

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 1 of 62

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- Street Seal Project Gets Done](#)
- [3- Poker Run makes stop in Groton](#)
- [4- Sunday Extras](#)
- [24- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)
- [25- Thune's Weekly Column](#)
- [26- Johnson's Weekly Column](#)
- [27- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
- [29- EarthTalk - Oil Companies](#)
- [30- COVID-19 Reports](#)
- [34- Weather Pages](#)
- [38- Daily Devotional](#)
- [39- 2022 Community Events](#)
- [40- Subscription Form](#)
- [41- News from the Associated Press](#)

July 23-24
Jr. Legion Region

July 29-Aug. 2
State Legion at Gregory

August 5-7: State Jr. Legion at Clark

Thursday, Aug. 4
First allowable day of football practice

Monday, Aug. 8
First allowable day of boys golf practice

Thursday, Aug. 11
First allowable day of volleyball and cross country practice



“To accept ourselves as we are means to value our imperfections as much as our perfections.”

-Sandra Bierig

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

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

© 2022 Groton Daily Independent

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 2 of 62

Street Seal Project gets done



Then the chips are dropped on the oil.



The oil is put down.



The chips are packed down.



Some raking on the edge.

Photos by Paul Kosel

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 3 of 62



The Groton Dairy Queen was full of motorcycles as a Poker Run made a stop in Groton Saturday afternoon. (Photo by Tina Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 4 of 62



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



*But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you;
or speak to the earth, and it will teach you,
or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which
of all these does not know that the hand
of the Lord has done this? In His hand
is the life of every creature and
the breath of all mankind.*

 JOB 12: 7-10

© 2022 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.



BIBBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Zimri in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From Proverbs 20, the beauty of old men is the gray head, while the glory of young men is their ...? *Imagination, Strength, Discretion, Instruction*

3. Which king of Tyre supplied logs to Solomon to build the Lord's temple? *Neco, Hehu, Rezin, Hiram*

4. According to Jesus in Matthew 6, moth and rust destroy what on earth? *Repentance, Thorns, Treasures, Demons*

5. Where did Jacob and Laban part company as found in Genesis 31? *Tel Dan, Mizpah, Paphos, Lustra*

6. What was the name of David's father? *Obed, Samuel, Jesse, Ahitub*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Strength; 3) Hiram; 4) Treasures; 5) Mizpah; 6) Jesse

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.



Italian Garden Skillet Saute

If ever there were two shining stars of the summer garden, they would most certainly be homegrown tomatoes and sweet corn! Can you even begin to imagine an August garden or a farmers market without juicy, "vine-ripened" tomatoes or "just picked from the field" corn? Enjoy!

1/2 cup chopped onion

1/4 cup fat-free Italian dressing

2 cups fresh or frozen whole-kernel corn, thawed

1 cups chopped fresh tomatoes

1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

1/8 teaspoon black pepper

3/4 cup shredded reduced-fat mozzarella cheese

1. In a large skillet, saute onion over medium heat in Italian dressing for about 5 minutes or just until tender. Add corn. Mix well to combine. Continue cooking for 5 minutes or until corn is tender, stirring often.

2. Stir in tomatoes, parsley and black pepper. Lower heat, cover and simmer for 3 to 5 minutes.

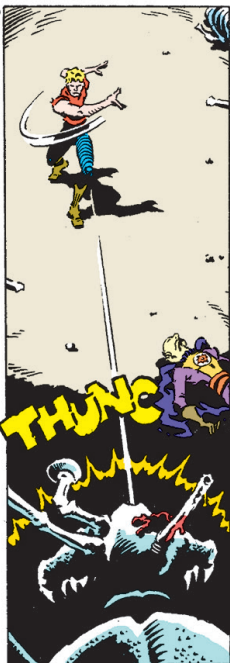
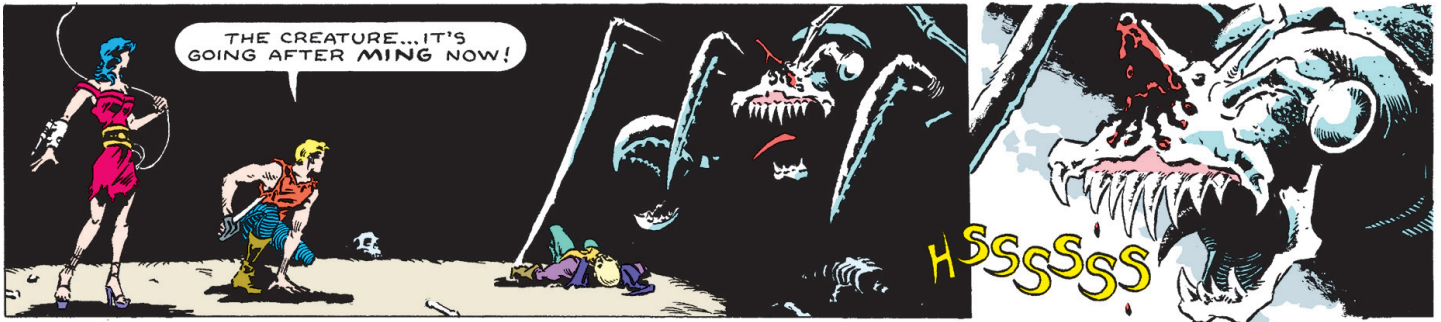
3. When serving, place hot corn mixture on a plate and sprinkle 3 tablespoons mozzarella cheese over top. Serve at once. Makes 4 (3/4-cup) servings.

* Each serving equals: 180 calories, 4g fat, 10g protein, 26g carb., 579mg sodium, 3g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Starch, 1 Meat, 1 Vegetable.

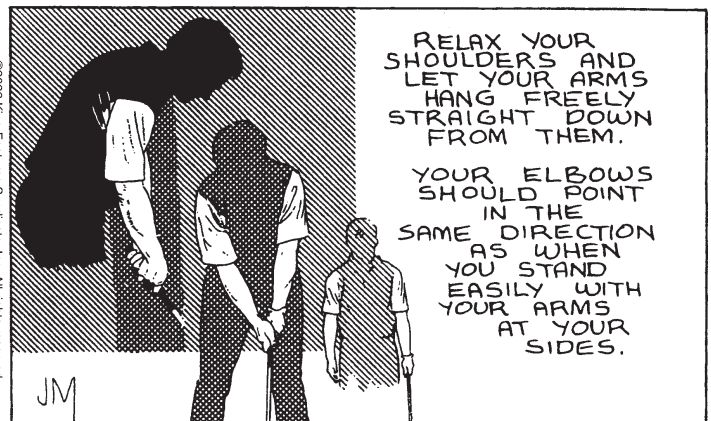
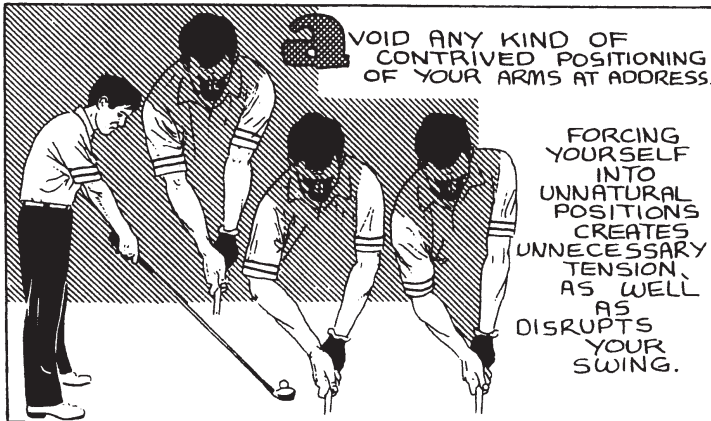
(c) 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 6 of 62



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Smoking, Symptoms Biggest Factors in COPD Prognosis

DEAR DR. ROACH: I was diagnosed with COPD a year and a half ago. I seem to be unable to get answers from my pulmonary doctor, as he is always busy. How fast does COPD progress? I'm 78 years old, I'm in reasonably good health, and I exercise regularly. I have chronic bronchitis with a slight amount of emphysema. I had been coughing a little during the day, had mucus in the morning and coughed at night for two to three hours after bedtime -- to the extent of having to use a rescue inhaler to settle down and get back to sleep. After he put me on Trelegy, all of those symptoms disappeared, and I feel perfectly normal except for shortness of breath.

My other question is, what is the life expectancy of a person diagnosed with COPD? I've read answers to this all over the map, from two or three years after diagnosis to 15 or more years. I would presume that it depends on other factors such as physical condition, exercise, weight, etc. I would like

some kind of guideline for someone in my condition. -- T.J.

ANSWER: There are two major types of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: chronic bronchitis, where the primary problem is productive cough; and emphysema, which is destruction of the small airways. Shortness of breath is a common feature of all types of COPD. The most prevalent cause is smoking. I can't answer your questions on rate of progression and overall prognosis without much more information, but it is certainly a good sign that many of your symptoms are well-controlled on treatment. The single biggest factor in rate of progression of COPD is whether you are a smoker, but not being able to exercise, being male and being very underweight are additional risk factors for faster progression. In someone with COPD, the decline over months to years can cause symptoms to occur first with exercise, and then when at rest. Once people have severe symptoms at rest, the prognosis becomes quite poor.

No medication can reverse lung damage. Inhaled steroids reduce inflammation and can slow progression somewhat. Inhaled bronchodilators open airways and make breathing easier. Inhaled anticholinergics reduce secretions. Trelegy contains all of these medicines and is appropriate for people with severe COPD or those who do not have good symptom control with a less intensive regimen.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My family recommended yoni pearls for cleansing the vagina and for prevention and treatment of vaginal bacterial infection. Are these necessary? -- J.H.

ANSWER: A healthy vagina does not need any cleaning, and any kind of herb or douche inserted in the vagina is much more likely to cause problems than prevent them, so I strongly recommend against them. Bacterial vaginosis is a condition where the normal, healthy bacteria in the vagina are outnumbered by other bacteria, such as Gardnerella and others. This outnumbering changes the vaginal pH and may cause symptoms ranging from abnormal discharge to unpleasant odor. Bacterial vaginosis is normally treated with antibiotics when symptoms are bothersome. Women who suspect bacterial vaginosis should have an examination to confirm the diagnosis.

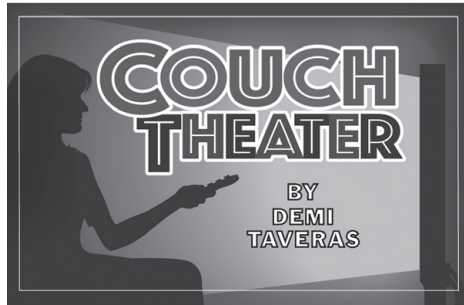
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

(c) 2022 North America Synd., Inc.

All Rights Reserved

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 8 of 62



"The Gray Man" (PG-13) -- A new film has arrived from the Russo Brothers, who were the directors of four films within the Marvel Cinematic Universe. This action movie stars Ryan Gosling as Sierra Six -- a black ops mercenary who has uncovered dangerous secrets within the CIA. Because of this, the CIA Group Chief sends spies to assassinate him, with one of Six's former colleagues, the blood-thirsty Lloyd Hansen (Chris Evans), spearheading the mission, and Six is forced to go on the run. Ana de Armas, Rege-Jean Page ("Bridgerton") and Billy Bob Thornton are just some of the stars you might recognize along the way. (Netflix)

"Topside" (NR) -- In this heart-wrenching drama film, a mother named Nikki (Celine Held) raises her 5-year-old daughter, Little (Zhaila Farmer), in the subway tunnels of New York City. Nikki, who's an addict, realizes Little deserves a better life, but when the authorities arrive in the tunnels to take Little, Nikki refuses to give her up. Instead, she takes Little to the "topside" (what Little calls the world outside of her very small one in the tunnels). Their options run out quickly, and by accident, Little gets separated from her mother, leaving them both lost in the topside without each other. (Hulu)

"Honor Society" (NR) -- Honor (Angourie Rice) has had her future planned out since freshman year of high school. With one college in mind -- the top college in the world -- Honor has been brown-nosing her guidance counselor, Mr. Calvin, ever since she found out that he has connections with the college's admissions staff. Mr. Calvin tells Honor that she is just one of four students that he's thinking of recommending, but only one out of the three students, Michael (Gaten Matarazzo), poses a true threat. So, Honor makes it her mission to get Michael to fall for her and, in the process, tank his grades. Thinking it unlikely that an overachiever such as herself would fail, Honor might finally find herself without all the answers and unravel her dreams for someone unexpected. Out on streaming July 29. (Paramount+)

"Black Bird" (TV-MA) -- Drug dealer Jimmy Keene (Taron Egerton) thinks his luck has run out when he receives a 10-year prison sentence. The FBI, however, decides to offer Jimmy his freedom for a simple tradeoff: Go undercover in a maximum-security prison specializing in the criminally insane and befriend a suspected serial killer. The suspect's conviction is in the process of getting appealed, and the FBI refuses to let the suspect walk away from his alleged crimes that caused the deaths of more than a dozen women. If Jimmy can properly infiltrate this killer's mind and pull a confession out of him, he can walk out free ... but only if. The first four episodes of this limited series are out now. This is also the late Ray Liotta's last TV project. (Apple TV+)

(c) 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.



Gaten Matarazzo and Angourie Rice in "Honor Society" Courtesy of Paramount

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 9 of 62

FLASH BACK POP, ROCK & SOUL TRIVIA BY MICK HARPER

1. Who first released "Do Wah Diddy Diddy"?
2. Name the girl group that released "You Can't Hurry Love."
3. Did any of Steppenwolf's singles top the charts in the U.S.?
4. Which artist wrote and released "Only the Good Die Young"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "To the tables down at Mory's, to the place where Louis dwells, to the dear old Temple Bar we love so well."

Answers

1. The Exciters, in 1963. The song was later covered by Manfred Mann in 1964. Their version topped the chart for two weeks.

2. The Supremes, in 1966. Sixteen years later, Phil Collins covered the song, and his version went to No. 1 as well.

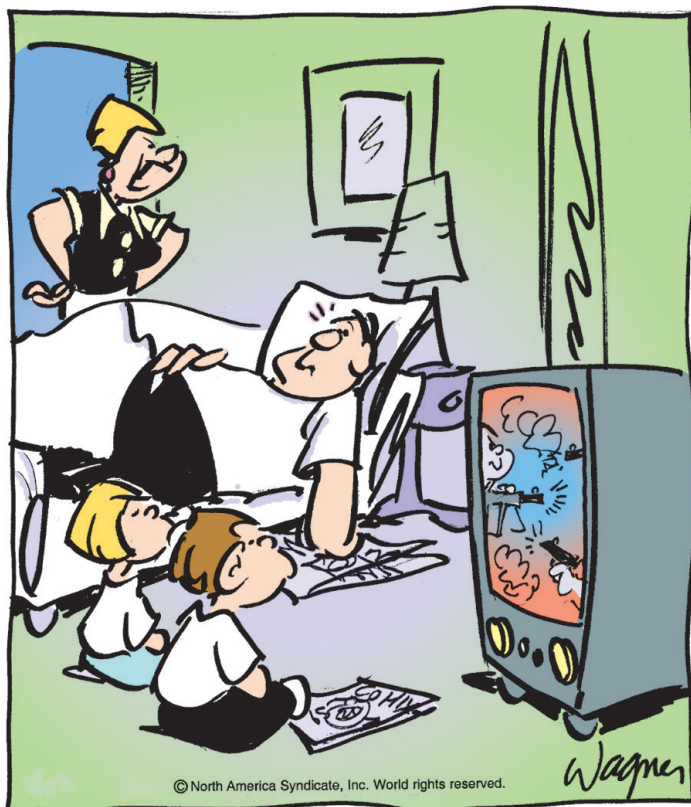
3. No. But their "Born to Be Wild" and "Magic Carpet Ride" did ... in Canada. Steppenwolf formed after the Canadian group The Sparrows disbanded.

4. Billy Joel, in 1978. Joel is thought to have written the song after a high school crush he'd had.

5. "The Whiffenpoof Song," written in 1907 by members of the Yale Glee Club. The Whiffenpoofs (aka The Whiffs) are the oldest college a cappella group. Fourteen seniors are selected each year to re-create the group, and they tour internationally for that year.

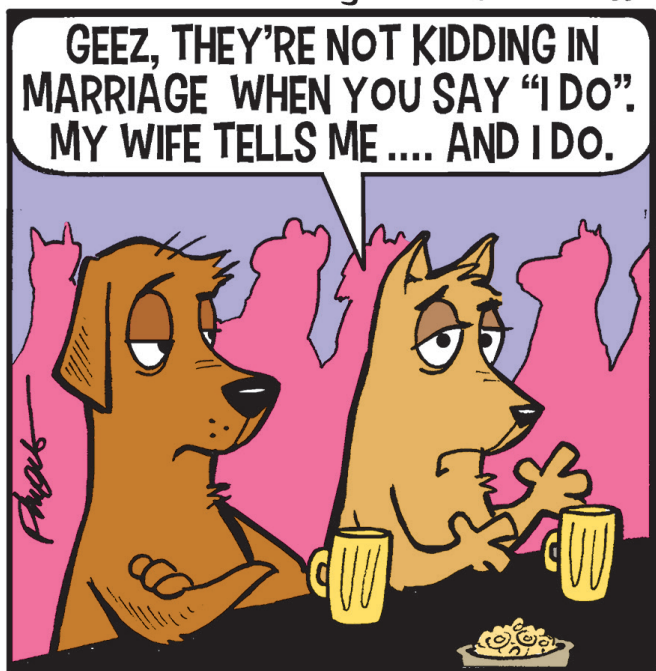
(c) 2022 King Features Syndicate

GRIN and BEAR IT[®] Wagner



"You know I don't want them watching violence!
... Turn it back to the hockey game!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



©2022 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

© North America Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Corsage is smaller. 2. Bracelet is missing. 3. Tie is moved. 4. Star is moved. 5. Moon is moved. 6. Urn is different.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 11 of 62



* "When painting, write the name and brand of paint under the room's light switch plate. If you ever need to go out and buy more, you will know where to start." -- R.K. in Montana

* My family has always used mayonnaise as a salve on minor burns. I heard you can use toothpaste too. -- Sam P. via e-mail

* Add these to the list of items to eliminate the odor of cooking cabbage: a heel of bread, a whole walnut or a pinch of baking soda.

* To travel with pleated skirts, use this packing trick: Turn the skirt inside out and straighten all the pleats. Then tape the bottom so that all the pleats are held together. Next, feed the skirt into a leg of pantyhose

with the foot cut off. You end up with a nice tube, which you can tuck into the sides of your luggage.

* When traveling for more than a few days, stick your plants into the bathtub with a little bit of water. They soak it up, and you don't have to have someone come over and water your plants. This will only work for a week or less, though. -- John McF. of Baton Rouge, Louisiana

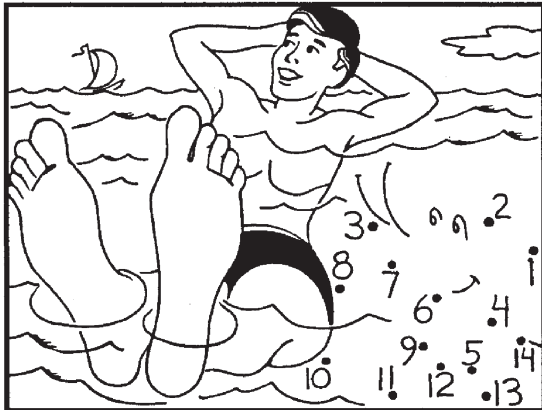
* I keep grocery lists on my computer. When I am going to go shopping, I print out the list and fold the paper in half. Then I slip my coupons into the fold. Keeps them handy when I am shopping. -- Reader in Maryland

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

(c) 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

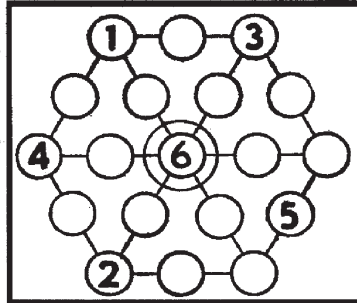
Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 12 of 62



WHA DOT! Let's face it, our swimmer friend is not alone. What can you draw dot-to-dot to complete the picture?

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



NUMERICAL 6-PACK PUZZLEMENT

NUMBER six inserted at center of diagram, left, is a reminder that the overall figure is a hexagon, and it is also an indicator that radiating from it are six equilateral triangles.

You are asked to arrange missing numbers 1-19 in these triangles so that the sum of each three-number side is 23.

Numbers appearing in some triangles make this an easy enough task, but others demand some juggling.

Remember, missing numbers are between 1 and 19; three-number sides total 23.

See if you can work it out.

Top, across—1,19,3; next row—18,16,14,12; then—4,13,6,9,8; next—17,15,7,5; bottom—2,11,10.

ROYAL FLUSH! Try matching old-time kings with their countries. Kings: Harold Fairhair, Harold Bluetooth, Harold Harefoot. Countries: England, Norway, Denmark.

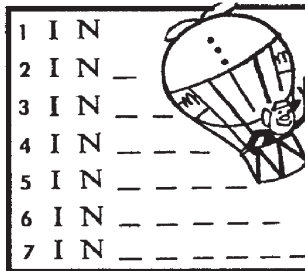
Fairhair—Norway, Bluetooth—Denmark, Harefoot—England.

IN CROWD! Welcome, Mr. Balloonist. Thank you for dropping IN on our word test. Object here is to find progressively longer words beginning with IN, in accord with the following definitions:

1. Opposite of out.
2. Writing fluid.
3. Drag in traffic.
4. Gandhi's country.
5. Ant, for instance.
6. Quick-fix coffee.
7. Casual dress mode.

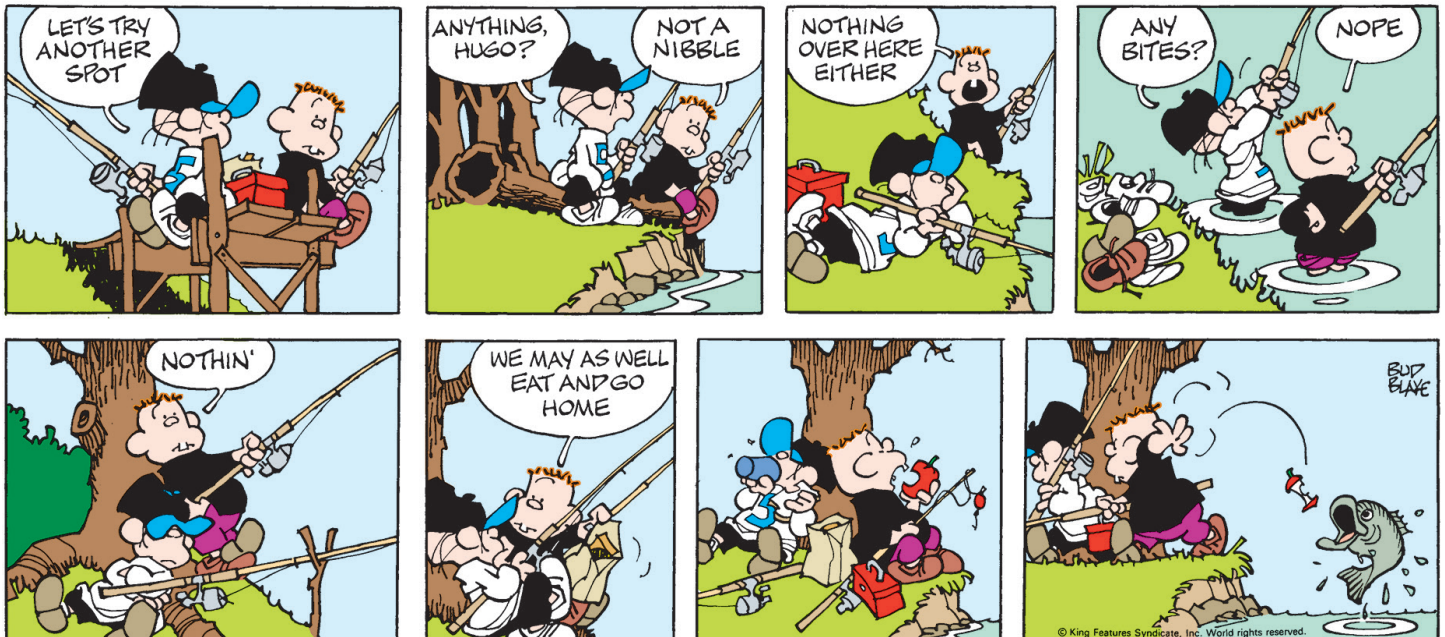
How quickly can you answer?

1. In. 2. Ink. 3. Inch. 4. India. 5. Insect. 6. Instant. 7. Informal.



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 13 of 62

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Sharp turn
- 4 Help a crook
- 8 Feudal slave
- 12 — bind
- 13 Put on
- 14 Tow
- 15 Up to
- 16 Taj Mahal city
- 17 Canadian gas brand
- 18 Gorgonzola, for one
- 21 Hairy Addams cousin
- 22 Bit of advice
- 23 Forgeries
- 26 Clear the deck?
- 27 Melancholy
- 30 Incursion
- 31 Ruin the veneer
- 32 Robust
- 33 Thanksgiving veggie
- 34 Prom rental
- 35 Washer phase
- 36 Droop
- 37 Abysmal
- 38 Brunch entree
- 45 Heap
- 46 Roll call reply
- 47 Literary collection
- 48 On the briny

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18			19					20				
			21				22					
23	24	25				26			27	28	29	
30					31				32			
33				34				35				
			36				37					
38	39	40				41			42	43	44	
45					46				47			
48					49				50			
51					52				53			

- 49 Hurler
- 50 Book-spine abbr.
- 51 "— the Knife"
- 52 Tiny amounts
- 53 Request
- DOWN**
- 1 Tubular pasta
- 2 "What's — for me?"
- 3 Fancy party
- 4 Expects
- 5 Sired
- 6 Deserve
- 7 Deere prod-
- 8 Bo Peep's charges
- 9 Lighten
- 10 Senator Feingold
- 11 Drifting ice
- 19 Fibbed
- 20 Trendy
- 23 Saute
- 24 Bond rating
- 25 Kipling lad
- 26 Upper limit
- 27 Pouch
- 28 100 percent
- 29 Scottish river
- 31 Hood's photo
- 32 Jekyll's bad side
- 34 — chi
- 35 Caravan mammals
- 36 Sly one
- 37 Yawning, maybe
- 38 Pesky email
- 39 Tower city
- 40 Sir Guinness
- 41 Wife of Zeus
- 42 Volcanic flow
- 43 Eve's grandson
- 44 Chat

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 14 of 62

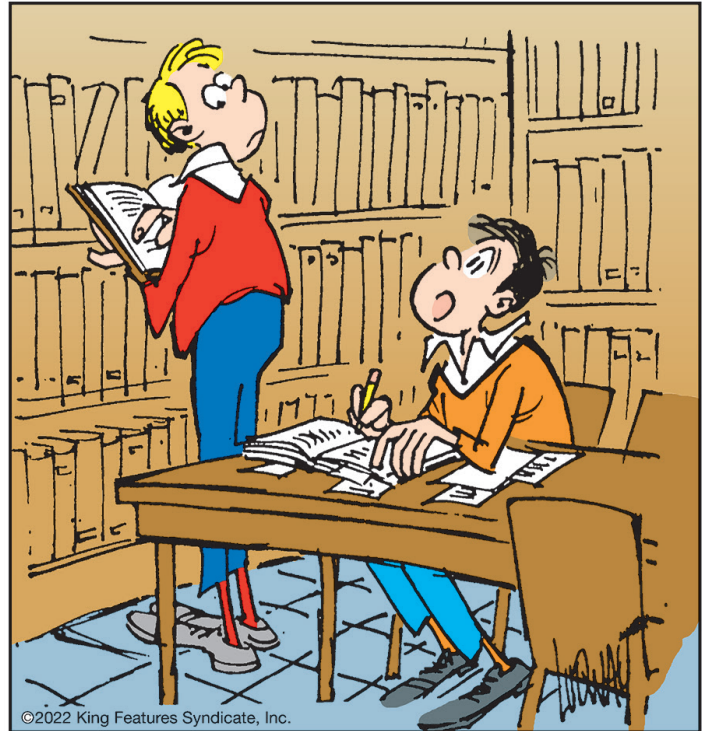
— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

Z	I	G		A	B	E	T		S	E	R	F
I	N	A		W	E	A	R		H	A	U	L
T	I	L		A	G	R	A		E	S	S	O
I	T	A	L	I	A	N	C	H	E	E	S	E
			I	T	T			T	I	P		
F	A	K	E	S		M	O	P		S	A	D
R	A	I	D		M	A	R		H	A	L	E
Y	A	M		T	U	X		C	Y	C	L	E
			S	A	G			B	A	D		
S	P	A	N	I	S	H	O	M	E	L	E	T
P	I	L	E		H	E	R	E		A	N	A
A	S	E	A		O	R	E	L		V	O	L
M	A	C	K		T	A	D	S		A	S	K

LAFF - A - DAY



©2022 King Features Syndicate, Inc.
 “We were getting along fine. I even read books on ecology to please her — then I made the mistake of carving our initials in a tree.”

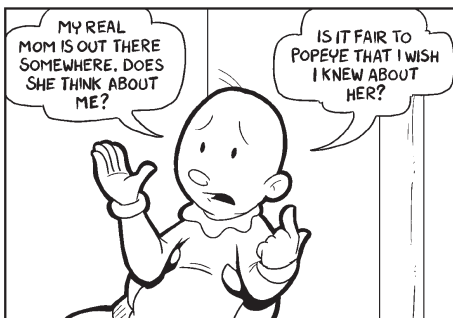
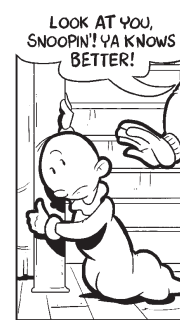
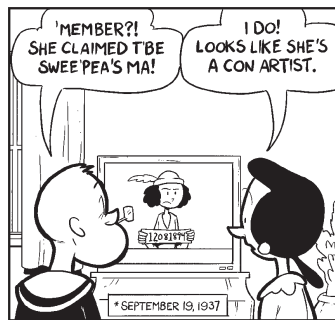
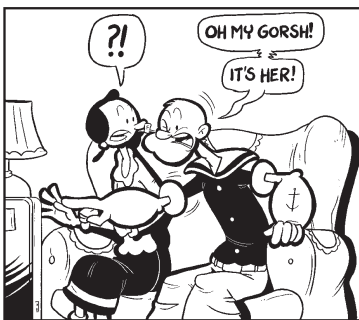
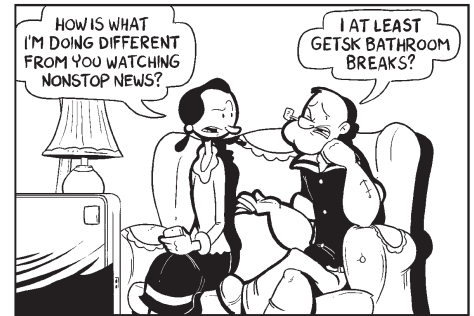
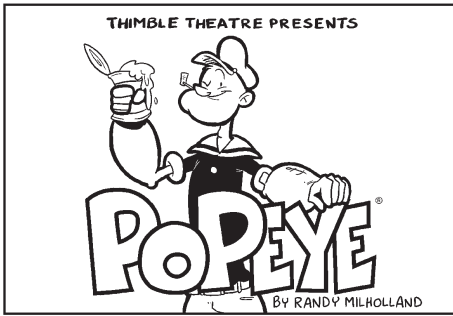
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



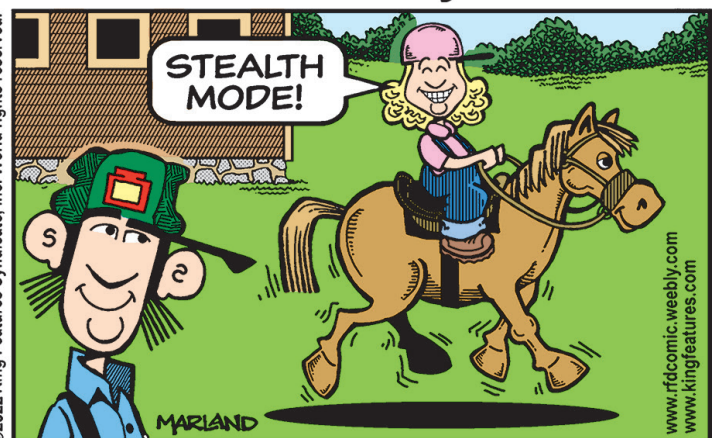
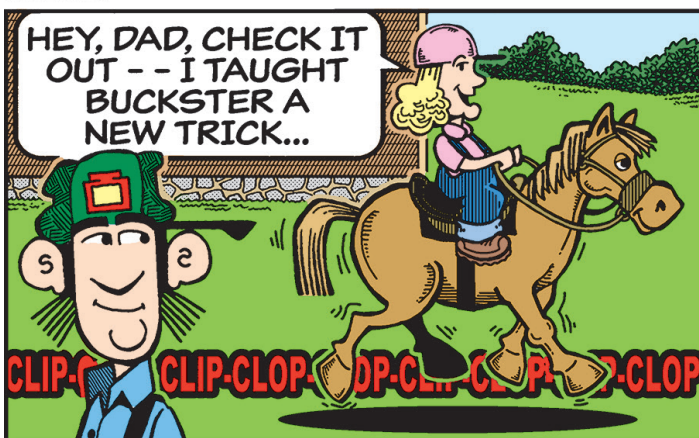
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 15 of 62



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



©2022 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 16 of 62

Hal Foster's
Prince Valiant
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ

VAL'S TUNIC HAS BEEN SAVAGED BY RATS. ANGRY AND DISGUSTED, HE DOES NOT SEE THAT HIS CHARM AGAINST EVIL IS MISSING.

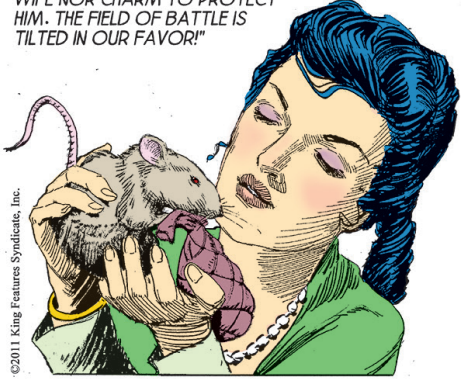


INDEED, IT IS STOLEN, AND THE THIEVES CARRY THE SACHET DIRECTLY TO THEIR MISTRESS...



...MALDUBH! "WELL DONE, MY FAMILIAR "PURRS DRACO'S WITCH. "NOW VALIANT HAS NEITHER WIFE NOR CHARM TO PROTECT HIM. THE FIELD OF BATTLE IS TILTED IN OUR FAVOR!"

©2011 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



ALTHOUGH VAL MAY NOT UNDERSTAND THE REASON FOR THE ATTACK, HE SEIZES THE OPPORTUNITY: "LOOK AT MY COLORS! THESE VERMIN MAKE A MOCKERY OF THE CHALLENGE!"



GALAHAD IS AT WIT'S END. "HAVE ALL THE KNIGHTS HERE GONE MAD? VERY WELL, THIS ACCURSED CONTEST IS POSTPONED UNTIL THE RATS ARE REMOVED."



AND WHEN A FUMING DRACO BRINGS NEWS OF VAL'S DELAY TO HIS WIFE? MALDUBH'S REACTION CANNOT BE HEREIN REPRODUCED...

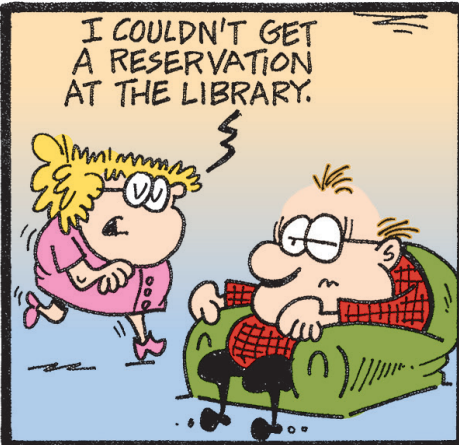


NEXT:
Birty work

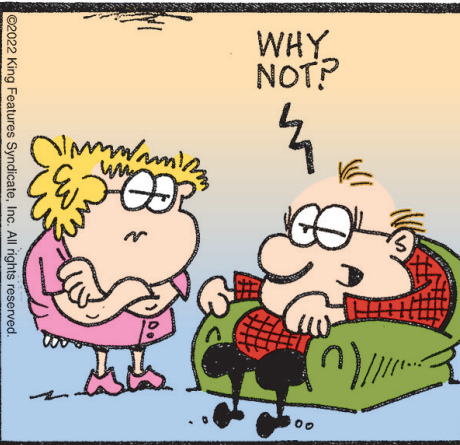
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

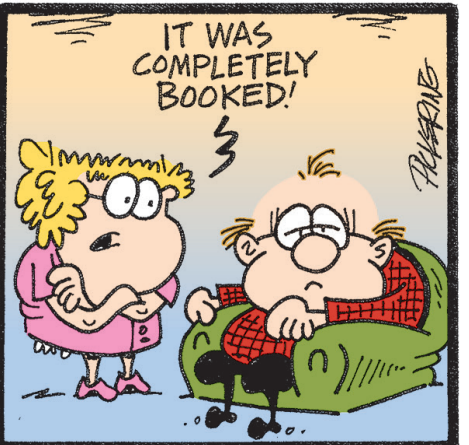
I COULDN'T GET A RESERVATION AT THE LIBRARY.



WHY NOT?



IT WAS COMPLETELY BOOKED!



©2022 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Managing Stress

An informal poll of senior friends makes one thing clear: We are anxious and stressed, and no, it isn't getting any better.

Turn on the news and there's another tragedy. Buy groceries and there is serious concern that you might not get to the end of the month before running out of money. And, of course, there's the pandemic, which, despite the boosters, just isn't going away.

There are, however, small ways to combat the anxiety and stress we feel.

Writing in a daily journal can help focus our thoughts. What, exactly, is it that's making us anxious today? A few lines that target the problem can shrink it and keep the source from being so large and overwhelming. But then finish with a few gratitude lines. What are we thankful for today and what has gone right? It might be something as small as a friend telling a truly funny joke.

Adopting a pet can be a lifesaver, in more ways than one. Many people are giving to shelters the pets they adopted two years ago, pets that now need new homes. Consider the benefits of both cats and dogs. A cat stays inside and might even make you laugh. Dogs need to be walked, but a senior dog might not need long walks.

Explore a new hobby, ideally one that is soothing and engages your mind.

Change your routine in small ways. Yes, you can have pancakes for dinner. Yes, you can sign up for the online music appreciation class at the college.

And don't forget the basics. Get some kind of exercise each day, even if it's just lifting hand weights. Look for yoga videos on the internet that are aimed at seniors. Monitor your diet. Limit caffeine, aim toward increasing fruits and vegetables and drink the right amount of water.

Just take it one day at a time.

(c) 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 18 of 62

1. What sports event was founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver and first took place in Chicago in 1968?
2. The Metrodome in Minneapolis was named in honor of which U.S. politician?
3. What brand of tennis ball has been used at the Wimbledon Championships since 1902?
4. Former NBA player and coach Reggie Theus had his No. 23 jersey retired by what college basketball team?
5. The annual rematch game between the CFL's Saskatchewan Roughriders and Winnipeg Blue Bombers is known by what nickname?
6. What was the name of the dog who found the FIFA World Cup's Jules Rimet Trophy after it had been stolen in London in 1966?
7. In July 1977, what NBA franchise held a telethon for season-ticket pledges in order to save the team from being sold?



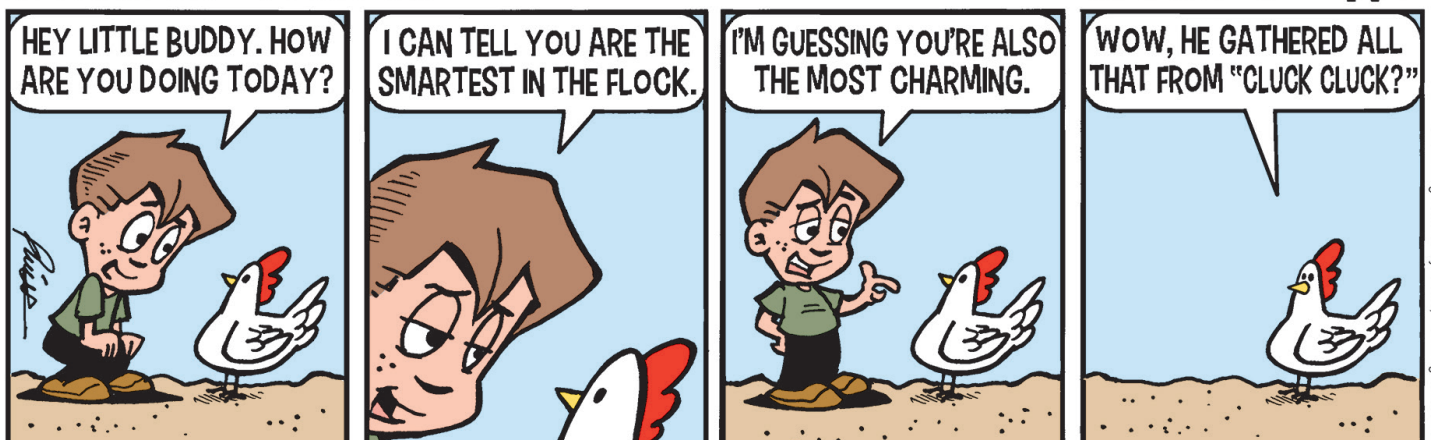
by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. The Special Olympics World Games.
 2. Hubert H. Humphrey.
 3. Slazenger.
 4. The UNLV Runnin' Rebels.
 5. The Banjo Bowl.
 6. Pickles.
 7. The Indiana Pacers.
- (c) 2022 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Summer Heat Can be Deadly to Pets

DEAR PAW'S corner: Yesterday, our beloved corgi mix, Shemp, was laid to rest. I feel so guilty. He passed from heatstroke after being out in the backyard for just one hour. I never realized that just the heat outdoors could be deadly to dogs. I always was conscientious about dangerous situations; I never once left Shemp in a hot car or walked him on hot sidewalks. Yet a few minutes of inattention, and my Shemp was suddenly in great distress. I rushed him to the veterinarian, but he just didn't make it. Please warn your readers to keep their dogs inside on hot days and to monitor them closely for signs of heat stress. -- Devastated in Houston

Dear Devastated: I am so sorry for the loss of your beloved Shemp. Thank you for warning other readers of the dangers of summer heat.

Being outdoors during the extreme temperatures that we've experienced this summer, often passing 100 degrees in many states, is dangerous for dogs and other pets. Here are a few ways to keep them safe from heat injury.

-- Walk dogs before sunrise and after sunset. Under a hot sun, sidewalks can quickly burn a dog's paws, and heat and humidity can take a toll on their health.

-- Do not leave pets outside unsupervised. Even if they're just in the backyard, you might not notice their distress until it's too late.

-- Provide a shelter from the sun. A shelter with open sides and a solid top allows airflow and protects from the sun when your dog is outside.

-- Make water available all day, everywhere. Carry water on walks, keep their indoor bowl full and provide a water bowl outside.

Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.

(c) 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* The Psychotria elata flower, also affectionately known as the "hot lips plant," which grows in the rainforests of Central and South America, resembles a puckering mouth covered in lipstick.

* After losing a drunken poker bet in 2009, a New Zealand man had his name legally changed to "Full Metal Havok More Sexy N Intelligent Than Spock And All The Superheroes Combined With Frostnova." After five years, the new moniker was finally approved by the government, and all 99 characters are on his passport.

* In Oklahoma, it is illegal to wear boots to bed (but shoes are OK).

* According to a 2014 survey by the Christian retailer LifeWay, 7% of Christian Americans pray for a parking spot.

* In 1956, four men on a boat off the coast of Cornwall threw explosives at a shark to kill it, or at least scare it away from divers, but the plan partially backfired, killing two of the men and injuring the others when the shark headed for them instead with an explosive device on its back.

* "Ouijazilla," in Salem, Massachusetts, holds the unofficial title of the "World's Largest Ouija Board" at 3,168 square feet and approximately 9,000 lbs.

* Charlie Daniels objected to the use of "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" in the Guitar Hero III video game because it was possible for the player to lose to a devil-like character, which "perverted" his song.

* No matter what it might feel like, to the contrary, when you're suffering from one, the majority of microbiologists say viruses are not actually alive, as they produce no energy and can only reproduce when inside a living creature.

Thought for the Day: "It isn't the mountains ahead to climb that wear you out, it's the pebble in your shoe." -- Muhammad Ali

(c) 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 21 of 62

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



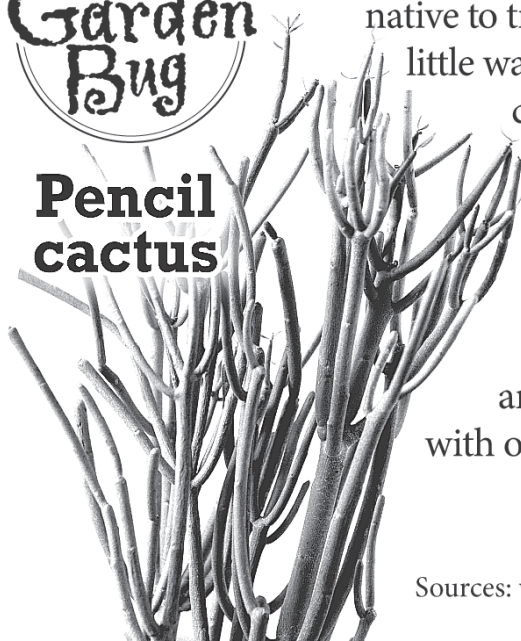
BY AL SCADUTO



FAMILY FROLICS—
QUES.: WHO IS THE WORLD'S WORSE COOK?
ANS.: AUNT HEPATICA.
QUES.: AND WHO IS IT THAT INSISTS ON PREPARING ALL THE FOOD FOR THE FAMILY REUNIONS?
ANS.: YUP... OH, YEAH... OF COURSE YOU KNOW THE ANSWER.. GOOD OL' AUNTIE H.



Pencil cactus



Also known as a “milk bush,” this plant is a native to tropical Africa and India. It requires little water, thus it is often sold as a kind of cactus; but it is actually a succulent.

It can grow up to 30 feet tall outside and well over 6 feet indoors. The toxicity of its milky sap is so intense that even a small drop of it can cause severe irritation, redness and burning sensations, and contact with or near the eyes can cause profound pain and temporary blindness.

— Brenda Weaver

Sources: www.gardeningcentral.org, greeneryunlimited

\$240 Million Worth of Fraud



by Freddy Groves

The owner of several construction companies has been nailed for fraud. His crime: Defrauding the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB) program for the purpose of grabbing up government contracts that he wasn't eligible for.

The scam went on from 2004 to 2017 and netted the thieves \$240 million in contracts over the years.

Unfortunately, one of the scammers was a veteran. He was talked into pretending that he, a service-disabled veteran, was the majority owner (at least 51%) of the company for the purposes of qualifying

for the contracts.

The head criminal in this venture is going to have a good long time to think about it. Depending on how the sentencing turns out, he could be looking at 20 years for each of six counts of wire fraud, not to mention the \$250,000 fine for each one.

One of the co-crooks pleaded guilty to his part in the long-running theft. He's since lost his money to bankruptcy and his wife to divorce.

The disabled veteran also has himself in a world of hurt. He lied about the company as well as everything else, even signing the documents stating that he was the majority owner. At least he manned up when they were caught and pleaded guilty, not bothering with a trial.

One thing that stands out for all three of the criminals: TITLE: None of them was lacking in skills or talent. One of them, for example, was a local shining star in developing low-cost housing out of defunct properties and was seemingly well regarded.

If you know of similar fraud that's happening, taking money away from legitimate small business veterans in the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) and/or Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB) programs, you can report it by calling the Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General at 800-488-8244. For more information on reporting fraud, go online to www.va.gov/oig/hotline/default.asp. Click on the FAQ page to learn what types of complaints the OIG doesn't normally handle. You'll find a long directory of resources there.

(c) 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 23 of 62

Wishing Well®

3	8	2	5	3	4	6	2	5	6	8	5	8
A	A	P	D	R	A	A	R	Y	R	W	N	O
2	3	2	3	8	2	8	4	7	6	4	6	3
O	E	F	W	R	I	K	L	J	A	O	D	A
2	3	2	3	6	5	2	3	5	2	3	5	8
T	R	F	D	I	A	R	I	M	O	N	I	O
3	5	3	6	2	4	5	7	3	5	6	5	3
G	C	C	A	M	N	C	O	A	A	N	R	R
7	6	5	2	6	7	2	5	4	8	3	4	6
Y	T	E	E	S	F	X	E	G	F	E	L	M
4	5	3	2	6	3	7	8	2	6	7	8	4
I	R	E	P	I	R	U	L	E	L	L	O	F
2	8	7	2	4	2	8	7	2	6	2	7	2
R	V	D	I	E	E	E	A	N	E	C	Y	E

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

©2022 King Features Syndicate



1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the largest island in Canada?
2. MOVIES: What is the name of the bully neighbor boy in Disney's "Toy Story"?
3. LANGUAGE: What is a cruciverbalist?
4. TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom character calls his son-in-law "Meat-head"?
5. HISTORY: What is the Danegeld, a tax levied in Anglo-Saxon England from the ninth through 11th centuries?
6. MUSIC: Which pop music band was the first to appear on children's lunchboxes?
7. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president is linked to the teddy bear?
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How big are baby kangaroos when they're born?
9. FAMOUS QUOTES: Which 19th-century author and philosopher once said, "One must maintain a little bit of summer, even in the middle of winter"?
10. AD SLOGANS: Which product's advertising slogan is "Obey your thirst"?

Answers

1. Baffin Island.
2. Sid.
3. Someone who designs or enjoys solving crossword puzzles.
4. Archie Bunker, "All in the Family."
5. The tax receipts were used to buy off Viking invaders and provide for defense.

6. The Beatles.
7. Theodore Roosevelt. It was invented in his honor after he refused to kill a bear on a hunting trip.
8. About 1 inch.
9. Henry David Thoreau.
10. Sprite.

© 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Cautiously Optimistic: South Dakota's Finances and the Future

Earlier this week, the State of South Dakota closed the financial books for fiscal year 2022 with a record-breaking \$115.5 million surplus. This historic surplus was a combination of revenues unexpectedly being \$72.3 million above what was adopted by the legislature this past session and the general fund budget for state government operations having expenses \$43.2 million less than budgeted.

For starters, the growth in our revenues reaffirms the strength of our state's economy. South Dakota's personal income growth led the nation again in the first quarter of 2022, and we have been a leader in this metric since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. People continue to move to South Dakota as our net inbound migration was ranked second in the nation. South Dakota's 2.3% unemployment rate is among the lowest in the nation and lower than before the pandemic. For their part, state agencies displayed tremendous fiscal responsibility throughout the year and, at my direction, brought state expenses in under the appropriated budget.

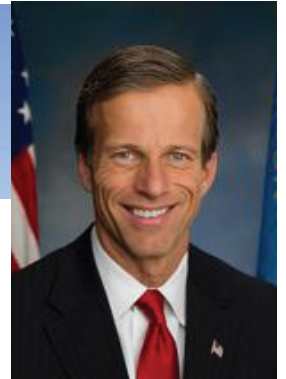
While this surplus may lead individuals to call for a reduction in our state's tax structure, I offer a word of caution. Our state is in a great financial position thanks to our structurally balanced budget and strong reserves, but we must be prepared to weather any economic storm that may come our way. It will be difficult for our state to maintain the unprecedented growth as our citizens struggle with the highest inflation in 40 years.

Over the past few years, the national economy has been artificially supported by the trillions of dollars that Congress provided to states, businesses, and individuals because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The result was a predictable one: historic inflation. Until President Biden reverses the policies that have caused inflation to skyrocket, the strain of inflation will continue to be an obstacle to South Dakota's fantastic growth. There will come a time when our economy is no longer boosted by these stimulus dollars, and we must be prepared for the impact that will have on our state's finances.

In addition to an unknown economic climate, there are key investments our state needs to continue to make in education, healthcare, public safety, and our state workforce. As many of your wallets have felt the impact of inflation, our state's budget will also feel this increase.

As always, we will turn these challenges into opportunities for South Dakota to continue to thrive. We will spend taxpayer dollars wisely and responsibly and save where we can. South Dakota is financially stronger than ever. I am committed to ensuring our state continues to invest in our people, workforce, and infrastructure while continuing to have as low of a tax burden as possible.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



South Dakotans Deserve Permanent Tax Relief, Not New Tax Hikes

When Democrats took office in January 2021, Congress had just passed a fifth bipartisan COVID relief bill that met essentially all current pressing COVID needs. Still eager to spend more, Democrats then passed a massive \$1.9 trillion piece of legislation under the guise of COVID relief that flooded the economy with unnecessary government money, and the economy overheated as a result. Then, despite steadily climbing inflation in the wake of their bill, Democrats seemed incapable of learning from their mistake, and they spent last fall attempting to double down on the failed strategy that helped get us into this mess in the first place.

Fortunately, Democrats' plan for a second spending spree failed last December, but it's become clear that they're not giving up. Right now, they're trying to pass a new version of their tax-and-spending spree where they plan to hike taxes on small businesses.

While President Biden was on the campaign trail, he touted, among many things, that he would repeal the tax cuts from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act – the tax relief legislation Republicans passed in 2017 that helped increase wages and incomes, boost economic growth, and drive the poverty rate to a record low. The president falsely claims that the bill solely benefitted high-income earners and corporations when it was actually lower- and middle-income Americans who are the ones who saw some of the biggest benefits from Republicans' tax relief legislation. The effects of tax reform on business investment, wages for working families, and tax revenue were a boon to the American people and our economy.

I wish we had continued down that path of growth and opportunity, but Democrats have decided to take another route. The president claims he ran for office because he was tired of the "trickle-down economy" and that he wants to build an economy "that works for working families." But as families across the country know, President Biden's economy is not working for them.

Inflation is at its highest level since November 1981 – a staggering 9.1 percent. Everywhere South Dakotans look, they're facing price increases. I was recently back in my hometown of Murdo for an all-school reunion, and some folks told me that business profits are down by 30 percent or more this year due to high gas prices and soaring inflation. Like many small towns across South Dakota that rely heavily on the tourism industry, record-high inflation has stunted travel and resulted in a significant loss in revenue.

It's abundantly clear that raising taxes would likely lead to a combination of lower wages for workers, lower returns for business owners, and higher prices for goods and services. When you combine that with inflation and more unnecessary government spending, you have a recipe for continued economic misery for American families and communities across the country. If Democrats really wanted to help American families, they'd be focused on making all of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act tax cuts permanent. I am doing everything in my power to stop the Democrats' newest version of their reckless tax-and-spending spree. South Dakotans have suffered enough.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 26 of 62



CONGRESSMAN

DUSTY JOHNSON

Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



Feast or Famine?

July 12. That is the day Feeding South Dakota – a hunger relief organization – hit its budget for the month of July. With more than half the month to go, there are needs to be met – families and children that need the food they provide. Feeding South Dakota has seen fewer donations likely caused by the lack of surplus in kitchen pantries and in wallets because of inflation.

In the past 12 months, there has been a 20% increase in families visiting Feeding South Dakota mobile food distributions. Pierre has seen a 13% increase. Sioux Falls a 28% increase. And Rapid City is seeing a 33% increase in families needing assistance.

The reality is that food prices are much higher than last year. It's been reported that an average family of four is spending around \$100 more per month on their groceries than they did last year.

The cost of just about everything going up, especially the cost of fuel. Gas prices have increased by 60% and energy is up 41%. An additional \$100 a month isn't a small number – average earnings can't keep up with the unprecedented inflation – this puts families in a lose-lose situation. Choosing whether to pay for electricity, heating, and cooling, gas for your commute to work, or putting food on the table is a decision many families are facing today.

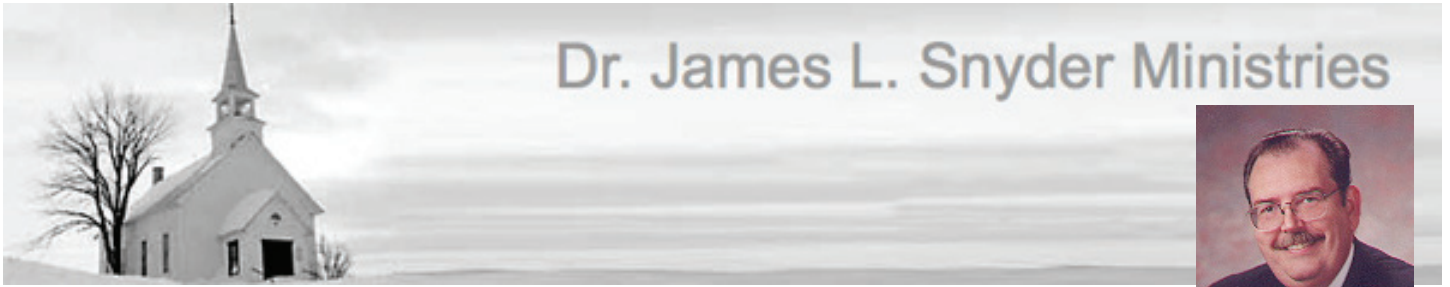
I've opposed more than \$9 trillion in Washington spending bills because I know the impact this spending has on real people. Decisions in Washington, D.C. to spend more money has created too many dollars chasing too few goods, but surprisingly enough, the top issue I hear from most business owners in South Dakota isn't inflation, it's the labor shortage.

According to the U.S. Chamber, our nation has 11 million job openings—but only 6 million unemployed workers. We have more than three million fewer Americans participating in the labor force today compared to February of 2020. We need to fill these openings to have a robust economy.

Tackling inflation needs an all-hands-on-deck solution. If Congress stops the reckless spending and folks head back to the office after a two-year hiatus, we can get back on track. I'm grateful for organizations like Feeding South Dakota for filling the gap as so many families are feeling the impact of rising inflation.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 27 of 62



To Ask or Not Ask Is No Option



You would think I would have learned all I needed to learn at my age. However, each day I learn something I did not know the day before. So much of my new learning is still connected to being married to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

I know, for example, that she is not soliciting information when she asks a question. So many times, I forget and walk into that trap.

Last week, for instance, The Gracious of the Parsonage looked out the living room window and sighed very deeply and then looking at me said, "Why is it so hot out there today?"

Under normal circumstances, but what is normal these days, I would have realized this was not a question to be answered. But, without thinking, I looked at her and said, "It's Florida, and it's the middle of the summer, and that's why it's so hot out there."

I then put on one of my typical smiles, and winked at her.

Not a good thing to do in this situation.

"Do you think that is funny?" she said with both hands on her hips and staring at me.

I then remembered that a woman asking you questions is not soliciting an answer. If only I could remember that, I could keep myself out of a lot of difficulties.

"I know it's summer, and I know we're in Florida, but I wasn't asking for your opinion."

For me, it is not easy to know when she is asking and when she is not asking a question. So to answer one of her questions means I have to give her an opinion of mine. But, of course, that is never on the table.

Recently we had an appointment across town, so my wife drove, and I sat in the passenger side. The traffic was heavy, and people were driving rather crazy. At one intersection, a car almost ran into us, and on my part, I lost all my heebie-jeebies.

My wife said, "What is wrong with people today? Why are they so crazy?"

I cleared my throat, and then she looked at me and said, "That was not a question I want you to answer. So keep your opinion to yourself."

I looked out the window and started to chuckle. I did not realize I was chuckling; it just came naturally.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 28 of 62

"What are you chuckling about?" she said.

Now I am in one of those marital dilemmas. Is she asking a question she wants me to answer, or did she set me up?

I spoke up and said, "Look over there. Is that a Hobby Lobby store?"

The atmosphere in the vehicle changed automatically. She looked in my direction and asked me a question I knew she wanted me to answer, "Where's the Hobby Lobby?"

Sometimes when you answer a question with a question you get completely out of the swamp you are sinking in.

For the next several minutes, she talked about why she wanted to visit Hobby Lobby and all the things she wanted to check on and maybe even purchase. So I just sat back in my seat and smiled, knowing I had missed the bombshell that time.

When the vehicle atmosphere got quiet, I knew I had to do something to diverge the energy, so I simply said, "Is that a new thrift store? I don't think I've ever seen that one before."

Well, the conversation focused on the thrift store, and I learned everything there was to know about that thrift store and all of the stuff she bought there in the past. And even her plans to go and pick up some other items there.

She could not say enough good about that thrift store, and the more she talked about it, the more she smiled. I had accomplished my goal, and I was smiling on the outside now. The rest of the trip home was enjoyable.

Before we got home, she said, "I could go for some ice cream. Should we stop and get some ice cream?"

I just looked at her, smiled and shook my head. We then stopped, got some ice cream, and had a wonderful time there.

"Wasn't that," she said as we started back home, "the best ice cream we've had in a long time."

I know when not to answer certain questions, at least I am learning, but I also know that certain questions are open for response.

"Yes, my dear," I said as cheerfully as possible, "that was a good idea you had to get some ice cream."

The trip ended well because I am learning to negotiate what is a question and what is not a question. But, you know I still have a long way to go, at least I am progressing. My confidence in our relationship is growing according to my understanding of the asking challenge I face everyday.

This led me to a verse of scripture in 1 John 5:14 - "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us"

I am also learning what to ask and what not to ask when it comes to my relationship with God. Learning what questions God will answer goes a long way in my Christian experience and it saves me a lot of time. Most of my prayer time, up until now, has been wasted asking the wrong questions.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: How are reptiles faring these days in the face of climate change and other environmental threats?

-- L.M. Smith,

Boston, MA

Reptiles, like other animals and plants, face growing threats as human influence on the environment increases. Certain reptiles are especially threatened; some 61 percent of turtles are threatened or extinct. Tracking the exact consequences of human activity on reptiles, however, has been difficult as research has primarily focused on mammals and birds, which draw more public attention, although evaluations have found reptiles to be more threatened than birds.

A recent study that observed 10,196 species determined that 21.1 percent of reptiles are at risk of extinction. These species contain an estimated 15.6 billion years of phylogenetic diversity (PD). This science uses a phylogenetic tree, which shows how closely related species are, to describe the amount of biodiversity in an ecosystem and obtain a more useful measurement than just counting numbers of species. In addition, the adaptations of reptiles to ecological conditions perform help sustain ecosystems, including supporting food chains. Threats to reptiles include habitat loss and environmental damage, invasive species, diseases, pollution, exploitation, poaching and global climate change.

Habitat destruction is the largest threat. As urban sprawl, overgrazing and desertification—which in turn prompt expansion of logging and agricultural operations—put greater pressures on land, reptile habitats have been overtaken by humans, creating increasingly stressful conditions for reptiles. Shrinking habitats increase edge effects—which are the effects of separating habitats (like with a road) such that animals cannot reach resources or mates in other parts of the habitat. Now climate change is exacerbating these pressures. Since many reptiles are ectothermic—they cannot generate internal heat and instead rely on external conditions (e.g. sunlight) to warm themselves—temperature increases due to climate change affect them significantly. Many arid-climate reptiles (e.g. lizards and geckos) are already experiencing extremely high temperatures, and minor increases could make their already limited habitats unlivable.

Furthermore, reptiles are particularly prevalent in regions of Southeast Asia, where disruptions to monsoon cycles can obstruct development of reptiles in embryo. Many species—turtles, crocodiles and alligators, for example—lay eggs in wet conditions. Newly-dry and disrupted regions threaten their abilities to survive, cause slow development or growth and skew the natural selection of sex ratios.

Some good news is that methods implemented to protect other types of animals—reducing tropical deforestation, controlling illegal trade and improving productivity in agriculture such that agricultural lands do not need to be expanded—benefit reptiles similarly. However, the current crisis behooves more action to improve conditions for reptiles in particular.

Readers should encourage their representatives to take action. Reptiles play a crucial role in the Earth's ecosystems, and concerted solutions have the potential to make all the difference.

• EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.



Almost two-thirds of all turtle species known to science are either endangered or recently extinct. Credit: Roddy Scheer.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 30 of 62

South Dakota COVID-19 Report

New Confirmed and Probable Cases

1514

Active Cases

4,176
+319

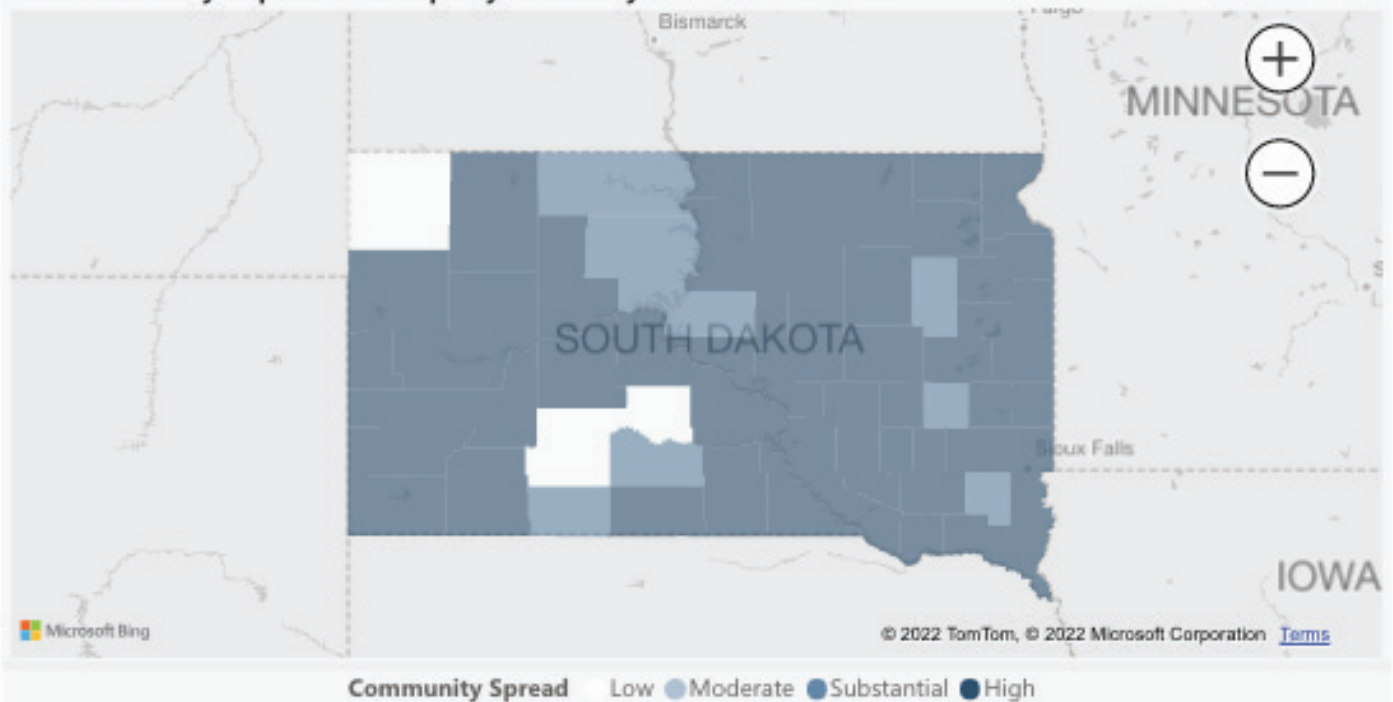
Recovered Cases

241,665

Currently Hospitalized

86

Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Hover over a county to see its details, or click county to update the orange boxes.

More information on U.S COVID-19 Community levels can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Total Confirmed and Probable Cases

248,788

Total Tests

2,252,206

Deaths Among Cases

2,947

Ever Hospitalized

11,200

Percent of State Population with at least 1 Dose**

74%

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 31 of 62

Brown County COVID-19 Report

New Confirmed and Probable Cases

71

Active Cases

176
+28

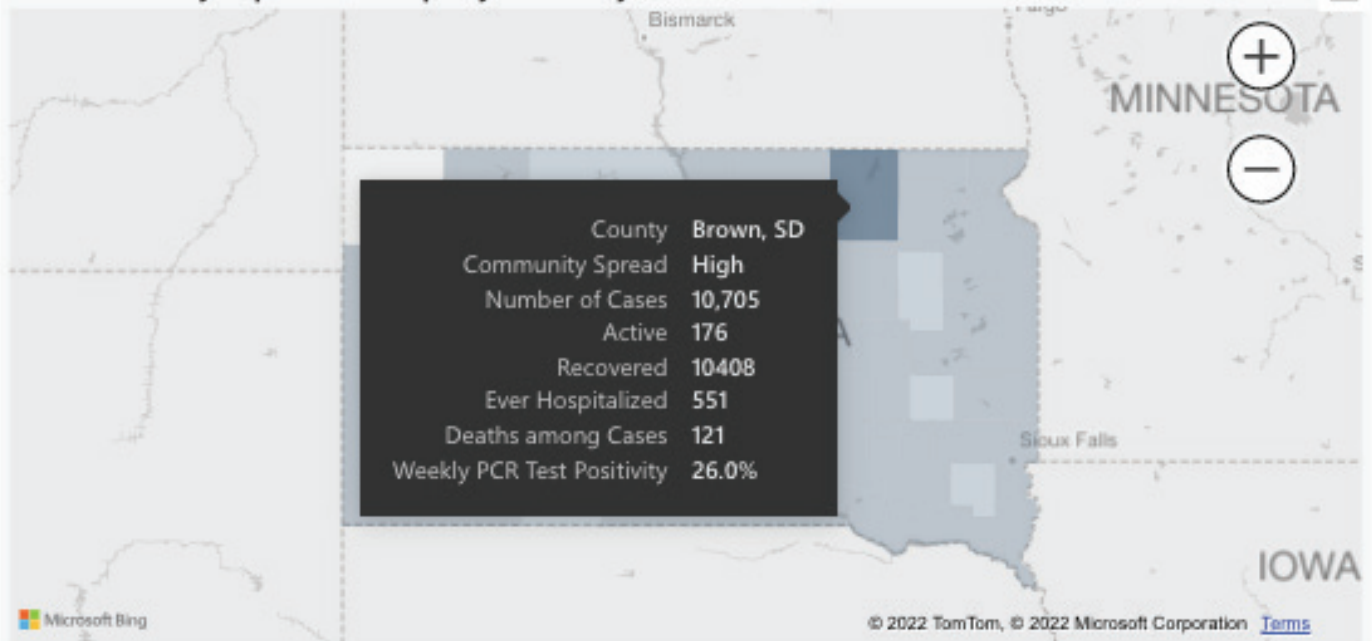
Recovered Cases

10,408

Currently Hospitalized

86

Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread Low Moderate Substantial High

Hover over a county to see its details, or click county to update the orange boxes.

More information on U.S COVID-19 Community levels can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Total Confirmed and Probable Cases

10,705

Total Tests

107,634

Deaths Among Cases

121

Ever Hospitalized

551

Percent of State Population with at least 1 Dose**

74%

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 32 of 62

Day County COVID-19 Report

New Confirmed and Probable Cases

4

Active Cases

9
+1

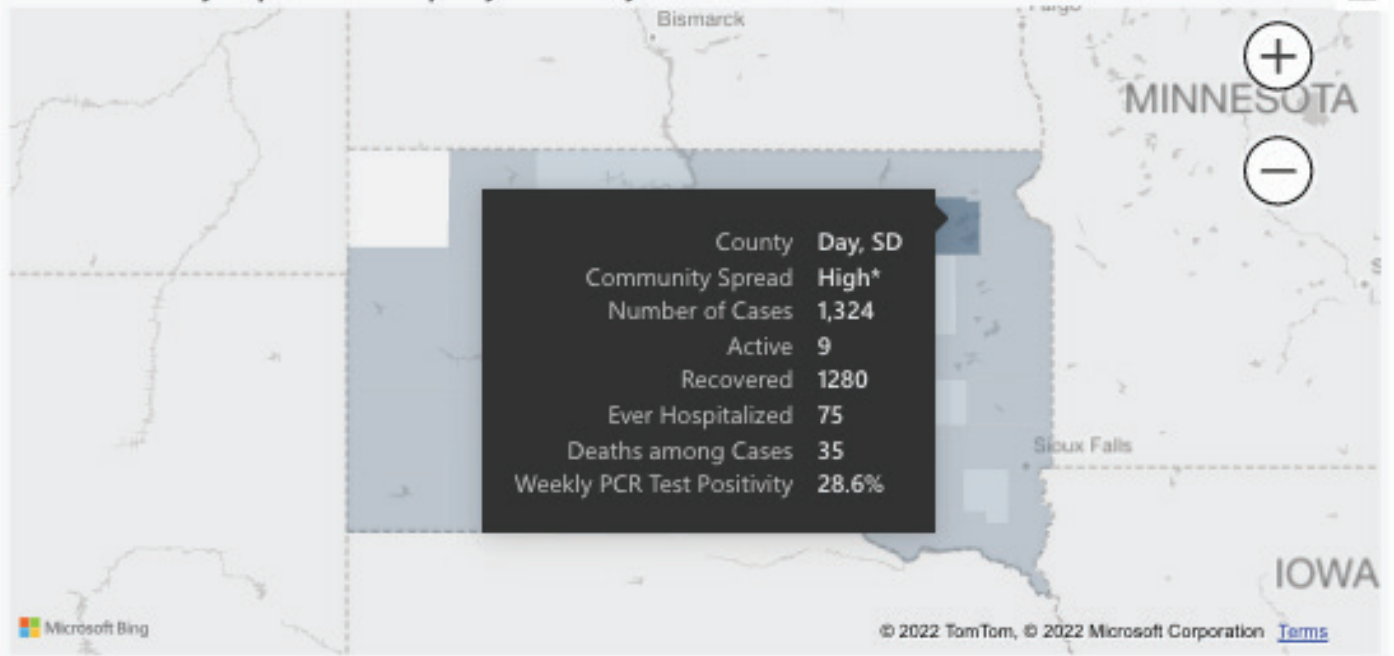
Recovered Cases

1,280

Currently Hospitalized

86

Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread Low Moderate Substantial High

Hover over a county to see its details, or click county to update the orange boxes.

More information on U.S COVID-19 Community levels can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Total Confirmed and Probable Cases

1,324

Total Tests

17,303

Deaths Among Cases

35

Ever Hospitalized

75

Percent of State Population with at least 1 Dose**

74%

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 33 of 62

Ever Hospitalized

11,200

03/07/2020 - 07/18/2022

Currently Hospitalized

86

-3

VARIANT CASES OF COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

COVID-19 Variant	# of Cases	# of Cases - Last 3 Months
Delta (B.1.617.2 & AY lineages)	1,720	151
Omicron (B.1.1.529 & BA lineages)	1,305	148
Alpha (B.1.1.7)	176	3
Omicron (BA.2)	135	123
Gamma (P.1)	4	1
Beta (B.1.351)	2	2

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Hospitalizations	# of Deaths Among Cases
Male	116,787	5,843	1,611
Female	132,001	5,357	1,336

AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range with Years	# of Cases	# of Hospitalizations	# of Deaths Among Cases
0-9 years	16,714	154	3
10-19 years	29,452	176	2
20-29 years	43,268	596	14
30-39 years	41,846	839	53
40-49 years	34,594	978	88
50-59 years	31,886	1,504	226
60-69 years	26,840	2,262	478
70-79 years	14,574	2,385	691
80+ years	9,614	2,306	1,392

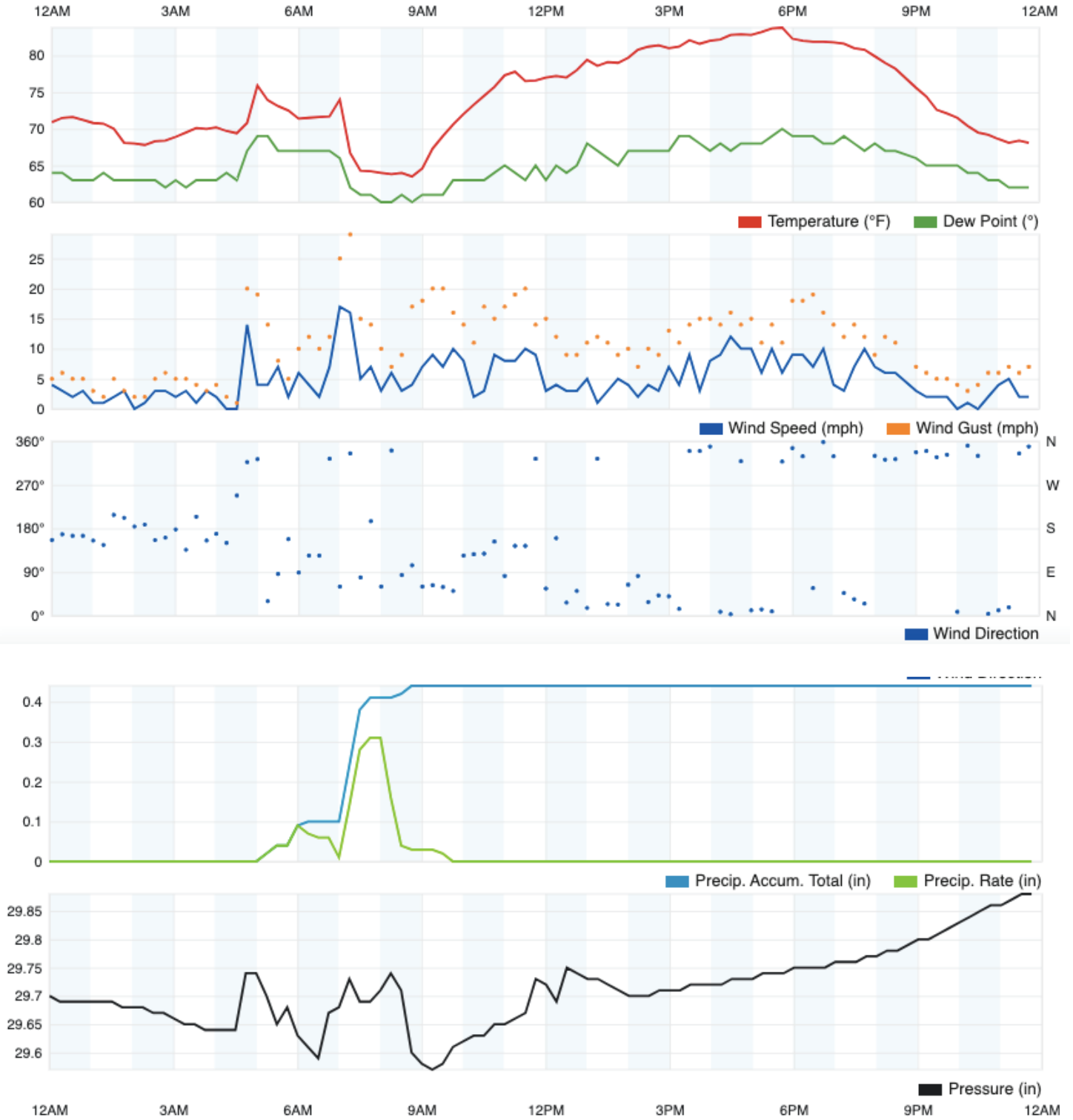
RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	# of Hospitalizations	# of Deaths
Asian / Pacific Islander	3,458	110	20
Black	6,091	210	22
Hispanic	10,630	356	39
Native American	31,320	1,931	446
Other	2,094	59	13
Unknown	5,069	71	20
White	190,126	8,463	2,387

Groton Daily Independent



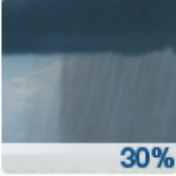


Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 34 of 62

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 35 of 62

Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Chance Showers	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms
High: 79 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 79 °F

Dry and Mild Today

Thunderstorm chances return tonight and Monday

Today

75 to 86°

Sunny



Tonight

56 to 64°

Overnight showers and storms.



Monday

76 to 83°

Storms possible throughout the day.



Today will be sunny and comfortable with highs in the mid 70s to mid 80s. Storm chances return tonight and continue through the day Monday. Storms are not expected to be severe at this time.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 36 of 62

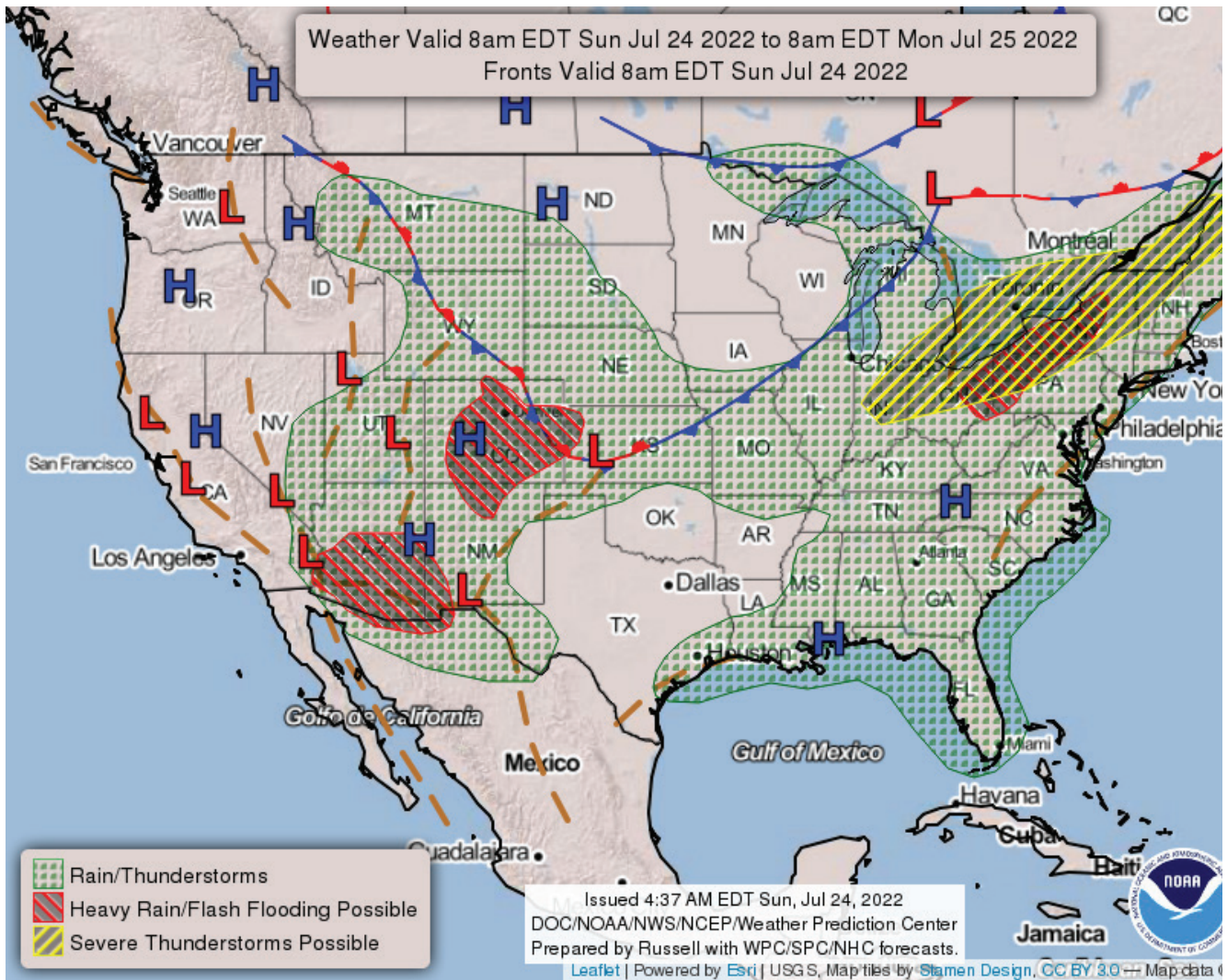
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 83.8 °F at 5:45 PM
Low Temp: 63.5 °F at 8:45 AM
Wind: 29 mph at 7:15 AM
Precip: 0.44

Day length: 15 hours, 5 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 108 in 1931
Record Low: 46 in 1905
Average High: 85°F
Average Low: 60°F
Average Precip in July.: 2.52
Precip to date in July.: 2.80
Average Precip to date: 13.53
Precip Year to Date: 14.38
Sunset Tonight: 9:11:38 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:07:19 AM



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 37 of 62

Today in Weather History

July 24, 1993: A severe thunderstorm struck southern Hyde County, including the city of Highmore, with winds more than 60 mph and heavy rains of two to four inches. Near Stephan, in far southern Hyde County, an estimated of over four inches of rain in 20 minutes caused flooding damage to a bridge. Three to nine inches of rain caused widespread flash flooding and flood damage to Day, Roberts, and southeastern Marshall Counties. Especially hard hit was an area from Webster, northeastward through the Pickerell and Buffalo Lakes area, to Sisseton. A state of emergency was declared in Sisseton. The heavy rains overwhelmed a small creek that flows through Sisseton, swelling it to three blocks wide and up to five feet deep. The rushing water carried lumber, railroad ties, propane tanks, and several vehicles. Flood damage occurred to 70 percent of all buildings in Sisseton, including 100 homes. In Webster, the excessive rain flooded all the sewer lifts that pump water out of low-lying areas in town. The sewer system then backed up into homes and businesses. The rainstorm flooded nine of the 12 main floor rooms at the Super 8 motel in Webster. Roads and bridge damage was also extensive in Roberts, Day, and Marshall Counties with about 50 roads and bridges in Day County damaged by the flooding. Areas lakes, including Pickerell, Blue Dog, Enemy Swim, and Buffalo lakes rose over two feet, inundating areas around lake homes and submerging docks. Some estimated storm total rainfall amounts include; 4.60 inches in Webster; 3.91 in Waubay; 3.90 in Britton; and 3.60 inches near Ashton.

July 24, 1997: Over 6 inches of rain fell in the Conde area in far northeast Spink County. Water was over Highway 37, and many town basements were flooded. One basement filled with 5 feet of water. Nearly 7 inches of rain was received at Lake Poinsett, and over 6 inches of rain was received in Estelline. Hidewood Creek in Hamlin County overflowed its banks. Water went into many residences homes, and some people were evacuated. A small bridge was taken out by the high water, and Highway 28 was closed for an hour.

1886 - Rain fell at Lawrence, KS, for the first time in four weeks. Rain fell over much of the state of Kansas that day relieving a severe drought which began in May. The very dry weather ruined crops in Kansas. (David Ludlum)

1930: An estimated, F5 tornado tore through Montello, Veneto, and Friuli in Italy. The tornado killed 23 people along its 50 miles path.

1936 - A record all time Kansas state high temperature set just 6 days earlier was tied in the town of Alton, located in Osborne County. (US National Weather Service Wichita)

1942 - The temperature at Las Vegas, NV, hit 117 degrees to set an all-time record for that location. The record was tied on July 19, 2005.

1947 - One of the most powerful strokes of lightning ever measured yielded 345,000 amperes of electricity in Pittsburgh, PA. (The Weather Channel)

1952: The temperature at Louisville, Georgia soared to 112 degrees to establish a state record. The temperature also hit 112 degrees in Greenville, Georgia on August 20, 1983.

1980 - Claudette, a weak tropical storm, deluged southeastern Texas with torrential rains. The Houston suburb of Alvin received 43 inches, a 24 hour record for the U.S. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Twenty-one cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. The high of 91 degrees at Beckley, WV, was their hottest reading in 25 years of records, and marked their third straight day of record 90 degree heat. Bakersfield, CA, dipped to 60 degrees, marking their eighth straight morning of record cool weather. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Oklahoma, and over Nebraska and Wisconsin. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Brainerd, NE. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2008: A tornado fluctuated between the category EF1 and the more destructive EF2 strikes Northwood and Pittsfield, as well as nine other towns in New Hampshire. It first touches down in Deerfield, then travels through Northwood, Epsom, Pittsfield, Barnstead, and Alton. From there, it rages through New Durham, Wolfeboro, Freedom, Ossipee, and Effingham. The storm destroys several homes, damaged dozens of others and kills at least one person.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 38 of 62



GROWING UP

One Sunday morning, the pastor was visiting the first grade Sunday school class. With a bright smile, he said to a small child, "Who made you, Jimmy?"

"Well," he said thoughtfully, "God made part of me."

"What do you mean that God made part of you?" asked the pastor.

"First, God made me real little, and I grewed the rest all by myself."

How insightful! God begins a "good work in us" when we accept Christ as our Savior. We are, so to speak, "real little" like Jimmy. But, He does not expect us to remain "little." When God started the process of the new birth within us, He did so with the intention of bringing it to completion – for us to grow into the likeness of Christ. This is possible because the Holy Spirit lives with us and is willing and able, with our involvement, to let it happen through prayer, Bible study, and worship. Come, grow with Him. He has great things waiting for each of us.

Prayer: Lord, may we work with You to grow into Christlikeness. May we, with determination and surrender, commit our lives to become who You created us to be. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Philippians 1:6 And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 39 of 62

2022-23 Community Events

- 07/21/2022: Pro Am Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
07/22/2022: Ferney Open Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start
07/24/2022: Moonlight Swim at the Swimming Pool 9-11pm for 9th grade to age 20
07/27/2022: 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
No Date Set: 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)
No Date Set: 6th Annual Doggie Day at the Swimming Pool 3:30-5pm
09/11/2022: Couples Sunflower Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10 a.m.
09/02-04: 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
12/10/2022: Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9am-12pm
01/29/2023 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed, 10am-1pm, Community Center
01/29/2023 85th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
04/01/2023 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)
04/22/2023 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
04/23/2023 Princess Prom 4:30-8pm (Sunday after GHS Prom)
05/06/2023 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)
05/29/2023 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
07/04/2023 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Registration, 10am Start (4th of July)
07/09/2023 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)
09/09/2023 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
10/31/2023 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm (working day on or closest to Halloween)
10/31/2023 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
11/23/2023 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm (Thanksgiving)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 40 of 62

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Daily Independent

www.397news.com

Subscription Form

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

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

E-mail _____

Password _____

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

paypal.me/paperpaul



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 41 of 62

News from the  Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

02-05-10-21-22

(two, five, ten, twenty-one, twenty-two)

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Lotto America

14-22-24-25-48, Star Ball: 4, ASB: 3

(fourteen, twenty-two, twenty-four, twenty-five, forty-eight; Star Ball: four; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$17,310,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: 790,000,000

Powerball

39-41-54-59-62, Powerball: 12, Power Play: 3

(thirty-nine, forty-one, fifty-four, fifty-nine, sixty-two; Powerball: twelve; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$130,000,000

Indigenous representation lacking on US corporate boards

By MARK TRAHANT, ICT undefined

PHOENIX (AP) — Mary Smith had a plan: She was going to serve as a member of a corporate board. She already had the resume. Smith is an attorney, and she had worked as the chief executive officer for the U.S. Indian Health Service, a \$6 billion-a-year operation.

"I think for most people, you're not going to get a call out of the blue," she said. "You have to put yourself out there so that people know that you want to be on a corporate board because there are recruiters that recruit for corporate boards. But, the vast majority of board seats are still filled through networking."

Smith's planning was deliberate. She "very intentionally treated it like a full-time job." That included learning about corporate governance and board responsibilities and developing a "board bio" to highlight attributes boards are looking for, such as experience with regulatory agencies. She also hired coaches to sharpen her pitch.

"I didn't want to look back and say, 'Oh, I wish I had done X, Y or Z.'"

Smith has made a place for herself at a table where few Indigenous people have historically been invited.

There are some 4,000 companies traded on Wall Street through the New York Stock Exchange or NASDAQ. Each of them has professional board members who are responsible for corporate governance. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives represented on those boards is far less than one-tenth of 1%.

Smith, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, now serves on the board for PTC Therapeutics Inc., a publicly traded global biopharmaceutical company that focuses on the "discovery, development and commercialization of clinically differentiated medicines that provide benefits to patients with rare disorders."

She is paid a board fee of \$30,659, according to the company's report with the Securities and Exchange Commission. She also is awarded both options and stocks that depend on the company's success and could be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Smith says there is more to serving on a board than showing up to four meetings a year.

"That sounds like an easy gig, but, no, it's actually a lot of work," she said. There are documents that must be reviewed, a duty of care and loyalty. One poor decision could result in liability.

"So, yes, you have to be very thoughtful and exercise your fiduciary duties to the corporation."

According to the corporate search firm Spencer Stuart and its annual report index, the total average

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 42 of 62

compensation for a board seat is \$312,279. This average reflects actual director compensation, including the voluntary, and usually temporary, pay cuts some boards took during the height of the pandemic. More than three-quarters of boards provide stock grants to directors in addition to a fee.

Serving on a corporate board is a good gig, yet there are a few prominent Indigenous board members. Cherie Brandt serves on the board of TD Bank in Toronto. She is both Mohawk from Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and Ojibway from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Indian Reserve. She was appointed last August. Kathy Hannan, Ho Chunk, serves on Otis Elevator and Annaly Capital Management.

A number of Indigenous people also serve on regional bank boards, utility companies, across the energy sector.

Overall the data reveals movement related to diversity. The 2021 U.S. Spencer Stuart Board Index shows white directors fell slightly in 2021 yet still account for eight of every 10 board members, and six of the 10 are white men.

The index also found directors from historically underrepresented groups accounted for 72% of all new directors at S&P 500 companies, up from 59% in 2020. Female representation increased to 30% of all S&P 500 directors.

"Despite the record number of new directors from historically underrepresented groups, the overall representation of some demographic groups on S&P 500 boards falls short of their representation in the U.S. population," Spencer Stuart reported. "For example, although 42% of the U.S. population identifies as African American, Hispanic, Asian, American Indian/Native Alaskan or multiracial, those groups make up only 21% of S&P 500 directors."

The 6th edition of the Missing Pieces Report: The Board Diversity Census by the accounting firm Deloitte and the Alliance for Board Diversity is a multiyear study that found public companies are making slow progress appointing more diverse boards. The goal of the Alliance is to have women and minorities make up 40% of all corporate board seats, up from 17.5% in 2021.

And the thing is, the Alliance for Board Diversity says based on the skillset of new board members, women and people of color are more likely than white men to bring experience with "corporate sustainability and socially responsible investing, government, sales and marketing, and technology in the workplace to their boards."

In other words: If the new framework is sustainability, especially Environment, Social, Governance, or ESG, then people of color who are appointed to boards are more likely to be prepared for the task ahead.

Native Americans are largely absent from corporate leadership.

The numbers are striking. According to Deloitte, less than one-tenth of 1% of all corporate board members are in the "other" category. There are so few Indigenous people in corporate boardrooms that there is not even a measurement. (The Spencer Stuart Board Index simply reports less than 1% for American Indian and Alaska Native representation.)

There are a couple of initiatives trying to change that. The first comes from the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations, or NASDAQ, a computerized system for trading stock. In August 2021 a Board Diversity Rule was established that requires companies to use a standard template for board representation and "have or explain why they do not have at least two diverse directors."

And in California, a 2020 law requires companies headquartered in that state to have one to three board members who self-identify as a member of an "underrepresented community," which includes Asian, Black, Latino, Native American and Pacific Islander individuals, as well as those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. The law allowed the secretary of state to fine companies that did not comply. Then in May 2022 a Los Angeles court struck down the law as unconstitutional; its application is on hold until the appeal process is complete.

But companies are acting anyway. Four years ago nearly one-third of public company boards in California were composed of all men. According to the most recent report from the California Partners Project, today fewer than 2% are. This year two-thirds of California public companies have three or more women directors — six times as many as in 2018.

"I think it's very important to have representation, especially from the Native American community," said

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 43 of 62

Assemblyman James Ramos, D-San Bernardino. Ramos is a citizen of the Serrano/Cahuilla tribe, and is the first California Indian to be elected to the state Assembly. "It serves two different folds, one to make sure that representation of not only California's first people, but that the nation's first people has a voice in driving the economics of our community, of our state, and of our nation."

Ramos said it's also aspirational, demonstrating opportunity.

"When you're putting statistics and data together, we hear it all the time: Latino population, right? Statistics and data. African American, statistics and data. And yet we're talking about people of color and diversity and not even mention Native American people or even California Indian people in general."

There have been a significant number of Native Americans serving on philanthropic boards.

Sherry Salway Black, Oglala Lakota, has served on a number of such boards and says she heard the narrative often that only one or two Native Americans served on private foundation boards. So she did a "quick and dirty" survey and found at least 28 Native people serving on 13 private foundations, and nine Native people on the boards of seven community foundations.

One area where there is a lot of Native board action is for Community Development Financial Institutions that are mission driven and focused on community building and access to capital. There are dozens of such lending institutions, and it's been especially important in the agriculture sector.

Carla Fredericks, Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara, is chief executive officer of The Christensen Fund, a \$300 million foundation. She said it's important to be intentional about how board members are appointed.

"This is long overdue," she said. "Even as we've tried to get additional board members for our board, we are certainly aware that while there's incredible leadership experience in Indian Country, there's not a lot of board experience that people have. So it's really important to build that."

Fredericks said it can be a self-perpetuating problem if boards require previous experience but don't explore translatable experiences.

"We took a broader lens to looking at candidates," Fredericks said. "I also think that we had a really intentional lens to recruit Indigenous people to the board."

ICT has been building a list of Indigenous representation on corporate boards, government-sponsored enterprises, university boards and major nonprofits, illustrating the deep talent pool already available. When members of Congress, for example, retire or even lose an election, they are often sought after as corporate board members. The process is not the same for tribal leaders who have been managing multimillion-dollar enterprises, especially large tribes such as the Navajo Nation or the Cherokee Nation.

One part of that equation is how boards recruit new members. The report Missing Pieces, a 2021 census compiled by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management, said there is an immediate impact after placing women and minorities into key positions, such as on the nominating committee. "After two years, these boards are more likely to have higher percentages of women or minorities."

Mary Smith, the Cherokee Nation citizen on the PTC Therapeutics board, said there is a need to expand the network beyond former chief executives into other areas of experience, such as tribal leadership.

"I would love to see more Native Americans on boards. And I hope that some people would start to say, 'Yeah, I could do that.' And then try to put themselves out there to be on the radar," she said. "People in the Native community have a lot to contribute to corporate boards."

Palestinians: Israeli forces kill 2 in West Bank gun battle

By MAJDI MOHAMMED Associated Press

NABLUS, West Bank (AP) — Israeli troops and special forces on an arrest mission exchanged fire with Palestinians barricaded in a house in the occupied West Bank on Sunday, Israeli police said. The local rescue service said two Palestinians were killed.

Israeli police said a number of armed Palestinians were killed during the hours-long battle deep inside the city of Nablus, without specifying. Police said no Israeli forces were wounded.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said the two men were killed in clashes with the military in Nablus and identified them as Aboud Sobh, 29, and Muhammad Al-Azizi, 22. The rescue service said 19 Palestinians

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 44 of 62

were wounded, including two critically.

Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid said the suspects had been wanted for a series of shootings.

"We won't sit and wait for Israeli citizens to be harmed," he told a meeting of his Cabinet. "We will go out and harm the terrorists in their homes."

Nabil Abu Rdeneh, spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, condemned the violence, saying it was a result of Israel's occupation of lands Palestinians seek for an independent state.

"The region will remain in a cycle of violence until the occupation is ended and a just peace achieved," he said.

The military said a violent protest broke out as troops were operating in Nablus, with protesters hurling explosive devices at soldiers and opening fire at them. The soldiers fired back, the military said.

The military said it also operated in a separate area of the West Bank, where another brief exchange of fire took place.

Israeli forces have been carrying out near-daily raids in the West Bank for months, in a bid to quell a spate of attacks by Palestinians on Israelis that has since subsided.

The military has faced resistance during some of those raids, which in several instances have turned deadly.

The Palestinian attacks on Israelis earlier this year killed 19 people. More than 60 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces since the start of the year, according to an official Palestinian tally.

The Palestinians want the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, territories Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war, for their hoped-for state.

Russia FM visits Egypt, part of Africa trip amid Ukraine war

BY SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is in Cairo for talks Sunday with Egyptian officials as his country seeks to break diplomatic isolation and sanctions by the West over its invasion of Ukraine.

Lavrov landed in Cairo late Saturday, the first leg of his Africa trip that will also include stops in Ethiopia, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, according to Russia's state-run RT.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry said Foreign Minister Sameh Shukry was holding talks with Lavrov Sunday morning.

The Russian chief diplomat was scheduled to meet later Sunday with the Arab League Secretary General Ahmed Aboul Gheit. He will also address the permanent representatives of the pan-Arab organization, RT reported.

Russia's war in Ukraine has had dire effects on the world economy, driving up oil and gas prices to unprecedented levels.

Ukraine is one of the world's largest exporters of wheat, corn and sunflower oil, but Russia's invasion of the country and naval blockade of its ports have halted shipments. Some Ukrainian grain is transported through Europe by rail, road and river, but with higher transportation costs.

The war has disrupted shipments of Russian products because shipping and insurance companies did not want to deal with Western sanctions on the country.

African counties are among those most affected by ripples of the war. The prices of vital commodities skyrocketed and billions of dollars in aid have been directed to help those who fled the war in Europe. That has left millions of people in conflict areas in Africa and the Middle East suffering from worsening growing shortages in food and other assistance.

In an article posted on the Russian Foreign Ministry website, Lavrov rejected the West accusations that Russia is responsible for the global food crisis, as "another attempt to shift the blame to others."

Seeking to rally African nations on his country's side, he hailed what he called "an independent path" such nations took when they refrained from joining the West in sanctioning Russia.

"We know that the African colleagues does not approve of the undisguised attempts of the U.S. and their European satellites to gain the upper hand, and to impose a unipolar world order to the international

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 45 of 62

community," he wrote in the article, which also was published in four African newspapers.

Lavrov's meetings with Egyptian officials and Arab envoys in Cairo come less than two weeks after U.S. President Joe Biden's Mideast trip. Biden met with the leaders of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, before convening a summit with the leaders of Arab Gulf countries, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq in Saudi Arabia.

Egypt, the Arab World's most populous country, refused to take sides since the war in Ukraine began in February as it maintains close ties with both Moscow and the West. Egypt is among the world's largest importers of wheat, with much of that from Russia and Ukraine.

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi has cultivated a close personal rapport with Russia President Vladimir Putin. Both leaders have strengthened bilateral ties considerably in the past few years.

Lavrov's visit to Cairo came as Russia's state-owned atomic energy corporation, Rosatom, began last week the construction of a four-reactor power plant it is building in Egypt.

Pope heads to Canada as Indigenous groups seek full apology

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis began a fraught visit to Canada on Sunday to apologize to Indigenous peoples for abuses by missionaries at residential schools, a key step in the Catholic Church's efforts to reconcile with Native communities and help them heal from generations of trauma.

Francis was flying to Edmonton, Alberta, where he was to be greeted on the tarmac by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mary May Simon, an Inuk who is Canada's first Indigenous governor general. Francis had no official events scheduled Sunday, giving him time to rest before his meeting Monday with survivors near the site of a former residential school in Maskwacis, where he is expected to deliver an apology.

Indigenous groups are seeking more than just words, though, as they press for access to church archives to learn the fate of children who never returned home from the residential schools. They also want justice for the abusers, financial reparations and the return of Indigenous artifacts held by the Vatican Museums.

"This apology validates our experiences and creates an opportunity for the church to repair relationships with Indigenous peoples across the world," said Grand Chief George Arcand Jr., of the Confederacy of Treaty Six. But he stressed: "It doesn't end here — there is a lot to be done. It is a beginning."

Francis' weeklong trip — which will take him to Edmonton; Quebec City and finally Iqaluit, Nunavut, in the far north — follows meetings he held in the spring at the Vatican with delegations from the First Nations, Metis and Inuit. Those meetings culminated with a historic April 1 apology for the "deplorable" abuses committed by some Catholic missionaries in residential schools.

The Canadian government has admitted that physical and sexual abuse were rampant in the state-funded Christian schools that operated from the 19th century to the 1970s. Some 150,000 Indigenous children were taken from their families and forced to attend in an effort to isolate them from the influence of their homes, Native languages and cultures and assimilate them into Canada's Christian society.

Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2015 had called for a papal apology to be delivered on Canadian soil, but it was only after the 2021 discovery of the remains of around 200 children at the former Kamloops residential school in British Columbia that the Vatican mobilized to comply with the request.

"I honestly believe that if it wasn't for the discovery ... and all the spotlight that was placed on the Oblates or the Catholic Church as well, I don't think any of this would have happened," said Raymond Frogner, head archivist at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, which serves as an online resource for research into the residential schools.

Frogner just returned from Rome where he spent five days at the headquarters of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, which operated 48 of the 139 Christian-run residential schools, the most of any Catholic order. After the graves were discovered, the Oblates finally offered "complete transparency and accountability" and allowed him into its headquarters to research the names of alleged sex abusers from a single school in the western Canadian province of Saskatchewan, he said.

While there, he found 1,000 original black-and-white photos of schools and their students, with inscrip-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 46 of 62

tions on the back, that he said would be of immense value to survivors and their families hoping to find traces of their loved ones. He said the Oblates agreed on a joint project to digitize the photographs and make them available online.

The Inuit community, for its part, is seeking Vatican assistance to extradite a single Oblate priest, the Rev. Joannes Rivoire, who ministered to Inuit communities until he left in the 1990s and returned to France. Canadian authorities issued an arrest warrant for him in 1998 on accusations of several counts of sexual abuse, but it has never been served.

Inuit leader Natan Obed personally asked Francis for the Vatican's help in extraditing Rivoire, telling The Associated Press in March that it was one specific thing the Vatican could do to bring healing to his many victims.

"This is a part of the reconciliation journey that we are on together," he said then.

Asked about the request, Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said last week that he didn't have any information on the case.

At a news conference Saturday in Edmonton, meanwhile, organizers said they will do all they can to enable school survivors to get to the papal events, particularly for the Maskwacis apology and the Tuesday gathering at Lac Ste. Anne, long a popular pilgrimage site for Indigenous Catholics.

Both are in rural areas, and organizers are arranging shuttle transport from various park-and-ride lots. They noted that many survivors are now elderly and frail and may need accessible vehicle transport, diabetic-friendly snacks and other services.

The Rev. Cristino Bouvette, national liturgical coordinator for the papal visit, who is partly of Indigenous heritage, said he hopes the visit is healing for those who "have borne a wound, a cross that they have suffered with, in some cases for generations."

Bouvette, a priest in the Diocese of Calgary, said the papal liturgical events will have strong Indigenous representation — including prominent roles for Indigenous clergy and the use of Native languages, music and motifs on liturgical vestments.

Bouvette said he's doing this work particularly in honor of his "kokum," the Cree word for grandmother, who spent 12 years at a residential school in Edmonton. She "could have probably never imagined those many years later that her grandson would be involved in this work."

Milley: China more aggressive, dangerous to US, allies

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — The Chinese military has become significantly more aggressive and dangerous over the past five years, the top U.S. military officer said during a trip to the Indo-Pacific that included a stop Sunday in Indonesia.

Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the number of intercepts by Chinese aircraft and ships in the Pacific region with U.S. and other partner forces has increased significantly over that time, and the number of unsafe interactions has risen by similar proportions.

"The message is the Chinese military, in the air and at sea, have become significantly more and noticeably more aggressive in this particular region," said Milley, who recently asked his staff to compile details about interactions between China and the U.S. and others in the region.

His comments came as the U.S. redoubles its efforts to strengthen its relationships with Pacific nations as a counterbalance to China, which is trying to expand its presence and influence in the region. The Biden administration considers China its "pacing threat" and America's primary long-term security challenge.

Milley's trip to the region is sharply focused on the China threat. He will attend a meeting of Indo-Pacific chiefs of defense this week in Sydney, Australia, where key topics will be China's escalating military growth and the need to maintain a free, open and peaceful Pacific.

U.S. military officials have also raised alarms about the possibility that China could invade Taiwan, the democratic, self-ruled island that Beijing views as a breakaway province. China has stepped up its military provocations against Taiwan as it looks to intimidate it into unifying with the communist mainland.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 47 of 62

U.S. military officials have said Beijing wants to be ready to make a move on the island by 2027. The U.S. remains Taiwan's chief ally and supplier of defense weapons. U.S. law requires the government to treat all threats to the island as matters of "grave concern," but remains ambiguous on whether the U.S. military would defend Taiwan if it were attacked by China.

China's top military officer, Gen. Li Zuocheng told Milley in a July 7 call that Beijing had "no room for compromise" on issues such as Taiwan. He said he told Milley that the U.S. must "cease U.S.-Taiwan military collusion and avoid impacting China-U.S. ties and stability in the Taiwan Strait."

The U.S. and others are also worried that a recent security agreement that Beijing signed in April with the Solomon Islands could lead to the establishment of a Chinese naval base in the South Pacific. The U.S. and Australia have told the Solomon Islands that hosting a Chinese military base would not be tolerated.

"This is an area in which China is trying to do outreach for their own purposes. And again, this is concerning because China is not doing it just for benign reasons," Milley told reporters traveling with him. "They're trying to expand their influence throughout the region. And that has potential consequences that are not necessarily favorable to our allies and partners in the region."

Milley's visit to Indonesia is the first by a U.S. joint chiefs chairman since Adm. Mike Mullen in 2008. But U.S. leaders have crisscrossed the Asia-Pacific in recent months, including high-profile visits by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

The Biden administration has been taking steps to expand its military and security relationship with Indo-Pacific nations as part of a campaign to build a stronger network of alliances in China's backyard and counter China's growing influence.

Milley declined to provide specific numbers of unsafe Chinese interactions with U.S. and allied aircraft and ships. But Austin, in a speech in Singapore last month, referred to an "alarming increase" in the number of unsafe intercepts by People's Liberation Army aircraft and vessels.

Austin specifically pointed to a February incident where a PLA navy ship directed a laser at an Australian P-8 maritime patrol aircraft. But there have been a number of others. A surveillance aircraft controlled by Canada was recently intercepted by a Chinese fighter in international airspace. And U.S. ships are routinely dogged by Chinese aircraft and vessels during transits, particularly around manmade islands claimed by Beijing in the South China Sea.

Milley said there have been Chinese intercepts with Japan, Canada, Australia, Philippines and Vietnam. They all, he said, have seen a "statistically significant" increase in intercepts, and the number of unsafe incidents has increased by an "equal proportion."

Milley, who will meet with Gen. Andika Perkasa, chief of the Indonesian National Defence Forces, said Pacific nations like Indonesia want the U.S. military involved and engaged in the region.

"We want to work with them to develop interoperability and modernize our militaries collectively," Milley said, in order to ensure they can "meet whatever challenge that China poses."

He said Indonesia is strategically critical to the region, and has long been a key U.S. partner.

Earlier this year, the U.S. approved a \$13.9 billion sale of advanced fighter jets to Indonesia. And in Jakarta last December, Blinken signed agreements for enhanced joint naval exercises between the U.S. and Indonesia.

China has condemned U.S. efforts to expand its outreach in the region, accusing America of trying to build an "Asian NATO." During a speech in Singapore, Austin rejected that claim. "We do not seek a new Cold War, an Asian NATO or a region split into hostile blocs," he said.

Marvel teases new Avengers movies, 'Black Panther' sequel

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

Marvel Studios unveiled the first trailer for "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" — set to "No Woman No Cry" — to fans at Comic-Con on Saturday in San Diego.

It was just one part of the massive Hall H presentation, which also included first-looks at "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3," "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" and new information about Phase 6 of the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 48 of 62

Marvel Cinematic Universe, which will conclude with two Avengers movies in 2025: "Avengers: The Kang Dynasty" and "Avengers: Secret Wars."

"Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" director Ryan Coogler was on site in San Diego to preview the highly anticipated film, which is due to arrive in theaters on Nov. 11 and serve as the conclusion to Phase 4. Coogler paid tribute to Chadwick Boseman, who died in August 2020.

"The impact that he made on this industry will be felt forever," Coogler said.

After the massive success of "Black Panther" in 2018, plans for a sequel were quickly set into motion. But those were altered after Boseman's unexpected death from colon cancer. The studio said it would not recast Boseman's role of T'Challa, but very little has come out about the film in the years since. Production wrapped in March after several delays, one of which was due to an injury sustained by Letitia Wright, who plays T'Challa's brainy sister Shuri. Also returning are Lupita Nyong'o, Danai Gurira, Winston Duke and Angela Bassett, but not Daniel Kaluuya, whose "Nope" schedule conflicted.

Phase 5, Marvel Studios head Kevin Feige said, will kick off in February with "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" and conclude with "Thunderbolts" in July 2024. The new "Blade," starring Oscar-winner Mahershala Ali, also got a release date of Nov. 3, 2023, and "Captain America and the New World Order," featuring Anthony Mackie's Sam Wilson, will hit theaters on May 3, 2024.

The "Guardians of the Galaxy" will also come to an end in the midst of Phase 5 in May. Director James Gunn showed up in San Diego to confirm that "Vol. 3" would be the last for the space rogues. Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Karen Gillan and Dave Bautista are all returning for the film. New cast members include Will Poulter, as Guardians adversary Adam Warlock, and Maria Bakalova.

Paul Rudd, Evangeline Lilly, Jonathan Majors and director Peyton Reed made the trip to San Diego to show some footage from "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania."

Phase 6 will launch with a new "Fantastic Four" movie on Nov. 8, 2024, and finish with "Avengers: The Kang Dynasty," set for May 2, 2025, followed by "Avengers: Secret Wars," on Nov. 7, 2025.

Marvel also showed trailers for Disney+ series such as "Secret Invasion," with Samuel L. Jackson as Nick Fury and Cobie Smulders as Agent Maria Hill, due in the spring, and the half-hour comedy "She-Hulk: Attorney at Law," starring Tatiana Maslany, debuting in August. The second season of "Loki" is also expected next summer.

Comic-Con runs through Sunday.

Governor declares emergency over wildfire near Yosemite

By NOAH BERGER and JOCELYN GECKER Associated Press

WAWONA, Calif. (AP) — A fast-moving brush fire near Yosemite National Park exploded in size Saturday into one of California's largest wildfires of the year, prompting evacuation orders for thousands of people and shutting off power to more than 2,000 homes and businesses.

The Oak Fire started Friday afternoon southwest of the park near the town of Midpines in Mariposa County and by Saturday had grown to nearly 19 square miles (48 square kilometers), according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire. It erupted as firefighters made progress against an earlier blaze that burned to the edge of a grove of giant sequoias in the southernmost part of Yosemite park.

Evacuation orders were put in effect Saturday for over 6,000 people living across a several-mile span in the sparsely populated, rural area, said Daniel Patterson, a spokesman for the Sierra National Forest.

Gov. Gavin Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency for Mariposa County on Saturday due to the effects of the Oak Fire.

More than 400 firefighters were battling the blaze, along with helicopters, other aircraft and bulldozers, facing tough conditions that included hot weather, low humidity and bone-dry vegetation caused by the worst drought in decades, Patterson said.

"Explosive fire behavior is challenging firefighters," Cal Fire said in a statement Saturday that described the Oak Fire's activity as "extreme with frequent runs, spot fires and group torching."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 49 of 62

By Saturday morning, the fire had destroyed 10 residential and commercial structures, damaged five others and was threatening 2,000 more structures, Cal Fire said. The blaze prompted numerous road closures, including a shutdown of Highway 140 between Carstens Road and Allred Road — blocking one of the main routes into Yosemite.

California has experienced increasingly larger and deadlier wildfires in recent years as climate change has made the West much warmer and drier over the past 30 years. Scientists have said weather will continue to be more extreme and wildfires more frequent, destructive and unpredictable.

"The fire is moving quickly. This fire was throwing embers out in front of itself for up to 2 miles yesterday," Patterson said. "These are exceptional fire conditions." The cause of the fire was under investigation.

Pacific Gas & Electric said on its website that more than 2,600 homes and businesses in the area had lost power as of Friday afternoon and there was no indication when it would be restored. "PG&E is unable to access the affected equipment," the utility said.

A shoeless older man attempting to flee the blaze on Friday crashed his sedan into a ditch in a closed area and was helped by firefighters. He was safely driven from the area and did not appear to suffer any injuries. Several other residents stayed in their homes Friday night as the fire burned nearby.

Meanwhile, firefighters have made significant progress against a wildfire that began in Yosemite National Park and burned into the Sierra National Forest.

The Washburn Fire was 79% contained Friday after burning about 7.5 square miles (19.4 square kilometers) of forest. It was one of the largest fires of the year in California, along with the Lost Lake Fire in Riverside County that was fully contained in June at 9 square miles (23 square kilometers)

The fire broke out July 7 and forced the closure of the southern entrance to Yosemite and evacuation of the community of Wawona as it burned on the edge of Mariposa Grove, home to hundreds of giant sequoias, the world's largest trees by volume.

Wawona Road is tentatively set to reopen on Saturday, according to the park website.

Parents, 6-year-old girl fatally shot in tent at Iowa park

By AMY FORLITI Associated Press

A 9-year-old boy who was camping at an Iowa state park with his parents and 6-year-old sister survived a shooting that killed the rest of his family.

The Iowa Department of Public Safety identified the victims as Tyler Schmidt, 42; his 42-year-old wife, Sarah Schmidt; and their 6-year-old daughter, Lula Schmidt, all of Cedar Falls, Iowa. Their bodies were found in their tent early Friday at the Maquoketa Caves State Park Campground, about 180 miles (290 kilometers) east of Des Moines.

Authorities said the suspected gunman, 23-year-old Anthony Sherwin, was found dead Friday in a wooded area of the park with a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Mitch Mortvedt, assistant director of the Department of Public Safety's division of criminal investigation, told The Associated Press on Saturday that the motive for the attack was still unknown.

"We don't know what led up to this, what precipitated it," he said, adding that so far, "the investigation has not revealed any early interaction between the Schmidt family and him."

Adam Morehouse, Sarah Schmidt's brother, said the family had no connection to Sherwin and he believed it was a "completely random act."

Cedar Falls Mayor Rob Green, who said he is a neighbor of the Schmidts, posted on Facebook on Friday that the couple's 9-year-old son, Arlo, "survived the attack, and is safe." The post did not say whether Arlo was in the tent or even at the campsite when the shootings happened, and the mayor told the AP he didn't have those details.

Morehouse confirmed Arlo was on the family's camping trip, but said he did not know exactly where the boy was at the time of the shooting or know specifics about how it unfolded.

"He is with family and he is OK, but I have not had any interaction with him," Morehouse said Saturday.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 50 of 62

"As far as I know, he was uninjured physically."

By Saturday evening, more than \$75,000 had flowed into a GoFundMe page created for Arlo. The page, organized by a cousin, Beth Shapiro, said: "Arlo is a strong boy, surrounded by family and friends who are supporting him as best we can." The page says the fund will help Arlo now, and help fund his future education.

The killings prompted the evacuation of the park and campground, including a children's summer camp. After the evacuations, Sherwin was the only person unaccounted for, Mortvedt said.

He said that during the course of the investigation, authorities learned Sherwin was armed and "that of course heightened our awareness." Iowa allows people with permits to carry firearms virtually anywhere in the state. Officials did not say if Sherwin had a permit and provided no information about the firearm used to kill the Schmidts.

The Des Moines Register reported that Sherwin was from La Vista, Nebraska. La Vista Police Chief Bob Lausten told the newspaper that Sherwin lived in an apartment complex with his parents and had no history of criminal conduct.

Felicia Coe, 35, of Des Moines, was at the campground Friday morning with her boyfriend and his two sons, ages 11 and 16. She said the 16-year-old went out early to go running, and she was talking with someone at the park at about 6:30 a.m. when two park rangers dressed in helmets, vests and carrying what looked like automatic rifles told them to leave the campground.

More law enforcement and an ambulance showed up as Coe went to find her boyfriend's teenage son. At the time, Coe did not know what happened. But she recalls seeing a little boy standing near the paramedics.

"He was in his pajamas. I distinctly remember he had one blue tennis shoe," she said. She later saw a picture of the Schmidt family online and said she recognized the boy she saw as Arlo.

"He's got this really cute, floppy-curly, moppy, strawberry-blond hair that's really distinguishable," Coe said. "He was in these super cute little pajamas, like a cotton T-shirt and shorts that matched. ... He was just standing there. He wasn't crying. He wasn't distraught. But he also wasn't being comforted. He was just standing there by himself."

She said the campers got little information about what happened and she began piecing it together on the drive home.

"It's hard to be so grateful that it wasn't your family, when you know that another family, is just being ripped apart — multiple families," she said.

Green, the Cedar Falls mayor, said Sarah Schmidt worked at the city's Public Library, which was closed Saturday.

"Like many of you just hearing the news, I'm devastated," Green wrote on Facebook. "I knew Sarah well, and she & her family were regular walkers here in the Sartori Park neighborhood. I was working with her this week on a public library tech presentation for 7/26."

Morehouse said Tyler Schmidt's parents live in the Cedar Falls area, and Sarah Schmidt's family members are scattered around the country, but were heading to Iowa. He said Tyler and Sarah lived in Lawrence, Kansas, for a time, where Sarah worked at the University of Kansas. Tyler was an IT software engineer. At one point, he said, Sarah worked on a project about monarch butterflies, and the couple were huge Kansas Jayhawks fans.

In 2018, the Schmidts moved to Cedar Falls and had been active in the community ever since, Morehouse said. He said they loved the outdoors, and just got four pairs of snowshoes for Christmas.

"The best way to describe all four of them was the quintessential Midwestern family. They gave everybody everything they possibly could. They loved family ... They enjoyed the outdoors, enjoyed the hiking — and this is just a question mark of 'Why that campground and that campsite on that night?'"

Investigators: Attacker 'did not know who' Zeldin was

By DAVID PORTER Associated Press

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 51 of 62

A man accused of attacking New York GOP gubernatorial candidate Lee Zeldin during a recent campaign rally told investigators he'd been drinking that day and didn't know who the congressman was, authorities said as the man was arrested on a federal assault charge Saturday.

David Jakubonis, 43, made an initial court appearance Saturday before a federal magistrate judge in Rochester, New York, on a single count of assaulting a member of Congress with a dangerous weapon. The charge carries a potential maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

He was ordered held until a bail hearing in federal court Wednesday. Prosecutors said he should remain detained as a flight risk and is dangerous, according to a court filing. Assistant federal public defender Steven Slawinski, representing Jakubonis, said in an email to The Associated Press that he planned to ask the judge to release Jakubonis from custody.

Jakubonis was arraigned Friday on a separate state charge of attempted assault in the second degree and was released by a local judge. That prompted criticism from Zeldin and other Republicans who held it up as an example of the need to reform New York's bail laws, something Zeldin has called on Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul to toughen.

A 2019 bail reform law in New York eliminated pretrial incarceration for people accused of most nonviolent offenses. The law gives judges the option to set bail in nearly all cases involving violent felonies, but it has exceptions for certain attempted felonies like attempted assault.

The federal criminal complaint filed Saturday alleged Jakubonis, an Iraq War veteran, told investigators he was drinking whiskey on Thursday before he went onstage as Zeldin addressed a Veterans of Foreign Wars post in the town of Perinton to ask the speaker if he was disrespecting veterans.

Jakubonis "did not know who the speaker was or that the speaker was a political person," according to the complaint. The complaint added that when Jakubonis watched video of Thursday evening's incident he told investigators he "must have checked out" and that what was depicted in the video was disgusting.

According to video of the attack, Jakubonis raised his arm toward Zeldin as he held a keychain with two sharp points. The congressman from Long Island then grabbed Jakubonis' wrist and the two tussled to the ground as others jumped in to help. Zeldin, who also served in the military, suffered a minor scrape.

Russia hits Ukraine's Black Sea port despite grain deal

By SUSIE BLANN Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian missiles hit Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odesa just hours after Moscow and Kyiv signed deals to allow grain exports to resume from there. Ukraine's Foreign Ministry denounced Saturday's airstrikes as a "spit in the face" to Turkey and the United Nations, which brokered the agreements.

Two Russian Kalibr cruise missiles hit the port's infrastructure and Ukrainian air defenses brought down two others, the Ukrainian military's Southern Command said. Odesa regional governor Maksym Marchenko said an unspecified number of people were injured in the attack.

Command spokeswoman Nataliya Humenyuk said no grain storage facilities were hit in Odesa. Turkey's defense minister, however, said he had spoken with Ukrainian authorities and one missile struck a grain silo and another landed nearby but neither affected loading at Odesa's docks.

"It took less than 24 hours for Russia to launch a missile attack on Odesa's port, breaking its promises and undermining its commitments before the U.N. and Turkey under the Istanbul agreement," Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleg Nikolenko said. "In case of non-fulfillment, Russia will bear full responsibility for a global food crisis."

"The invaders can no longer deceive anyone," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address.

Nikolenko described the missile strike on the 150th day of Russia's war in Ukraine as Russian President Vladimir Putin's "spit in the face of U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who made great efforts to reach agreement."

Guterres' office said the U.N. chief "unequivocally condemns" the strikes.

"Yesterday, all parties made clear commitments on the global stage to ensure the safe movement of

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 52 of 62

Ukrainian grain and related products to global markets," the Guterres statement said. "These products are desperately needed to address the global food crisis and ease the suffering of millions of people."

It was not clear how Saturday's Russian airstrikes would affect the plan to resume shipping Ukrainian grain by sea in safe corridors out of three Ukrainian Black Sea ports: Odesa, Chernomorsk and Yuzhny. Ukraine and Russia signed identical deals Friday with the U.N. and Turkey in Istanbul backing the plan, which Guterres hailed as "a beacon of hope" for a world in which food prices are rising rapidly.

The agreements sought to clear the way for the shipment of millions of tons of Ukrainian grain and some Russian exports of grain and fertilizer that have been blocked by the war. Ukraine is one of the world's largest exporters of wheat, corn and sunflower oil, but Russia's invasion and naval blockade of its ports halted shipments.

Documents obtained by The Associated Press showed the deals called for the creation of a U.N.-led joint coordination center in Istanbul where officials from Ukraine, Russia and Turkey would oversee the scheduling and searches of cargo ships.

Zelenskyy previously called the agreements "a chance to prevent a global catastrophe — a famine that could lead to political chaos in many countries of the world, in particular in the countries that help us."

The head of Zelenskyy's office, Andriy Yermak, said on Twitter that the Odesa strike, coming so soon after the endorsement of the Black Sea deal, illustrated "the Russian diplomatic dichotomy."

U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Bridget Brink denounced the strike on Odesa's port as "outrageous."

"The Kremlin continues to weaponize food," she tweeted. "Russia must be held to account."

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the attack casts serious doubt on the credibility of Russia's commitment to the deal and undermines the work of the U.N., Turkey and Ukraine.

"Russia bears responsibility for deepening the global food crisis and must stop its aggression and fully implement the deal to which it has agreed," he said.

Russia also fired a barrage of missiles Saturday at an airfield and a railway facility in central Ukraine, killing at least three people, while Ukrainian forces launched rocket strikes on river crossings in a Russian-occupied southern region.

The attacks on key infrastructure marked new attempts by the warring parties to tip the scales of the grinding conflict in their favor.

In Ukraine's central Kirovohradska region, 13 Russian missiles struck an airfield and a railway facility. Gov. Andriy Raikovych said at least one serviceman and two guards were killed and another 16 people were wounded in the strikes near the city of Kirovohrad.

In the southern Kherson region, which Russian troops seized early in the invasion, Ukrainian forces preparing for a potential counteroffensive fired rockets at Dnieper River crossings to try to disrupt Russian supply lines. Still, Russian troops have largely held their ground in the Kherson region just north of the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed in 2014.

In the Zaporizhzhia region, Russian forces at a checkpoint are blocking 1,200 vehicles carrying people fleeing the area and four people have died after being stranded there for days amid high heat, said Ivan Fedorov, mayor of the city of Melitopol, which is now under Russian control.

In the key port city of Mykolaiv, Mayor Oleksandr Senkevych said two people were wounded when Russian rockets struck an apartment building.

Fighting also raged unabated in eastern Ukraine's industrial heartland of the Donbas, where Russian forces tried to make new gains in the face of stiff Ukrainian resistance.

Earlier this week Ukraine bombarded the Antonivskiy Bridge across the Dnieper River using the U.S.-supplied High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, said Kirill Stremousov, deputy head of the Russia-appointed regional administration in Kherson.

Stremousov told Russian state news agency Tass that the only other crossing of the Dnieper, the dam of the Kakhovka hydroelectric plant, also came under attack from rockets launched with weapons supplied by Washington but wasn't damaged.

HIMARS, which can fire GPS-guided rockets at targets 80 kilometers (50 miles) away, out of reach of

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 53 of 62

most Russian artillery systems, have significantly bolstered the Ukrainian strike capability.

In addition, Ukrainian forces shelled an automobile bridge across the Inhulets River in the village of Darivka, Stremousov told Tass. He said the bridge east of the regional capital of Kherson sustained seven hits but remained open. Stremousov said that, unlike the Antonivskyi Bridge, the small bridge in Darivka has no strategic value.

Since April, the Kremlin has concentrated on capturing the Donbas, a mostly Russian-speaking region where pro-Moscow separatists have proclaimed independence.

However, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov emphasized this week that Moscow plans to retain control of other areas in Ukraine that its forces have occupied during the war.

Warner Bros. brings 'Black Adam,' 'Shazam! 2' to Comic-Con

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

Dwayne Johnson went a few steps beyond merely teasing his long-awaited "Black Adam" movie at Comic-Con in San Diego on Saturday.

Ever the showman, Johnson brought a new trailer for the DC Comics superhero film and some flashy technology, lighting up the biggest room at the annual fan convention all while in costume. But he had another big reveal too: Johnson told the 6,000-some people in the audience that they could see "Black Adam" in IMAX for free with the help of the ticketing service Fandango.

The character Black Adam has the powers of the ancient gods and has been entombed for some 5,000 years before being released into the modern world. In the trailer he says his powers are "a curse, not a gift."

Set for an Oct. 21 theatrical release, "Black Adam" reunites Johnson with his "Jungle Cruise" director Jaume Collet-Serra. It also stars Aldis Hodge as Hawkman, Noah Centineo as Atom Smasher and Quintessa Swindell as Cyclone, all of whom joined Johnson and Collet-Serra for the panel.

"Black Adam" was just one part of Warner Bros. return to Comic-Con, where audiences also got a glimpse at a new trailer for "Shazam! Fury of the Gods." Stars Zachary Levi and Lucy Liu were on hand to promote the sequel, which is due to arrive in theaters on Dec. 21 and continues the story of a teenager-turned-superhero who is feeling a bit like a fraud. The film sees the return of Asher Angel, Jack Dylan Grazer and Adam Brody and adds Helen Mirren and Rachel Zegler of "West Side Story" to the mix.

The studio stuck to its 2022 superhero releases, forgoing sneak peeks at films due next year. One of those is "The Flash," whose star Ezra Miller was arrested in Hawaii twice this year — in a disorderly conduct case and on suspicion of assault.

Miller plays Barry Allen in the Andy Muschietti-directed film, which has wrapped production and is supposed to open in June 2023. They have been credited as the first out LGBT person to play a lead role in a major superhero film.

Pope's Indigenous tour signals a rethink of mission legacy

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis' trip to Canada to apologize for the horrors of church-run Indigenous residential schools marks a radical rethink of the Catholic Church's missionary legacy, spurred on by the first pope from the Americas and the discovery of hundreds of probable graves at the school sites.

Francis has said his weeklong visit, which begins Sunday, is a "penitential pilgrimage" to beg forgiveness on Canadian soil for the "evil" done to Native peoples by Catholic missionaries. It follows his April 1 apology in the Vatican for the generations of trauma Indigenous peoples suffered as a result of a church-enforced policy to eliminate their culture and assimilate them into Canadian, Christian society.

Francis' tone of personal repentance has signaled a notable shift for the papacy, which has long acknowledged abuses in the residential schools and strongly asserted the rights and dignity of Indigenous peoples. But past popes have also hailed the sacrifice and holiness of the European Catholic missionaries who brought Christianity to the Americas — something Francis, too, has done but isn't expected to

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 54 of 62

emphasize during this trip.

Cardinal Michael Czerny, a Canadian Jesuit who is a top papal adviser, recalled that early on in his papacy, Francis asserted that no single culture can claim a hold on Christianity, and that the church cannot demand that people on other continents imitate the European way of expressing the faith.

"If this conviction had been accepted by everyone involved in the centuries after the 'discovery' of the Americas, much suffering would have been avoided, great developments would have occurred and the Americas would be all-around better," he told The Associated Press in an email.

The trip won't be easy for the 85-year-old Francis or for residential school survivors and their families. Francis can no longer walk without assistance and will be using a wheelchair and cane because of painful strained knee ligaments. Trauma experts are being deployed at all events to provide mental health assistance for school survivors, given the likelihood of triggering memories.

"It is an understatement to say there are mixed emotions," said Chief Desmond Bull of the Louis Bull Tribe, one of the First Nations that are part of the Maskwacis territory where Francis will deliver his first sweeping apology on Monday near the site of a former residential school.

The Canadian government has admitted that physical and sexual abuse were rampant in the state-funded, Christian schools that operated from the 19th century to the 1970s. Some 150,000 Indigenous children were taken from their families and forced to attend in an effort to isolate them from the influence of their homes, Native languages and cultures.

The legacy of that abuse and isolation from family has been cited by Indigenous leaders as a root cause of the epidemic rates of alcohol and drug addiction on Canadian reservations.

"For survivors from coast to coast, this is an opportunity — the first and maybe the last — to perhaps find some closure for themselves and their families," said Chief Randy Ermineskin of the Ermineskin Cree Nation.

"This will be a difficult process but a necessary one," he said.

Unlike most papal trips, diplomatic protocols are taking a back seat to personal encounters with First Nations, Metis and Inuit survivors. Francis doesn't formally meet with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau until midway through, in Quebec City, although Trudeau will greet him on the tarmac upon his arrival Sunday.

Francis is also ending the trip in unusual style, stopping in Iqaluit, Nunavut — the farthest north he's ever traveled — to bring his apology to the Inuit community before flying back to Rome.

As recently as 2018, Francis had refused to personally apologize for residential school abuses, even after Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2015 documented institutional blame and specifically recommended a papal apology delivered on Canadian soil.

Trudeau traveled to the Vatican in 2017 to appeal to Francis to apologize, but the pontiff felt "he could not personally respond" to the call, Canadian bishops said at the time.

What changed? The first pope from the Americas, who has long defended the rights of Indigenous peoples, had already apologized in Bolivia in 2015 for colonial-era crimes against Native peoples.

In 2019, Francis — an Argentine Jesuit — hosted a big Vatican conference on the Amazon highlighting that injustices Native peoples suffered during colonial times were still continuing, with their lands and resources exploited by corporate interests.

Then in 2021, the remains of around 200 children were found at the site of what was once Canada's largest Indigenous residential school, in Kamloops, British Columbia. More probable graves followed outside other former residential schools.

"It was only when our children were beginning to be found in mass graves, garnering international attention, that light was brought to this painful period in our history," said Bull, the Louis Bull Tribe chief.

After the discovery, Francis finally agreed to meet with Indigenous delegations last spring and promised to come to their lands to apologize in person.

"Obviously there are wounds that remained open and require a response," Vatican spokesman Matteo Brunetti said, when asked about the evolution of the papal response.

One of those wounds concerns the papal influences in the Doctrine of Discovery, the 19th-century inter-

national legal concept that is often understood as legitimizing the European colonial seizure of land and resources from Native peoples.

For decades, Indigenous peoples have demanded the Holy See formally rescind the 15th century papal bulls, or decrees, that gave European kingdoms the religious backing to claim lands that their explorers "discovered" for the sake of spreading the Christian faith.

Church officials have long rejected those concepts, insisted the decrees merely sought to ensure European expansion would be peaceful, and said they had been surpassed by subsequent church teachings strongly affirming the dignity and rights of Indigenous peoples.

But the matter is still raw for Michelle Schenandoah, a member of the Oneida Nation Wolf Clan, who was the last person to address the pope when the First Nations delegation met with him on March 31.

Wearing a cradle board on her back to represent the children whose lives were lost in residential schools, she told him the Doctrine of Discovery had "led to the continual taking of our babies."

"It deprived us of our dignity, our freedom, and led to the exploitation of our Mother Earth," she said. She begged Francis to "release the world from its place of enslavement" caused by the decrees.

Asked about the calls, Bruni said there was an articulated "reflection" under way in the Holy See but he didn't think anything would be announced during this trip.

Doctor: Biden likely has highly contagious COVID-19 strain

By CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden likely contracted a highly contagious variant of the coronavirus spreading rapidly through the United States, and now has body aches and a sore throat since his positive test, according to an update from his doctor on Saturday.

The variant, known as BA.5, is an offshoot of the omicron strain that emerged late last year, and it's believed to be responsible for the vast majority of coronavirus cases in the country.

Dr. Kevin O'Connor, the president's physician, wrote in his latest update on Biden's condition that Biden's earlier symptoms, including a runny nose and a cough, have become "less troublesome." O'Connor's earlier notes did not mention the sore throat or body aches.

Biden's vital signs, such as blood pressure and respiratory rate, "remain entirely normal," and his oxygen saturation levels are "excellent" with "no shortness of breath at all," the doctor wrote.

O'Connor said the results of the preliminary sequencing that indicated the BA.5 variant do not affect Biden's treatment plan "in any way."

Biden tested positive for the virus on Thursday morning. He has been isolating in the White House residence since then. Administration officials have emphasized that his symptoms are mild because he has received four vaccine doses, and he started taking the antiviral drug Paxlovid after becoming infected.

During a virtual meeting with economic advisers on Friday, Biden was hoarse but insisted, "I feel much better than I sound."

In his previous update on Biden's health, O'Connor said the president had an elevated temperature of 99.4 F on Thursday evening, but it returned to normal after taking Tylenol.

UN health agency chief declares monkeypox a global emergency

By MARIA CHENG AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — The expanding monkeypox outbreak in more than 70 countries is an "extraordinary" situation that qualifies as a global emergency, the World Health Organization chief said Saturday, a declaration that could spur further investment in treating the once-rare disease and worsen the scramble for scarce vaccines.

A global emergency is WHO's highest level of alert but the designation does not necessarily mean a disease is particularly transmissible or lethal. Similar declarations were made for the Zika virus in 2016 in Latin America and the ongoing effort to eradicate polio, in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic and the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 56 of 62

2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus made the decision on calling monkeypox a global emergency despite a lack of consensus among experts on the U.N. health agency's emergency committee, saying he acted as "a tiebreaker." It was the first time a U.N. health agency chief has unilaterally made such a decision without an expert recommendation.

"We have an outbreak that has spread around the world rapidly through new modes of transmission, about which we understand too little," Tedros said. "I know this has not been an easy or straightforward process and that there are divergent views."

WHO's emergencies chief, Dr. Michael Ryan, said the director-general declared monkeypox a global emergency to ensure that the world takes the current outbreaks seriously.

Although monkeypox has been established in parts of central and west Africa for decades, it was not known to spark large outbreaks beyond the continent or to spread widely among people until May, when authorities detected dozens of epidemics in Europe, North America and elsewhere.

Last month, WHO's expert committee said the monkeypox outbreak did not yet amount to an international emergency, but the panel convened this week to reevaluate the situation.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 16,000 cases of monkeypox have been reported in 74 countries since about May. To date, monkeypox deaths have only been reported in Africa, where a more dangerous version of the virus is spreading, mainly in Nigeria and Congo.

In Africa, monkeypox mainly spreads to people by infected wild animals like rodents in limited outbreaks that typically have not crossed borders. In Europe, North America and elsewhere, however, monkeypox is spreading among people with no links to animals or recent travel to Africa.

WHO's top monkeypox expert, Dr. Rosamund Lewis, said this week that 99% of all the monkeypox cases beyond Africa were in men and that of those, 98% involved men who have sex with men. Experts suspect the monkeypox outbreaks in Europe and North America were spread via sex at two raves in Belgium and Spain.

"Although I am declaring a public health emergency of international concern for the moment, this is an outbreak that is concentrated among men who have sex with men, especially those with multiple sexual partners," Tedros said. "That means that this is an outbreak that can be stopped with the right strategies."

Britain recently downgraded its assessment of monkeypox after seeing no signs of widespread transmission beyond men who are gay, bisexual or have sex with other men and noting the disease does not spread easily or cause severe illness.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it was "supportive" of WHO's emergency declaration and hoped it would galvanize international action to stamp out the outbreaks. The U.S. has reported more than 2,800 monkeypox cases and sent more than 370,000 vaccine doses to U.S. states reporting cases.

Some experts had questioned whether such a declaration would help, arguing the disease isn't severe enough to warrant the attention and that rich countries battling monkeypox already have the funds to do so. Most people recover without needing medical attention, although the lesions may be painful.

Michael Head, a senior research fellow in global health at Southampton University, said WHO's emergency declaration could help donors like the World Bank make funds available to stop the outbreaks both in the West and in Africa.

In the U.S., some experts have speculated whether monkeypox might be on the verge of becoming an entrenched sexually transmitted disease in the country, like gonorrhea, herpes and HIV.

"The bottom line is we've seen a shift in the epidemiology of monkeypox where there's now widespread, unexpected transmission," said Dr. Albert Ko, a professor of public health and epidemiology at Yale University. "There are some genetic mutations in the virus that suggest why that may be happening, but we do need a globally-coordinated response to get it under control."

Ko called for testing to be immediately scaled up, saying there are significant gaps in surveillance.

"The cases we are seeing are just the tip of the iceberg," he said. "The window has probably closed

for us to quickly stop the outbreaks in Europe and the U.S., but it's not too late to stop monkeypox from causing huge damage to poorer countries without the resources to handle it."

WHO's Tedros called for the world to "act together in solidarity" regarding the distribution of treatments, tests and vaccines for monkeypox. The U.N. agency has previously said it's working to create a vaccine-sharing mechanism for the most-affected countries, but offered few details of how it might work. Unlike the numerous companies that made COVID-19 vaccines, there is only one maker for the vaccine used against monkeypox, Denmark's Bavarian Nordic.

Dr. Placide Mbala, a virologist who directs the global health department at Congo's Institute of National Biomedical Research, said he hoped any global efforts to stop monkeypox would be equitable. Although countries including Britain, Canada, Germany and the U.S. have ordered millions of monkeypox vaccine doses, none have gone to Africa.

"The solution needs to be global," Mbala said, adding that any vaccines sent to Africa would be used to target those at highest risk, like hunters in rural areas.

"Vaccination in the West might help stop the outbreak there, but there will still be cases in Africa," he said. "Unless the problem is solved here, the risk to the rest of the world will remain."

Rights groups urge Sri Lanka not to use force on protesters

By BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — International human rights groups on Saturday urged Sri Lanka's new president to immediately order security forces to cease use of force against protesters after troops and police cleared their main camp following months of demonstrations over the country's economic meltdown.

A day after President Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn, hundreds of armed troops raided a protest camp outside the president's office in the early hours of Friday, attacking demonstrators with batons. Human Rights Watch said the action "sends a dangerous message to the Sri Lankan people that the new government intends to act through brute force rather than the rule of law."

Two journalists and two lawyers were also attacked by soldiers in the crackdown. Security forces arrested 11 people, including protesters and lawyers.

"Urgently needed measures to address the economic needs of Sri Lankans demand a government that respects fundamental rights," Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement. "Sri Lanka's international partners should send the message loud and clear that they can't support an administration that tramples on the rights of its people."

Also condemning the attack, Amnesty International said "it is shameful that the new government resorted to such violent tactics within hours of coming to power."

"The protesters have a right to demonstrate peacefully. Excessive use of force, intimidation and unlawful arrests seem to be an endlessly repetitive pattern in which the Sri Lankan authorities respond to dissent and peaceful assembly," said Kyle Ward, the group's deputy secretary general.

Wickremesinghe, who previously served as prime minister six times, was sworn in as president a week after his predecessor, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, fled the country. Rajapaksa later resigned while exiled in Singapore.

Sri Lankans have taken to the streets for months to demand their top leaders step down to take responsibility for the economic chaos that has left the nation's 22 million people struggling with shortages of essentials, including medicine, fuel and food. While the protesters have focused on the Rajapaksa's family, Wickremesinghe also has drawn their ire as a perceived Rajapaksa surrogate.

Armed troops and police arrived in trucks and buses on Friday to clear the main protest camp the capital, Colombo, even though protesters had announced they would vacate the site voluntarily.

Sri Lanka's opposition, the United Nations, and the U.S. have denounced the government's heavy-handed tactics.

Despite heightened security outside the president's office, protesters have vowed to continue until Wickremesinghe resigns.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 58 of 62

On Friday, he appointed as prime minister a Rajapaksa ally, Dinesh Gunawardena.

Wickremesinghe on Monday declared a state of emergency as acting president in a bid to quell the protests. Just hours after he was sworn in, he issued a notice calling on the armed forces to maintain law and order — clearing the way for the move against the protest camp.

The protesters accuse Rajapaksa and his powerful family of siphoning money from government coffers and of hastening the country's collapse by mismanaging the economy. The family has denied the corruption allegations, but the former president acknowledged that some of his policies contributed to Sri Lanka's crisis.

The political turmoil has threatened efforts to seek rescue from the International Monetary Fund. Still, earlier this week, Wickremesinghe said bailout talks were nearing a conclusion.

The head of the IMF, Kristalina Georgieva, told the Japanese financial magazine Nikkei Asia this week that the IMF hopes for a deal "as quickly as possible."

Nielsen says 17.7 million watched Thursday's Jan. 6 hearing

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — An estimated 17.7 million viewers watched Thursday night's hearing of the House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

The Nielsen Company said that is second to the 20 million who saw the first committee hearing on June 9, the only other one of the eight sessions held in prime time.

Ten networks aired this past week's hearing live, down from the 11 that showed the June 9 session. The conservative network Newsmax dropped out this time.

The six daytime hearings average 11.2 million viewers, with a peak audience of 13.2 million on June 28, when ex-White House aide Cassidy Hutchinson testified about former President Donald Trump's behavior.

An estimated 13.6 million of Thursday's viewers, or 77 percent, were age 55 and older, Nielsen said. Only 705,000 viewers were 18 to 34.

MSNBC said the 4.7 million people who watched its coverage represented the network's biggest prime-time audience since the night of the event that the committee is investigating.

Public hearings are expected to resume in September.

In Uvalde, closeness complicates accountability for shooting

By JAKE BLEIBERG and ACACIA CORONADO Associated Press

UVALDE, Texas (AP) — After the massacre at Uvalde's Robb Elementary School in May, Jesse Rizo was worried about his old friend, police chief Pete Arredondo.

Blame for the botched police response was being directed heavily at Arredondo when Rizo texted him just days after the shooting: "Been thinking of and praying for you."

Two months later, with investigations and body-camera video spotlighting the hesitant and haphazard response by police to the killing of two teachers and 19 students, Rizo remains worried about Arredondo. He also wants him fired.

Rizo's complicated feelings toward his Uvalde High School classmate capture the type of mixed emotions that families of victims and many residents of this close-knit community are navigating as they channel their grief and fury into demands for change.

"I care about Pete. I care that he's mentally OK. I don't want a human to start to lose it," said Rizo, who is distantly related to a 9-year-old girl who was killed at Robb Elementary. "But I also want to hold people accountable who don't perform their jobs properly."

The 50-year-old Arredondo, who as head of the school district's small police department was one of the first officers on the scene, has taken much of the blame for not immediately storming the classroom and confronting the shooter. He has not responded to repeated requests for comment from The Associated Press.

This week, the Uvalde school board abruptly scheduled a meeting to discuss firing Arredondo, only to cancel it days later. As officials weigh their options, residents are growing impatient with unanswered calls

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 59 of 62

to hold people accountable for the bewildering 77 minutes of inaction by nearly 400 police officers who responded to the school shooting.

But the mere possibility of his firing after months of resistance from local officials stands as a demonstration of the victims' families' rising political clout.

The strain over how to move forward is visible in the signs that have popped up all over town. "Uvalde United." "Uvalde Must Stand Together." While those signs mean different things depending on whom you ask, other signs are more pointed: "Prosecute Pete Arredondo."

Family ties and political struggles go back generations in Uvalde, a community where nearly three-quarters of the residents are Hispanic. Locals had largely revered the police before the shooting. Uvalde's leaders, many of whom are white, share church pews with their fiercest critics. And demanding accountability can mean calling for the job of your friend, neighbor or employer.

It's a town with a "power structure" and "unwritten rules" that make it hard for many people to speak out, said Michael Ortiz, a local college professor who moved to Uvalde 13 years ago and said his tenure allows him to be vocal in a way that's not viable for many of the community's mostly working-class residents.

"Someone's boss might not like that," Ortiz said. "They are afraid even to march."

Since the shooting, the mostly Hispanic parents of the victims have struggled to make their demands heard by the city and school district. Local officials initially resisted releasing information and calls to fire officers. But things are shifting.

In a sign of growing political activism, more than 300 people have registered to vote in Uvalde since the shooting -- more than double the number in the same period during the last midterm election season. And in July, over 100 protesters braved 106-degree heat to call for stronger gun regulations — including raising the minimum age to buy an assault weapon — and for greater transparency from local and state authorities investigating the shooting.

That was the largest local demonstration since 1970, when the school district's refusal to renew the contract of a popular Robb Elementary teacher prompted one of Texas' longest school walkouts over demands for equal education for Mexican American residents. That teacher's son is Ronnie Garza, a Uvalde County commissioner.

Garza said the shooting has changed the community, uniting people in grief but dividing them on questions of accountability. "We are a desperate people right now. We are yelling here that way, we are yelling (the other) way, for somebody to listen to us, to come and help us," said Garza.

Faced with incomplete and contradictory accounts from local and state law enforcement, the families of those killed in Uvalde have begun to make people listen.

After state lawmakers issued a damning report that found "systemic failures and egregiously poor decision making" by both police and school officials, the Uvalde school board held a special session to hear from parents. Superintendent Hal Harrell apologized for previously being "too formal" and not letting the victims' families say their piece.

"Trying to find the right time, the right balance out of respect, I did not do well," said Harrell, who is white and spoke in an auditorium named for his father, who was also superintendent.

For the next three hours, grieving parents and community members upbraided the board, saying that if it didn't hold people accountable they would lose their jobs. Some told Harrell he wasn't living up to his father's legacy, while others referenced the 1970 lockout and said they hoped he would do better, drawing applause. People called for the whole school police force to be fired and jeered at state troopers standing at the room's edges.

Rizo, who was at that meeting, said he cannot respect how the police chief or the many other officers he knows handled their jobs that day. "There are consequences to that," he said. "I can't understand why he wouldn't just resign."

But the long history between them tugs at Rizo too. In the text he sent Arredondo days after the shooting, he said: "Please be strong and be patient."

Arredondo responded: "Good to hear from you, bro. Thank you and please keep praying for the babies."

They haven't spoken since.

Supreme Court leak probe: So many questions, so few answers

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Less than 24 hours after the unprecedented leak of the draft opinion that overturned Roe v. Wade, Chief Justice John Roberts ordered an investigation into the “egregious breach.”

Since then? Silence.

The Supreme Court won't say whether it's still investigating.

The court also won't say whether the leaker has been identified or whether anyone has been disciplined. Or whether an outside law firm or the FBI has been called in.

Or whether the court will ever offer an accounting of what transpired.

Or whether it has taken steps to try to prevent a repeat.

To these and other emailed questions, Supreme Court spokeswoman Patricia McCabe said by email: “The Court has no comment.”

Roberts announced the investigation on May 3, the day after Politico published its explosive leak detailing the draft of Justice Samuel Alito's opinion. Court Marshal Gail Curley was tapped to lead the investigation.

The story filled the airwaves, news pages and online comment sections. There were calls for impeachment if a justice was involved. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said the leak was a pressure campaign to “sway” the outcome and he suggested the “lawless action should be investigated and punished to the fullest extent possible.”

Justice Clarence Thomas, the longest tenured member of the court, said the court had been irrevocably harmed. “When you lose that trust, especially in the institution that I'm in, it changes the institution fundamentally. You begin to look over your shoulder. It's like kind of an infidelity that you can explain it, but you can't undo it.”

If any justice was swayed, it didn't manifest itself in a visible way. The draft was largely incorporated in Alito's final opinion, which added in responses to points made by the dissenting justices, and on June 24, a conservative majority of the court overturned Roe and eliminated a nearly 50-year-old right to abortion.

Abortions have largely stopped in at least nine states, and the decision is expected to lead roughly half the states to ban or severely restrict abortions.

The court finished its work for the summer on June 30, after which the justices' law clerks began leaving for their next jobs. That means roughly three dozen people who likely had access to the draft opinion, out of about 70 in all, are no longer within easy reach of investigators.

Roberts should close the investigation, said Gabe Roth, leader of the court transparency group Fix the Court.

“There's just so many other things the marshal's office needs to worry about right now that's far more important than the leak. The justices' safety is under threat probably more now than in years past,” Roth said.

The security concerns reached alarming levels in early June, when police arrested an armed man near Justice Brett Kavanaugh's house after he called 911 and said he was going to the kill Kavanaugh.

The courthouse has been closed to the public since March 2020, a combination of the coronavirus pandemic and threats to the court and the justices that led, shortly after the leak, to the installation of 8-foot-high, hard-to-climb fencing.

There's little precedent in Supreme Court annals for the leak and investigation.

“This was a singular and egregious breach of that trust that is an affront to the Court and the community of public servants who work here,” Roberts said when announced the investigation.

In 1973, Chief Justice Warren Burger was infuriated by the leak of the outcome of the Roe case a few hours ahead of its announcement. Burger threatened to subject employees to lie detector tests, but the leaker quickly came forward and explained it had been an accident.

If the leak of the Alito draft was deliberate, it might have been from someone who was so upset by the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 61 of 62

prospect of overturning Roe that informing the public at the earliest possible moment was of paramount importance.

Or it could have come from a supporter of the decision who worried that one of the five justices in the majority was wavering. In this scenario, the leak was intended to make it harder for a justice to vote to leave Roe standing, if significantly weakened.

The public might never know. Then again, Supreme Court clerks often go on to prominent legal jobs. Six of the nine justices once served as law clerks.

Sometime in the next few decades, one or more of them might appear for a confirmation hearing for a judgeship or some other high-ranking government job where they might be asked if they leaked the document or know who did.

Today in History: July 24, Apollo 11 returns home

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 24, the 205th day of 2022. There are 160 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 24, 1915, the SS Eastland, a passenger ship carrying more than 2,500 people, rolled onto its side while docked at the Clark Street Bridge on the Chicago River; an estimated 844 people died in the disaster.

On this date:

In 1847, Mormon leader Brigham Young and his followers arrived in the Great Salt Lake Valley in present-day Utah.

In 1866, Tennessee became the first state to be readmitted to the Union after the Civil War.

In 1911, Yale University history professor Hiram Bingham III found the "Lost City of the Incas," Machu Picchu, in Peru.

In 1937, the state of Alabama dropped charges against four of the nine young Black men accused of raping two white women in the "Scottsboro Case."

In 1959, during a visit to Moscow, Vice President Richard Nixon engaged in his famous "Kitchen Debate" with Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev.

In 1969, the Apollo 11 astronauts — two of whom had been the first men to set foot on the moon — splashed down safely in the Pacific.

In 1974, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that President Richard Nixon had to turn over subpoenaed White House tape recordings to the Watergate special prosecutor.

In 1975, an Apollo spacecraft splashed down in the Pacific, completing a mission which included the first-ever docking with a Soyuz capsule from the Soviet Union.

In 1998, the motion picture "Saving Private Ryan," starring Tom Hanks and directed by Steven Spielberg, was released.

In 2010, a stampede inside a tunnel crowded with techno music fans left 21 people dead and more than 500 injured at the famed Love Parade festival in western Germany.

In 2016, Ken Griffey Jr. and Mike Piazza were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

In 2019, in a day of congressional testimony, Robert Mueller dismissed President Donald Trump's claim of "total exoneration" in Mueller's probe of Russia's 2016 election interference.

Ten years ago: In his first foreign policy speech since emerging as the likely Republican presidential nominee, Mitt Romney called for an independent investigation into claims the White House had leaked national security information for President Barack Obama's political gain; the White House replied that the president "has made abundantly clear that he has no tolerance for leaks." Actor Chad Everett died in Los Angeles at age 75. Actor Sherman Hemsley died in El Paso, Texas, at age 74.

Five years ago: In a speech to a national Boy Scout gathering in West Virginia, President Donald Trump railed against his enemies and promoted his political agenda, bringing an angry reaction from some parents and former Scouts from both parties. Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner answered questions

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 017 ~ 62 of 62

from Senate investigators for four hours about contacts with Russians during and after Trump's campaign for the White House; he said he "did not collude with Russia" and that all of his actions "were proper." A Taliban suicide bomber killed 24 people in an early morning assault in a neighborhood of the Afghan capital where prominent politicians lived.

One year ago: Jackie Mason, a rabbi-turned-comedian who took his sharp wit and piercing social commentary to Catskills nightclubs, West Coast talk shows and Broadway stages, died at 93.

Today's Birthdays: Actor John Aniston is 89. Political cartoonist Pat Oliphant is 87. Comedian Ruth Buzzi is 86. Actor Mark Goddard is 86. Actor Dan Hedaya is 82. Actor Chris Sarandon is 80. Comedian Gallagher is 76. Actor Robert Hays is 75. Former Republican national chairman Marc Racicot (RAWS'-koh) is 74. Actor Michael Richards is 73. Actor Lynda Carter is 71. Movie director Gus Van Sant is 70. Former Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., is 69. Country singer Pam Tillis is 65. Actor Paul Ben-Victor is 60. Basketball Hall of Famer Karl Malone is 59. Retired MLB All-Star Barry Bonds is 58. Actor Kadeem Hardison is 57. Actor-singer Kristin Chenoweth is 54. Actor Laura Leighton is 54. Actor John P. Navin Jr. is 54. Actor-singer Jennifer Lopez is 53. Basketball player-turned-actor Rick Fox is 53. Director Patty Jenkins ("Wonder Woman") is 51. Actor Jamie Denbo (TV: "Orange is the New Black") is 49. Actor Eric Szmanda is 47. Actor Rose Byrne is 43. Country singer Jerrod Niemann is 43. Actor Summer Glau is 41. Actor Sheaun McKinney is 41. Actor Elisabeth Moss is 40. Actor Anna Paquin is 40. Actor Sarah Greene is 38. NHL center Patrice Bergeron is 37. Actor Megan Park is 36. Actor Mara Wilson is 35. Actor Sarah Steele is 34. Rock singer Jay McGuinness (The Wanted) is 32. Actor Emily Bett Rickards is 31. Actor Lucas Adams is 29. TV personality Bindi Irwin is 24.