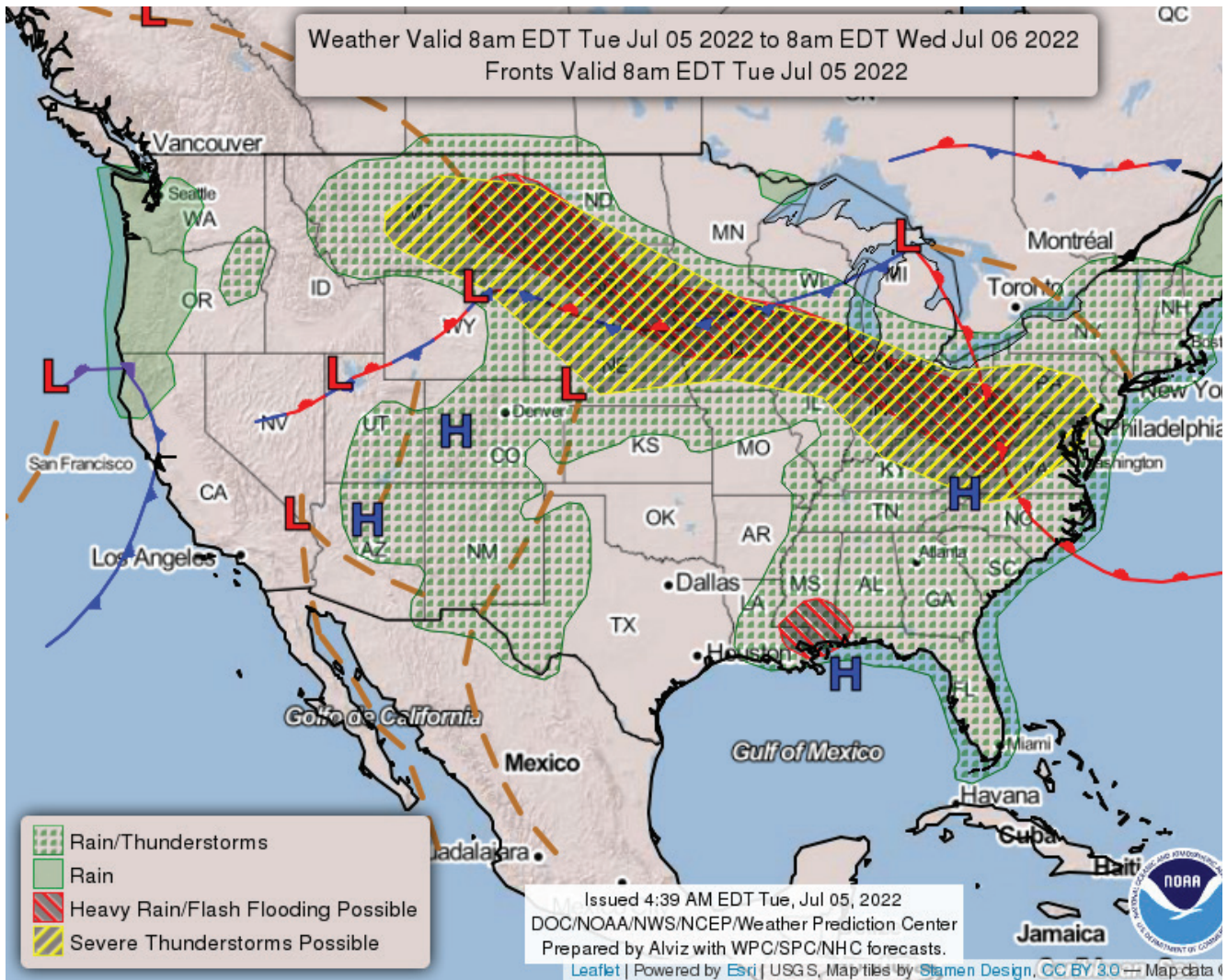
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 85 °F at 5:28 PM**  
**Low Temp: 65 °F at 1:37 AM**  
**Wind: 42 mph at 12:57 AM**  
**Precip: 1.35**

Day length: 15 hours, 36 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 108 in 1936  
Record Low: 35 in 1915  
Average High: 84°F  
Average Low: 59°F  
Average Precip in July.: 0.59  
Precip to date in July.: 1.80  
Average Precip to date: 11.60  
Precip Year to Date: 13.38  
Sunset Tonight: 9:25:20 PM  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:49:30 AM





# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 9 of 50

## Today in Weather History

July 5, 1936: Three record high temperatures were set on this day. Near Gann Valley, the temperature reached 120 degrees, setting the state record. The state record was tied on July 15, 2006, at 17 miles WSW of Fort Pierre. Other record highs on this date include 119 degrees in Kennebec and 116 degrees in Murdo. The record highs near Gann Valley, Kennebec, and Murdo are all-time highs for each location.

July 5, 1996: A powerful thunderstorm packing over 100 mph winds and grapefruit-sized hail tracked from Belle Fourche Reservoir to Wall. The storm caused an estimated \$4.5 million in crop damage, killed numerous livestock, and stripped vegetation bare.

1891 - Sixteen horses were killed by hail, and many more have to be put to death due to injuries from a hailstorm at Rapid City, SD. (The Weather Channel)

1900 - A spectacular three day fire began when a bolt of lightning struck a refinery in Bayonne NJ. (David Ludlum)

1916 - A hurricane produced 82 mph winds, an 11.6 foot tide, and a barometric pressure of 28.92 inches at Mobile, AL. (David Ludlum)

1925: A large hailstone weighing a half pound fell at Plumstead, just outside of London, England. This hailstone was the heaviest hailstone ever recorded in the United Kingdom.

1937 - The temperature at Medicine Lake, MT, soared to 117 degrees to establish a state record. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1937 - Midale and Yellow Grass in Saskatchewan hit 113 degrees to establish an all-time record high for Canada that same day. (The Weather Channel)

1970 - The morning low at Death Valley CA was 103 degrees, and the high that afternoon was 120 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1980: The "More Trees Down" started in western Iowa and tracked eastward affecting several states along its path before dissipating in eastern Virginia.

1987 - Severe thunderstorms raked south central Kansas for the second morning in a row. Thunderstorm winds again gusted to 80 mph at Clearwater, and in the Wichita area reached 100 mph. Twenty-five persons were injured at a trailer park at El Dorado Lake. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms spawned eleven tornadoes in Montana and three in North Dakota. Baseball size hail was reported at Shonkin, MT, and wind gusts to 85 mph were reported south of Fordville, ND. Twenty cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Fargo ND with a reading of 106 degrees. Muskegon, MI, equalled their July record with a high of 95 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Moisture from what once was Tropical Storm Allison triggered thunderstorms over the Middle Atlantic Coast Region, which deluged Wilmington, DE, with a record 6.83 inches of rain in 24 hours, including 6.37 inches in just six hours. Up to ten inches of rain was reported at Claymont, northeast of Wilmington. July 1989 was thus the wettest month in seventy years for Wilmington, with a total of 12.63 inches of rain. Alamosa CO reported an all-time record high of 94 degrees, and Pierre, SD, hit 113 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



## Help, I'm A Parent

Throughout the Bible, being obedient to parents is always connected to being submissive to and following the teachings of God. And, if we consider God's character to be important and the foundation of His role as our Father, parents will strive to "imitate" His characteristics if they want to be effective representatives of Him.

We often speak of the characteristics of God in high and lofty terms: He is "omniscient, omnipotent, immortal, and omnipresent!" But, Jesus presented the character of God in behaviors that could be seen, and, most of them imitated. Consider these important behaviors we constantly see in the life of Jesus: loving, kind, caring, compassionate, forgiving, accepting, helping, healing, encouraging, honest, thoughtful, sensitive, open, available, authentic, a disciplinarian, knowledgeable, wise, a craftsman, a caring Son, student of the Law and Prophets, a model to be followed, submissive to and respectful of the laws and a close obedient relationship to His Father.

Quite a list, indeed. And, when I review and think about this list, I wonder how often I failed my Heavenly Father as the father He wanted me to be to my children as they grew up - even now.

When we consider the important role that parents are called to fulfill, spiritual, moral, and ethical examples and authorities to our children, it is easy to cry out, "This job is far beyond me!" And, it is if we attempt to do it on our own. But, if we are humble and dependent on Him, we have His Word to guide us and guard us, His Son within us to empower us, and the Holy Spirit's presence to lead us.

We also have His Word, especially the Proverbs, when we want His wisdom.

Prayer: Father, we parents who love and believe in You are blest to have You and Your Word as a "parent's guide." In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Bible Verse: – Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Proverbs 1:8

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 11 of 50

## 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  
-6/20/2022 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  
10/01/2022 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm  
10/07/2022 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am  
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, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 12 of 50

## 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
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## 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: 370,000,000

Powerball

15-16-24-31-56, Powerball: 4, Power Play: 2

(fifteen, sixteen, twenty-four, thirty-one, fifty-six; Powerball: four; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$35,000,000

### 2 dead, 1 injured after Sioux Falls robbery and standoff

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two people are dead and a third is in critical but stable condition after a robbery and related standoff Saturday in the Sioux Falls area, officials said.

Police said two people were shot at a business in Hartford, just outside the city, around 9:30 p.m. One of the victims, a 60-year-old Hartford man, later died at a hospital, according to the Sioux Falls Argus Leader. The second victim, a 45-year-old Colton man, was in stable but critical condition on Sunday morning, said Sioux Falls police Cpt. Josh Phillips. The suspect in the shooting fled the scene.

The surviving victim identified the shooter as a 57-year-old Sioux Falls man, Phillips said. Authorities went to the shooter's house with a search warrant at around 4 a.m.

The Sioux Falls man told authorities he wasn't interested in a "peaceful resolution" and later fired shots at officers and a police drone, officials said. He was then shot and killed by a law enforcement sniper.

The South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation is investigating.

### Kobach looks for comeback in Kansas after losing 2 big races

By JOHN HANNA AP Political Writer

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Kansas voters have said no to Kris Kobach twice over the past four years. But he is nonetheless betting that this can be the year he makes a political comeback.

His losses, including a 2018 defeat that handed the governor's office in this Republican-leaning state to a Democrat, might end other political careers. But Kobach, who built a national reputation as an immigration hard-liner while Kansas secretary of state, is now aiming for the state attorney general's office.

He faces two Republican opponents who lack his star power. If he wins the Aug. 2 primary, an anticipated GOP tide in November may be enough to lift even wobbly candidates.

So far, the primary race against state Sen. Kellie Warren and former federal prosecutor Tony Mattivi has been mostly about the candidates' backgrounds, their personal styles and whether they have the courtroom chops to win lawsuits against President Joe Biden's policies on issues such as guns, abortion and regulating businesses.

"I decided to run for attorney general the day that President Biden was sworn into office," Kobach said in the candidates' most recent debate, having promised to set up a special unit focused on suing the federal government.

But Warren, Mattivi and their supporters want to make the race about electability, too — even if it seems as though any Democrat would be a weak match for any Republican, given inflation, gas prices and anger over COVID-19 restrictions. The Democrats are running first-time candidate Chris Mann, an attorney, former police officer and former local prosecutor.

"Why take a risk?" said Alan Cobb, president and CEO of the influential Kansas Chamber of Commerce, which has endorsed Warren in the attorney general's race. "There are exceptions to waves all the time."

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 14 of 50

Kobach's years of pushing tough immigration and voter ID policies, coupled with a brash persona, turned off independent and moderate GOP voters in the 2018 governor's race. Prominent Republicans then tagged him as too risky a bet in 2020, and he lost the Senate primary by 14 percentage points to U.S. Rep. Roger Marshall, who then won the general election.

Brittany Jones, policy director for Kansas Family Voice, called Kobach "a good man" who undoubtedly would side with the conservative group on issues. But the group endorsed Warren over Kobach.

"He has proven time and time again that he can't win," Jones said. Kobach also lost a congressional race in 2004.

Mattivi handled high-profile terrorism cases as a federal prosecutor and has endorsements from dozens of sheriffs and prosecutors, including the district attorney in the state's most populous county. During the recent debate, he said, "Electability is absolutely an issue."

But Kobach argued in the most recent debate that he showed he can defeat Democrats in statewide races by winning terms as secretary of state in 2010 and 2014. Republican state Sen. J.R. Claeys, a consultant for Kobach, said the coming "big red wave" washes away any lingering questions about Kobach's electability.

On primary day, Kansans will vote on adding anti-abortion language to the state Constitution, and Kobach argues the measure's supporters are most likely to vote for him. But Warren was visible in the legislative push to get it on the ballot.

In Kobach's first race for secretary of state in 2010, he was better known than his two opponents, thanks to his national profile as a law professor who had ghostwritten tough state and local immigration rules outside Kansas. That November, he unseated a Democratic incumbent appointed to the state's top elections office only months before.

In his second term, Kobach's star kept rising. He was the earliest prominent Kansas supporter of Donald Trump's 2016 presidential bid, advised Trump on immigration issues, served as vice chair of a short-lived Trump commission on election fraud and was mentioned as a possible Cabinet appointee. He was a regular Fox News Channel guest and a Breitbart columnist.

He promoted the idea that fraud distorts U.S. elections long before much of the GOP embraced Trump's false claims about his 2020 presidential election loss to Biden.

Kobach argued in the recent debate that his 2018 bid for governor fell victim to a national midterm "bloodbath" for the GOP.

In Kansas that year, Democrat Sharice Davids ousted a four-term incumbent Republican in a Kansas City-area congressional district, and Gov. Laura Kelly was among seven new Democratic governors who replaced Republicans. Democrats won back a U.S. House majority.

But Kelly Arnold, the state GOP chair at the time, contends that Kobach's 2018 fundraising was lackluster. In the attorney general's race, Kobach lent his campaign \$200,000 last year, which was nearly half of the \$425,000 he raised.

Arnold also argues that Kobach's candidacy energized the Democratic political base.

"The one thing that could unify Democrats to come out and vote is Kobach," Arnold said.

Some Kobach critics still talk about the Jeep lent to him by a supporter in 2018 with a replica machine gun on back. Mandi Hunter, a 46-year-old moderate Republican and Kansas City-area real estate attorney, mentioned it in describing Kobach as "incredibly divisive."

Kobach rode the Jeep in parades and mocked what he called the resulting "snowflake meltdown."

"Kobach has chutzpah — extreme self-confidence through all situations," said Bob Beatty, a Washburn University political scientist. "Many GOP primary voters love that, unless, like in the Senate race, he faces a well-financed opponent who can inform them about his negatives."

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and James Dobson, the evangelical author, broadcaster and Focus on the Family founder, have endorsed Kobach, as has former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, described by Kobach as a mentor.

GOP voters also might sense that the attorney general's office suits Kobach better than the other offices he's sought. Kris Van Meteren, head of a Republican consulting and direct mail firm in the Kansas City area, said Kobach's campaigns for secretary of state had a "law and order" tone by emphasizing election

fraud as an issue.

And, with GOP voters looking for someone to aggressively challenge the Biden administration, Kobach is better known than the other candidates for "being a fighter," Van Meteren added.

"He's got the most-established reputation of being somebody who's willing to take on the left," Van Meteren said.

Leonard Hall, a 69-year-old Kansas City-area attorney, said he hasn't decided which candidate to support but thinks Kobach's past losses are "a nonissue."

"I don't look at him in the past tense," Hall said after the recent debate. "The mere fact Kobach lost, I don't think that can be held against him."

## **NATO nations sign accession protocols for Sweden, Finland**

By RAF CASERT Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The 30 NATO allies signed off on the accession protocols for Sweden and Finland on Tuesday, sending the membership bids of the two nations to the alliance capitals for legislative approvals.

The move further increases Russia's strategic isolation in the wake of its invasion of neighboring Ukraine in February and military struggles there since.

"This is truly a historic moment for Finland, for Sweden and for NATO," said alliance Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

The 30 ambassadors and permanent representatives formally approved the decisions of last week's NATO summit when the alliance made the historic decision to invite Russia's neighbor Finland and Scandinavian partner Sweden to join the military club.

Despite the agreement in the alliance, parliamentary approval in member state Turkey could still pose problems for their final inclusion as members.

Last week, Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned that Ankara could still block the process if the two countries fail to fully meet Turkey's demand to extradite terror suspects with links to outlawed Kurdish groups or the network of an exiled cleric accused of a failed 2016 coup in Turkey.

He said Turkey's Parliament could refuse to ratify the deal. It is a potent threat since NATO accession must be formally approved by all 30 member states, which gives each a blocking right.

Stoltenberg said he expected no change of heart. "There were security concerns that needed to be addressed. And we did what we always do at NATO. We found common ground."

Every alliance nation has different legislative challenges and procedures to deal with, and it could take several more months for the two to become official members.

"I look forward to a swift ratification process," said Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has given the process added urgency. It will ensconce the two nations in the Western military alliance and give NATO more clout, especially in the face of Moscow's military threat.

"We will be even stronger and our people will be even safer as we face the biggest security crisis in decades," said Stoltenberg.

Tuesday's signing-off does bring both nations deeper into NATO's fold already. As close partners, they already attended some meetings that involved issues that immediately affected them. As official invitees, they can attend all meetings of the ambassadors even if they do not yet have any voting rights.

## **Ukraine's shadow: Deadly crises like Somalia starved of aid**

By CARA ANNA and OMAR FARUK Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — More than two dozen children have died of hunger in the past two months in a single hospital in Somalia. Dr. Yahye Abdi Garun has watched their emaciated parents stumble in from rural areas gripped by the driest drought in decades. And yet no humanitarian aid arrives.

Shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine, a donor who was preparing to give a half-million dollars to a Somali aid group told its executive director Hussein Kulmiye it was redirecting the money to help Ukrainians instead.

And now, as Somalis fleeing the drought fill more than 500 camps in the city of Baidoa, aid workers make

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 16 of 50

"horrific" choices to help one camp and ignore 10 others, Norwegian Refugee Council Secretary General Jan Egeland said, telling The Associated Press he is "angry and ashamed." His group's Ukraine appeal was fully funded within 48 hours, but its Somalia appeal is perhaps a quarter funded as thousands of people die.

The war in Ukraine has abruptly drawn millions of dollars away from other crises. Somalia, facing a food shortage largely driven by the war, might be the most vulnerable. Its aid funding is less than half of last year's level while overwhelmingly Western donors have sent more than \$1.7 billion to respond to the war in Europe. Yemen, Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, Congo and the Palestinian territories are similarly affected.

The \$2.2 billion appeal for Ukraine is almost 80% funded, according to United Nations data, an "exceptional" level for any crisis at the midway point of the year, said Angus Urquhart, humanitarian and crisis lead for the Development Initiatives consultancy. The smaller appeal for Somalia is just 30% funded.

This year's global shift in money and attention is perhaps most urgently felt in the Horn of Africa, including Ethiopia and Kenya, where some areas could be declared in famine within weeks. The United States Agency for International Development says regional authorities haven't seen anything on this scale in well over 100 years. Millions of livestock, families' source of wealth and nutrition, have died.

People are next.

To the shock of some exhausted Somalis who walk for days through parched landscapes to places like Mogadishu in search of aid, there is often little or none.

Hawa Osman Bilal sat outside her makeshift tent holding the clothes of her daughter Ifrah, who like many vulnerable Somalis died after the difficult journey to seek help.

"She was skinny and emaciated, and she died in front of me," Bilal said. The girl was buried nearby, one in a growing number of tiny graves.

The crowded camp's caretaker, Fadumo Abdulkadir Warsame, told the AP that about 100 families had arrived in the past week alone, swelling the population to 1,700 families. There is no food to give them. "The only thing we can afford for them is bread and black tea," he said. "There is no aid from the donors yet."

At a nearby storeroom run by the local organization Peace and Development Action, supported by the U.N. World Food Program, the stock has shriveled. "The world has turned its back on Somalia to focus on Ukraine," manager Shafici Ali Ahmed said.

The White House acknowledged the problem in a June 28 statement on global food security, saying that "while the entire globe will continue to be affected by Russia's actions, the most immediate needs will present in the Horn of Africa," where Somalia once sourced 90% of its wheat from Russia and Ukraine but now struggles to find supplies amid soaring prices.

"We're really trying to stave off mass deaths at this point," Sarah Charles, assistant to the administrator for USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, told the AP, adding that "unfortunately, the nature of these crises is such that they go slow and then go very fast."

Nimo Hassan, director of the Somalia NGO Consortium, and several others said they believe donor countries' representatives on the ground understand the urgency, but decision-makers in capitals like Brussels and London appear distracted by the war in Europe.

"They're not saying openly, 'We're focused on Ukraine,' but you can see what they're doing in Ukraine," Hassan said. "It should be based on need, not a political decision, you know?"

Less than 30% of the new arrivals at camps for those fleeing drought in Somalia were receiving immediate food or other assistance as of April, the U.N. humanitarian agency has said.

"Not all emergencies are born equal," said Victor Aguayo, the UNICEF director of nutrition and child development, speaking from the Somali region of Ethiopia, where he reported a "very significant increase" in the number of children under 2 with severe wasting.

"Some emergencies all of a sudden grab the attention," Aguayo said, adding that UNICEF is not receiving enough money to contain the Horn of Africa crisis as 1.8 million children need urgent treatment.

The World Food Program, like UNICEF, must shift limited resources from preventing acute hunger to focusing on the desperately hungry. That means more than a half-million children under 2 in Somalia have lost prevention help "at the peak of famine prevention efforts," WFP spokesman Altan Butt said.



Across Somalia, where a weak humanitarian response to the 2010-12 drought was in part to blame as a quarter-million people died, humanitarian workers watch this one with fear as a fifth straight rainy season might fail for the first time in memory.

The southern district of Dollow near Ethiopia is "overwhelmed" by new arrivals, and at least 40 people died from April through June, district commissioner Mohamed Hussein Abdi said. Displaced people now outnumber residents.

At mother-child health centers in Somalia's northern Puntland region, nearly every other patient was severely malnourished, said Justus Liku, a food security adviser with the aid group CARE.

"We can see places where there's not a drop of water," said Ahmed Nasir, deputy director of Save Somali Women and Children, speaking to the AP from the field. "If those people in decision-making offices could see what we see now, they would just release the funds immediately."

## Oil wrestlers seek glory in Turkey's centuries-old contest

ISTANBUL (AP) — It took nearly an hour of grappling with his opponent under the blazing Turkish sun for Cengizhan Simsek to win the tournament and join a long list of previous victors.

A very long list — this was the 661st Kirkpinar oil wrestling championship, taking place in western Edirne province.

In the festival, which is on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, wrestlers cover themselves in olive oil, making it more difficult for opponents to grab each other. The winner is the wrestler who makes his opponent's back touch the ground — or his "belly face the sky."

With the cheers of thousands of spectators and the tunes of drums and zurna flutes ringing in his ears, the 26-year-old Simsek, from the Mediterranean province of Antalya, was presented the golden belt by Sports Minister Mehmet Kasapoglu.

"God granted me this. I thank God. I put the belt around my neck and fulfilled my dream," Simsek said.

This year, more than 2,475 pehlivans, or wrestlers, registered for the event, the highest number ever, according to official Anadolu news agency.

There were moments of joy, but also of tension. At one point, riot police were called in to secure the arena after wrestlers confronted judges under the scorching sun.

The festival reportedly started in the 1360s when legend says the second Ottoman sultan, Sultan Orhan, wanted to keep his soldiers fit and ready for battle. But oil wrestling has been practiced across the region for thousands of years.

The wrestlers are chosen among men who demonstrate moral character and must be invited by the Kirkpinar master. The invitation is delivered by sending a red-based candle to the nominated pehlivans at the beginning of March.

The wrestlers, wearing leather trousers called "kispet," are covered in oil poured from a copper jug before the wrestling begins, and they engage in a highly ritualized procession to begin their bout. In the early stages of the tournament, dozens of wrestlers fight on a large grass arena.

The winner earns the title of "Baspehlivan," or head wrestler. Simsek was crowned for the first time after defeating a clutch of established favorites.

## Companies could face hurdles covering abortion travel costs

By BARBARA ORTUTAY and DEE-ANN DURBIN The Associated Press

After the U.S. Supreme Court revoked the federal right to an abortion that's been in place for half a century, companies like Amazon, Disney, Apple and JP Morgan pledged to cover travel costs for employees who live in states where the procedure is now illegal so they can terminate pregnancies.

But the companies gave scant or no details on how they will do this and it's not clear if they will be able to — legally — while protecting employees' privacy and keeping them safe from prosecution.

"Most employers were not prepared for Roe to be overturned, and even those that were didn't realize

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 18 of 50

the law would literally be changed the next minute," said Brian Kropp, a vice president at the consulting firm Gartner. "They're trying to play catch-up."

Kropp said many companies announced plans to offer travel benefits without the infrastructure in place to make them work. Some, he added, are creating supplementary policies that employees can buy to cover abortion travel, while others are contacting insurers to see if travel can be added to their current plans. Others are trying to figure out how to offer a benefit without breaching employees' privacy.

"Are employees going to have to tell their manager they are going to have to travel from Texas to California to have an abortion?" Kropp said.

The answer is no — but they would likely have to tell human resources or a similar department that they are pregnant and want to get an abortion, said Sharona Hoffman, a health law professor at Case Western Reserve University. The company or its health insurer would then provide money upfront or a reimbursement after the fact.

Hoffman called the travel cost pledges a "generous benefit" from companies, and said she would not be surprised "if this becomes a practice that more companies undertake — just without trumpeting it," for fear of the backlash that can come with public statements on a divisive issue such as abortion.

"It's not necessarily altruistic," she said. "It also makes some sense for companies to not have a bunch of employees that are highly distressed because they have unwanted pregnancies and have to carry the child to term."

For now, most big companies offering an abortion travel benefit will likely add it to existing health care plans, said Jonathan Zimmerman, a partner with the law firm Morgan Lewis who helps companies develop and maintain their benefits.

Big companies are generally self-insured, which means they pay for all claims and have more flexibility to decide what the plans will cover. A third party then processes the claims on their behalf.

That's the case at outdoor clothing company Patagonia, which updated its health coverage last fall to add travel costs for employees after Texas's law banning most abortions went into effect. Patagonia said abortion and travel costs are administered in the same manner as other medical services, ensuring confidentiality for employees.

Restaurant review company Yelp said its abortion travel benefit is also administered by its health insurance provider. Yelp has told its employees that if they do use the travel benefit, Yelp will not have access to the details of the service.

Microsoft, meanwhile, noted that it already covers abortion, as well as gender-affirming care, for its employees and has now extended the coverage to include travel expenses for "these and other lawful medical services" if they are not available in an employee's home state.

Smaller companies may have fewer options. They typically buy health insurance for their employees from insurers that are subject to state regulations. Those companies have less flexibility to design benefits, and they may operate in states that ban abortion.

Dr. Ami Parekh, chief health officer at Included Health, which offers health care navigation services and virtual care for employers, said it is "quite a scramble" right now for large employers to navigate this fast-moving landscape.

"They're moving as fast as they can," Parekh said. "And I bet you they're going to be nimble and change as needed as things come up."

For instance, some companies are offering to pay for a partner to travel with the person getting the abortion.

With the legal landscape shifting quickly, even adding travel benefits to a current medical plan carries some risk. In May, 14 state lawmakers in Texas sent a letter to Lyft warning the company to rescind its abortion travel benefit, saying they plan to introduce legislation that would ban companies from doing business in Texas if they pay for abortions or reimburse abortion-related expenses.

That said, no such legislation has been enacted as of now in Texas or anywhere else. It is also not against the law to travel to states where abortion is legal, Hoffman noted. There are efforts afoot, however, to change that.

And while the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, or HIPAA, protects sensitive patient information, it can be overruled in cases where a crime has been committed. That's the case now in states where abortion has become a crime.

"It's challenging for employers to navigate what is a rapidly evolving legal landscape," said Sharon Masling, the head of Morgan Lewis's reproductive rights task force. "There's going to be a lot of litigation over the next few years."

Beyond the legal questions, abortion travel benefits also present some thorny workplace issues, Kropp said. Employees who don't support abortion may be angry that their company is paying for other employees' travel, for example. Even those who do support abortion may question why the company isn't paying them to travel for fertility treatments or transgender health care, he said.

This is why it's likely, experts say that some companies are offering travel benefits but aren't making public announcements about it.

"My sense is most employers are trying to very quickly figure out what's best for their employees and dependents," Parekh said. "And not all employers want to spend the energy to be very public about that at this moment in time."

## Sydney floods burden 50,000 around Australia's largest city

By ROD McGUIRK and MARK BAKER Associated Press

RICHMOND, Australia (AP) — Hundreds of homes have been inundated in and around Australia's largest city in a flood emergency that was causing trouble for 50,000 people, officials said Tuesday.

Emergency response teams made 100 rescues overnight of people trapped in cars on flooded roads or in inundated homes in the Sydney area, State Emergency Service manager Ashley Sullivan said.

Days of torrential rain have caused dams to overflow and waterways to break their banks, bringing a fourth flood emergency in 16 months to parts of the city of 5 million people.

Evacuation orders and warnings to prepare to abandon homes were given to 50,000 people, up from 32,000 on Monday, New South Wales Premier Dominic Perrottet said.

"This event is far from over. Please don't be complacent, wherever you are. Please be careful when you're driving on our roads. There is still substantial risk for flash flooding across our state," Perrottet said.

The New South Wales state government declared a disaster across 23 local government areas overnight, activating federal government financial assistance for flood victims.

Emergency Services Minister Steph Cooke credited the skill and commitment of rescue crews for preventing any death or serious injury by the fourth day of the flooding emergency.

Parts of southern Sydney had been lashed by more than 20 centimeters (nearly 8 inches) of rain in 24 hours, more than 17% of the city's annual average, Bureau of Meteorology meteorologist Jonathan How said.

Severe weather warnings of heavy rain remained in place across Sydney's eastern suburbs on Tuesday. The warnings also extended north of Sydney along the coast and into the Hunter Valley.

The worst flooding was along the Hawkesbury-Nepean river system along Sydney's northern and western fringes.

"The good news is that by tomorrow afternoon, it is looking to be mostly dry but, of course, we are reminding people that these floodwaters will remain very high well after the rain has stopped," How said.

"There was plenty of rain fall overnight and that is actually seeing some rivers peak for a second time. So you've got to take many days, if not a week, to start to see these floodwaters start to recede," How added.

Residents of Lansvale, in southwest Sydney, were surprised by the speed at which their area became inundated and the growing frequency of such flooding.

"Well, it happened in 1986 and '88, then it didn't happen for 28 years and, so, 2016 and 2020 and now it's happened four times this year," a Lansvale local identified only as Terry told Australian Broadcasting Corp. television of his home being flooded.

The wild weather and mountainous seas along the New South Wales coast thwarted plans to tow a

stricken cargo ship with 21 crew members to the safety of open sea.

The ship lost power after leaving port in Wollongong, south of Sydney, on Monday morning and risked being grounded by 8-meter (26-foot) swells and winds blowing at 30 knots (34 mph) against cliffs.

An attempt to tow the ship with tugboats into open ocean ended when a towline snapped in an 11-meter (36-foot) swell late Monday, Port Authority chief executive Philip Holliday said.

The ship was maintaining its position Tuesday farther from the coast than it had been on Monday with two anchors and the help of two tugboats. The original plan had been for the ship's crew to repair their engine at sea. The new plan was to tow the ship to Sydney when weather and sea conditions calmed as early as Wednesday, Holliday said.

"We're in a better position than we were yesterday," Holliday said. "We're in relative safety."

Perrottet described the tugboat crews' response on Monday to save the ship as "heroic."

"I want to thank those men and women who were on those crews last night for the heroic work they did in incredibly treacherous conditions. To have an 11-meter (36-foot) swell, to be undergoing and carrying out that work is incredibly impressive," Perrottet said.

## High cost of Russia gains in Ukraine could limit new advance

By The Associated Press undefined

After more than four months of ferocious fighting, Russia claimed a key victory: full control over one of the two provinces in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland.

But Moscow's rout of the last remaining bulwark of Ukrainian resistance in Luhansk province came at a steep price. The critical question now is whether Russia can muster enough strength for a new offensive to complete its seizure of the Donbas and make gains elsewhere in Ukraine.

"Yes, the Russians have seized the Luhansk region, but at what price?" asked Oleh Zhdanov, a military analyst in Ukraine, noting that some Russian units involved in the battle lost up to a half their soldiers.

Even President Vladimir Putin acknowledged Monday that Russian troops involved in action in Luhansk need to "take some rest and beef up their combat capability."

That raises doubts about whether Moscow's forces and their separatist allies are ready to quickly thrust deeper into Donetsk, the other province that makes up the Donbas. Observers estimated in recent weeks that Russia controlled about half of Donetsk, and battle lines have changed little since then.

What happens in the Donbas could determine the course of the war. If Russia succeeds there, it could free up its forces to grab even more land and dictate the terms of any peace agreement. If Ukraine, on the other hand, manages to pin the Russians down for a protracted period, it could build up the resources for a counteroffensive.

Exhausting the Russians has long been part of the plan for the Ukrainians, who began the conflict out-gunned — but hoped Western weapons could eventually tip the scales in their favor.

They are already effectively using heavy howitzers and advanced rocket systems sent by the U.S. and other Western allies, and more is on the way. But Ukrainian forces have said they remain badly outmatched.

Ukraine's Defense Minister Hanna Malyar said recently that Russian forces were firing 10 times more ammunition than the Ukrainian military.

After a failed attempt at a lightning advance on the capital of Kyiv in the opening weeks of the war, Russian forces withdrew from many parts of northern and central Ukraine and turned their attention to the Donbas, a region of mines and factories where Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian forces since 2014.

Since then, Russia has adopted a slow-and-steady approach that allowed it to seize several remaining Ukrainian strongholds in Luhansk over the course of recent weeks.

Zhdanov, the analyst, predicted that the Russians would likely rely on their edge in firepower to "apply the same scorched earth tactics and blast the entire cities away" in Donetsk. The same day that Russia claimed it had taken the last major city in Luhansk, new artillery attacks were reported in cities in Donetsk.

But Russia's approach is not without drawbacks. Moscow has not given a casualty count since it said

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 21 of 50

some 1,300 troops were killed in the first month of fighting, but Western officials have said that was just a fraction of real losses. Since then, Western observers have noted that the number of Russian troops involved in combat in Ukraine has dwindled, reflecting both heavy attrition and the Kremlin's failure to fill up the ranks.

The limited manpower has forced the Russian commanders to avoid ambitious attempts to encircle large areas in the Donbas, opting for smaller maneuvers and relying on heavy artillery barrages to slowly force the Ukrainians to retreat.

The military has also relied heavily on separatists, who have conducted several rounds of mobilization, and Western officials and analysts have said Moscow has increasingly engaged private military contractors. It has also tried to encourage the Russian men who have done their tour of duty to sign up again, though it's unclear how successful that has been.

While Putin so far has refrained from declaring a broad mobilization that might foment social discontent, recently proposed legislation suggested that Moscow was looking for other ways to replenish the ranks. The bill would have allowed young conscripts, who are drafted into the army for a year and barred from fighting, to immediately switch their status and sign contracts to become full professional soldiers. The draft was shelved amid strong criticism.

Some Western officials and analysts have argued that attrition is so heavy that it could force Moscow to suspend its offensive at some point later in the summer, but the Pentagon has cautioned that even though Russia has been churning through troops and supplies at rapid rates it still has abundant resources.

U.S. director of national intelligence Avril Haines said Putin appeared to accept the slow pace of the advance in the Donbas and now hoped to win by crushing Ukraine's most battle-hardened forces.

"We believe that Russia thinks that if they are able to crush really one of the most capable and well-equipped forces in the east of Ukraine ... that will lead to a slump basically in the Ukrainian resistance and that that may give them greater opportunities," Haines said.

If Russia wins in the Donbas, it could build on its seizure of the southern Kherson region and part of the neighboring Zaporizhzhia to try to eventually cut Ukraine off from its Black Sea coast all the way to the Romanian border. If that succeeded, it would deal a crushing blow to the Ukrainian economy and also create a corridor to Moldova's separatist region of Transnistria that hosts a Russian military base.

But that is far from assured. Mykola Sunhurovsky of the Razumkov Center, a Kyiv-based think tank, predicted that growing supplies of heavy Western weapons, including HIMARS multiple rocket launchers, will help Ukraine turn the tide of the war.

"The supplies of weapons will allow Ukraine to start a counteroffensive in the south and fight for Kherson and other cities," Sunhurovsky said.

But Ukraine has also faced massive personnel losses: up to 200 soldiers a day in recent weeks of ferocious fighting in the east, according to officials.

"Overall, local military balance in Donbas favors Russia, but long term trends still favor Ukraine," wrote Michael Kofman, an expert on the Russian military and program director at the Virginia-based CNA think tank. "However, that estimate is conditional on sustained Western military assistance, and is not necessarily predictive of outcomes. This is likely to be a protracted war."

## Ukrainians displaced near Kyiv fear for war-damaged homes

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

BORODYANKA, Ukraine (AP) — Valentyna Klymenko tries to return home as late as possible to avoid the darkness of her war-damaged home outside Ukraine's capital. She visits friends, goes to the well for water or looks for a place to charge her phone.

The 70-year-old Klymenko then returns alone to an apartment that used to be noisy and full of life. She is now greeted by dim, damp rooms instead of the voices of her great-grandchildren.

Klymenko rarely cooks. She drinks fruit compote and eats canned tomatoes, which she prepared last

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 22 of 50

year, so she doesn't waste the gas in her portable stove. She goes to bed quickly, but can't fall asleep for a long time.

Her thoughts revolve around one question: "What will happen to my home?"

Russian troops retreated from the area around Kyiv in late March. But they left behind 16,000 damaged residential buildings in the Bucha region, where Borodyanka is located, according to the head of the Kyiv regional administration, Oleksiy Kuleba.

The most affected street in Borodyanka, a town with a population of more than 12,000, was Tsentralna, which was still called Lenin Street less than a decade ago. One of the homes on this street belongs to Klymenko.

The shockwave from a Russian airstrike that witnesses say struck the building across the street with two bombs caused a fire in Klymenko's five-story apartment building.

The apartments on the upper floors of Klymenko's building burned. Four months later, there is no electricity, water, or gas. Some residents lost everything and ended up on the street without any means to find a new home.

"I had a sofa here and armchairs here. But now there are just the springs," said Tetiana Solohub, pointing to the blackened walls of her home. Nothing is left but a couple of small enamel cups and the suffocating smell of ashes.

Solohub's scorched apartment is located a few floors above Klymenko's. They moved into the building at the same time 36 years ago, when it had just been built.

"And now, at 64, I am forced to be homeless," Solohub said. Unlike Klymenko, she even doesn't have a damaged apartment to live in. Hers is completely gone.

Solohub now lives in a camp for displaced people made of shipping containers. It was established in Borodyanka with the support of the Polish and Ukrainian governments. There are other camps like this in the Kyiv and Lviv regions. It has become a popular way to offer a home to people who can't return to their own abodes.

There are 257 people — 35% of them older residents — living in Borodyanka's camp. Kostyantyn Morozko, a representative of the military administration in the Bucha region and coordinator of the shipping container camp, said that he expects two containers for 160 people to be added this month. But even this isn't enough. He has 700 families waiting.

Morozko expects the temporary camp to endure for autumn, winter and spring. He thinks there is a 90% chance that people will remain until then. The first cold weather is expected in early September.

The camp's residents are adjusting to the idea of a long stay. They bring a bouquet of fresh flowers to the shared kitchen every couple of days, the shelves are filled with their belongings, and the tables in their "private" rooms are covered with colorful tablecloths.

But living conditions for older people are challenging. Solohub shares a small, narrow room with plastic walls with two other people. There aren't many things on her shelf. She didn't have a chance to rescue her belongings.

Because of the summer heat, it is difficult for her to stay in her makeshift home all day. So she often goes to rest in a small garage with metal walls and no windows near her home.

"I have a private space in this garage, and no one bothers me. I can't breathe in that plastic house," Solohub said. "We want our houses to be restored so we have a place to invite our children and grandchildren."

Klymenko is glad that her apartment didn't burn down completely. But she doesn't know when her granddaughter and great-grandchildren will come again. They left for Lithuania in the first days of Russia's invasion. There, Klymenko's granddaughter managed to find housing and a job.

"It is complicated for children in Lithuania. They do not know the language. It's hard for them at school. It's hard for them in kindergarten. It is tough not to be in your own country. But where can they come back?" Klymenko asked, with tears in her eyes.

She was also in Lithuania for several months after being evacuated from her basement the day after the fire in her building. One of the few things she took with her was her great-grandson's blanket, which she used to protect herself from the cold.

But Klymenko felt uncomfortable outside Ukraine, so she returned to the only place she could at least partially regain her past life.

Only she and a neighbor from the same floor now live in the five-story building. It's bearable in summer, but the cold of autumn will be challenging. Her great-grandson's blanket lies near her bed.

"I'm staying. And I will stay. And I don't know what will happen next," Klymenko said.

## In Kashmir, 'conscious music' tests India's limits on speech

By SHEIKH SAALIQ and AIJAZ HUSSAIN Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Sarfaraz Javaid thumps his chest rhythmically in the music video, swaying to the guitar and letting his throaty voice ring out through the forest: "What kind of soot has shrouded the sky? It has turned my world dark. ... Why has the home been entrusted to strangers?"

"Khuftan Baange" — Kashmiri for "the call to night's prayer" — plays out like a groaning dirge for Muslim-majority Kashmir, the starkly beautiful Himalayan territory that's home to decades of territorial conflict, gun-toting soldiers and harsh crackdowns on the populace. It is mournful in tone but lavish in lyrical symbolism inspired by Sufism, an Islamic mystic tradition. Its form is that of a Marsiya, a poetic rendition that is a lament for Muslim martyrs.

"I just express myself and scream, but when harmony is added, it becomes a song," Javaid, a poet like his father and grandfather, said in an interview.

Javaid is among a movement of artists in disputed Kashmir, divided between India and Pakistan and claimed by both since 1947, who are forming a new musical tradition that blends progressive Sufi rock with hip-hop in an assertive expression of political aspirations. They call it "conscious music."

Drawing on elements of Islam and spiritual poetry, it is often laced with religious metaphors to circumvent measures restricting some free speech in Indian-controlled Kashmir that have led many poets and singers to swallow their words. It also seeks to bridge tensions between Muslim tradition and modernism in a region that in many ways still clings to a conservative past.

"It's like venting decades of pent-up emotions," Javaid said.

Kashmir has a centuries-old tradition of spoken poetry that is heavily influenced by Islam, with mystical, rhapsodic verses often used when making supplications at mosques and shrines. After rebellion against Indian rule broke out in 1989, poetic renditions about liberation poured out from mosque loudspeakers and elegies inspired by historical Islamic events were sung at the funerals of fallen rebels.

Two decades of fighting left Kashmir and its people scarred with tens of thousands of civilians, rebels and government forces dead before the armed struggle withered, paving the way for unarmed mass demonstrations that shook the region in 2008 and 2010. Around that time Kashmir also saw the rise of protest music in English-language hip-hop and rap, a new anthem of resistance.

Singer-songwriter Roushan Illahi, who performs under the name MC Kash, was the genre's pioneer, making angry, grab-you-by-the-neck music that became a rallying cry for young people to use sharp rhymes and beats to challenge India's sovereignty over the region.

Kash's songs treaded dangerously close to sedition, however, as questioning India's claim to the restive region is illegal. The country has sharply restricted freedom of expression regarding the issue in Kashmir, including some curbs to the media, dissent and religious practices.

Frequent questioning by police pushed Kash to a point where he almost stopped making music. Some colleagues have continued to record and perform but began incorporating coded language, or moved away from politics altogether.

"First it was a chokehold," Kash said, "but now it is a pillow on your mouth."

Tensions escalated in 2016 when Indian troops put down another massive public uprising, leading to a renewed militancy. Three years later, in 2019, New Delhi revoked the region's partial autonomy amid a communications blackout and a harsh crackdown on the press and other forms of free expression.

The situation has since worsened with India's aggressive counterinsurgency operations leading to an uptick in gunfights between rebels and Indian troops. Deadly attacks by rebels have also increased against

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 24 of 50

Kashmiri police officials, Indian migrant workers and the region's minority Hindus.

The crackdown that began in 2019 has persisted. Nevertheless, many artists stuck to the music and have been catapulted to fame, their songs widely shared on social media. "Conscious music" has flourished further as artists more recently began incorporating Urdu and Kashmiri lyrics.

On a recent afternoon, a cohort of young artists gathered at the home studio of composer Zeeshan Nabi in the suburbs of Srinagar, Kashmir's main city. Filling the room with coils of cigarette smoke, they passionately debated the essence of metaphors and religious references in their work.

"What (religious symbolism) is doing is constantly knocking at the door, either in the form of a reminder or a memory from the past," Nabi said.

He expressed optimism that the gag is temporary: "For how long can you hold the grip? The oppressor can oppress till about a certain time."

"We are dreamers," Arif Farooq, a hip-hop artist who uses the stage name Qafilah, said with a chuckle.

Qafilah's music video "Faraar" — "the runaway" — begins with a shot of a concertina wire and him sitting in the courtyard of a shrine to Kashmir's most revered Sufi saint, Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani. It invokes the ancient Battle of Karbala, where the Prophet Muhammad's grandson was martyred and which symbolizes the struggle against injustice and oppression.

"Our malady can only be cured by revolution, my friend. Every answer lies in Karbala, my friend," Qafilah urges in the song.

Religious symbolism, Qafilah said, is a creative device to reflect Kashmir's pain and also evade the state's gaze.

"You want to steal, but you don't want to be caught," he said.

The symbolism of faith as subtext is hard to miss in this new form of music.

One recent video, "Inshallah" — "God willing" — has lyrics that evoke monotheism, the cornerstone of the Islamic faith. In it, singer Yawar Abdal imagines a Kashmir where people, blindfolded and with nooses around their necks, are liberated amid chants of "All shall be free." The refrain "inshallah" is set against a booming chorus of morning prayers as chanted in mosques.

Another song — "Jhelum," named for Kashmir's main river — became an instant hit for contrasting the banality of daily life in Kashmir with the ongoing mourning for the dead. In online videos, users have since set the song to moving and still images of fallen fighters to memorialize them — it's in part a way of resisting authorities' policy since 2020 of burying suspected rebels in remote mountain graveyards, denying their families the opportunity to perform last rites.

"There's this tension in the air that is shaping you in a certain manner," said poet and singer Faheem Abdullah, the man behind "Jhelum."

Poets and musicians receive state patronage in Kashmir, and government-sponsored musical events continue to be held regularly.

At least some Indian authorities take a dim view of the burgeoning movement of protest music, however; at one recent event, a top Indian military general lauded the region's rich artistic heritage but deplored "the kind of rap songs which bring only sadness."

On a recent evening, Javaid, the artist behind "Khuaftan Baange," sat at the shore of Srinagar's picturesque Dal Lake and belted out an elegy for his homeland. As the sun slipped behind the mountains and a drizzle began to fall, he ended by reciting the names of disappeared people. A distant relative was among the names.

"I reflect what I see," Javaid said. "I see pain, agony and loss."

## Report: East Africa pipeline 'breaches banking principles'

By ED DAVEY Associated Press

A controversial oil project that would connect oilfields in a Ugandan National Park to a port in Tanzania breaches global environmental guidelines for banks, according to a new nonprofit report Tuesday.

The 897-mile (1443-kilometer) East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), planned by French oil giant To-



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 25 of 50

talEnergies and the China National Offshore Oil Corporation has been mired in allegations of human rights abuses and environmental hazard. The 230,000 barrels of oil produced daily will emit 34 million tons of carbon dioxide annually, according to Ugandan nonprofit the Africa Institute for Energy Governance. Construction will take three years, once a final decision has been taken.

At least 20 banks and eight insurers have ruled themselves out of the project, many coming under pressure from environmental groups. South Africa's Standard Bank and the Japanese Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) are financial advisers and lead debt arrangers. The UK's Standard Chartered bank is also considering financing it.

All three signed up to the benchmark Equator Principles, voluntary environmental and human rights guidelines for financing infrastructure projects. A report by the non-governmental organization Inclusive Development International, shared exclusively with The Associated Press, says the project repeatedly breaches these principles and banks would violate them too if they go ahead. Banks are forbidden from financing non-compliant projects. But the scheme is powerless to eject members that do.

Oil wells will be drilled within Murchison Falls National Park, western Uganda. Here the Nile plunges some 130 feet (40 meters) through a gap just 20 feet (6 meters) wide, the surrounding wilderness home to hippos, egrets, giraffes and antelope. The pipeline would then pass through seven forest reserves and two game parks, running alongside Lake Victoria, a source of fresh water for 40 million people.

"An oil spill could prove disastrous for the millions that rely on the lake's watershed for drinking water and food production," the environmental campaign group 350.org has warned.

The report says the risk of oil spills breaches an Equator Principle requiring minimal environmental impact. A review of the plans by the nonprofit E-Tech International, which advises communities affected by infrastructure projects, found best practice was not followed.

"EACOP oil spills will occur over the lifetime of the project," the review concluded.

The pipeline's environmental assessment doesn't contain a robust oil spill plan, the report's authors contend, a further breach of the Principles. The pipeline will also traverse an earthquake zone — the Great Rift Valley — the Inclusive Development International report warns.

TotalEnergies said the pipeline's state of the art design will ensure safety for decades.

The oil has a high wax content, solidifying at temperatures below 91.4 degrees Fahrenheit (33 degrees Celsius) which would stop oil from spreading as liquid, the company said. Emergency plans are being prepared, the company insisted. Summer temperatures can hit 104 Fahrenheit (40 degrees Celsius) in Uganda.

Human rights standards have also allegedly been broken, according to the report. At least four letters from UN Special Rapporteurs on Human Rights, sent to the Ugandan president and TotalEnergies' CEO Patrick Pouyanné over two years, detail "various acts of harassment and intimidation" against protesting Ugandans. Numerous activists and a journalist have allegedly been intimidated, forced into hiding, arrested and interrogated.

The Equator Principles are "not being met with regard to the risks facing community members that express criticism," the report finds.

TotalEnergies said it was unaware of threats emanating from its own staff. The company said it is "vocal about the need" for Ugandan security forces to respect human rights, and had written to the Ugandan president to share its concerns.

"TotalEnergies does not tolerate any threats or attacks against those who peacefully defend and promote human rights," the statement read.

The Principles have also been violated by a lack of community engagement "free of manipulation, interference, or coercion, or intimidation", according to the analysis.

More than 120,000 people will lose land to make way for the project, an evaluation by environmental campaign group Friends of the Earth found. There must be "free, prior and informed" consultation with people whose lives may be changed, according to the Principles.

But the report found these requirements were not "sufficiently met".

The project has "systematically failed" to consult and disclose accessible information, it said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 26 of 50

TotalEnergies said only 13,300 people would be economically impacted across Uganda and Tanzania. Since 2017, meetings have reached over 200,000 affected individuals along the route, the oil major said.

Finally, the project violates standards on land acquisition and resettlement, the report finds. Compensation processes "exacerbated, rather than mitigated" negative impacts, impoverishing villagers who lost access to farmland and faced long delays awaiting compensation.

TotalEnergies said it had already begun paying compensation. The process abides by local laws and is in compliance with the Principles, the company insisted.

Equator Principles chair Amit Puri said each member was "individually responsible for its own internal procedures" to comply. He added that The Equator Principles do not have the authority to respond to concerns about breaching them.

Mr Puri is global head of environmental risk at Standard Chartered, one of the banks that the report says would allegedly be breaching the guidelines by financing the pipeline.

Standard Chartered itself and SMBC declined to comment. The China National Offshore Oil Corporation did not respond to numerous requests for a statement.

Standard Bank said its due diligence on funding the project was being assessed, but no final decision has been made. The decision's subject to a full assessment of climate change strategies, the bank said, while "full compliance" with the Equator Principles was needed to fund the project.

Despite environmental and human rights concerns, the campaign to stop the pipeline is "unrealistic", said Angelo Izama, of Ugandan think tank Fanaka Kwa Wote.

"Uganda is being thrust into this role as a poster child for climate damage, and it's really unfair," he said. It amounted to a "dismissal of the national interests of Uganda".

Ugandan oil officials declined to comment.

But President Yoweri Museveni has said oil wealth can lift millions out of poverty, while other government officials hope Uganda can become a middle-income country.

Efforts to stop the pipeline have left some dismayed at what they see as concerted efforts to sabotage the project.

"TotalEnergies and CNOOC ... have the financial muscle and technical know-how to deliver a world-class project" wrote Elison Karuhanga, a prominent oil attorney, in Uganda's Daily Monitor newspaper.

## A survivor of the migrant trailer: 'They couldn't breathe'

By SONIA PÉREZ D. Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — Simple advice from a friend to stay near the door may have saved Yenifer Yulisa Cardona Tomás from the deadly fate that befell 53 other migrants when they were abandoned trapped in a sweltering semi-trailer last week on the edge of San Antonio.

Speaking by phone from her hospital bed Monday, the 20-year-old from Guatemala's capital said it was already hot on June 27 when she stepped out of the warehouse on the Texas side of the Mexico border where she had been waiting and climbed into the back of the trailer.

She said the smugglers confiscated their cellphones and covered the trailer's floor with what she believes was powdered chicken bouillon, apparently to throw off any dogs at checkpoints. As she sat stuffed inside the stifling trailer with dozens of others, the powder stung her skin.

Remembering her friend's caution to stay near the door where it would be cooler, Cardona Tomás shared the advice with another friend she had made during the journey.

"I told a friend that we shouldn't go to the back and should stay near (the entrance), in the same place without moving," said Cardona Tomás, who is being treated at Methodist Hospital Metropolitan in San Antonio. That friend survived, too.

As the truck moved on, making additional stops to pick up more migrants, people began to cluster near the door like Cardona Tomás. She had no way to track the time.

"The people were yelling, some cried. Mostly women were calling for it to stop and to open the doors because it was hot, that they couldn't breathe," she said, still laboring a bit to speak after being intubated

at the hospital.

She said the driver or someone else in the cab yelled back that "we were about to arrive, that there were 20 minutes left, six minutes."

"People asked for water, some had run out, others carried some," she said.

The truck would continue stopping occasionally, but just before she lost consciousness it was moving slowly. She woke up in the hospital.

The driver and three others were arrested and charged by U.S. prosecutors.

Guatemala's Foreign Ministry has said that 20 Guatemalans died in the incident, 16 of whom have been positively identified. Foreign Minister Mario Búcaro said he hoped the first bodies would be repatriated this week.

Cardona Tomás said the truck's destination that day was Houston, though she was ultimately headed to North Carolina.

"She didn't have a job and asked me if I would support her" in migrating to the U.S., her father, Mynor Cordóna, said Monday in Guatemala City, where the family lives. He said he knew of other cases of children who just left without telling their families and ended up disappearing or dying so he decided to back her.

He paid \$4,000 for a smuggler — less than half the total cost — to take her to the U.S. She left Guatemala on May 30, traveling in cars, buses and finally the semi-trailer in Texas.

"I didn't know that she would travel in a trailer," he said. "She told us it would be by foot. It seems like at the last moment the smugglers decided to put (her) in the trailer, along with two more friends, who survived. One of them is still in critical condition."

Cordóna had stayed in touch with his daughter up until the morning of June 27. Her last message to him that Monday was at 10:28 a.m. in Guatemala, or 11:28 a.m. in Texas. "We're going to go in an hour," she wrote.

It was not until late that night that Cardona Tomás' family learned of the abandoned trailer. It was two more days before relatives in the United States confirmed that she was alive and hospitalized.

"We cried so much," Cordóna said. "I even was thinking where we were going to have the wake and bury her. She is a miracle."

## 6 dead, 30 hurt in shooting at Chicago-area July 4 parade

By MICHAEL TARM, KATHLEEN FOODY and ROGER SCHNEIDER Associated Press

HIGHLAND PARK, Ill. (AP) — A gunman on a rooftop opened fire on an Independence Day parade in suburban Chicago on Monday, killing at least six people, wounding at least 30 and sending hundreds of marchers, parents with strollers and children on bicycles fleeing in terror, police said.

Authorities said a man named as a person of interest in the shooting was taken into police custody Monday evening after an hourslong manhunt in and around Highland Park, an affluent community of about 30,000 on Chicago's north shore.

The July 4 shooting was just the latest to shatter the rituals of American life. Schools, churches, grocery stores and now community parades have all become killing grounds in recent months. This time, the bloodshed came as the nation tried to find cause to celebrate its founding and the bonds that still hold it together.

"It definitely hits a lot harder when it's not only your hometown but it's also right in front of you," resident Ron Tuazon said as he and a friend returned to the parade route Monday evening to retrieve chairs, blankets and a child's bike that he and his family abandoned when the shooting began.

"It's commonplace now," Tuazon said of what he called yet another American atrocity. "We don't blink anymore. Until laws change, it's going to be more of the same."

The shooting occurred at a spot on the parade route where many residents had staked out prime viewing points early in the day for the annual celebration. Dozens of fired bullets sent hundreds of parade-goers — some visibly bloodied — fleeing. They left a trail of abandoned items that showed everyday life suddenly, violently disrupted: A half-eaten bag of potato chips; a box of chocolate cookies spilled onto the

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 28 of 50

grass; a child's Chicago Cubs cap.

"There's no safe place," said Highland Park resident Barbara Harte, 73, who had stayed away from the parade fearing a mass shooting, but later ventured from her home.

Highland Park Police Chief Lou Jogmen said a police officer pulled over Robert E. Crimo III about five miles north of the shooting scene, several hours after police released the man's photo and an image of his silver Honda Fit, and warned the public that he was likely armed and dangerous. Authorities initially said he was 22, but an FBI bulletin and Crimo's social media said he was 21.

Police declined to immediately identify Crimo as a suspect but said identifying him as a person of interest, sharing his name and other information publicly was a serious step.

Lake County Major Crime Task Force spokesman Christopher Covelli said at a news conference "several of the deceased victims" died at the scene and one was taken to a hospital and died there. Police have not released details about the victims or wounded.

Lake County Coroner Jennifer Banek said the five people killed at the parade were adults, but didn't have information on the sixth victim who was taken to a hospital and died there. One of those killed was a Mexican national, Roberto Velasco, Mexico's director for North American affairs, said on Twitter Monday. He said two other Mexicans were wounded.

NorthShore University Health Center received 26 patients after the attack. All but one had gunshot wounds, said Dr. Brigham Temple, medical director of emergency preparedness. Their ages ranged from 8 to 85, and Temple estimated that four or five patients were children.

Temple said 19 of them were treated and discharged. Others were transferred to other hospitals, while two patients, in stable condition, remained at the Highland Park hospital.

"It is devastating that a celebration of America was ripped apart by our uniquely American plague," Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker said at a news conference.

"I'm furious because it does not have to be this way... while we celebrate the Fourth of July just once a year, mass shootings have become a weekly — yes, weekly — American tradition."

The shooter opened fire around 10:15 a.m., when the parade was about three-quarters through, authorities said.

Highland Park Police Commander Chris O'Neill, the incident commander on scene, said the gunman apparently used a "high-powered rifle" to fire from a spot atop a commercial building where he was "very difficult to see." He said the rifle was recovered at the scene. Police also found a ladder attached to the building.

"Very random, very intentional and a very sad day," Covelli said.

President Joe Biden on Monday said he and first lady Jill Biden were "shocked by the senseless gun violence that has yet again brought grief to an American community on this Independence Day."

Biden signed the widest-ranging gun violence bill passed by Congress in decades, a compromise that showed at once both progress on a long-intractable issue and the deep-seated partisan divide that persists.

As a word of an arrest spread, residents who had hunkered in homes began venturing outside, some walking toward where the shooting occurred. Several people stood and stared at the scene, with abandoned picnic blankets, hundreds of lawn chairs and backpacks still where they were when the shooting began.

Police believe there was only one shooter but warned that he should still be considered armed and dangerous. Several nearby cities canceled events including parades and fireworks, some of them noting that the Highland Park shooter was still at large. The Chicago White Sox also announced on Twitter that a planned post-game fireworks show is canceled due to the shooting.

More than 100 law enforcement officers were called to the parade scene or dispatched to find the suspected shooter.

More than a dozen police officers on Monday surrounded a home listed as an address for Crimo in Highland Park. Some officers held rifles as they fixed their eyes on the home. Police blockaded roads leading to the home in a tree-lined neighborhood near a golf course, allowing only select law enforcement cars through a tight outer perimeter.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 29 of 50

Crimo, who goes by the name Bobby, was an aspiring rapper with the stage name Awake the Rapper, posting on social media dozens videos and songs, some ominous and violent.

In one animated video since taken down by YouTube, Crimo raps about armies "walking in darkness" as a drawing appears of a man pointing a rifle, a body on the ground and another figure with hands up in the distance. A later frame shows a close-up of a chest with blood pouring out and another of police cars arriving as the shooter holds his hands up.

In another video, in which Crimo appears in a classroom wearing a black bicycle helmet, he says he is "like a sleepwalker... I know what I have to do," then adds, "Everything has led up to this. Nothing can stop me, even myself."

Crimo's father, Bob, a longtime deli owner, ran unsuccessfully for mayor of Highland Park in 2019, calling himself "a person for the people."

Highland Park is a close-knit community of about 30,000 people located on the shores of Lake Michigan just north of Chicago, with mansions and sprawling lakeside estates that have long drawn the rich and sometimes famous, including NBA legend Michael Jordan, who lived in the city for years when he played for the Chicago Bulls. John Hughes filmed parts of several movies in the city, including "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," "Sixteen Candles" and "Weird Science."

Ominous signs of a joyous event suddenly turned to horror filled both sides of Central Avenue where the shooting occurred. Dozens of baby strollers — some bearing American flags, abandoned children's bikes and a helmet bedecked with images of Cinderella were left behind. Blankets, lawn chairs, coffees and water bottles were knocked over as people fled.

Gina Troiani and her son were lined up with his daycare class ready to walk onto the parade route when she heard a loud sound that she believed was fireworks — until she heard people yell about a shooter. In a video that Troiani shot on her phone, some of the kids are visibly startled at the loud noise, and they scramble to the side of the road as a siren wails nearby.

"We just start running in the opposite direction," she told The Associated Press.

Her 5-year-old son was riding his bike decorated with red and blue curled ribbons. He and other children in the group held small American flags. The city said on its website that the festivities were to include a children's bike and pet parade.

Troiani said she pushed her son's bike, running through the neighborhood to get back to their car.

"It was just sort of chaos," she said. "There were people that got separated from their families, looking for them. Others just dropped their wagons, grabbed their kids and started running."

Debbie Glickman, a Highland Park resident, said she was on a parade float with coworkers and the group was preparing to turn onto the main route when she saw people running from the area.

"People started saying: 'There's a shooter, there's a shooter, there's a shooter,'" Glickman told the AP. "So we just ran. We just ran. It's like mass chaos down there."

She didn't hear any noises or see anyone who appeared to be injured.

"I'm so freaked out," she said. "It's just so sad."

## Uneasy US tries to fete a July 4 marred by parade shooting

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN and KATHLEEN FOODY Associated Press

A shooting that left at least six people dead at an Independence Day parade in a Chicago suburb rattled Monday's celebrations across the U.S. and further rocked a country already awash in turmoil over high court rulings on abortion and guns as well as hearings on the Jan. 6 insurrection.

The latest mass shooting came as the nation tried to find cause to celebrate its founding and the bonds that still hold it together. It was supposed to be a day for taking off work, flocking to parades, devouring hot dogs and burgers at backyard barbecues and gathering under a canopy of stars and exploding fireworks.

"On a day that we came together to celebrate community and freedom, we are instead mourning the tragic loss of life and struggling with the terror that was brought upon us," Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 30 of 50

The Highland Park parade began around 10 a.m. but was suddenly halted 10 minutes later after shots were fired. Hundreds of parade-goers — some visibly bloodied — fled the area, leaving behind chairs, baby strollers and blankets. Authorities brought a person of interest into custody Monday evening.

As the Highland Park community mourned, fireworks began thundering in neighboring towns and across the country. Pyrotechnics bloomed shortly after nightfall in Boston and New York City, where a kaleidoscope of color exploded over the Hudson River and illuminated skyscrapers.

President Joe Biden, in remarks Monday celebrating 246 years of America's independence, sought to reassure a nation both exhausted and unsettled by recent events.

"In recent days, there's been reason to think this country is moving backwards, that freedom is being reduced, that rights we assumed were protected are no longer," Biden said in remarks to military families and administration officials enjoying a picnic on the South Lawn of the White House. "I know it can be exhausting and unsettling, but tonight I want you to know we're going to get through all of this."

Biden said many people see a divided country, but "I believe we are more united than we are divided." He tweeted earlier in the day about the shooting, calling it "senseless gun violence that has yet again brought grief to an American community this Independence Day."

"I will not give up fighting the epidemic of gun violence," the president tweeted.

These are precarious times: An economic recession lurks, and the Highland Park shooting will weigh on a national psyche already raw from mass shootings like those seen recently at a Texas elementary school and a New York supermarket.

Sharp social and political divisions have also been laid bare by recent Supreme Court decisions overturning the constitutional right to abortion and striking down a New York law limiting who may carry a gun in public.

Nevertheless, many had reason to gather and celebrate for the first time in three years amid easing coronavirus precautions.

Nathan's Famous Fourth of July hot dog eating contest returned to its traditional location in Brooklyn's Coney Island neighborhood after two years elsewhere thanks to the pandemic.

"It's beautiful to be back here," Joey "Jaws" Chestnut told ESPN after winning the men's competition by downing 63 hot dogs and buns — even as he momentarily put a protester who rushed the stage in a chokehold. Miki Sudo chomped 40 franks to win the women's event.

Colorful displays were scheduled to light up the night sky from coast to coast. However, others, particularly in drought-stricken and wildfire-prone regions of the West, would forgo them.

Fireworks were the suspected cause behind a fire in Centerville, Utah, that led to the evacuation of dozens of homes and the cancellation of some of its Independence Day events, officials said.

It was a different matter in Phoenix, which is again going without fireworks — not because of the pandemic or fire concerns but supply-chain issues.

In emotional ceremonies across the country, some swore oaths of citizenship, qualifying them to vote in the upcoming midterm elections.

During a ceremony for naturalized citizens held at Mount Vernon, the Virginia home of George Washington, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told 52 people originally from 42 different countries that they were essential to building a strong labor force.

"Immigrants strengthen our workforce, and, in the process, help drive the resiliency and vitality of our economy," Yellen said in remarks prepared for the Monday event.

For many, July 4 was also a chance to set aside political differences and to celebrate unity, reflecting on the revolution that gave rise to history's longest-living democracy.

"There's always something to divide or unite us," says Eli Merritt, a political historian at Vanderbilt University whose upcoming book traces the fraught founding of the United States.

But he sees the Jan. 6 hearings probing last year's storming of the U.S. Capitol as a reason for hope, an opportunity to rally behind democratic institutions. Even though not all Americans or their elected representatives agree with the committee's work, Merritt is heartened by the fact that it's at least somewhat bipartisan.

"Moral courage as a locus for Americans to place hope, the willingness to stand up for what is right and

true in spite of negative consequences to oneself," he said. "That is an essential glue of constitutional democracy."

## **A migrant survivor of the trailer: 'They couldn't breathe'**

By SONIA PÉREZ D. Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — The advice of a friend to stay near the door of a semi-trailer may have saved Yenifer Yulisa Cardona Tomás from the deadly end that 53 other migrants met when the truck was abandoned last week on the outskirts of San Antonio.

Cardona Tomás, a 20-year-old from Guatemala's capital, said in a phone interview Monday from her hospital bed that it was already hot on June 27 when she stepped out of the warehouse on the Texas side of the Mexico border where she had been waiting and climbed into the back of the trailer.

The smugglers confiscated their cellphones and covered the trailer's floor with what she believes was powdered chicken bouillon, apparently to throw off any dogs they might encounter at checkpoints. Sitting stuffed inside the stifling trailer with dozens of others, the powder stung her skin.

Remembering her friend's advice about staying near the door where it would be cooler, Cardona Tomás shared it with another friend she had made during the journey.

"I told a friend that we shouldn't go to the back and should stay near (the entrance), in the same place without moving," said Cardona Tomás, who is being treated at Methodist Hospital Metropolitan in San Antonio. That friend survived, too.

As the truck moved on, making additional stops to pick up more migrants, people began to cluster near the door like Cardona Tomás. She had no way to track the time.

"The people were yelling, some cried. Mostly women were calling for it to stop and to open the doors because it was hot, that they couldn't breathe," she said, still laboring a bit to speak after being intubated at the hospital.

She said the driver or someone else in the cab yelled back that "we were about to arrive, that there were 20 minutes left, six minutes."

"People asked for water, some had run out, others carried some," she said.

The truck would continue stopping occasionally, but just before she lost consciousness it was moving slowly. She woke up in the hospital.

The driver and three others were arrested and charged by U.S. prosecutors.

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Cardona Tomás said the truck's destination that day was Houston, though she was ultimately headed to North Carolina.

"She didn't have a job and asked me if I would support her" in migrating to the U.S., her father, Mynor Córdón, said Monday in Guatemala City, where the family lives. He said he knew of other cases of children who just left without telling their families and ended up disappearing or dying so he decided to back her.

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"We cried so much," Córdón said. "I even was thinking where we were going to have the wake and bury

her. She is a miracle.”

## Griner sends letter to President Biden pleading for his help

By DOUG FEINBERG AP Basketball Writer

Brittney Griner has made an appeal to President Joe Biden in a letter passed to the White House through her representatives saying she feared she might never return home and asking that he not “forget about me and the other American Detainees.”

Griner’s agent Lindsay Kagawa Colas said the letter was delivered on Monday. Most of the letter’s contents to President Biden remain private, though Griner’s representatives shared a few lines from the hand-written note.

“...As I sit here in a Russian prison, alone with my thoughts and without the protection of my wife, family, friends, Olympic jersey, or any accomplishments, I’m terrified I might be here forever,” Griner wrote.

“On the 4th of July, our family normally honors the service of those who fought for our freedom, including my father who is a Vietnam War Veteran,” the Phoenix Mercury center added. “It hurts thinking about how I usually celebrate this day because freedom means something completely different to me this year.”

The two-time Olympic gold medalist is in the midst of a trial in Russia that began last week after she was arrested on Feb. 17 on charges of possessing cannabis oil while returning to play for her Russian team. The trial will resume Thursday.

Fewer than 1% of defendants in Russian criminal cases are acquitted, and unlike in U.S. courts, acquittals can be overturned.

The White House National Security Council confirmed the White House has received Griner’s letter.

“We believe the Russian Federation is wrongfully detaining Brittney Griner,” NSC spokeswoman Adrienne Watson said on Monday. “President Biden has been clear about the need to see all U.S. nationals who are held hostage or wrongfully detained abroad released, including Brittney Griner. The U.S. government continues to work aggressively – using every available means – to bring her home.”

Griner pleaded with Biden in the letter to use his powers to ensure her return.

“Please do all you can to bring us home. I voted for the first time in 2020 and I voted for you. I believe in you. I still have so much good to do with my freedom that you can help restore,” Griner said “I miss my wife! I miss my family! I miss my teammates! It kills me to know they are suffering so much right now. I am grateful for whatever you can do at this moment to get me home.”

Griner has been able to have sporadic communications with family, friends and WNBA players through an email account her agent set up. The emails are printed out and delivered in bunches to Griner by her lawyer after they are vetted by Russian officials. Once the lawyers get back to their office, they’ll scan any responses from Griner and pass them back to the U.S. to send along.

She was supposed to have a phone call with her wife on their anniversary but it failed because of an “unfortunate mistake,” Biden administration officials.

Griner’s supporters have encouraged a prisoner swap like the one in April that brought home Marine veteran Trevor Reed in exchange for a Russian pilot convicted of drug trafficking conspiracy. The State Department in May designated her as wrongfully detained, moving her case under the supervision of its special presidential envoy for hostage affairs, effectively the government’s chief hostage negotiator.

Griner isn’t the only American being wrongfully detained in Russia. Paul Whelan, a former Marine and security director is serving a 16-year sentence on an espionage conviction.

## Jan. 6 panel: More turning up with evidence against Trump

By HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — More witnesses are coming forward with new details on the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol riot following former White House aide Cassidy Hutchinson’s devastating testimony last week against former President Donald Trump, says a member of a House committee investigating the insurrection.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 33 of 50

The panel already has subpoenaed former White House counsel Pat Cipollone, who investigators remain hopeful will appear Wednesday for a deposition, and said it would also welcome follow-up details from Secret Service members with Trump that day.

Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., cited Hutchinson's testimony that Trump wanted to join an angry mob of his supporters who marched on Jan. 6, 2021, to the Capitol, where they rioted, as particularly valuable in "inspiring" more people to step forward as the committee gets set for at least two public hearings this month.

"Every day we get new people that come forward and say, 'Hey, I didn't think maybe this piece of the story that I knew was important,'" he said Sunday. "There will be way more information and stay tuned."

The committee has been intensifying its yearlong investigation into the Jan. 6 attack and Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election. The next hearings will aim to show how Trump illegally directed a violent mob toward the Capitol on Jan. 6 and then failed to take quick action to stop the attack once it began. Over the weekend, Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., the committee's vice chair, made clear that criminal referrals to the Justice Department, including against the Republican former president, could follow.

The committee also has been reviewing new documentary film footage of Trump's final months in office, including interviews with Trump and members of his family.

Kinzinger, in a television interview, declined to disclose the new information he referred to and did not say who had provided it. He said nothing had changed the committee's confidence in her credibility.

"There's information I can't say yet," he said. "We certainly would say that Cassidy Hutchinson has testified under oath, we find her credible, and anybody that wants to cast disparagements on that, who were firsthand present, should also testify under oath and not through anonymous sources."

In a separate interview, another committee member, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said: "We are following additional leads. I think those leads will lead to new testimony."

In Hutchinson's appearance before the committee, she painted a picture of Trump as an angry, defiant president who was trying to let armed supporters avoid security screenings at a rally on the morning of Jan. 6 to protest his 2020 election defeat to Democrat Joe Biden.

According to Hutchinson, Cipollone was concerned that Trump would face criminal charges if he joined his supporters in marching to the Capitol.

Legal experts have said Hutchinson's testimony is potentially problematic for Trump as federal prosecutors investigate potential criminal wrongdoing.

Cheney said in an interview aired Sunday that the committee was still considering whether to issue recommendations to the Justice Department, indicating "there could be more than one criminal referral."

Committee members said they are hopeful Cipollone will come forward.

"He clearly has information about concerns about criminal violations, concerns about the president going to the Capitol that day, concerns about the chief of staff having blood on his hands if they didn't do more to stop that violent attack on the Capitol," Schiff said. "It's hard to imagine someone more at the center of things."

In her testimony, Hutchinson recounted a conversation with Tony Ornato, Trump's deputy chief of staff for operations, who, she testified, said Trump later grabbed at the steering wheel of the presidential SUV when the Secret Service refused to let him go to the Capitol after the rally.

That account was disputed, however. Bobby Engel, the Secret Service agent who was driving Trump, and Ornato are willing to testify under oath that no agent was assaulted and Trump never lunged for the steering wheel, a person familiar with the matter said. The person would not discuss the matter publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

"We had interviewed Mr. Ornato several times," said Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., and member of the panel. "His memory does not appear to be as precise as hers. We certainly would welcome them to come back if they wish to do that."

The committee has also been working on setting up an interview with Virginia "Ginni" Thomas, the conservative activist and wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. She was asked to speak to the committee after disclosures of her communications with Trump's team in the run-up to and on the day of the insurrection at the Capitol.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 34 of 50

Kinzinger appeared on CNN's "State of the Union," Schiff was on CBS' "Face the Nation," Cheney appeared on ABC's "This Week" and Lofgren spoke on NBC's "Meet the Press."

## Flight cancellations ease slightly as July 4 weekend ends

By DAVID KOENIG AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Travelers flying home from July Fourth getaways faced flight delays Monday, but airlines were canceling fewer flights than in the days leading up to the holiday weekend.

Since holiday weekend travel picked up on Thursday, airlines have canceled more than 2,200 U.S. flights, and another 25,000 were delayed.

Airports were packed.

More than 9 million flyers flocked to U.S. airports between Thursday and Sunday, peaking at 2.49 million, a pandemic-era record, on Friday, according to figures from the Transportation Security Administration.

By late Monday afternoon on the East Coast, more than 2,200 U.S. flights had been delayed and more than 200 canceled, according to FlightAware.

The good news: Those numbers were down sharply from recent days.

Flying during the peak vacation season has always been challenging. Big crowds and summer thunderstorms can quickly overwhelm an airline's operations. That has been compounded this summer by shortages of pilots and other workers.

"It's not just in North America, it's everywhere," said John Grant, an analyst for OAG, a travel-date provider based in the United Kingdom. "It's a combination of available resources and demand picking up much more quickly than anyone anticipated."

Grant said labor shortages in Europe and North America have affected airlines, their suppliers including caterers and aircraft fuelers, airports and air traffic controllers. He sees no reason to think the situation will improve anytime this summer.

In the U.S., the rate of cancellations over the last two weeks is up 59% from the same period in 2019, before the pandemic, likely due to a combination of weather, staffing shortages and air-traffic issues.

However, the rate of delayed flights is only slightly worse than it was in the last summer before the pandemic — 19.7% then, 21.5% now, according to FlightAware numbers.

While some of the disruption was due to bad weather, especially along the East Coast for part of the weekend, airlines also made unforced errors.

American Airlines accidentally dropped pilot assignments for thousands of flights in July because of a glitch in its scheduling program. A spokesman for the airline said Monday that the problem had been fixed and crew assignments had been restored for "the vast majority" of flights. He said the issue had no effect on July Fourth travel.

Ed Sicher, the new president of the union representing American's pilots, said the airline had disregarded their contract by unilaterally reassigning pilots to about 80% of the affected flights.

Sicher said the union and airline are negotiating extra pay for pilots who had trips dropped, then restored during "this debacle."

## Dior does folklore in Paris couture, riffing on Ukraine art

By THOMAS ADAMSON AP Fashion Writer

PARIS (AP) — Images of traditional embroideries and floral paintings adorned the walls of Dior's celebrity-laden runway homage to Ukraine as Paris' four-day Couture Week kicked off Monday.

The set, from Ukrainian artist Olesia Trofymenko, was the starting point for designer Maria Grazia Chiuri who returned this season to the atelier's needle-and-thread. It made for an embroidery-rich collection riffing on Eastern European styles, which the house said was also a message of cultural dialogue and support — one that could imagine a "better tomorrow."

Haute couture is the age-old Parisian tradition of producing exorbitantly priced, made-to-measure garments for the world's richest women.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 35 of 50

Here are some highlights of the fall-winter 2022 collections:

## DIOR'S CRAFT

A pared-down vibe greeted guest celebrities including Naomi Watts, Zoe Saldana and Sigourney Weaver inside a perfumed annex of the Left Bank Rodin Museum.

Dior's famous atelier thus forwent its sequined razzmatazz to make craftsmanship center stage this fall for an organic display of gowns in earthy tones — and the occasional muted shimmer.

Whatever this show lacked in energy, it made up for in detailing. Chiuri channeled the "tree of life," the leitmotif in Trofymenko's art, by evoking roots and branches in long, loose folksy gowns — or in stiff, cropped ethnic jackets embroidered in silks and cotton threads and yarn.

In a near-poetic touch, patchworks of braids in bronze guipure on full skirts seemed to resemble shimmering morning dew on foliage.

Yet despite its precise execution, there was little new in the exhaustive 68-piece collection. At times, Chiuri seemed to fall back on the Renaissance styles that defined her tenure at Valentino from 2008-2016, such as tight round necks, long regal gowns and floaty bishop's sleeves.

Still, there were some stand-out looks, such as a cinched-waisted black gown with white lace bib that resembled a rebellious nun that had had enough of the convent.

## SCHIAPARELLI'S HIDE AND REVEAL

Wide-brimmed hats shrouded the face through dusty, dappled lighting. Torsos peered through while sections of midriff were cut down to a ribbed undergarment that resembled human flesh.

The house's American designer Daniel Roseberry explored sensuality - and covering up - in a largely thoughtful display that veered off toward the end.

The collection featured dark, archetypal couture. Voluminous satin skirts whooshed out in every direction, capturing the gravity-free feel of a Renaissance painting.

But there were also many quirks in deference to the Italian house's eccentric founder Elsa Schiaparelli whose heyday emerged between the two World Wars.

Two enormous earrings made of bunches of gold grapes cascaded down to cover the bare chested model's nipples. In the center of a quilted zigzag crop top were two whimsical, molded fabric breasts.

According to company lore, a 1948 survey of Americans put Elsa Schiaparelli at the top of their list of most famous French people. But they still couldn't pronounce her name - the "Sch" is hard, as in "school."

Roseberry is on track to making the house as famous once more.

## "SHOCKING" EXHIBIT

The Schiaparelli couture show was held in the Musee des Arts Decoratifs to mark a new retrospective at the museum celebrating the late, great couturier who invented the color shocking pink and courted the Surrealist artists.

From July 6, the museum is showcasing "Shocking! The Surreal Worlds of Elsa Schiaparelli," featuring 577 works including 212 garments, alongside paintings, sculptures, jewelry, perfume bottles, ceramics, posters and photographs signed by her friends and collaborators, from Man Ray to Salvador Dali and Jean Cocteau.

The exhibit also tracks her enduring legacy on fashion, showing her influence on designs by Yves Saint Laurent, Christian Lacroix, Azzedine Alaïa and John Galliano.

## IRIS VAN HERPEN TURNS 15

The Dutch wunderkind's collection was a futuristic spectacular — featuring winged shoes, dynamic silver tendrils and gravity-defying abstract ribbed silhouettes that one viewer compared to the Marvel Universe - although a refined, couture version.

Billed as a "first-of-its-kind mixed reality runway experience," guests were encouraged to bring their mobile devices ready to capture the incredible detail on the garments that - in Van Herpen's signature style - fused fashion and art.

One bone white creation gained an added dimension when it was captured and slowed down on video: Its cape-like tendrils whipped slowly in all directions like a sci-fi creature. This collection, the house said, fused the physical and virtual. It succeeded.

There was something dreamlike about the show. It started with the decor's hanging gold blossoms, strange white human sculpture and mesmeric music. That reflected in the fashion as well. Sheer white structured fabric whooshes created large tubular ripples down the model's body. It was as if the cosmic, organic and a computer game's graphics melded together.

The show, entitled "Meta Morphism," was also a milestone for the award-winning couturier - marking the 15th anniversary of her eponymous fashion design house.

## VALLI'S FLOURISHES

Big shoulder flourishes, sometimes dropping to the bust or morphing into bows, were the creative touchstone for couture master Giambattista Valli. He put out frothy display at the chic Pavillon Vendome Monday evening, which bled from bridal white gowns into a climax of eye-popping tulle.

The typically feminine Italian designer had fun with shoulder detailing this season -- from leg of mutton sleeves, shoulders dripping in tea green feathers, to abstract forms resembling crisp white origami clouds.

Yet color was surely the strongest point in the 58 gown-collection — such as one lime green thick-feathered coat that almost swept the floor. It was fabulous — part pimp, part Grace Kelly.

## In rural West, more worries about access to abortion clinics

By CLAIRE RUSH Associated Press/Report for America

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — In the central Oregon city of Bend, the sole Planned Parenthood clinic serving the eastern half of the state is bracing for an influx of patients, particularly from neighboring Idaho, where a trigger law banning most abortions is expected to take effect this summer.

"We've already started hiring," said Joanna Dennis-Cook, the Bend Health Center Manager.

Across the U.S. West, many abortion providers serving rural areas were already struggling to meet demand in a vast region where staffing shortages and long travel distances are barriers to reproductive services for women. Oregon alone is larger geographically than the entire United Kingdom.

Some facilities serving rural communities in states where abortion remains legal worry those pre-existing challenges could be further compounded by the overturning of Roe v. Wade, as more patients travel from states where the procedure is banned or greatly restricted.

Anticipating an abortion ban in Idaho, Oregon lawmakers earlier this year created a \$15 million fund to increase access to abortion services.

Northwest Abortion Access Fund, a nonprofit that helps patients pay for travel and the procedure itself, has been tapped to receive the first \$1 million. NWAAF has worked with the Bend clinic for 20 years, and they are collaborating to meet the needs of a growing number of patients.

Dennis-Cook says her clinic is providing additional training for staff and modifying schedules "to ensure that we can accommodate increases in patient numbers" as more people travel farther for care.

Before the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, 20% of U.S. women already had to travel at least 42 miles to reach the nearest abortion clinic, according to 2014 data analyzed by the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights, which published its findings in *The Lancet Public Health*. Across much of eastern Oregon, that distance can jump to nearly 180 miles. As more states move to enact trigger bans on abortion, distances could increase further for many patients.

Dennis-Cook says the Bend health center has been seeing patients coming from as far away as Texas.

Bend's clinic has six exam rooms and receives about 600 visits per month. As it is "on the smaller side," Dennis-Cook said it is "limited" in what it can provide.

"We only do first trimester procedures here," she explained. She added the clinic can't do procedures involving general anesthesia. "We don't have a plethora of nurses who can do that type of work to draw from."

Smaller abortion clinics, particularly ones in rural areas, have historically grappled with shortages of staff and doctors who can perform the procedure. This in turn affects scheduling availability.

Amidst growing demand for travel funds, NWAAF has already exhausted its planned operating budgets for this year, according to Riley Keane, a Practical Support Lead for the group.

"Last year we gave away about \$1 million all told," Keane explained, referring to grants given to clinics

to cover abortion costs and travel funds provided to patients. She said this year NWAAF is "on track to double that potentially."

Keane expects the \$1 million from Oregon's new abortion access fund will make "a huge difference" for NWAAF, which normally relies on individual donors. She says this year marks the first time the group is receiving government money.

NWAAF says it is concerned about providing travel funds to patients in states where abortion is banned or greatly restricted, but added it is working with legal professionals to assess the shifting landscape.

"They keep us up to date on things we need to be concerned about," Keane said.

In response to laws such as those passed in Texas allowing private individuals to sue abortion providers, the governors of Oregon, Washington and California announced a joint commitment to protect patients and doctors "against judicial and local law enforcement cooperation with out-of-state investigations, inquiries and arrests."

The three Democratic governors also said they will refuse "extradition of individuals for criminal prosecution" for receiving or supporting abortion services that are legal in their states.

NWAAF's service region includes Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska.

Keane says NWAAF will continue its work for now. "Currently, our legal advisers haven't told us that we need to stop operating," she said.

## Putin declares victory in eastern Ukraine region of Luhansk

By FRANCESCA EBEL Associated Press

POKROVSK, Ukraine (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday declared victory in the eastern Ukrainian region of Luhansk, one day after Ukrainian forces withdrew from their last remaining bulwark of resistance in the province.

Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu reported to Putin in a televised meeting Monday that Russian forces had taken control of Luhansk, which together with the neighboring Donetsk province makes up Ukraine's industrial heartland of Donbas.

Shoigu told Putin that "the operation" was completed on Sunday after Russian troops overran the city of Lysychansk, the last stronghold of Ukrainian forces in Luhansk.

Putin, in turn, said that the military units "that took part in active hostilities and achieved success, victory" in Luhansk, "should rest, increase their combat capabilities."

Putin's declaration came as Russian forces tried to press their offensive deeper into eastern Ukraine after the Ukrainian military confirmed that its forces had withdrawn from Lysychansk on Sunday. Luhansk governor Serhii Haidai said on Monday that Ukrainian forces had retreated from the city to avoid being surrounded.

"There was a risk of Lysychansk encirclement," Haidai told the Associated Press, adding that Ukrainian troops could have held on for a few more weeks but would have potentially paid too high a price.

"We managed to do centralized withdrawal and evacuate all injured," Haidai said. "We took back all the equipment, so from this point withdrawal was organized well."

The Ukrainian General Staff said Russian forces were now focusing their efforts on pushing toward the line of Siversk, Fedorivka and Bakhmut in the Donetsk region, about half of which is controlled by Russia. The Russian army has also intensified its shelling of the key Ukrainian strongholds of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, deeper in Donetsk.

On Sunday, six people, including a 9-year-old girl, were killed in the Russian shelling of Sloviansk and another 19 people were wounded, according to local authorities. Kramatorsk also came under fire on Sunday.

An intelligence briefing Monday from the British Defense Ministry supported the Ukrainian military's assessment, noting that Russian forces will "now almost certainly" switch to capturing Donetsk. The briefing said the conflict in Donbas has been "grinding and attritional," and is unlikely to change in the coming weeks.

While the Russian army has a massive advantage in firepower, military analysts say that it doesn't have any significant superiority in the number of troops. That means Moscow lacks resources for quick land gains and can only advance slowly, relying on heavy artillery and rocket barrages to soften Ukrainian defenses.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 38 of 50

Putin has made capturing the entire Donbas a key goal in his war in Ukraine, now in its fifth month. Moscow-backed separatists in Donbas have battled Ukrainian forces since 2014 when they declared independence from Kyiv after the Russian annexation of Ukraine's Crimea. Russia formally recognized the self-proclaimed republics days before its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine.

Since failing to take Kyiv and other areas in Ukraine's northeast early in the war, Russia has focused on Donbas, unleashing fierce shelling and engaging in house-to-house combat that devastated cities in the region.

Russia's invasion has also devastated Ukraine's agricultural sector, disrupting supply chains of seed and fertilizer needed by Ukrainian farmers and blocking the export of grain, a key source of revenue for the country.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in his nightly video address, called for immediate economic aid to help the country rebuild even as fighting continues.

"The restoration of Ukraine is not only about what needs to be done later after our victory, but also about what needs to be done right now. And we must do this together with our partners, with the entire democratic world," he said.

"A significant part of the economy has been destroyed by hostilities and Russian strikes. Thousands of enterprises do not work. And this means a high need for jobs, to provide social benefits, despite the decrease in tax revenues," Zelenskyy said.

In its Monday intelligence report, Britain's defense ministry pointed to the Russian blockade of the key Ukrainian port of Odesa, which has severely restricted grain exports. They predicted that Ukraine's agricultural exports would reach only 35% of the 2021 total this year as a result.

As Moscow pushed its offensive across Ukraine's east, areas in western Russia came under attack Sunday in a revival of sporadic apparent Ukrainian strikes across the border. The governor of the Belgorod region in Western Russia said fragments of an intercepted Ukrainian missile killed four people Sunday. In the Russian city of Kursk, two Ukrainian drones were shot down, according to the Russian Defense Ministry.

In other developments:

— Ukrainian soldiers returning from the front lines in eastern Ukraine's Donbas region — where Russia is waging a fierce offensive — describe life during what has turned into a grueling war of attrition as apocalyptic.

— Two Russian airplanes departed Bulgaria on Sunday with scores of Russian diplomatic staff and their families amid a mass expulsion that has sent tensions soaring between the historically close nations, a Russian diplomat said.

## 1972 'Napalm Girl' escorts Ukraine refugees to Canada

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Phan Thi Kim Phuc, the girl in the famous 1972 Vietnam napalm attack photo, on Monday escorted 236 refugees from Russia's war in Ukraine on a flight from Warsaw to Canada.

Phuc's iconic Associated Press photo in which she runs with her napalm-scalded body exposed, was etched on the private nongovernmental organization plane that is flying the refugees to the city of Regina, the capital of the Canadian province of Saskatchewan.

Kim, 59, a Canadian citizen, said she wants her story and work for refugees to be a message of peace. With her husband, Bui Huy Toan, she traveled from Toronto to board the humanitarian flight.

The refugees, mostly women and children from across Ukraine, are among thousands of Ukrainians that Canada has provided humanitarian visas in the wake of Russia's invasion of their country. Millions of Ukrainians have fled since Russia attacked on Feb. 24. Almost 5.5 million have registered with humanitarian organizations in Europe, according to the U.N.

Canada is among many Western countries offering Ukrainian refugees safe haven.

The founder of the NGO Solidaire, Argentine philanthropist and pilot Enrique Pineyro, piloted the Boeing 787. Oscar Camps from the Spanish organization Open Arms was also aboard.

AP photographer Nick Ut took the Pulitzer Prize-winning photo of Kim and other children fleeing a napalm

attack in south Vietnam in June 1972.

## Alpine avalanche leaves 7 known dead, 13 missing in Italy

By FRANCES D'EMILIO and LUCA BRUNO Associated Press

CANAZEI, Italy (AP) — Thunderstorms hampered Monday the search for more than a dozen hikers who remained unaccounted for a day after a huge chunk of an Alpine glacier in Italy broke off, sending an avalanche of ice, snow and rocks down the slope. Officials put the known death toll at seven.

"I hope the numbers stop here," said Veneto Gov. Luca Zaia, whose region in northeast Italy borders the Dolomite mountain range including the Marmolada glacier. He spoke in the resort town of Canazei, where a morgue was set up in the ice rink.

Another regional leader, Maurizio Fugatti, said 14 people remained unaccounted for by Monday afternoon: 10 Italians, three from Czechia and one from Austria. Local officials later said that Austrian consular officials had made contact with the Austrian.

"We were contacted by families because these people didn't return home," said Fugatti of the Trentino-Alto Adige Alpine region.

In the mountain's parking lot, four cars remained whose occupants hadn't been traced — two cars had license plates from Czechia; one vehicle was from Germany and the fourth was from Hungary.

At least three of the dead were Italians, authorities said. Italian news reports said one of the deceased was from Czechia, which is more widely known in English as the Czech Republic.

One of the Italians was Filippo Bari, 28, who snapped a selfie with the Marmolada glacier in the background only minutes before the avalanche, his brother, Andrea, told state TV in Canazei where he came to identify the body.

Although an expert mountain hiker, his brother said his family always told him to be careful in the mountains, "above all in these temperatures." He said the selfie was sent only 20 minutes before the avalanche and that his brother, who had a partner and a 4-year-old son, was smiling. "He passed away doing what he loved."

On Sunday, officials said nine people were injured, but on Monday told reporters in Canazei that eight were injured, including two in grave condition.

Zaia said the hospitalized included two Germans and a 40-year-old patient yet to be identified.

The avalanche came roaring down when dozens of hikers were on excursions, including some of them roped together.

Looking grim after meeting with families of some of the dead, Italian Premier Mario Draghi, demanded that action be taken so such a tragedy doesn't happen again.

"This is a drama that certainly has some unpredictability, and certainly depends on environmental deterioration and the climate situation," Draghi said, echoing several experts who said an avalanche triggered by a glacier's breakup couldn't be forecast.

Marmolada glacier has been shrinking for decades, and scientists at the government CNR research center have said it won't exist within 25-30 years.

"Today, Italy cries for the victims, all Italians embrace them with affection," Draghi said. "The government must reflect on what happened and take measures, so that what happened has a very low probability of happening again or being avoided entirely."

The detached portion of glacier was massive, estimated at 200 meters wide, 80 meters tall and 60 meters deep. Zaia likened the avalanche to an "apartment building (sized) block of ice with debris and Cyclopean masses of rock."

"I can't say anything else other than the facts, and the facts tell us that the high temperatures don't favor these situations," Zaia told reporters.

Italy is in the grips of a weeks-long heat wave, and Alpine rescuers said that the temperature at the glacier's altitude last week topped 10 C (50 F) when usually it should hover around freezing at this time of year.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 40 of 50

What exactly caused a pinnacle of the glacier to break off and thunder down the slope at a speed estimated by experts at around 300 kph (nearly 200 mph), wasn't immediately known.

But high temperatures were widely cited as a factor.

"The atmosphere and climate, especially below 3,500 meters, is at a complete imbalance thanks to the 'new' climate that we've been registering, and unfortunately these events are probably destined to repeat themselves in the coming years," said Renato Colucci from the Institute of Polar Sciences in the state-run Council of National Research (CNR).

Jacopo Gabrieli, another glacier expert with CNR, told state television that the long heat wave, spanning May and June, was the hottest in northern Italy in that period for nearly 20 years — "absolutely an anomaly."

Operators of rustic shelters along the mountainside said temperatures at the 2,000-meter (6,600 foot) level recently reached 24C (75 F) - unheard of in a place where excursionists go in summer to keep cool.

The glacier, in the Marmolada range, is the largest in the Dolomite mountains in northeastern Italy. People ski on it in the winter. But the glacier has been rapidly melting away over the past decades, with much of its volume gone.

The Mediterranean basin, which includes southern European countries like Italy, has been identified by U.N. experts as a "climate change hot spot," likely to suffer heat waves and water shortages, among other consequences.

Pope Francis, who has made care of the planet a priority of his papacy, tweeted an invitation to pray for the avalanche victims and their families.

"The tragedies that we are experiencing with climate change must push us to urgently search for new ways that are respectful of people and nature," Francis wrote.

## **US: Israeli fire likely killed reporter; no final conclusion**

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER, MATTHEW LEE and JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials said Monday the bullet that killed veteran Al Jazeera reporter Shireen Abu Akleh was likely fired from an Israeli position. But they said it was too badly damaged to reach an absolute determination, and that there is "no reason to believe" she was deliberately targeted.

State Department spokesman Ned Price, announcing the results of the probe, said "independent, third-party examiners" had undertaken an "extremely detailed forensic analysis" of the bullet that killed her after the Palestinian Authority handed it over to them.

The results, announced ahead of President Joe Biden's visit to the region next week, were unlikely to lay the matter to rest. The Palestinians reiterated that Israel was to blame, while Israel said its own investigation would remain open and did not address the U.S. conclusion that its troops were likely responsible.

Abu Akleh, a veteran Palestinian-American correspondent who was well known and respected throughout the Arab world, was shot and killed while covering an Israeli military raid on May 11 in the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank. Palestinian eyewitnesses, including her crew, say Israeli troops killed her and that there were no militants in the immediate vicinity or any exchange of fire at the time she was shot.

Israel says she was killed during a complex battle with Palestinian militants and that only a forensic analysis of the bullet could confirm whether it was fired by an Israeli soldier or a Palestinian militant. It has strongly denied she was deliberately targeted, but says an Israeli soldier may have hit her by mistake during an exchange of fire with a militant.

An Associated Press reconstruction of her killing lent support to witness accounts that she was killed by Israeli forces. Subsequent investigations by CNN, the New York Times and the Washington Post reached similar conclusions, as did monitoring by the office of the U.N. human rights chief.

U.S. lawmakers have pressed the Biden administration to demand a full investigation and accountability, and anger over the killing is hanging over Biden's upcoming trip to the region.

U.S. security officials examined the results of separate Palestinian and Israeli investigations and "concluded that gunfire from IDF positions was likely responsible for the death of Shireen Abu Akleh," Price



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 41 of 50

said in a statement, referring to the Israeli military by its acronym.

The U.S. "found no reason to believe that this was intentional but rather the result of tragic circumstances during an IDF-led military operation against factions of Palestinian Islamic Jihad," Price said. He gave no further details on how it reached its conclusion.

The probe was undertaken by the U.S. Security Coordinator in the region, which was established in 2005 to assist with peace efforts at the time. It advises Palestinian security forces and coordinates between Israel and the PA.

Israel presented the findings as part of its own investigation, something that was likely to anger the Palestinian Authority. The PA handed the bullet over to U.S. officials while insisting it was still adamantly opposed to any cooperation with Israel.

The Israeli military said that while the bullet remained in the custody of U.S. officials throughout the process, it was examined by Israeli experts in a forensic laboratory in Israel.

Lt. Gen. Aviv Kohavi, the army chief of staff, ordered the investigation be continued "using all available means," the military said in a statement. It said any decision on whether to launch a criminal investigation would only be made after the operational investigation is completed.

Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid said "the IDF investigation was unable to determine who is responsible for the tragic death of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, but it was able to determine conclusively that there was no intention to harm her."

He did not address the U.S. conclusion that the bullet that struck her was likely fired from an Israeli position.

The Palestinian Authority and Al Jazeera accused Israeli forces of deliberately targeting Abu Akleh within hours of her death.

Nabil Abu Rdeineh, a spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, said the PA holds Israel "fully responsible" for Abu Akleh's killing and will not accept "any manipulation of the results of the Palestinian investigation."

The PA administers parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and cooperates with Israel on security matters. Rights groups say Israeli investigations of the shooting deaths of Palestinians often languish for months or years before being quietly closed and that soldiers are rarely held accountable. The Israeli rights group B'Tselem dismissed the U.S. announcement as a "whitewash."

"All investigations published so far conclude that Israel is responsible," it said. "It is not clear on what grounds does the U.S. State Department seek to dismiss her killing as 'the result of tragic circumstances' and not as a crime for which those responsible should be held to account."

Abu Akleh's family issued a statement saying the U.S. announcement was "insulting to Shireen's memory."

"All available evidence suggests that a U.S. citizen was the subject of an extrajudicial killing by a foreign government that receives billions of dollars in American military aid each year to perpetuate a prolonged and entrenched military occupation of millions of Palestinians," they said.

Abu Akleh, who was 51, was an on-air correspondent for Al Jazeera's Arabic-language service who rose to fame two decades ago during the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising, against Israeli rule. She documented the harsh realities of life under Israeli military rule — now well into its sixth decade with no end in sight — for viewers across the Arab world.

Israeli police drew widespread criticism from around the world when they beat mourners and pallbearers at her funeral in Jerusalem on May 14. An Israeli newspaper last month reported that a police investigation found wrongdoing by some of its officers, but said those who supervised the event will not be seriously punished.

Jenin has long been a bastion of Palestinian militants, and several recent deadly attacks inside Israel have been carried out by young men from in and around the town. Israel frequently carries out military raids in Jenin, which it says are aimed at arresting militants and preventing more attacks.

Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war and has built settlements where nearly 500,000 Israelis live alongside nearly 3 million Palestinians. The Palestinians want the territory to form the main

part of a future state.

Peace talks broke down more than a decade ago, and with Israel now in a new election campaign, they are unlikely to resume anytime soon. Lapid, the caretaker prime minister, supports a two-state solution with the Palestinians, but right-wing parties that oppose Palestinian statehood dominate the Israeli political system.

## Ousters, upsets halfway through 2022 primary election season

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — More than halfway through a tumultuous primary season, voters have rendered verdicts in a number of contests, many of which featured candidates arguing they best represented a continuation of policies favored by former President Donald Trump.

While not on the ballot himself, Trump has played a role in several races, with candidates bearing his endorsement meeting a variety of electoral outcomes. There have also been tumbles by several incumbents, some taken out by Trump-backed challengers and others bested by fellow representatives in faceoffs forced by redistricting.

Here's what's happened so far in primary races across the country:

### FALLEN INCUMBENTS

Eight incumbents — three Democrats and five Republicans — lost their U.S. House seats already this year after being defeated in their primary elections.

Four of those losses came in incumbent-on-incumbent races, a result of the once-a-decade redistricting process. But the other four were defeated by insurgent challengers after finding themselves vulnerable as a result of scandal, investigation, irritating progressives or crossing Trump.

Seven-term centrist Democratic U.S. Rep. Kurt Schrader of Oregon fell to progressive challenger Jamie McLeod-Skinner in his May 17 primary. Schrader had angered many Democrats by opposing some of President Joe Biden's priorities, including a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus pandemic relief bill because he didn't support a minimum wage increase.

Republican Rep. Madison Cawthorn of North Carolina was defeated by state Sen. Chuck Edwards after a whirlwind of scandals that included Cawthorn saying he'd been invited to orgies and had seen opponents of drug addiction use cocaine, getting caught twice with guns at airports and appearing in videos showing him in sexually suggestive poses.

On June 14, five-term GOP Rep. Tom Rice of South Carolina lost his reelection bid to state Rep. Russell Fry after voting to impeach Trump over the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection. And on June 28, six-term Mississippi Republican Rep. Steven Palazzo lost a runoff to Sheriff Mike Ezell after being accused in a congressional ethics report of mispending campaign funds.

### MEMBER-ON-MEMBER FACEOFFS

Redistricting guaranteed that some U.S. House incumbents would be ousted.

The first to fall was Republican Rep. David McKinley of West Virginia, who voted with Democrats in support of Biden's \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill, betting that West Virginians would reward him for prioritizing such funding in one of the nation's poorest states. Instead, they dumped him for Rep. Alex Mooney, who opposed the infrastructure bill. Mooney won Trump's endorsement the day Biden signed the measure into law.

In Georgia, Democratic Rep. Lucy McBath, a gun safety advocate, went district shopping after a GOP-dominated Legislature turned her home area into a Republican stronghold. She defeated fellow Democratic Rep. Carolyn Bourdeaux, who said she'd considered McBath like a "sister."

Two Illinois incumbents lost their seats this past week when Republican Rep. Mary Miller defeated five-term Republican Rep. Rodney Davis, and Democratic Rep. Sean Casten beat one-term Democratic Rep. Marie Newman.

Miller won days after she called the Supreme Court's decision overturning Roe v. Wade a "historic victory for white life" during a rally with Trump. Calling it "a mix-up of words," Miller's spokesman told The

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 43 of 50

Associated Press that she had intended to say the decision was a victory for a "right to life."

## TRUMP'S TARGETS

Still stinging from his 2020 presidential election loss to Biden, Trump vowed revenge on Republicans who defied him.

He zeroed in on Georgia, recruiting challengers to Gov. Brian Kemp and Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, who had rebuffed his efforts to overturn his narrow defeat in the state. But he fell short, with Kemp easily turning back former Sen. David Perdue, and Raffensperger defeating Rep. Jody Hice.

Trump also directed his rage toward the 10 House Republicans who voted with Democrats to impeach him for his role in the Jan. 6 insurrection. Four decided against seeking reelection.

But of those who stayed to fight, Rice became first to lose, a result he acknowledged was possible over a vote he said his conscience forced him to take. Another, Rep. David Valadao of California, finished second in his primary, meaning he advanced to the November general election as one of the top two finishers.

Four of the House Republicans still await their primaries.

In South Carolina, Trump targeted another GOP incumbent, Rep. Nancy Mace, following her criticism of his role in the Jan. 6 attack and her vote to certify Biden's win. Mace withstood her challenge from Katie Arrington, a Trump-backed opponent.

## TRUMP: KEEPING SCORE

Trump helped lift some U.S. Senate candidates to victory. In Ohio, he backed "Hillbilly Elegy" author JD Vance after a furious push by Vance's opponents to win Trump's favor. The endorsement just three weeks before the election propelled Vance to a win.

Dr. Mehmet Oz got Trump's seal of approval about five weeks before Pennsylvania's primary, a blow to former hedge fund CEO David McCormick, whose wife, Dina Powell, served in Trump's administration. Oz eked out a slim victory over McCormick after a recount.

In North Carolina, Trump endorsed Rep. Ted Budd a year before his primary, elevating the little-known congressman from a 14-candidate field to win the GOP Senate nomination.

Trump also waded into statewide races, backing Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton against primary challenger George P. Bush. Trump was rewarding Paxton for petitioning the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the 2020 election — an effort the state bar termed "dishonest" as it sought to punish him for it.

Katie Britt nearly won a GOP primary outright to replace her boss, retiring Alabama Sen. Richard Shelby, but ended up in a runoff with longtime Rep. Mo Brooks, whom Trump initially supported before pulling his endorsement as Brooks' polling languished. Trump endorsed Britt only after she finished first in the primary.

Republican voters in Nebraska rejected Trump's gubernatorial pick, businessman Charles Herbster, who was accused late in the campaign of having groped multiple women, going instead with University of Nebraska Regent Jim Pillen as their nominee. In a U.S. House race in Georgia, GOP voters picked trucking company owner Mike Collins over Vernon Jones, a Trump-backed Democrat-turned-Republican.

## ELECTION DENIERS

Voters handed primary wins to some candidates who supported Trump's assertions that Biden's election victory was illegitimate. Those false claims have been roundly rejected by elections officials, Trump's own attorney general and the courts, including by judges he appointed.

Nonetheless, state Sen. Doug Mastriano won Pennsylvania's crowded Republican gubernatorial primary. He has been subpoenaed by the House committee investigating the attack on the U.S. Capitol for his role in a plan to arrange for an "alternate" slate of electors from Pennsylvania for Trump after the 2020 election.

Trump's pick for Nevada secretary of state, former state lawmaker Jim Marchant, won his primary after spending months arguing that there hadn't been a legitimate Nevada election for years and that Trump's victory had been stolen.

In Idaho, Trump's insurgent candidate Lt. Gov. Janice McGeachin lost her bid to oust Gov. Brad Little. McGeachin had said she would "bring integrity to Idaho's elections," without citing any inconsistencies. She also said she'd push for a 50-state forensic audit of the 2020 election.

In Colorado, GOP voters chose Pam Anderson as their nominee for secretary of state over Tina Peters,

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 44 of 50

an indicted county clerk who gained national prominence by promoting conspiracy theories about voting machines. Anderson had pledged to keep politics out of running elections, while Peters was indicted on seven felony counts accusing her of taking part in a "deceptive scheme" to breach voting system technology.

## LOOK AHEAD

Primary season resumes in earnest in August, with a number of high-profile races still to be decided.

Rep. Liz Cheney faces a stiff primary challenge in Wyoming on Aug. 16 after voting to impeach Trump and becoming vice chair of the House committee investigating the Capitol insurrection. Trump has endorsed Harriet Hageman in the race.

In Arizona, one of five battleground states Biden flipped, the former president endorsed a slate of loyalists who promote his false election claims. In the governor's race, he backed former TV news anchor Kari Lake over developer Karrin Taylor Robson for the GOP nomination to replace Republican Gov. Doug Ducey, who resisted Trump's election year pressure and is barred from another term.

In Arizona's U.S. Senate race, Trump supports investor Blake Masters for the GOP nomination to face Democratic incumbent Mark Kelly in November. Masters has said "I think Trump won in 2020" and espoused the baseless "great replacement" conspiracy theory, a racist ideology that says white people and their influence are being replaced by people of color.

And in Arizona's secretary of state race, Trump backed state Rep. Mark Finchem, who was photographed outside the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, and worked to overturn Trump's 2020 loss.

In Michigan, one of the country's top battleground states, Republicans have faced setbacks in their bid to defeat Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in November. Five GOP candidates failed to qualify for the Aug. 2 primary after submitting fake signatures collected by paid petition circulators. Another candidate, Republican Ryan Kelley, was charged last month with misdemeanors related to the Jan. 6 attack.

Establishment Republicans are worried about the Aug. 2 GOP primary for U.S. Senate in Missouri, where former Gov. Eric Greitens is trying to make a political comeback, following his resignation four years ago amid investigations into possible campaign finance issues and into whether he blackmailed a woman against speaking about their extramarital affair. Some Republicans fear Greitens would be a weak general election candidate who could cede a safe seat to Democrats.

## Motive likely not terror-related in 'brutal' Danish shooting

By JAN M. OLSEN and KARL RITTER Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — A gunman who killed three people when he opened fire in a crowded shopping mall acted alone and apparently selected his victims at random, Danish police said Monday, all but ruling out that the attack was related to terrorism.

Authorities filed preliminary charges of murder and attempted murder against a 22-year-old Danish man, who will be held for 24 days in a secure mental health facility while authorities investigate the crime, prosecutor Søren Harbo told reporters.

After the custody hearing, defense lawyer Luise Høj said she agreed to have her client undergo a mental exam. She did not comment on the charges. Police have said the man was known to mental health service without elaborating.

Police have not identified a motive for Sunday's attack inside one of Scandinavia's biggest shopping centers. The suspect, carrying a rifle and knife, was quickly arrested, and Copenhagen chief police inspector Søren Thomassen said the man also had access to another gun. He said the firearms were obtained illegally but gave no further details.

"It was the worst possible nightmare," Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said Monday, calling the attack "unusually brutal."

The three killed were a 17-year-old boy and a 17-year-old girl, both Danes, and a 47-year-old Russian man, according to Thomassen. Four more people were hospitalized with gunshot wounds and were in critical but stable condition. In all, around two dozen people were hurt, most in the panicked stampede after the shots rang out at the Field's shopping center, on the outskirts of the Danish capital.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 45 of 50

Gun violence is relatively rare in Denmark. The last shooting on this scale was in February 2015, when a 22-year-old man was killed in a shootout with police after an attack in the capital that left two people dead and five police officers wounded.

The suspect, who cannot be named by court order, was brought before a judge Monday in a packed courtroom to face three preliminary charges of murder and four of attempted murder. That's a step short of formal charges but allow authorities to keep a person in custody during an investigation.

When the court ruled that the hearing should be held behind close doors, the media were sent out. It wasn't immediately clear how the suspect pleaded. He will remain in custody until July 28, police said.

While authorities have said there is no indication that anyone helped the man, Copenhagen police inspector Dannie Rise said the investigation would be complicated.

"We need to put together this jigsaw puzzle," Rise said. "And it is huge."

Earlier, Thomassen said police had discovered nothing so far "that can substantiate that this is an act of terrorism." He has identified the man as an "ethnic Dane," a phrase typically used to mean someone is white.

Danish broadcaster TV2 published a grainy photo of the alleged gunman, a man wearing knee-length shorts, a vest or sleeveless shirt, and holding what appeared to be a rifle in his right hand.

"He seemed very violent and angry," eyewitness Mahdi Al-Wazni told TV2. "He spoke to me and said it (the rifle) isn't real as I was filming him. He seemed very proud of what he was doing."

Images from the scene showed people running out of the mall, where people laid flowers on Monday.

Chassandra Stoltz, an 18-year-old student who was on her way to a Harry Styles concert that was scheduled for Sunday night nearby, described a stampede as the shots rang out. At first, she and her sister and father thought it was because someone had spotted Styles — but she soon realized the panic, including a man who grabbed his child from a stroller in the chaos.

"People were guiding us towards the exit sign, and we ran up the roof and we were stuck there for a while and then people were panicking all over the place and people were crying," Stoltz said.

The Styles concert was canceled due to the shooting.

Sunday's attack came about a week after a shooting in neighboring Norway, where police said a Norwegian man of Iranian origin opened fire during a LGBTQ festival, killing two and wounding more than 20.

## Add rent to the rising costs bedeviling small businesses

By MAE ANDERSON AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The rent has come due for America's small businesses and at a very inopportune time.

Landlords were lenient about rent payments during the first two years of the pandemic. Now, many are asking for back rent, and some are raising the current rent as well. Meanwhile, most of the government aid programs that helped small businesses get through the pandemic have ended while inflation has sharply pushed up the cost of supplies, shipping, and labor.

Martin Garcia, owner of gift and décor store Gramercy Gift Gallery in San Antonio, Texas, survived the first part of the pandemic in part by paying his landlord whatever rent he could each month. Then in August 2021, after the federal moratorium on evictions ended, his landlord asked for the full amount of back rent that he owed.

"I needed \$10,000 in 15 days," Garcia said. He took whatever loans he could find — often at high interest rates — and barely met the deadline.

A strong holiday season helped him pay back his loans, but so far this year sales have slipped, and he used credit card financing to pay his June rent. Garcia thinks some of his customers are cutting back on non-essentials to afford to pay the higher prices for gasoline and other must-have items.

Thirty-three percent of all U.S. small businesses could not pay their May rent in full and on time, up from 28% in April, according to a survey from Alignable, a small business referral network. And 52% said rent has increased over the past six months.

"Many small businesses are still frankly recovering from whatever the last phase of COVID was," said

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 46 of 50

Chuck Casto, head of corporate communications at Alignable. "Plus, they're dealing with a years' worth of increasing inflation on top of that. It's made it difficult for small businesses to really make a go of it."

Ris Lacoste owns a namesake restaurant, Ris, in Washington, D.C., and is staying afloat using aid she got from the Restaurant Relief Fund to pay her rent. But the money must be spent by March of 2023.

"What I have to do to stay alive after that, every single penny that I can save has to go into reserve," Lacoste said. To cut corners she's refinishing tables to cut down on linen costs, not printing color copies of menus, and working with 22 staffers instead of the 50 she once had.

Before the pandemic, the 7,000-square-foot restaurant was often full, but it isn't "back to full occupancy at all," Ris said. At the same time, inflation is compounding the cost of doing business.

"Payroll is up labor is up, the cost of goods is up, utilities are going up," Lacoste said. "I'm wearing 20 hats instead of 10, and working six days a week, 12 hours a day."

But rent isn't something she can control, and that adds to the stress.

"You're working for the landlord, how long do you want to do that, how long will you survive?" she said. "It's not sustainable."

Data from the commercial real estate financing and advisory firm Marcus & Millichap shows rent rose 4.6% in the first quarter of 2022 compared with the year-ago quarter as the vacancy rate dropped to 6.5%, the lowest since before 2015. But Daniel Taub, national director of retail sales at Marcus & Millichap, said inflation will make it harder for landlords to impose rent increases as the consumer begins to feel squeezed.

"Consumers can only spend so much when the dollar goes not as far, and retailers can only pay so much to carry space and have enough inventory to pay employees," he said. "It's a tough retail market and something's going to have to give."

Charleen Ferguson owns the building that houses the tech business she owns with her husband, Just Call the I.T. Guy, in Wylie, Texas. She also has 13 tenants, so she sees the dilemma from both the small business and landlord points of view.

During the pandemic, Ferguson agreed with her tenants, which range from a massage therapist to a church, to put a moratorium on rent. Once things began to reopen, she worked with tenants on the back rent. They all caught up within three months — except the church, whose debts she forgave.

But she's had to raise rent by about 5% as of May to keep up with her own costs of maintaining the building. Prices have gone up for utilities and cleaning supplies, as well as property taxes. So far, she hasn't lost any tenants.

"I did just enough to cover the increases, I didn't do any more," she said. "We're not making much money, but we're keeping people in business."

For some small businesses, a higher rent just isn't an option. The solution: Go remote.

Alec Pow, CEO at ThePricer.org, a credit management consultancy with 8 employees in New York, said his landlord planned to hike rent 30% when they renewed the contract. Pow expected a smaller increase. The landlord said they had a prospective tenant who would pick up the lease for the full requested price.

So, Pow decided to lose the office and let his New York staffers work remotely for two months while they search for a cheaper space. The business also has one office in San Francisco and two in Europe.

"We were in the process of increasing the wages of our employees to counter the rise of inflation," he said. "Our annual budget didn't have room for both of these expenses, so we had to pick one."

## Video shows Akron police kill Black man in hail of gunfire

Associated Press undefined

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — A Black man was unarmed when Akron police chased him on foot and killed him in a hail of gunfire, but officers believed he had shot at them earlier from a vehicle and feared he was preparing to fire again, authorities said Sunday at a news conference.

Akron police released video of the shooting of Jayland Walker, 25, who was killed June 27 in a pursuit that had started with an attempted traffic stop. The mayor called the shooting "heartbreaking" while asking for patience from the community.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 47 of 50

It's not clear how many shots were fired by the eight officers involved, but Walker sustained more than 60 wounds. An attorney for Walker's family said officers kept firing even after he was on the ground.

Officers attempted to stop Walker's car around 12:30 a.m. for unspecified traffic and equipment violations, but less than a minute into a pursuit, the sound of a shot was heard from the car, and a transportation department camera captured what appeared to be a muzzle flash coming from the vehicle, Akron Police Chief Steve Mylett said. That changed the nature of the case from "a routine traffic stop to now a public safety issue," he said.

Police body camera videos show what unfolded after the roughly six-minute pursuit. Several shouting officers with guns drawn approach the slowing car on foot, as it rolls up over a curb and onto a sidewalk. A person wearing a ski mask exits the passenger door and runs toward a parking lot. Police chase him for about 10 seconds before officers fire from multiple directions, in a burst of shots that lasts 6 or 7 seconds.

At least one officer had tried first to use a stun gun, but that was unsuccessful, police said.

Mylett said Walker's actions are hard to distinguish on the video in real time, but a still photo seems to show him "going down to his waist area" and another appears to show him turning toward an officer. He said a third picture "captures a forward motion of his arm."

In a statement shared Sunday with reporters, the local police union said the officers thought there was an immediate threat of serious harm, and that it believes their actions and the number of shots will be found justified in line with their training and protocols. The union said the officers are cooperating with the investigation.

Police said more than 60 wounds were found on Walker's body but further investigation is needed to determine exactly how many rounds the officers fired and how many times Walker was hit.

The footage released by police ends with the officers' gunfire and doesn't show what happened next. Officers provided aid, and one can be heard saying Walker still had a pulse, but he was later pronounced dead, Mylett said.

The chief said an officer firing at someone has to be "ready to explain why they did what they did, they need to be able to articulate what specific threats they were facing ... and they need to be held to account." But he said he is withholding judgment on their actions until they give their statements.

A handgun, a loaded magazine and an apparent wedding ring were found on the seat of the car. A casing consistent with the weapon was later found in the area where officers believed a shot had come from the vehicle.

State Attorney General Dave Yost vowed a "complete, fair and expert investigation" by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and cautioned that "body-worn camera footage is just one view of the whole picture."

Akron police are conducting a separate internal investigation about whether the officers violated department rules or policies.

The officers involved in the shooting are on paid administrative leave, which is standard practice in such cases. Seven of them are white, and one is Black, according to the department. Their length of service with Akron police ranges from one-and-a-half to six years, and none of them has a record of discipline, substantiated complaints or fatal shootings, it said.

Demonstrators marched peacefully through the city and gathered in front of the Akron justice center after the video was released. NAACP President Derrick Johnson said in a statement that Walker's death wasn't self-defense, but "was murder. Point blank."

Late Sunday, police in full riot gear fired a dozen tear gas cannisters to disperse a handful of protesters outside the justice center, WKYC-TV reported.

Walker's family is calling for accountability but also for peace, their lawyers said. One of the attorneys, Bobby DiCello, called the burst of police gunfire excessive and unreasonable, and said police handcuffed Walker before trying to provide first aid.

"How it got to this with a pursuit is beyond me," DiCello said.

He said Walker's family doesn't know why he fled from police. Walker was grieving the recent death of

his fiancée, but his family had no indication of concern beyond that, and he wasn't a criminal, DiCello said. "I hope we remember that as Jayland ran across that parking lot, he was unarmed," DiCello said. He said he doesn't know whether the gold ring found near the gun in the car belonged to Walker.

## Searchers rescue 4th person from China ship, 12 bodies found

By ZEN SOO Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Rescue teams searching for missing crew members from a Chinese engineering ship that sank over the weekend saved a fourth person on Monday and recovered 12 bodies, Chinese maritime authorities said.

Officials said the crew member rescued by a Chinese navy ship on Monday was in stable condition. Three other members of the 30-person crew were rescued on Saturday.

The bodies were found about 50 nautical miles (90 kilometers) southwest of the area in which the vessel Fujing 001 sank, authorities in the southeastern province of Guangdong said. Officials were attempting to identify the bodies.

The search for the remaining crew members was continuing.

The China-registered floating crane was involved in building several offshore wind farms. It had been sheltering from tropical storm Chaba, but dragged its anchor and the anchor chain then broke, maritime authorities said.

The vessel then snapped into two and sank Saturday during the storm, which had maximum sustained winds of 110 kilometers (68 miles) an hour and was upgraded to a typhoon before making landfall in Guangdong.

The ship sank about 300 kilometers (180 miles) southwest of Hong Kong. Authorities said the vessel was close to the center of the storm, making rescue operations difficult.

Hong Kong sent two fixed-wing aircraft and four helicopters on Saturday for the rescue effort. The search continued Monday, though Hong Kong authorities said the chances of rescuing the remaining crew members alive were slim.

Elsewhere in China, eight people sheltering from a rainstorm in Shijiazhuang, the capital of the northern province of Hebei, were killed Saturday when a decorative building structure fell from about 12 meters (40 feet), the official Xinhua New Agency said. Another person who was also hit by the structure was hospitalized in stable condition, it said.

## 3 feet of rain sets up 4th round of flood misery for Sydney

SYDNEY (AP) — More than 30,000 residents of Sydney and its surrounds were told to evacuate or prepare to abandon their homes Monday as Australia's largest city faces its fourth, and possibly worst, round of flooding in less than a year and a half.

Days of torrential rain caused dams to overflow and waterways to break their banks, bringing a new flood emergency to parts of the city of 5 million people.

"The latest information we have is that there's a very good chance that the flooding will be worse than any of the other three floods that those areas had in the last 18 months," Emergency Management Minister Murray Watt said.

The current flooding might affect areas that were spared during the previous floods in March last year, March this year and April, Watt added.

New South Wales state Premier Dominic Perrottet said 32,000 people were impacted by evacuation orders and warnings.

"You'd probably expect to see that number increase over the course of the week," Perrottet said.

Emergency services made numerous flood rescues Sunday and early Monday and were getting hundreds more calls for help.

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology manager, Jane Golding, said some areas between Newcastle, north of Sydney, and Wollongong, south of Sydney had received more than a meter (39 inches) of rain in the



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 49 of 50

previous 24 hours. Some has received more than 1.5 meters (59 inches).

Those totals are near the average annual rainfall for coastal areas of New South Wales.

"The system that has been generating this weather does show signs that it will ease tomorrow, but throughout today, expect more rain," Golding said.

Rain was forecast across New South Wales's coast, including Sydney, all week, she said.

The Bureau of Meteorology says up to 12 centimeters (4.7 inches) of rain could fall in Sydney on Monday.

The flooding danger was highest along the Hawkesbury River, in northwest Sydney, and the Nepean River in Sydney's west.

The bureau Monday afternoon reported major flooding at the Nepean communities of Menangle and Wallacia on Sydney's southwest fringe.

Major flooding also occurred on the Hawkesbury at North Richmond on Sydney's northwest edge. The Hawkesbury communities of Windsor and Lower Portland were expected to be flooded Monday afternoon and Wisemans Ferry on Tuesday, a bureau statement said.

State Emergency Services Commissioner Carlene York said strong winds had toppled trees, damaging rooves and blocking roads. She advised against unnecessary travel.

Off the New South Wales coast, a cargo ship with 21 crew members lost power after leaving port in Wollongong on Monday morning. It was anchored near the coast and tugboats were preparing to tug it into safer, open waters.

The ship has engineers on board capable of repairing the engine, port official John Finch told reporters. "Unfortunately, we just happen to be in some atrocious conditions at the moment," he said, describing 8-meter (26-foot) swells and winds blowing at 30 knots (34 mph).

An earlier plan to airlift the ship's crew to safety was abandoned because of bad weather.

Repeated flooding was taking a toll on members of a riverside community southwest of Sydney, said Mayor Theresa Fedeli of the Camden municipality where homes and businesses were inundated by the Nepean River over Sunday night.

"It's just devastating. They just keep on saying 'devastating, not again,'" Fedeli said.

"I just keep on saying ... 'We've got to be strong, we will get through this.' But you know deep down it's really hitting home hard to a lot of people," she added.

Perrottet said government and communities needed to adapt to major flooding becoming more common across Australia's most populous state.

"To see what we're seeing right across Sydney, there's no doubt these events are becoming more common. And governments need to adjust and make sure that we respond to the changing environment that we find ourselves in," Perrottet said.

## Today in History: July 5, Doby is AL's first Black player

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, July 5, the 186th day of 2022. There are 179 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 5, 1947, Larry Doby made his debut with the Cleveland Indians, becoming the first Black player in the American League three months after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in the National League. (In the game against the Chicago White Sox at Comiskey Park, Doby, pinch-hitting for Bryan Stephens, struck out in his first at-bat during the seventh inning; Chicago won 6-5.)

On this date:

In 1687, Isaac Newton first published his Principia Mathematica, a three-volume work setting out his mathematical principles of natural philosophy.

In 1811, Venezuela became the first South American country to declare independence from Spain.

In 1865, the Secret Service Division of the U.S. Treasury Department was founded in Washington, D.C., with the mission of suppressing counterfeit currency.

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 ~ Vol. 30 - No. 363 ~ 50 of 50

In 1940, during World War II, Britain and the Vichy government in France broke off diplomatic relations. In 1943, the Battle of Kursk began during World War II; in the weeks that followed, the Soviets were able to repeatedly repel the Germans, who eventually withdrew in defeat.

In 1954, Elvis Presley's first commercial recording session took place at Sun Records in Memphis, Tennessee; the song he recorded was "That's All Right."

In 1971, President Richard Nixon certified the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which lowered the minimum voting age from 21 to 18.

In 1975, Arthur Ashe became the first Black man to win a Wimbledon singles title as he defeated Jimmy Connors, 6-1, 6-1, 5-7, 6-4.

In 1977, Pakistan's army, led by General Mohammad Zia ul-Haq, seized power from President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (ZUL'-fih-kahr ah-LEE' BOO'-toh). (Bhutto was executed in 1979.)

In 2008, Venus Williams won her fifth Wimbledon singles title, beating younger sister Serena 7-5, 6-4 in the final.

In 2011, a jury in Orlando, Florida, found Casey Anthony, 25, not guilty of murder, manslaughter and child abuse in the 2008 disappearance and death of her 2-year-old daughter, Caylee.

Ten years ago: Trucks carrying NATO supplies rolled into Afghanistan for the first time in more than seven months, ending a painful chapter in U.S.-Pakistan relations that saw the border closed until Washington apologized for an airstrike that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers. Former Argentine dictator Jorge Rafael Videla was convicted and sentenced to 50 years for a systematic program to steal babies from prisoners who were kidnapped, tortured and killed during the military junta's so-called "dirty war" on leftist dissidents. (Videla died in prison in May 2013.)

Five years ago: The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that two laws passed by Congress did not end the right to a bond hearing for unaccompanied immigrant children who are detained by federal authorities.

One year ago: Amazon founder Jeff Bezos officially stepped down as CEO; he was succeeded by Andy Jassy, who ran Amazon's cloud-computing business. Filmmaker Richard Donner died in Los Angeles at 91; he had helped create the modern superhero blockbuster with "Superman" in 1978 and mastered the buddy comedy with the "Lethal Weapon" franchise.

Today's Birthdays: Singer-musician Robbie Robertson is 79. Julie Nixon Eisenhower is 74. Rock star Huey Lewis is 72. Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Rich "Goose" Gossage is 71. Country musician Charles Ventre is 70. Singer-songwriter Marc Cohn is 63. Actor John Marshall Jones is 60. Actor Dorian Wilson is 60. Actor Edie Falco is 59. Actor Jillian Armenante is 58. Actor Kathryn Erbe (er-BEE') is 57. Actor Michael Stuhlbarg (STOOL'-bahrg) is 54. Country musician Brent Flynn (Flynnville Train) is 53. Rapper RZA (RIH'-zuh) is 53. R&B singer Joe is 49. Rock musician Bengt Lagerberg (The Cardigans) is 49. Actor Dale Godboldo is 47. Rapper Bizarre is 46. Rapper Royce da 5'9" is 45. Rock singer Jason Wade (Lifeshouse) is 42. Actor Ryan Hansen is 41. Country musician Dave Haywood (Lady A) is 40. Soccer player Megan Rapinoe is 37. Rock musician Nick O'Malley (Arctic Monkeys) is 37. Actor Jason Dolley is 31. California Angels pitcher and designated hitter Shohei Ohtani is 28.