

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 1 of 62

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- City Council July Financial Report](#)
- [3- City Council Story](#)
- [4- Weather Pages](#)
- [8- Daily Devotional](#)
- [9- 2022 Community Events](#)
- [10- Subscription Form](#)
- [11- News from the Associated Press](#)

## Wed., Aug. 24 - First Day of School

School Breakfast: Breakfast, Eggs, Breakfast Potatoes

School Lunch: Nachos

Senior Menu: Sloppy Joe on bun, oven roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables, crunchy cranberry salad.

## Thurs., Aug. 25

School Breakfast: Stuffed Bagels

School Lunch: Chicken Sandwich, Fries

Senior Menu: Scalloped potatoes and ham, peas, mandarin orange salad, whole wheat bread.

6 p.m.: Volleyball at Hamlin (JV/V)

## Fri., Aug. 26

School Breakfast: Biscuits and Gravy

School Lunch: Pizza Cruncher, Green Beans

Senior Menu: Roast beef, potatoes/carrots/onions, gravy, fruit, whole wheat bread.

7 p.m.: Football hosts Redfield

## Sat., Aug. 27

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

10 a.m.: 3/4 and 5/6 football at Sisseton

1 p.m.: Girls soccer hosts Vermillion

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



## Sun., Aug. 28

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m., SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Bible Study 8:00 am. Worship (St. John's 9:00 am, Zion 11:00 am)

Emmanuel: 9 am Worship, 1-4pm 9th grade Confirmation Retreat

Methodist: 8:30am Conde Worship, 9:30am Coffee Hour. 10:30am Groton Worship

## Mon., Aug. 29

School Breakfast: Egg Bake

School Lunch: Chicken Nuggets, Tater Tots

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, dill potato, seven layer salad, fruited Jell-O with topping, whole wheat bread.

6 p.m.: Volleyball at Aberdeen Christian

Emmanuel: 6:30 am Bible Study

The Pantry open at the Groton Community Center, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**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

**Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 2 of 62**

## Groton City July Financial Report

July 2022

Dacotah Bank Checking Acct	\$ 4,193,210.21
General Cash	\$ 300.00
SD FIT Acct	\$ 1,554,881.31
Dacotah Bank Water CD	\$ 85,379.54
Cemetery Perp Care CD	\$ 32,876.69
Total	\$ 5,866,647.75

Invested In		
Cash	\$ 300.00	0.01%
Dacotah Bank	\$ 4,311,466.44	73.49%
SD Fit	\$ 1,554,881.31	26.50%
Total	\$ 5,866,647.75	100.00%

	Beginning	Revenue	Expenses	Transfers	Ending
	Cash Balance				Cash Balance
General	\$ 1,366,933.64	\$ 119,166.95	\$ 73,927.34		\$ 1,412,173.25
Bed, Board, Booze Tax	\$ 132,336.35	\$ 3,669.91			\$ 136,006.26
Baseball Uniforms	\$ 1,710.20				\$ 1,710.20
Airport	\$ 24,542.82		\$ 568.29		\$ 23,974.53
**Debt Service	\$ (43,764.26)		\$ 11,320.52		\$ (55,084.78)
Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$ 34,756.69				\$ 34,756.69
Water Tower	\$ 180,000.00				\$ 180,000.00
Water	\$ 522,809.70	\$ 54,762.66	\$ 36,992.07		\$ 540,580.29
Electric	\$ 2,899,524.01	\$ 141,388.03	\$ 222,086.70		\$ 2,818,825.34
Wastewater	\$ 517,451.38	\$ 17,682.14	\$ 19,295.70		\$ 515,837.82
Solid Waste	\$ 48,406.98	\$ 11,046.65	\$ 10,215.59		\$ 49,238.04
Family Crisis	\$ 11,044.54	\$ 50.00	\$ 136.39		\$ 10,958.15
Sales Tax	\$ 11,656.04	\$ 10,639.40	\$ 11,689.76		\$ 10,605.68
Employment	\$ (3,364.58)		\$ 259.00		\$ (3,105.58)
Utility Prepayments	\$ 74,278.93	\$ 23,432.17	\$ 1,232.57		\$ 96,478.53
Utility Deposits	\$ 91,193.01	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,350.00		\$ 91,593.01
Other	\$ 2,250.32		\$ 150.00		\$ 2,100.32
Totals	\$ 5,871,765.77	\$ 383,587.91	\$ 389,223.93	\$ -	\$ 5,866,647.75

**Debt to be Paid		
**2015 Refinance	\$ 1,972,637.49	by 12/1/2035
**West Sewer	\$ 6,975.68	by 10/15/2022
Total Debt	\$ 1,979,613.17	

\$131,884.64 ARPA GRANT (Received to General)  
 \$89,223.86 Water tower loan payment

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 3 of 62

## Stop Sign, COL increase and water rates tackled at council

Jesse Zak came before the Groton City Council Tuesday evening to discuss the stop signs recently erected on the east-west bound traffic along Fifth Avenue West at Washington Street. He said if the traffic is bad just after baseball games, why don't the police just patrol that area. "They sit out on the highway and people see them and slow up, they should be able to do the same here," he said. He also questioned as to why it was placed just a block off of Broadway and said it would have been better placed another block west at Lincoln Street. As it was a non-agenda item, the council took no action but appreciated his comments. It was also asked if the digital speed signs were going to be used. They have been sitting in storage all summer and the council suggested that they be brought out and put up for school.

Darrell Hillestad also appeared during the public comments section of the meeting and reported that the fly-in is scheduled for Labor Day Weekend and that the airport looks good. He also hoped that the electrical be installed this year and that the drainage will also be done yet this fall. It was reported that Webster is donating its T-hangers to Groton. Hillestad said he will get a lease drawn up and present it to the council for review and approval. He also said he wants to put up a small shed and will have liability insurance on it, which was okayed by the council.

Electric Superintendent Todd Gay came before the council to ask why he was not notified that he would be exempt from the proposed 6 percent Cost of Living (COL) Increase to full time city employees. "I just want an honest answer," he said. Mayor Scott Hanlon said that because of his wage, he would not get the increase. Gay said that no one had talked to him about it. "I had to read it on the agenda," he said. The council apologized for not talking with him about it. They did say they appreciated what Todd was doing on the department and that he was doing a very good job. Todd said he likes working in Groton and would like to stay here for four or five more years. After an executive session, the council approved the COL Increase for all full time city employees.

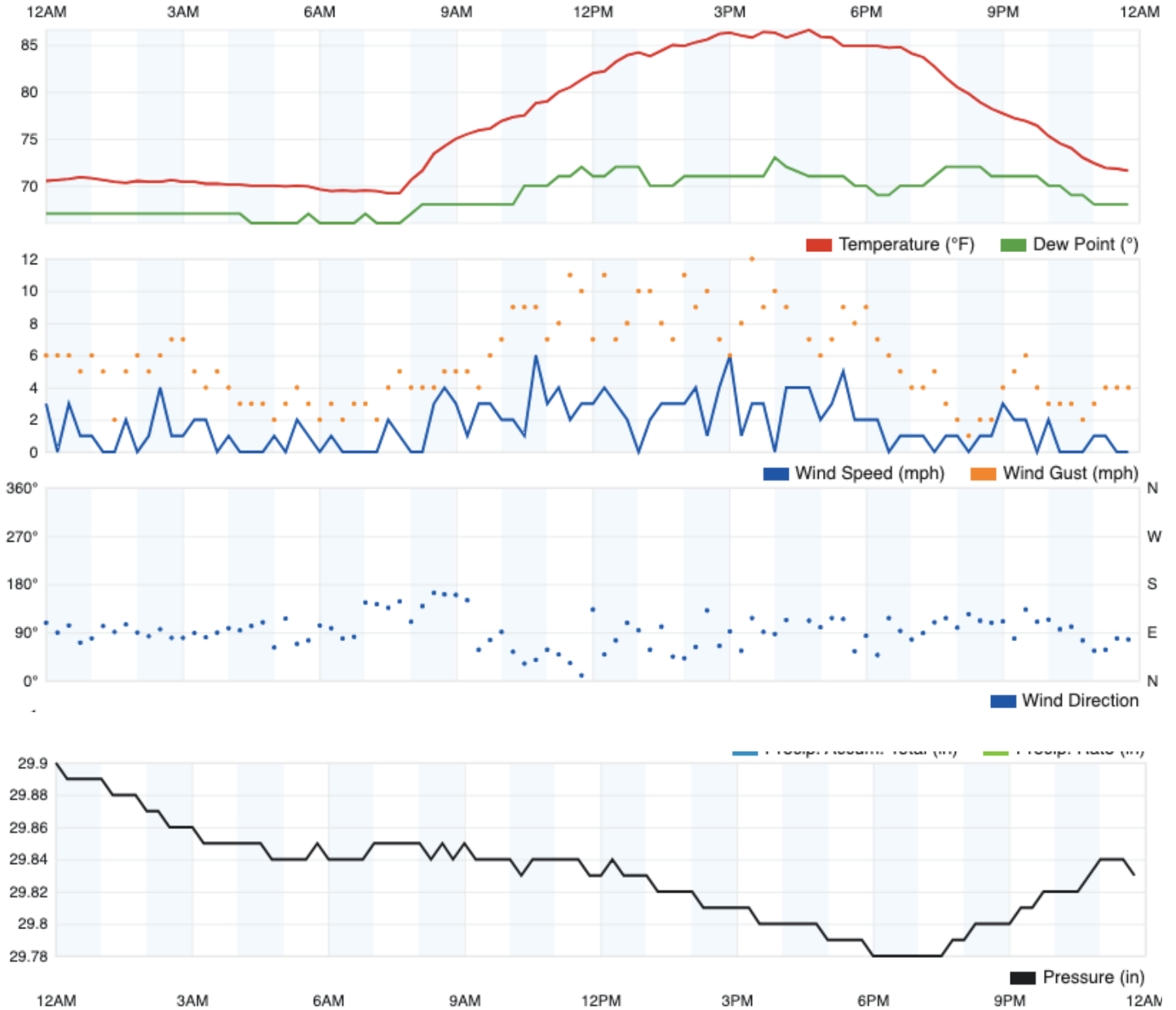
WEB Water is passing on an increase in water rates to its customers, which includes the City of Groton. As a result, the City of Groton is passing on an increase in water rates to its customers. First reading was given for the new proposed water rates. The current minimum charge of \$20.77 will increase to \$22.95. Anything over 2,000 gallons of usage will increase from \$5.62 per thousand gallons to \$8 per thousand gallons. The bulk water rate will increase from \$8 per thousand gallons to \$10 per thousand gallons. The meter charge of \$9.62 will remain unchanged.

The six month probationary period for Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich was noted and will be given a \$1 an hour increase.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 4 of 62

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 5 of 62

Today



Slight Chance  
T-storms

High: 79 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: 59 °F

Thursday



Mostly Sunny

High: 77 °F

Thursday  
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 56 °F

Friday



Chance  
Showers

High: 78 °F

## Isolated Storms Today/Tonight

August 24, 2022  
1:38 AM



**Today**

Isolated showers/storms  
Highs 77-90°

**Tonight**

Evening showers/storms possible  
Lows upper 50s to lower 60s.



**Thursday**

Partly cloudy, dry and mild  
Highs 72-84°



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

A system moving across the region today may bring isolated showers and thunderstorms to the area. Some of that activity may linger into tonight. Severe weather is NOT expected. #sdwx #mnwx



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 7 of 62

## Today in Weather History

August 24, 1960: A man was injured when a barn was blown over by an F2 tornado that touched down near Hayes, in Stanley County. Hail, up to golf ball size accompanied the storm as well as about three inches of rain, causing some damage to crops and a farmhouse. The sky color in a westerly direction shortly before the tornado hit was described as a distinct shade of green. Evidence suggests that the tornado may have touched down again in northeast Sully County, destroying a barn, a chicken coop, and haystacks on two farms. Also, precipitation more than 3 inches and locally 6 to 8 inches was accompanied by severe hail, causing damage to buildings and crops. Hail damage was most substantial in Stanly County. The wind carried away an estimated 400 tons of baled hay in Haakon County. A measured rainfall amount of 5.1 inches in less than six hours occurred in Onida, causing extensive flooding of basements, streets, and cropland. Additional rainfall amounts include 5.58 inches 4 NW of Onida, 4.50 inches 23 N of Highmore, 3.05 inches 2N of Onaka, 3.42 inches in Clear Lake, 3.11 inches in Miller, 3.02 inches in Eureka, 2.55 inches 1 NW of Faulkton, 2.40 inches in Gettysburg, 2.22 inches in Blunt, 2.20 inches at Oahe Dam, and 2.16 inches in Clark.

August 24, 1998: A line of severe thunderstorms raced southeast across Sully, Hyde, and Hand counties during the morning hours, producing destructive winds up to 100 mph and hail up to the size of baseballs. The winds and hail damaged or destroyed a wide swath of sunflowers and corn. Four power poles south of Highmore on Highway 47 were snapped off. The school in Highmore had twenty screens shredded by the hail and the winds. On a farm northeast of Onida, a grain bin was blown over a distance of 200 yards.

August 24, 2006: Up to 4.25" diameter hail and 9 tornadoes developed across central and northeastern South Dakota between 4:30 pm and 8:00 pm, two of which were rated as F3 intensity. The first of these F3 tornadoes developed in McPherson County west of Hillsvie at 5:03 pm, and tracked 24.5 miles southeast to just north of Hosmer before lifting at 5:30 pm. Numerous livestock and deer were killed. Devastating damage was observed to farm equipment, homes, barns, grain bins, and vehicles. A well-anchored mobile home was completely destroyed. Debris from each site was observed up to 3 miles away. One person received minor scrapes and bruises. The second F3 tornado of the event was spawned by a long-track supercell, and this supercell produced the other 7 tornadoes of the day (two F2, an F1, and four F0 roughly from Onida to De Smet). It touched down just south of Wessington in Beadle County at 6:37 pm, and tracked 19.5 miles southeast to just southwest of Huron before lifting at 7:18 pm. This tornado destroyed 8 houses and numerous farm buildings and damaged at least 7 other houses. Five large high-voltage transmission towers were blown down about 3 miles southeast of Wessington. A woman was cut on the neck at a farm southwest of Wolsey where the house and all other buildings were destroyed (non-life threatening). One other injury occurred southeast of Wolsey.

79: Stratovolcano, Mount Vesuvius erupted on this day, burying the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

1456: Machiavelli wrote, "On the 24th of August, about an hour before day-break there arose from the Adriatic near Ancona, a whirlwind, which crossing Italy from east to west, again reached the sea near Pisa, accompanied by thick clouds, and the most intense and impenetrable darkness."

1992: Hurricane Andrew made landfall in southern Florida at 4:30 AM on this day. The high winds caused catastrophic damage in Florida, with Miami-Dade County cities of Florida City, Homestead, and Cutler Ridge receiving the brunt of the storm. About 63,000 homes were destroyed, and over 101,000 others were damaged. This storm left roughly 175,000 people homeless. As many as 1.4 million people were left without electricity at the height of the storm. In the Everglades, 70,000 acres (280 km<sup>2</sup>) of trees were knocked down. Additionally, rainfall in Florida was substantial, peaking at 13.98 in (355 mm) in western Miami-Dade County. About \$25 billion in damage and 44 fatalities were reported in Florida.



## Landing Spot

### Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:6–10 (NIV)

6 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. 7 For we live by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad..

### Insight By: Tim Gustafson

Paul wrote this rich passage in the context of pondering death. Yet he put an unusual twist on it. Not only was he longing for death, but he also viewed it as being “swallowed up by life” (2 Corinthians 5:4)—inverting our typical view of it. The chapter begins with Paul contrasting our “earthly tent” with a future “building from God, an eternal house in heaven” (v. 1). The apostle’s certainty of this eternal future prompted him to say he “would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord” (v. 8). For now, “we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling” (v. 2). Paul had great confidence in this because God has “given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come” (v. 5). This is the great message of the gospel. For believers in Christ, death is obliterated by eternal life..

### Comment by Bill Crowder

The impala, a member of the antelope family, is able to jump up to ten feet high and thirty feet in length. It’s an incredible feat, and no doubt essential to its survival in the African wild. Yet, at many impala enclosures found in zoos, you’ll find that the animals are kept in place by a wall that’s merely three feet tall. How can such a low wall contain these athletic animals? It works because impalas will never jump unless they can see where they’ll land. The wall keeps the impalas inside the enclosure because they can’t see what’s on the other side.

As humans, we’re not all that different. We want to know the outcome of a situation before we move forward. The life of faith, however, rarely works that way. Writing to the church at Corinth, Paul reminded them, “We live by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Jesus taught us to pray, “Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). But that doesn’t mean we’ll know His outcomes beforehand. Living by faith means trusting His good purposes even when those purposes are shrouded in mystery.

In the midst of life’s uncertainties, we can trust His unfailing love. No matter what life throws at us, “we make it our goal to please him” (2 Corinthians 5:9). .

**Reflect and Prayer:** In what areas are you struggling to see the next step you should take? Ask God to help you trust Him as you move forward in His grace.

So often, Father, I’m frozen by uncertainty and fear. I pray that You’ll guide my steps as I trust You for Your good will to be done.



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 9 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)  
09/11/2022: 6th Annual Doggie Day at the Swimming Pool 3-5pm  
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

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 10 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](mailto:paperpaul@grotonsd.net)

## Groton Daily Independent

[www.397news.com](http://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](https://paypal.me/paperpaul)



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 11 of 62

## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

03-05-47-48-67, Mega Ball: 7, Megaplier: 2

(three, five, forty-seven, forty-eight, sixty-seven; Mega Ball: seven; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$135,000,000

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: 100,000,000

### Tuesday's Scores

The Associated Press

#### PREP VOLLEYBALL

Aberdeen Central def. Brookings, 13-25, 25-22, 25-9, 25-21

Belle Fourche def. Sturgis Brown, 25-14, 25-11, 25-21

Bon Homme def. Winner, 25-15, 25-19, 25-18

Canton def. Beresford, 25-16, 25-11, 25-23

Castlewood def. Clark/Willow Lake, 25-21, 25-21, 25-4

Chester def. Flandreau, 25-12, 25-14, 25-17

Colman-Egan def. Gayville-Volin

DeSmet def. Howard, 25-17, 25-20, 25-13

Douglas def. St. Thomas More, 16-25, 25-15, 25-21, 20-25, 16-14

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Dell Rapids, 25-21, 25-23, 25-20

Florence/Henry def. Redfield, 25-21, 17-25, 25-27, 25-8, 15-7

Garretson def. Tri-Valley, 25-12, 25-18, 25-9

Hanson def. Avon, 25-23, 25-17

Hill City def. Custer, 25-18, 25-12, 25-15

Ipswich def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-22, 25-16, 25-17

Iroquois def. James Valley Christian, 20-25, 24-26, 25-10, 25-17, 15-10

Jones County def. Sully Buttes, 25-15, 25-18, 25-23

Leola/Frederick def. Britton-Hecla, 27-25, 25-14, 25-20

McCook Central/Montrose def. Bridgewater-Emery, 25-9, 25-13, 25-8

Menno def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-11, 25-20, 25-20

Miller def. Kimball/White Lake, 25-20, 27-25, 25-22

Newell def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-10, 25-15, 25-15

Northwestern def. Aberdeen Roncalli, 25-17, 25-18, 25-22

Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. Canistota, 17-25, 25-22, 25-17, 25-21

Parker def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-15, 25-17, 23-25, 26-24

Parkston def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 18-25, 25-23, 25-20, 25-21

Pierre def. Watertown, 20-25, 25-13, 25-20, 25-23

Sioux Falls Jefferson def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 25-18, 25-15, 23-25, 24-26, 15-13

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Yankton, 25-12, 25-17, 25-16

Sioux Falls Washington def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 25-21, 25-23, 25-20

Sioux Valley def. Deuel, 25-14, 25-14, 23-25, 25-17

Sisseton def. Wilmot, 25-18, 25-22, 25-13

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 12 of 62

Stanley County def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-22, 25-10, 25-17  
Tripp-Delmont/Armour def. Colome, 25-16, 25-8, 25-17  
Webster def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-16, 25-14, 23-25, 31-29  
West Central def. Vermillion, 25-13, 25-20, 25-21  
Wolsey-Wessington def. Arlington, 25-21, 25-23, 25-22  
Hansen Early Bird Tournament=  
First Round=  
Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 26-24, 17-25, 25-22  
Avon def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-17, 25-10  
Platte-Geddes def. Freeman, 25-15, 25-10  
Wessington Springs def. Hanson, 26-24, 25-23, 25-17  
Semifinal=  
Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Platte-Geddes, 25-11, 25-9

## Board: SD Gov. Kristi Noem may have 'engaged in misconduct'

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota ethics board on Monday said it found sufficient information that Gov. Kristi Noem may have “engaged in misconduct” when she intervened in her daughter’s application for a real estate appraiser license, and it referred a separate complaint over her state airplane use to the state’s attorney general for investigation.

The three retired judges on the Government Accountability Board determined that “appropriate action” could be taken against Noem for her role in her daughter’s appraiser licensure, though it didn’t specify the action.

The board’s moves potentially escalate the ramifications of investigations into Noem. The Republican governor faces reelection this year and has also positioned herself as an aspirant to the White House in 2024. She is under scrutiny from the board after Jason Ravensborg, the state’s former Republican attorney general, filed complaints that stemmed from media reports on Noem’s actions in office. She has denied any wrongdoing.

After meeting in a closed-door session for one hour Monday, the board voted unanimously to invoke procedures that allow for a contested case hearing to give Noem a chance to publicly defend herself against allegations of “misconduct” related to “conflicts of interest” and “malfeasance.” The board also dismissed Ravensborg’s allegations that Noem misused state funds in the episode.

However, the retired judges left it unclear how they will proceed. Lori Wilbur, the board chair, said the complaint was “partially dismissed and partially closed,” but added that the complaint could be reopened. She declined to discuss what would cause the board to reopen the complaint.

The board can issue a public or private reprimand or direct an official to do community service. It can also make recommendations to the governor — though that option seems unlikely since the complaints are leveled against Noem.

The AP first reported that the governor took a hands-on role in a state agency soon after it had moved to deny her daughter’s application for an appraiser license in 2020. Noem had called a meeting with her daughter, the labor secretary and the then-director of the appraiser certification program where a plan was discussed to give the governor’s daughter, Cassidy Peters, another chance to show she could meet federal standards in her appraiser work.

The complaints are proving to be the first major test of the board, which was launched in 2017 in response to several scandals in state government. It has never taken public action against a state official.

Noem later Monday struck back at the board of retired judges. A spokesman for her campaign, Ian Fury, said that the board’s action “did not follow state law or precedent.”

“They have yet to point to one single statute the governor has violated in either of these complaints,” he said in a statement.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 13 of 62

The retired judges also referred a complaint that Noem flew on state-owned airplanes to political events to the state attorney general's office for further investigation. That puts the investigation under the oversight of the interim attorney general, Mark Vargo, who was appointed by Noem.

When asked whether he would recuse himself from the investigation, Vargo said in a statement: "Based on the fact that this just happened, no decision has been made."

"We will be diligent in our duty and thoroughly investigate the complaint that the Government Accountability Board has presented to the Attorney General's Office," he said in an earlier statement. "The investigation, as with all other investigations, will remain confidential as does the complaint that has been presented to us. We have no other comment at this time."

The board handled the complaints only by case number and did not refer to Noem directly in either case. Ravensborg provided the case numbers to The Associated Press.

"Knowing what I know as the complainant, Gov. Noem should be fully investigated for her abuse of power in getting her daughter an appraiser license, and Gov. Noem should be prosecuted for her criminal use of state resources for personal gain," he said in a statement.

The board plans to publicly release the complaint over the appraiser license for Noem after redacting some sections. It did not give a date for when that will happen.

Noem and Ravensborg have become political enemies since he fatally struck a pedestrian in 2020. Noem pushed hard for him to be removed from office, and the state Senate convicted him on impeachment charges and removed him as attorney general. He had continued to press the complaints as a private citizen.

Fury, Noem's spokesman, charged that Ravensborg's complaints "are all political and filed by a disgraced former attorney general who literally killed a man, lied about it, and tried to cover it up. Gov. Noem was the first to call him out for this, and he filed these complaints in retaliation."

He also repeated Noem's defense that she followed the law in handling her daughter's licensure and that Peters received no special treatment.

Noem's office has said the plan for Peters to get another chance was already in the works before the meeting, but the agency's director, Sherry Bren, told a legislative committee last year that she felt "intimidated" during the meeting at the governor's mansion where Peters' unsuccessful application was discussed in detail. A Republican-controlled legislative committee that probed the episode concluded that Peters received special treatment.

Bren was also pressured to retire later in 2020 and eventually received a \$200,000 settlement to withdraw an age discrimination complaint.

The former attorney general's other complaint was sparked after online news website Raw Story found that Noem in 2019 used a state airplane to travel to events hosted by political organizations such as the National Rifle Association and the Republican Jewish Coalition, even though South Dakota law bars state airplanes from being used for anything other than state business.

Noem has said she was traveling to the events as an ambassador for the state.

## Finland's leader apologizes for party photo at summer home

By JAN M. OLSEN Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Finland's prime minister apologized after the publication of a photo that showed two women kissing and posing topless at the official summer residence of the country's leader.

The photo came out after a video that showed Prime Minister Sanna Marin dancing and singing with friends prompted a debate about whether the 36-year-old head of government is entitled to party heartily.

Marin confirmed the photo was taken in a bathroom at an official residence of Finnish prime ministers following a music festival in early July. Marin does not appear in the image; the two women featured have their breasts covered with a sign that says, "Finland."

One of the women, described as a social media influencer, reportedly posted the photo, which was removed shortly after news outlets started reporting about it.

"In my opinion, that photo is not appropriate, I apologize for that. That photo shouldn't have been taken,"

Marin said Tuesday, according to Finnish broadcaster YLE.

She said the post-festival gathering was a private party and the names of all guests were provided to the security detail that monitors the Kesäranta property, located in the northern part of Helsinki.

The two-story wooden villa from 1873 features a seaside sauna, a pavilion, a jetty, and a tennis court. "We were using the sauna facilities and the garden area, but we did not spend time inside the Kesäranta house, although the downstairs guest toilets were in use," Marin said, according to YLE.

On Wednesday, the prime minister addressed a crowd in the southern Finland town of Lathi and mentioned the glimpses of her private life that became public.

"I am also human," Finnish media quoted Marin as saying with a broken voice and red eyes. She added that she had never failed to attend to a single work task because she took time off.

"I do my job. I learn from this," Marin said. "This week has not been easy. It has been difficult. But I want to believe that people look at the work we do, not what we do in our free time."

In the video leaked last week, Marin appeared with friends at a different private party. She has acknowledged that she and her friends celebrated in a "boisterous way" and that alcohol — but, to her knowledge, no drugs — was involved.

Marin said she attended the party in recent weeks, but refused to say exactly where and when. She said Friday that she took a drug test to put an end to speculation about illegal substance use. The results were negative, Marin reported Monday, adding she paid for the test herself.

One of Finland's major newspapers, Helsingin Sanomat, reported that with a general election scheduled next year, frustration is growing among members of the prime minister's Social Democratic Party.

While no one is talking about pressuring Marin to resign and she remains popular within the party, some members interviewed by the newspaper were critical of her judgment amid the war in Ukraine and Finland's pending bid to join NATO.

One party member Helsingin Sanomat quoted anonymously noted that Finland still is a relatively conservative country, especially outside the capital region.

Marin heads a five-party governing coalition, and it has won praise for guiding the country steadfastly through the COVID-19 pandemic and the NATO application process.

## Student loan borrowers await Biden plan on debt forgiveness

By SEUNG MIN KIM, MICHAEL BALSAMO, CHRIS MEGERIAN and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press  
WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of Americans were waiting to learn the fate of their federal student debt on Wednesday as President Joe Biden prepared to deliver on his campaign promise to provide up to \$10,000 in debt cancellation.

Details of the plan have been kept closely guarded, but borrowers who earn less than \$125,000 a year would be eligible for the loan forgiveness, according to three people familiar with the decision. Biden is also set to extend a pause on federal student loan payments through January.

If it survives legal challenges that are almost certain to come, Biden's plan could offer a windfall to a swath of the nation in the run-up to this fall's midterm elections. More than 43 million owe a combined \$1.6 trillion in federal student debt, with almost a third owing less than \$10,000, according to federal data.

Still, the action is unlikely to thrill any of the factions that have been jostling for influence as Biden weighs how much to cancel and for whom.

Biden has faced pressure from liberals to provide broader relief to hard-hit borrowers, and from moderates and Republicans questioning the fairness of any widespread forgiveness. The delay in Biden's decision has only heightened the anticipation for what his own aides acknowledge represents a political no-win situation. The people spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss Biden's intended announcement ahead of time.

The continuation of the coronavirus pandemic-era payment freeze comes just days before millions of Americans were set to find out when their next student loan bills will be due. This is the closest the administration has come to hitting the end of the payment freeze extension, with the current pause set to end Aug. 31.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 15 of 62

Wednesday's announcement was set for the White House after Biden returns from vacation in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. The administration had briefly considered higher education schools in the president's home state for a larger reveal but scaled back its plans.

During the 2020 presidential campaign, Biden was initially skeptical of student loan debt cancellation as he faced off against more progressive candidates for the Democratic nomination. Sens. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., had proposed cancellations of \$50,000 or more.

As he tried to shore up support among younger voters and prepare for a general election battle against President Donald Trump, Biden unveiled his initial proposal for debt cancellation of \$10,000 per borrower, with no mention of an income cap.

Biden narrowed his campaign promise in recent months by embracing the income limit as soaring inflation took a political toll and as he aimed to head off political attacks that the cancellation would benefit those with higher take-home pay. But Democrats, from members of congressional leadership to those facing tough reelection bids this November, have pushed the administration to go as broad as possible on debt relief, seeing it in part as a galvanizing issue, particularly for Black and young voters this fall.

The frenzied last-minute lobbying continued Tuesday even as Biden remained on his summer vacation. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., one of the loudest advocates in recent years for canceling student loan debt, spoke privately on the phone with Biden, imploring the president to forgive as much debt as the administration can, according to a Democrat with knowledge of the call.

In his pitch, Schumer argued to Biden that doing so was the right thing morally and economically, said the Democrat, who asked for anonymity to describe a private conversation.

Inside the administration, officials have discussed since at least early summer forgiving more than \$10,000 of student debt for certain categories of borrowers, such as Pell Grant recipients, according to three people with knowledge of the deliberations. That remained one of the final variables being considered by Biden heading into Wednesday's announcement.

Democrats are betting that Biden, who has seen his public approval rating tumble over the last year, can help motivate younger voters to the polls in November with the announcement.

Although Biden's plan is narrower than what he initially proposed during the campaign, "he'll get a lot of credit for following through on something that he was committed to," said Celinda Lake, a Democratic pollster who worked with Biden during the 2020 election.

She described student debt as a "gateway issue" for younger voters, meaning it affects their views and decisions on housing affordability and career choices. A survey of 18- to 29-year-olds conducted by the Harvard Institute of Politics in March found that 59% of those polled favored debt cancellation of some sort — whether for all borrowers or those most in need — although student loans did not rank high among issues that most concerned people in that age group.

Some advocates were already bracing for disappointment.

"If the rumors are true, we've got a problem," Derrick Johnson, the president of the NAACP, which has aggressively lobbied Biden to take bolder action, said Tuesday. He emphasized that Black students face higher debt burdens than white students.

"President Biden's decision on student debt cannot become the latest example of a policy that has left Black people — especially Black women — behind," he said. "This is not how you treat Black voters who turned out in record numbers and provided 90% of their vote to once again save democracy in 2020."

John Della Volpe, who worked as a consultant on Biden's campaign and is the director of polling at the Harvard Kennedy School Institute of Politics, said the particulars of Biden's announcement were less important than the decision itself.

"It's about trust in politics, in government, in our system. It's also about trust in the individual, which in this case is President Biden," Della Volpe said.

Combined with fears about expanding abortion restrictions and Trump's reemergence on the political scene, Della Volpe said student debt forgiveness "adds an additional tailwind to an already improving position with young people."

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 16 of 62

Republicans, meanwhile, see only political upside if Biden pursues a large-scale cancellation of student debt ahead of the November midterms, anticipating backlash for Democrats — particularly in states where there are large numbers of working-class voters without college degrees. Critics of broad student debt forgiveness also believe it will open the White House to lawsuits, on the grounds that Congress has never given the president the explicit authority to cancel debt on his own.

The Republican National Committee on Tuesday blasted Biden's expected announcement as a "handout to the rich," claiming it would unfairly burden lower-income taxpayers and those who have already paid off their student loans with covering the costs of higher education for the wealthy.

"My neighbor, a detective, worked 3 jobs (including selling carpet) & his wife worked to make sure their daughter got quality college degree w/no student debt," Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas, the top Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee, tweeted Tuesday. "Big sacrifice. Now their taxes must pay off someone else's student debt?"

Biden's elongated deliberations have sent federal loan servicers, who have been instructed to hold back billing statements while Biden weighed a decision, grumbling.

Industry groups had complained that the delayed decision left them with just days to notify borrowers, retrain customer service workers and update websites and digital payment systems, said Scott Buchanan, executive director of the Student Loan Servicing Alliance.

It increases the risk that some borrowers will inadvertently be told they need to make payments, he said. "At this late stage I think that's the risk we're running," he said. "You can't just turn on a dime with 35 million borrowers who all have different loan types and statuses."

## US giving Ukraine \$3 billion in military aid for years ahead

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and MATTHEW LEE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration is expected on Wednesday to announce an additional roughly \$3 billion in aid to train and equip Ukrainian forces to fight for years to come, U.S. officials said.

The officials told The Associated Press that the package will fund contracts for as many as three types of drones and other weapons, ammunition and equipment that may not see the battlefield for a year or two.

The total of the aid package — it is being provided under the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative — could change, but not likely by much. Officials said it will include money for the small, hand-launched Puma drones, the longer-endurance Scan Eagle surveillance drones, which are launched by catapult, and, for the first time, the British Vampire drone system, which can be launched off ships. Several officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the aid before its public release.

As Russia's war on Ukraine drags on, U.S. security assistance is shifting to a longer-term campaign that also will likely keep more American military troops in Europe into the future, U.S. officials said. Wednesday is Ukraine's independence day holiday and the six-month point in the war.

Unlike most previous packages, the new funding is largely aimed at helping Ukraine secure its medium- to long-term defense posture, according to officials familiar with the matter. Earlier shipments, most of them done under presidential drawdown authority, have focused on Ukraine's more immediate needs for weapons and ammunition and involved materiel that the Pentagon already has in stock that can be shipped in short order.

Besides providing longer-term assistance that Ukraine can use for potential future defense needs, the new package is intended to reassure Ukrainian officials that the United States intends to keep up its support, regardless of the day-to-day back and forth of the conflict, the officials said.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg noted the more extended focus Tuesday as he reaffirmed the alliance's support for the conflict-torn country.

"Winter is coming, and it will be hard, and what we see now is a grinding war of attrition. This is a battle of wills, and a battle of logistics. Therefore we must sustain our support for Ukraine for the long term, so that Ukraine prevails as a sovereign, independent nation," Stoltenberg said, speaking at a virtual conference about Crimea, organized by Ukraine.



Six months after Russia invaded, the war has slowed to a grind, as both sides trade combat strikes and small advances in the east and south. Both sides have seen thousands of troops killed and injured, as Russia's bombardment of cities has killed countless innocent civilians.

There are fears that Russia will intensify attacks on civilian infrastructure and government facilities in the coming days because of the holiday celebrating Ukraine's 1991 declaration of independence from the Soviet Union and the day marking six months since the invasion.

On Monday, the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine and the State Department issued a new security alert for Ukraine that repeated a call for Americans in the country to leave due to the danger.

"Given Russia's track record in Ukraine, we are concerned about the continued threat that Russian strikes pose to civilians and civilian infrastructure," it said.

Other NATO allies are also marking the independence day with new aid announcements.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said his country is providing more than 500 million euros (nearly \$500 million) in aid, including powerful anti-aircraft systems. The aid will include rocket launchers, ammunition, anti-drone equipment, a dozen armored recovery vehicles and three additional IRIS-T long-range air defense systems, the German news agency dpa reported.

The funding must still be approved by parliament, and some of it won't be delivered until next year.

And Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced \$3.85 million for two Ukraine projects through the Peace and Stabilization Operations Program. It includes about \$2.9 million in funding for ongoing development of Ukraine's national police force and other emergency services, and about \$950,000 to help advise Ukraine's defense ministry.

To date, the U.S. has provided about \$10.6 billion in military aid to Ukraine since the beginning of the Biden administration, including 19 packages of weapons taken directly from Defense Department stocks since August 2021.

U.S. defense leaders are also eyeing plans that will expand training for Ukrainian troops outside their country, and for militaries on Europe's eastern and southern flanks that feel most threatened by Russia's aggression.

## Thai PM suspended while court mulls if he defied term limits

By TASSANEE VEJPONGSA and GRANT PECK Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's Constitutional Court suspended Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha from his duties on Wednesday while it decides whether the man who led a military coup in 2014 has violated the country's term limits.

It's considered unlikely that the court will rule against Prayuth and permanently force him out since it has generally ruled in the government's favor in a slew of political cases.

But allowing Prayuth to stay on would risk invigorating a protest movement that has long sought to oust him and reopening deep fissures in Thai politics that have sometimes led to violence. While Prayuth initially came to power in a coup, he won the job legally after a general election in 2019.

It was not immediately announced who would become acting prime minister. One reading of the law indicates it would be Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan, a close political ally of Prayuth and part of the same military clique that staged the coup.

Their close association means Prawit's appointment as Prayuth's replacement would not mollify critics.

Prayuth's detractors contend he has violated a law that limits prime ministers to eight years in power — a threshold they say he hit Tuesday since he officially became prime minister on Aug. 24, 2014.

But his supporters contend his term should be counted from when the current constitution, which contains the term-limit provision, came into effect in 2017. Another interpretation would start the clock in 2019, following the election.

A group that is among the leaders of the main protest movement seeking to unseat Prayuth again demanded that he step down on Wednesday.

"No Prayuth. No Prawit. No military coup government," the group known as Ratsadon, or The People,

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 18 of 62

said while issuing a new call for protest.

A earlier statement called the last eight years "the darkest and most bitter times. A period under the rule of a tyrant who took power away from the people. A tyrant who inherits power through a mechanism without democratic legitimacy."

The almost surreal case — in which the court is deciding whether a coup-leader has stayed in power too long — highlighted Thailand's unusual political culture. The country has been rocked by a series of coups, but often the soldiers who overthrow elected leaders then try to legitimize their rule and defuse opposition by holding elections and abiding by constitutional restrictions.

By a vote of 5 to 4 on Wednesday, the court agreed to suspend Prayuth from his duties while it considers a petition from opposition lawmakers. The court's announcement said Prayuth must submit his defense within 15 days of receiving a copy of the complaint, but it did not say when it would rule.

The statement did not mention if Prayuth can retain his other post of defense minister.

Polls show Prayuth's popularity is at a low ebb, with voters blaming him for mishandling the economy and botching Thailand's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am very pleased. Gen. Prayuth has stayed for a long time and had no vision to develop the country at all," Wuttichai Tayati, a 28-year-old who works in marketing, said while protesting outside of the government headquarters on Wednesday. "At least, taking him out for now might make Thailand move forward a bit."

In 2020, tens of thousands of people took to the streets to demand that Prayuth and his Cabinet resign, while also calling for the constitution to be amended and the monarchy to be reformed.

Several confrontations between the student-driven protest movement and authorities became violent. A legal crackdown on activists further embittered Prayuth's critics.

Small protests appealing again to Prayuth to step down and the Constitutional Court to force him to if he didn't have been held daily since Sunday.

Even if he does, Prawit's rise to power would not resolve the standoff.

In addition to his close association with the military clique that seized power, Prawit, 77, was tainted by allegations he had illegally amassed a collection of luxury watches he couldn't possibly afford on a government salary, though a court accepted his explanation they were gifts and cleared him of wrongdoing.

Whether Prawit would or could actually take the prime minister's post is not clear. He has publicly acknowledged his health is not good and is better known as a behind-the-scenes political organizer.

Also, according to some legal scholars, a replacement for Prayuth would have to come from the small pool of candidates that the country's political parties nominated for the job after the 2019 general election. That list did not include Prawit, though it appears possible he could be nominated in case of a deadlock.

If he is not forced out of office, Prayuth must call a new election by March next year, though he has the option of calling one before that.

The eight-year term limit was meant to target former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, a populist billionaire who was ousted by a 2006 military coup but whose political machine remains powerful. The 2014 coup ousted the government of Thaksin's sister, Yingluck Shinawatra.

Court rulings have forced three prime ministers associated with Thaksin from office, including Yingluck.

Thailand's traditional conservative ruling class, including the military, felt that Thaksin's popularity posed a threat to the country's monarchy as well as their own influence. The courts have been stalwart defenders of the established order and ruled consistently against Thaksin and other challengers.

## Florida Democrats choose Rep. Crist to challenge DeSantis

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON, STEVE PEOPLES and BRENDAN FARRINGTON Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — U.S. Rep. Charlie Crist won the Democratic nomination for governor in Florida, setting him up to challenge Gov. Ron DeSantis this fall in a campaign that the Republican incumbent sees as the first step toward a potential White House run.

In selecting Crist on Tuesday, Florida Democrats sided with a candidate backed by many in the party's establishment who viewed him as the safest choice, even after he lost his previous two statewide elections.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 19 of 62

The 66-year-old moderate, who served as Florida's Republican governor a decade ago, hopes to appeal to voters in Florida's teeming suburbs as Democrats seek to reverse a losing pattern in a state that was recently seen as a perennial political battleground.

Above all, the Democratic contest centered on DeSantis, who views his November reelection as a potential springboard into the 2024 presidential contest. Given the stakes, Democrats across Florida and beyond expressed a real sense of urgency to blunt DeSantis' momentum.

Crist decried DeSantis as an "abusive" and "dangerous" "bully" in his victory speech.

"Tonight, the people of Florida clearly sent a message: They want a governor who cares about them and solves real problems, preserves our freedom, not a bully who divides us and takes our freedom away," Crist declared. "This guy wants to be president of the United States of America and everybody knows it. However, when we defeat him on Nov. 8 that show is over. Enough."

Crist won the Democratic nomination over Nikki Fried, the state agriculture commissioner. She staked out a more progressive campaign and was particularly vocal in defending abortion and LGBTQ rights. The 44-year-old cast herself as "something new" and hoped to become Florida's first female governor. In a sign of the party's meager standing in Florida, she's currently the only Democrat holding statewide office.

"We are going to make Ronald DeSantis a one-term governor and a zero-term president of the United States," she said as she conceded Tuesday, calling on her supporters to unite behind Crist.

DeSantis won his first election by less than half a percentage point but soon became one of the most prominent figures in GOP politics. His hands-off approach to the coronavirus pandemic and eagerness to lean into divides over race, gender and LGBTQ rights have resonated with many Republican voters who see DeSantis as a natural heir to former President Donald Trump.

From a raucous ballroom in Miami Tuesday night, a fiery DeSantis declined to say Crist's name and instead cast the general election as a contest against President Joe Biden and "woke" ideology.

"We will never ever surrender to the woke agenda," DeSantis charged. "Florida is a state where woke goes to die."

The Florida contest concludes the busiest stretch of primaries this year, which featured contests in 18 states over just 22 days. In that span, Republicans from Arizona to Alaska have supported contenders who embraced Trump's lies that the 2020 election was stolen, an assertion roundly rejected by elections officials, the former president's attorney general and judges he appointed.

And for the most part, Democrats avoided brutal primary fights — with some exceptions.

New York City Democrats on Tuesday picked Jerry Nadler over Carolyn Maloney in a congressional primary that featured two powerful House committee chairs competing for the same seat. To the north of the city, U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, the Democratic Party's congressional campaign chief, won a tough primary fight against a more progressive state senator.

Not far away, in upstate New York, Democrats celebrated county executive Pat Ryan's victory in a special election to fill the remainder of Democrat Anthony Delgado's term. Delgado left Congress to become New York's lieutenant governor.

Republicans hoped to flip the swing district, which becomes a new sign that the red wave many operatives expect this fall may be weakening.

Indeed, Democrats are entering the final weeks ahead of the midterms with a sense of cautious optimism, hoping the Supreme Court's decision overturning a woman's constitutional right to an abortion will energize the party's base. But Democrats still face tremendous headwinds, including economic uncertainty and the historic reality that most parties lose seats in the first midterm after they've won the White House.

The dynamics are especially challenging for Democrats in Florida, one of the most politically divided states in the U.S. Its last three races for governor were decided by 1 percentage point or less. But the state has steadily become more favorable to Republicans in recent years.

For the first time in modern history, Florida has more registered Republicans — nearly 5.2 million — than Democrats, who have nearly 5 million registered voters. Fried serves as the only Democrat in statewide office. And Republicans have no primary competition for four of those five positions — governor, U.S. Sen-

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 20 of 62

ate, attorney general and chief financial officer — which are all held by GOP incumbents.

U.S. Rep. Val Demings easily won the Democratic nomination to challenge Republican Sen. Marco Rubio this fall. Demings, a former police chief and a prodigious political fundraiser, has a chance to become Florida's first Black female senator.

While some Democrats are hopeful that Demings can unseat Rubio, the party's national leadership is prioritizing competitive Senate contests in other states, including neighboring Georgia, Arizona and Pennsylvania.

Demings was optimistic as she reflected on her unlikely life story before a crowd of cheering supporters.

"Together, I really do believe this daughter of a maid and janitor who is not supposed to be standing here tonight — I really do believe that together we can do anything," she said.

In Florida's governor's race, the Supreme Court's abortion decision animated the final weeks of the Democratic primary.

Fried promoted herself as the only true abortion-rights supporter in the race, seizing on Crist's appointment of two conservative Supreme Court justices while he was governor.

The conservative-leaning court will soon decide whether the Republican-backed state legislature's law to ban abortions after 15 weeks is constitutional. Florida's new abortion law is in effect, with exceptions if the procedure is necessary to save the pregnant woman's life, to prevent serious injury or if the fetus has a fatal abnormality. It does not allow exemptions in cases of rape, incest or human trafficking.

Crist vowed Tuesday night to make abortion rights a priority.

"On Day One of my administration, I will sign an executive order protecting a woman's right to choose," he said.

Elsewhere in Florida, Trump protégé Rep. Matt Gaetz won his Republican primary in his Florida Panhandle district despite being under federal investigation in a sex trafficking case. Gaetz is heavily favored to win a fourth term come November.

Florida is not expected to be among the most competitive states this fall given its rightward shift, but it may be the most expensive.

Crist raised \$14 million so far this election cycle, nearly twice as much as Fried. But he's going up against a fundraising behemoth. DeSantis' political operation has already raised more than \$165 million since he took office, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. He's on pace to shatter the record for the most money ever raised by a candidate for governor.

"Don't let anyone tell you it's going to be easy. Over the next two and a half months, they're gonna throw everything they have at us," DeSantis said. He added, "I got elected less than four years ago, but we're just getting warmed up."

## Ukraine marks Independence Day six months after start of war

By DEREK GATOPOULOS and INNA VARENYTSIA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Residents of Kyiv woke up to air raid sirens as Ukraine observed its Independence Day on Wednesday, which also marked exactly six months since the start of Russia's military invasion.

Authorities in the capital banned large-scale gatherings until Thursday, fearing the national holiday might bring particularly heavy Russian missile attacks. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged the public to be vigilant.

"Russian provocations and brutal strikes are a possibility," Zelenskyy said in a statement. "Please strictly follow the safety rules. Please observe the curfew. Pay attention to the air sirens. Pay attention to official announcements. And remember: We must all achieve victory together."

Last year, crowds turned out in Kyiv to watch a military parade marking Ukraine's 30-year independence anniversary. But this year, just a small number of residents gathered at Kyiv's central square, where destroyed Russian tanks and mobile artillery were put on display over the weekend, and the national anthem is played every day at 7 a.m.

"I can't sleep at night because of what I see and hear about what is being done in Ukraine," a retiree

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 21 of 62

who identified herself only by her first name, Tetyana, said, her voice shaking with emotion.

"This is not a war. It is the destruction of the Ukrainian people," she said.

Wednesday's holiday commemorates Ukraine's 1991 declaration of independence from the Soviet Union.

"Six months ago, Russia declared war on us. On Feb. 24, all of Ukraine heard explosions and gunshots. ... On Feb. 24, we were told: You have no chance. On Aug. 24, we say: Happy Independence Day, Ukraine!" Zelenskyy said in an Independence Day message.

A car bombing outside Moscow that killed the 29-year-old daughter of right-wing Russian political theorist Alexander Dugin on Saturday heightened fears that Russia might intensify attacks on Ukraine this week.

Russian officials have blamed Ukraine for the death of Darya Dugina, a nationalist Russian TV commentator. The car bomb exploded after she had attended a patriotic festival with her father, who was widely believed to have been the intended target.

The Ukrainian government has denied any involvement.

Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24. Moscow's military encountered unexpectedly stiff Ukrainian resistance, and the six months of fighting has upended life in Ukraine and sent shock waves through the world economy.

As the war reached its 182nd day, there was no sign of a quick end to the conflict, which NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Tuesday described as "a grinding war of attrition." Russia now holds large swaths of the country's east and south, but its gains accumulated slowly. Neither country has revealed how many troops it has lost during the six-month conflict.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, speaking Wednesday at a meeting of defense ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a security grouping dominated by Russia and China, claimed the slow pace of Moscow's military action was due to what he said was an effort to spare civilians.

Russian forces have repeatedly targeted civilian areas in cities. But Shoigu said that "strikes with precision weapons are carried out against the Ukrainian armed forces' military infrastructure .... Everything is done to avoid civilian casualties. Undoubtedly, it slows down the pace of the offensive, but we do it deliberately."

He also criticized Western states for sending military aid to Ukraine, saying it was prolonging the war.

"The U.S. and its allies are continuing to pump weapons into Ukraine, increasing the number of victims and dragging the conflict out," Shoigu said.

The United States is expected on Wednesday to announce roughly \$3 billion in additional aid to train and equip Ukrainian forces to fight for years to come, U.S. officials said.

The officials told The Associated Press the package would fund contracts for as many as three types of drones and other weapons, ammunition and equipment that may not see the battlefield for a year or two.

The new funding is largely aimed at helping Ukraine secure its medium- to long-term defense posture, according to officials familiar with the matter. Earlier shipments focused on Ukraine's more immediate needs for weapons and ammunition and involved materiel the Pentagon already had in stock that could be shipped quickly.

Several officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the aid package before a public announcement.

On the forefront of the Russian offensive in eastern Ukraine, the conflict ground on. Russian forces struck several towns and villages in Donetsk province over 24 hours, killing one person and injuring two others, according to the regional administration.

In the Dnipropetrovsk region on the southern front, Russian forces again shelled the cities of Nikopol and Marhanets, damaging several buildings and injuring two people, according to Gov. Valentyn Reznichenko. Russian troops also shelled the city of Zaporizhzhia, damaging several buildings and infrastructure but inflicting no casualties.

## Past S. Korean gov'ts blamed for abuses, deaths at facility

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's Truth and Reconciliation Commission has found the country's past military governments responsible for atrocities committed at Brothers Home, a state-funded "vagrants'

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 22 of 62

facility" where thousands were enslaved and abused from the 1960s to 1980s.

The landmark report on Wednesday came 35 years after a prosecutor first exposed the horrors at the facility in the southern port city of Busan and details an attempted cover-up of incriminating evidence that would have confirmed a state-sponsored crime.

The commission's chairperson, Jung Geun-sik, urged South Korea's current government to issue a formal apology to survivors and explore ways to ease their suffering as he announced the initial results of its investigation into Brothers, including extreme cases of forced labor, violence and deaths.

The commission also called for the government to review the conditions at current welfare facilities around the country and swiftly ratify the United Nations convention against enforced disappearances.

The commission "confirmed that the direct and indirect exercise of government authority resulted in the forced confinement of people deemed as vagrants at Brothers Home and caused serious violations of human rights, including forced labor, physical assault, cruel treatment, deaths and disappearances," Jeung said in a news conference at the commission's office in Seoul.

"The state has ignored pleas (by inmates) to correct the human rights violations at Brothers Home, had knowledge of the problems but did not act to resolve them, and attempted to distort and minimize the scale of the abuses after the Brothers Home incident became known in 1987, preventing proper legal handling (of the abuses) based on facts," he said.

Lee Jae-seung, a senior commission official who oversees the Brothers inquiry, said he wouldn't hesitate to define Brothers as a state crime.

The commission's report was based on an examination of a broad range of evidence, including documents from police, prosecutors and courts, and Brothers' own files, such as intake documents and death certificates. It also found records that suggest the facility abusively administered psychiatric drugs to control inmates.

The commission said the violence and abuse at Brothers were even worse than previously known. It said its examination of records so far point to at least 657 deaths at Brothers, which was higher than the previously known tally of 513 between 1975 and 1986 documented in the facility's records.

The commission also confirmed that Busan police randomly seized people off the streets to send them to Brothers, regardless of whether they had easily identifiable homes or families. They often allowed Brothers employees, who toured the city in trucks, to do the kidnapping themselves.

Brothers, run by late owner Park In-keun and his family, also embezzled the wages of thousands of inmates who were forced into slave labor, which involved construction work both offsite and at Brothers, as well as work in factories making clothing, ballpoint pens and fishing hooks.

So far, no one has been held accountable for hundreds of deaths, rapes and beatings at Brothers.

Jung acknowledged that the recommendations the commission makes to the government aren't binding but said its findings could be used as evidence for survivors if they pursue lawsuits for damages against the government or any remaining Brothers stakeholders. The commission did not directly recommend the pursuit of criminal charges.

The commission's report was based on its investigation into the cases of 191 individuals, who were among 544 Brothers survivors who have so far filed applications. The commission plans to produce more reports as it continues its investigations.

Jung said the commission also plans to look into the foreign adoptions of Brothers children, which The Associated Press first confirmed in 2019. Through documents obtained from officials, lawmakers or through freedom of information requests, the AP found direct evidence that 19 children were adopted out of Brothers between 1979 and 1986, and indirect evidence suggesting at least 51 more adoptions.

Some Brothers survivors wept from their seats as Jung and Lee announced the results of the investigation.

Choi Seung-woo, who landed in Brothers as a schoolchild in 1982 after being kidnapped by police and endured severe beatings and sexual abuse for years, said the report gives survivors "hope and courage." He urged the government to actively support survivors who are grappling with financial and health problems and intense "trauma."

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 23 of 62

"(The commission's findings) give us another opportunity to redeem ourselves in court, but no one knows how long that's going to take," Choi said.

Lee Chae-sik, another former inmate, said the commission's truth-finding efforts won't mean much if survivors don't receive immediate help.

"I am fine. I run three convenience stores, but what about this guy?" Lee said, showing his text messages with another former inmate stuck in a long-term care hospital. "Our country has been waiting for us to die."

From the 1960s to 1980s, South Korean military dictators ordered roundups to beautify the streets. Thousands — including homeless and disabled people, as well as children — were snatched off the streets and brought to facilities where they were detained and forced to work. The commission said such roundups were "illegal and unconstitutional" as they violated people's fundamental rights and freedoms.

In interviews with dozens of former Brothers inmates, many said that as children, they were brought to the facility after police officers kidnapped them, and that their parents had no idea of their whereabouts.

Many inmates were enslaved, raped and, in hundreds of cases, beaten to death or left to die, their bodies dumped in the woods, according to dozens of interviews with survivors and a review of an extensive range of government and Brothers documents obtained by the AP.

The commission said the facility's death records describe many of the victims as already dead upon arrival at hospitals, which it said either indicates dismal health conditions at the overcrowded facility or an attempt to conceal deaths caused by beatings and torture.

The commission said records show that Brothers, which had a designated ward for inmates with mental health problems, purchased abnormal volumes of psychiatric drugs. Such drugs were likely forced upon a broad range of inmates as the facility's owners tried to maintain their grip over a sprawling compound they controlled with severe violence and military-style discipline.

"Brothers Home arbitrarily administered drugs to inmates who struggled to adjust or were rebellious, and the psychiatric ward was used as a so-called 'disciplinary ward,'" the commission said in its report.

The commission also highlighted an extreme case of a former Brothers inmate who reunited with his relatives nearly five decades after he landed at the facility.

The man, identified only by his surname Seol, was grabbed from a Busan train station and locked up at Brothers sometime around 1974 and 1975. He was transferred years later to an orphanage, which registered him as an orphan, soon after his family registered him as dead following years of futile searches. Seol reunited with his relatives in June last year, following the commission's investigation into his family background.

The roundups intensified as South Korea began preparing to bid for and host the 1988 Summer Olympics. Brothers, a mountainside compound in Busan, was the largest of these facilities and had around 4,000 inmates when its horrors were exposed in 1987.

Kim Yong Won, the former prosecutor who exposed Brothers, told the AP that high-ranking officials blocked his investigation under direction from the office of military strongman Chun Doo-hwan, who feared an embarrassing international incident on the eve of the Olympics.

Following Kim's watered-down investigation and narrow indictments, Park, the Brothers' owner, was acquitted by the Supreme Court in 1989 of charges linked to illegal confinement of inmates. Park, who served a short prison term for embezzlement and other relatively minor charges, died in 2016.

The commission began investigating the Brothers abuse in May last year, following a yearslong struggle for redemption by Brothers survivors, many of whom are struggling with financial and health problems.

## **EXPLAINER: Where Ukraine war stands after 6 months**

By The Associated Press undefined

When Russian President Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 in an unprovoked act of aggression, many expected a quick victory.

Six months later, the largest military conflict in Europe since World War II has turned into a grinding war

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 24 of 62

of attrition. The Russian offensive has largely bogged down as Ukrainian forces increasingly target key facilities far behind the front lines, including in Russia-occupied Crimea.

A look at where things stand:

## A BOTCHED BLITZ

When Putin declared the start of the "special military operation," he urged Ukraine's military to turn against the government in Kyiv, reflecting the Kremlin's belief that the population would broadly welcome the invaders. Some of the Russian troops coming in from Moscow's ally of Belarus, just 200 kilometers (about 125 miles) north of the capital, reportedly brought their parade uniforms with them in preparation for a quick triumph.

Those hopes were quickly shattered by fierce Ukrainian resistance, backed by Western-supplied weapons systems to the government of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Airborne troops sent to seize airfields around Kyiv suffered heavy losses and armored convoys stretching along the main highway leading to the capital were pummeled by Ukrainian artillery and scouts.

Despite numerous attacks on Ukrainian air bases and air defense assets, the Russian air force has failed to win full control of the skies and suffered heavy losses, limiting its ability to support ground forces.

One month into the war, Moscow pulled its troops back from areas near Kyiv, Kharkiv, Chernihiv and other major cities in a tacit acknowledgment of the blitz's failure.

## SHIFTING BATTLEFIELDS

The Kremlin then shifted its focus to the Donbas, Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland, where Moscow-backed separatists had been fighting government troops since 2014 following Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula.

Relying on their massive edge in artillery, Russian forces inched forward in ferocious battles that devastated the region. The strategic port of Mariupol on the Sea of Azov that became a symbol of Ukrainian resistance fell in May after a nearly three-month siege that reduced the city to ruins.

More than 2,400 Mariupol defenders who holed up at the giant Azovstal steel mill later surrendered and were taken prisoner. At least 53 of them died last month in an explosion at a prison in eastern Ukraine that Moscow and Kyiv blamed on each other.

The Russians have taken control of the entire Luhansk region, one of two provinces that make up the Donbas, and also seized just over half of the second, Donetsk.

Russia currently occupies about 20% of Ukraine's territory.

"Putin will try to bite one piece of Ukrainian territory after another to strengthen his negotiating stand," said Mykola Sunhurovskyi, a military analyst with the Kyiv-based Razumkov Center think-tank. "His message to Ukraine is: If you don't sit down for talks now, things will get worse and we will take even more of your territory and kill even more of your people. He's trying to raise not only external but also internal pressure on the Ukrainian government."

The Donbas offensive has slowed as Moscow was forced to relocate some of its troops to Russia-occupied areas in the south to fend off a potential Ukrainian counteroffensive.

Russian troops seized the Kherson region, north of Crimea, and part of the neighboring Zaporizhzhia region early in the conflict. It has installed pro-Moscow administrations there, introduced its currency, handed out Russian passports and launched preparations for referendums to pave the way for their annexation.

But Ukrainian forces recently reclaimed some ground, striking bridges and targeting munitions depots. Meanwhile, both sides have traded accusations of shelling the Russia-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe's largest, raising fears of an atomic disaster.

"Ukraine has forced Russia to conduct a massive redeployment of forces and spread them all along the front line, from Kharkiv to Kherson," said Ukrainian military expert Oleh Zhdanov. "It's very hard to stretch them along such a big distance."

Although Kyiv doesn't have enough weapons to launch a big counteroffensive, "time plays in Ukraine's favor," he said. "The longer the pause lasts, the more weapons Ukraine will receive from its allies."

## UKRAINIAN SUCCESSES

Western weapons, including U.S. HIMARS multiple rocket launchers, have boosted Ukraine's military's



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 25 of 62

capability, allowing it to target Russian munitions depots, bridges and other key facilities with precision and impunity.

In a major symbolic victory in April, the flagship of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, the Moskva missile cruiser, exploded and sank while on patrol after reportedly being hit by a Ukrainian missile. That dealt a heavy blow to Russia's pride and forced it to limit naval operations.

Another big win for Ukraine came when Russian troops pulled back from strategic Snake Island, located on shipping lanes near Odesa, following relentless Ukrainian attacks. The retreat reduced the threat of a seaborne Russian attack on Odesa, helping pave the way for a deal to resume Ukrainian grain exports.

Russia suffered a new blow this month when a series of explosions at an airbase and munitions depot in Crimea. While Kyiv stopped short of taking credit for the blasts, there was no doubt about Ukrainian involvement. The Russians acknowledged that sabotage was behind one blast and alleged unsafe handling of munitions caused another — an explanation ridiculed by Ukraine.

The explosions, which were followed by drone attacks, underlined the vulnerability of Crimea, which holds symbolic value for Russia and is key to sustaining its operations in the south. They demonstrated that Ukrainian forces are capable of striking far behind the front line, and Ukrainian officials warn that the 19-kilometer (12-mile) Crimean bridge, the longest in Europe, could be the next target.

## LIVES LOST AND DISRUPTED

Both Russia and Ukraine mostly focus on the casualties they inflict on each other, avoiding mention of their own losses.

But Ukraine's military chief, Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnyi, said Monday that nearly 9,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed in action.

The Russian Defense Ministry last reported its casualties on March 25, one month into the war, when it said 1,351 soldiers had been killed and 3,825 were wounded.

Western estimates of Russian dead have ranged from more than 15,000 to over 20,000 — more than the Soviet Union lost during its 10-year war in Afghanistan.

The Pentagon said last week that between 70,000 to 80,000 Russian troops have been killed or wounded in action — losses that have eroded Moscow's capability to conduct big offensives.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights has recorded over 5,500 civilian deaths in the war, but noted the actual numbers could be significantly higher.

The invasion has created the largest postwar refugee crisis in Europe. The U.N. refugee agency says a third of Ukrainians have fled their homes, with more than 6.6 million displaced within the country and over 6.6 million more across the continent.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

The war's outcome will depend on the ability of Russia and Ukraine to muster additional resources.

While Ukraine has conducted a mobilization and declared a goal to form a 1 million-member military, Russia has continued to rely on a limited contingent of volunteers, an approach reflecting Kremlin fears that a mass mobilization could fuel discontent and destabilize the country.

Moscow has opted for interim steps, trying to encourage people to sign contracts with the military, increasingly engaging private contractors such as the Wagner Group, and even rounding up some prisoners for service — half-measures unable to meet the needs for any big offensives.

"Unless Russia mobilizes its population and mobilizes its industry, it cannot bring to bear the weight of people and industry in order to create a much bigger, more effective force, and therefore, it will have to consider how it hangs on to what it has already taken," retired British Gen. Richard Barrons said.

Ukraine also lacks resources for any quick reclamation of its territory, with Barrons estimating it could take well into next year to amass a force capable of driving the Russians out.

"It can only do it if the West provides political will, money at about \$5 to 6 billion a month, weapons like long-range artillery, the ammunition that supports that artillery and then enables the logistics and medical support that allows Ukraine to build a million-strong army," said Barrons, co-chair of the consulting group Universal Defence & Security Solutions.

He said the West should be prepared to continue supporting Ukraine for a long time, despite soaring energy prices and other economic challenges stemming from sanctions imposed on Russia.

Abandoning Ukraine, he said, would send a message "to Russia and China and everybody else that the West does not have the stomach to stand up for its friends or even its own interests."

## For clean energy, financial growth, Africa looks to UN talks

By WANJOHI KABUKURU Associated Press

MOMBASA, Kenya (AP) — In Kenya's semi-arid Makueni County, 50-year-old Purity Kinyili used to spend most of her time traveling for water and firewood to sustain her family and farmland.

But then the government set up an initiative to install solar energy in rural towns, so she got hold of the easy-to-install panels, set them up and sunk a solar-powered borehole. Now her once dry land has turned a lush green, and she's even got enough power left over for electricity in her home.

Access to more and cleaner energy while continuing to grow economically will be a top priority for African nations in the upcoming United Nations climate conference in November, top officials and climate experts on the continent said.

As part of the Africa's goal for what's called a "just transition" — ensuring that the buildout of clean energy is fair and inclusive — the African Union wants to boost access to electricity and clean cooking resources to hundreds of millions of people. It's estimated that 600 million people out of 1.4 billion living on the continent don't have electricity, with 900 million lacking access to cleaner cooking fuels.

But some experts argue that improving living standards means that Africa will, at least temporarily, have to increase its output of fossil fuels.

Africa needs longer timeframes and more financial resources to move towards clean energy if it still wants to meet its social and economic growth goals, Harsen Nyambe, the director of sustainable environment and blue economy division at the African Union, told the Associated Press.

He said that while a just transition is "good", he urged the need to be "realistic" about expectations for African nations as the continent is also trying to develop infrastructure with fewer resources, while already dealing with the effects of a warming climate.

Africa is particularly vulnerable to climate change, with little resources to adapt to hotter and drier temperatures in some areas and extreme downpours in others. The Horn and east of Africa are suffering from ongoing and devastating drought which has left populations with little food and water, while southern nations are battered by deadly cyclones with growing frequency.

"We have different capacities and responsibilities," Nyambe said, adding that Africa could, for example, be given up to 100 years to transition away from dirty fuels.

Many nations, particularly developed countries like the U.S. and in Europe who are responsible for a larger share of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere, are looking to achieve "net zero" emissions by 2050. China hopes to achieve the net zero goal by 2060, and India by 2070.

Africa already emits far less carbon dioxide than other continents or individual nations, accounting for just 3% to 4% of emissions despite being home to nearly 17% of the world's population, said James Murombedzi, who heads the Africa Climate Policy Centre.

To achieve "net zero", countries would need to dramatically cut down their greenhouse gas emissions while offsetting the remainder with projects that suck carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. Tree-planting projects have sprung up across the continent, such as in Lufasi Park in Nigeria or Mozambique's mangrove restoration projects, mostly from private investors looking to counterbalance their own polluting activities.

But experts say local governments are not yet able to invest the required funding for such large carbon-absorbing projects.

"There is pressure for the net zero by 2050. I think as Africa we should not give in to the pressure given our circumstances," Nyambe said, referring to Africa's lack of financing and growing infrastructure needs.

He said any emissions targets "should be accompanied by resources. Because how do you transform without capacity, finance and technology?"

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 27 of 62

Nyambe added that getting the right financial support at the U.N. climate conference, known as COP27, can help kickstart Africa's transition to cleaner energy.

The African Union has pointed to natural gas as "transition fuel" for Africa's energy needs, alongside renewables, hydrogen and nuclear energy, although some experts have questioned whether gas should be used in a move toward cleaner sources. Although natural gas emits less carbon dioxide than other fossil fuels, building up gas infrastructure may slow efforts to move to renewables, they say.

"Africa is embracing a clean energy future but will do so based on its needs and circumstances," said Linus Mofor, a senior environmental affairs advisor at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. "The use of natural gas, which is plentiful in the continent, is critical."

Algeria, Egypt and Nigeria lead Africa in gas production with countries like Senegal, Mozambique, Tanzania and Angola all expected to become gas producing hubs.

Mofor added that the "transition to renewable energies will require substantial capital investments. By 2030, Africa will need \$2 trillion to address its energy transformation."

Some of the continent's larger economies have already invested heavily in renewable energy, with mega-projects like Morocco's Ourzazate Solar Power Station, Egypt's Kom Ombo solar plant, Kenya's Menengai geothermal plant and Lake Turkana's wind farm and the Jasper solar plant in South Africa sprouting up across Africa.

Smaller projects, such as off-grid solar panels to bring electricity to rural areas or rooftop solar panels, are also being installed across the continent, with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria leading the way.

But a "strong commitment by developed nations" to help cut emissions and assist Africa's energy transition means even more clean energy projects can arise, said Mouhamadou Bamba Sylla, a meteorologist and lead author of the U.N.'s latest climate assessment.

## US airstrikes target militia-controlled areas in east Syria

BEIRUT (AP) — The U.S. military said early Wednesday it carried out airstrikes in eastern Syria that targeted areas used by militias backed by Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

There was no immediate acknowledgment by Syria's state-run media of the strikes hitting Deir Ez-Zor. Iran as well did not acknowledge the attack.

Opposition war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and activist collective Deir Ezzor 24 said the airstrikes targeted the Ayash Camp run by the Fatimiyoun group made up of Shiite fighters from Afghanistan. The war monitor reported that at least six Syrian and foreign militants were killed in the airstrikes.

The U.S. military's Central Command said the strikes "took proportionate, deliberate action intended to limit the risk of escalation and minimize the risk of casualties." It did not identify the targets, nor offer any casualty figures from the strikes, which the military said came at the orders of President Joe Biden.

"Today's strikes were necessary to protect and defend U.S. personnel," Central Command spokesman Col. Joe Buccino said in a statement.

The colonel added the attack was in response to an Aug. 15 attack targeting U.S. forces. That attack saw drones allegedly launched by Iranian-backed militias target the al-Tanf Garrison used by American forces. U.S. Central Command described the assault as causing "zero casualties and no damage" at the time.

Deir Ez-Zor is a strategic province that borders Iraq and contains oil fields. Iran-backed militia groups and Syrian forces control the area and have often been the target of Israeli war planes in previous strikes.

U.S. forces entered Syria in 2015, backing allied forces in their fight against the Islamic State group.

## Primary takeaways: Abortion politics, DeSantis flexes muscle

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis learned who his Democratic challenger will be this fall. The impact of redistricting was on full display. Democrats sorted through rivalries amongst themselves. And abortion may give Democrats a lifeline in an otherwise rough November.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 28 of 62

The most intense stretch of the midterm primary season ended Tuesday with results that will set up fierce general election contests across the United States.

Takeaways from Tuesday's contests in Florida and New York:

## ABORTION WILD CARD

Midterm elections are usually miserable for the party in power. But Democrats hope one of their biggest losses in memory may ultimately salvage 2022 for them.

Ever since the conservative majority on the U.S. Supreme Court revoked the constitutional right for a woman to obtain an abortion, Democrats have seen a boost in donations, polling and performance in special elections for open congressional seats. The latest came Tuesday in a Hudson Valley swing district that, in a Republican wave year, should have been an easy GOP win. Instead, Democratic Ulster County executive Pat Ryan defeated his Republican counterpart from Dutchess County, Marc Molinaro.

The stakes, governing-wise, were small — the seat will disappear in the fall as a new congressional map goes into effect. But because the race became a referendum on abortion after the high court's ruling, the political implications are huge. It comes after a ballot measure to ban the procedure was crushed in solidly conservative Kansas.

Republicans were anticipating a typical midterm landslide, with inflation high and President Joe Biden's approval rating low. It may still end up a solid GOP year, but Ryan's win is the latest indication that Democrats don't have to abandon hope.

## DESANTIS FLEXES HIS MUSCLES

One Florida politician wasn't facing a primary challenge on Tuesday but made sure to dominate the news anyway — DeSantis.

DeSantis is considered former President Donald Trump's top rival for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, partly due to the way he's leaned into political and cultural divides in the Sunshine State. On Tuesday he demonstrated why.

The governor began the day with a Cabinet meeting, which included the only Democrat elected statewide in Florida, Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried. She was competing for her party's nomination to face DeSantis that evening.

DeSantis shook Fried's hand as the meeting concluded and told her "good luck" before criticizing her campaign and predicting — accurately, it turned out — her loss in brief remarks to reporters.

"I think that you know she had an opportunity as being the only Democrat elected statewide to exercise some leadership and maybe get some things done and instead she's used her time to try and smear me on a daily basis, that's all she does," DeSantis said of Fried.

After polls closed in the evening, DeSantis grabbed the spotlight again, speaking to a crowd in Miami. "We're not going to let this state be overrun by woke ideology, we will fight the woke in the business, we will fight the woke in government agencies, we will fight the woke in our schools," DeSantis said. "We will never, ever surrender to the woke agenda. Florida is the state where woke goes to die."

Expect to hear a lot more like that from DeSantis in the months — and possibly years — ahead.

## GERRYMANDERING'S LONG SHADOW

Florida and New York, which held primary elections Tuesday, were two of the states whose legislative maps were most radically redrawn this year to favor one political party. It was part of a centuries-old political gambit known as gerrymandering.

But Tuesday night showed two different sides of gerrymandering. The New York map that Democrats redrew to ruthlessly target vulnerable Republicans got tossed out by the state's highest court as an illegal partisan act.

The map was redrawn to be more balanced, disregarding the political fortunes of some of New York's most prominent members of Congress and lumping several high-profile lawmakers in the same district in a push for equity. Ignoring scattered protests that its April ruling came too late in the process to change the map, the high court moved the state's congressional primary to Tuesday, two months after its June primary for state offices.

That's why New York's Democratic primaries Tuesday were so fractious and chaotic.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 29 of 62

In contrast, Florida's Republican-appointed State Supreme Court declined to change the partisan map that DeSantis pushed the Republican-controlled Florida legislature to approve. Unlike the New York court, the Florida court declined to mess with the map close to the election.

As a result, Florida's incumbent House members generally stayed put Tuesday night, not forced into any career-ending primary battles because of districts being moved. The great exception was Rep. Charlie Crist, who ran for — and won — the Democratic nomination for governor partly because DeSantis' map transformed his district into a solidly Republican one. The new map also effectively eliminated two seats, currently represented in Washington by Black Democrats, where African Americans comprise the largest share of voters.

Nationally, both parties tried to gerrymander during the past redistricting cycle, but Democrats were reined in slightly more than Republicans — largely due to Florida and New York. Florida's top court may change that in the coming years when it rules on challenges to DeSantis' maps.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Supreme Court is considering multiple cases that could change the ability of courts to redistrict gerrymanders. That may help determine whether we see more congressional primaries like New York's, or more like Florida's.

## DEMOCRATIC DIVISIONS

It's been muted by the spectacle of Trump's makeover of the GOP, but Democrats also spent the primary season torn over the direction of their party.

Left-wing contenders continued to mount primary challenges to centrist Democrats. The left lost its most prominent bids to dislodge incumbent House members in south Texas and Cleveland.

Two new losses came Tuesday, when a liberal state senator was crushed by Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney in a congressional primary north of New York City. And attorney Dan Goldman, who worked on Trump's first impeachment, narrowly beat a bevy of more progressive rivals in a primary for a congressional seat centered in Brooklyn.

But the left has won some victories this primary season, nabbing a nomination for a House seat in Pennsylvania and seeing one of its favorite politicians, that state's Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman, win the party's nomination for Senate.

Neither side has been crushed, so expect more left-on-center primaries next election cycle.

## TRUMP'S PARTY, WITH AN ASTERISK

Trump set out to demonstrate his dominance of the GOP this primary season, and he succeeded — to a point.

His approval helped set the party's Senate field and was pivotal in a number of hotly contested primaries. He claimed his biggest prize last week, when his chosen candidate beat Rep. Liz Cheney in Wyoming's Republican primary. On Tuesday, Trump's chosen candidate, Air Force veteran and conservative activist Anna Luna, won her primary in an open GOP-leaning seat on Florida's Gulf Coast.

But Trump had some huge humiliations — especially when he tried to intervene in governor's races in Idaho, Nebraska and especially Georgia, where Trump failed to oust Gov. Brian Kemp for refusing to overturn the 2020 election in his state and award it to Trump.

Even more significantly, Trump elevated candidates who may not be able to win competitive races — or may even pose a threat to democracy itself. Last week, the GOP's Senate leader, Mitch McConnell, warned that his party may not win a Senate majority due to "candidate quality" among its nominees. They include Trump-backed candidates struggling in swing states, like Herschel Walker in Georgia, JD Vance in Ohio and Mehmet Oz in Pennsylvania.

Others, like the GOP's nominees for Pennsylvania governor, Doug Mastriano, and Arizona governor, Kari Lake, have denied that Trump lost the 2020 election, raising questions about whether they'd certify the actual winners of future elections if they take over their statehouses.

Trump does not always have to intercede for extreme candidates who have mimicked his style to rise in Republican primaries. On Tuesday, Laura Loomer, a conservative provocateur who's been banned from several social media websites for posting anti-Muslim remarks, surprised many with a strong — albeit

unsuccessful — showing in a primary challenge to 73-year-old Florida Rep. Daniel Webster. Still, Trump's effect on the GOP became immeasurable this primary season.

## Native groups seek to repair lands damaged by colonization

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

KINGSTON, Mass. (AP) — Asa Peters marched into a thicket of Japanese knotweed in the woods of coastal Massachusetts this month and began steadily hacking the towering, dense vegetation down to size.

The 24-year-old member of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe was among a cadre of volunteers rooting out invasive species and tending to recently planted native vegetation on a wide swath of forest acquired on behalf of his federally recognized tribe and other Wampanoag communities.

"It's hard. You got to keep pulling and pulling. Starting to really sweat, but it's cool," he said as he took a quick break in the sweltering August heat. "We're in the early stages, putting in the work to create a special place where we can do all kinds of great things."

The Wampanoag Common Lands, as the project is called, seeks to restore a 32-acre (13-hectare) former Catholic summer camp on the banks of the Muddy Pond in Kingston to something closer to what it might have looked like before European colonization transformed it.

The Native Land Conservancy, the local Native group that received the donated land this year, envisions a natural environment filled with indigenous plants and animals where Wampanoags can practice cultural ceremonies and educate new generations in traditional ways.

Ramona Peters, a Mashpee Wampanoag who founded the conservancy, said the effort is all the more meaningful because the land is some 5 miles from where Pilgrims arriving on the Mayflower established the English colony of Plymouth, near the remnants of a Wampanoag community wiped out by European disease.

"This is basically where the first impact of colonization of this country happened," she said. "It's very significant that it's been returned to us."

The Wampanoag Common Lands is part of a growing movement of Indigenous-led conservation efforts helping to preserve and reinvigorate Native culture and identity, said Beth Rose-Middleton, a professor at the University of California, Davis, focused on Native American environmental policy and conservation.

The efforts are also critical in the face of climate change, which has acutely harmed Native communities, she said. Alaska tribes facing increased erosion, flooding and thawing permafrost have weighed relocating from their coastal and riverside lands. Louisiana bayou tribes still reeling from Hurricane Ida last year are bracing for ever-powerful storms, while across the American West, tribes are contending with a historic drought that has upended their way of life.

"Many of our land and waterscapes have been pressed into extreme uses and depleted," Rose-Middletown said. "Land stewardship and care work are necessary for creating resilient landscapes."

In northern California, the Wiyot Tribe has spent more than two decades restoring a badly polluted island that was the site of an 1860 massacre that nearly wiped out the tribe and, more recently, was home to a ship repair facility.

Michelle Vassel, the tribe's administrator, said the years of environmental work on Tuluwat have contributed to better water quality and marine habitats across Humboldt Bay.

"For us, it's a responsibility. Indigenous people are tied to a place," she said. "This work is also healing. The history of the massacre has always been a scar on the broader community. This was a way to change that history."

Tribes in Wyoming and other Great Plains states, meanwhile, have been reintroducing bison herds brought to near-extinction by European settlers. Those in Washington state and other parts of the Pacific Northwest are focused on protecting glacial rivers vital for migrating salmon from warming waters and the effects of dams and industrial pollution.

And on the Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard, the Native-run Sassafras Earth Education has been teaching youths and families traditional Wampanoag cultivation practices for decades.

The organization's Land Culture Project seeks to transform roughly 20 acres (8 hectares) of forested land and fields into a "highly productive food forest" of native trees and shrubs beneficial to both people and wildlife.

"It's not just about restoring the physical land," said Saskia Vanderhoop, who founded the organization with her husband, David Vanderhoop, an Aquinnah Wampanoag elder. "It's also about restoring the culture."

At the nearby Wampanoag Common Lands, old summer camp buildings were torn down and pavement, athletic courts and other hard surfaces scraped away this year.

Even large, nonnative Norwegian spruce trees were uprooted by the prior owners at the conservancy's request, leaving mostly a bare clearing near the water's edge.

In their place, conservancy staff and volunteers this summer planted dozens of native species significant to Wampanoag culture, such as white oak trees, blueberry bushes, witch hazel, goldenrod and hay-scented ferns.

Wildlife cameras have been set up to survey and monitor otters, deer and other local fauna. The conservancy is also building bat houses and considering reintroducing threatened and rare native animal species, such as northern red-bellied turtles, said Diana Ruiz, the Native Land Conservancy's director.

The organization is also exploring other uses, such as traditional Wampanoag lodges for hosting guests or other community functions.

"We're not looking at it as just this closed system that humans sometimes visit," she said. "We're looking at it as a space where the Wampanoag community can reconnect with their ancestral homeland in an active and deep way."

For Asa Peters, that potential for spiritual revitalization is what he finds most compelling about the land project.

He looks forward to returning years and decades from now not just to see how the plants he helped nourish take hold, but also how Wampanoags use the restored land.

"My hope for it is to be a beautiful, comfortable space," Peters said. "A place where people can come and it helps fill them back up."

## One month later, Kentucky flood evacuees weigh cloudy future

By BRUCE SCHREINER Associated Press

PRESTONSBURG, Ky. (AP) — Nearly a month after deadly flooding engulfed their houses, some eastern Kentuckians sheltering at state parks continue to wrestle with the same life-defining question — whether to rebuild at the place they call home or start over somewhere else.

Ivallean Smith, who awoke to rising floodwaters when her chihuahua licked her hand, hopes to return to the parcel of land she owns and loves. If she stays put, she says she'll have to elevate her new home with blocks to try to protect against the kind of terror she lived through late last month, when the rain never seemed like it would stop.

Cynthia Greathouse has already made up her mind — she and her husband hope to leave soon for Florida. Greathouse was nearly swept away by surging floodwaters. Starting over elsewhere just seems easier.

John Bailey, meanwhile, still isn't sure what comes next. His family's home was ruined by the water, and his kids don't want to go back.

For now, they're all being lodged in hotel-style rooms at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, a vacationer's retreat tucked into the Appalachian mountains. Late last week, 455 people were still being housed in Kentucky state parks, churches, schools and community centers, Gov. Andy Beshear said.

For those displaced by the flood, decisions on whether to stay or leave will be crucial for the future of eastern Kentucky, where the coal industry's decline has added to the region's hardships.

Despite his indecision, Bailey sounded upbeat Tuesday, knowing things could have been worse. The catastrophic flooding caused at least 39 deaths in eastern Kentucky.

"We're a lot better off than some people," he said. "Some people lost their family."

Flood victims said they've been treated with kindness at Jenny Wiley, known for towering pines, elk-

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 32 of 62

viewing tours and fishing on Dewey Lake. The state parks, American Red Cross and communities have provided meals. But for displaced families, the focus is on the future.

Federal emergency management personnel have been on site. Other services included crisis counseling and help to replace lost driver's licenses and seek disaster unemployment assistance.

Those at Jenny Wiley lauded the park's staff for the hospitality extended to them. And they praised Beshear for taking up their cause. The Democratic governor has pushed the Federal Emergency Management Agency to accelerate its approval of requests for help.

In his latest move, Beshear called Kentucky's legislature into a special session starting Wednesday to take up a relief package for eastern Kentucky. In his video announcement, Beshear talked about efforts to provide intermediate lodging for people displaced by the flooding.

"We're working to stabilize our people through a travel trailer program, where we already have nearly 100 travel trailers full and more on the way," he said.

By Tuesday, Smith, 60, had spent four days at Jenny Wiley, making her and her adult son relative newcomers. Since her home collapsed, she spent time with relatives and one night in a car wash.

Her vehicle was destroyed by floodwaters. She was hoping a friend would take her to the courthouse to obtain documents requested by FEMA. Her decision isn't final but she'd like to return to the land she owns — though she knows she won't find much there.

"We lost everything," Smith said.

For Bailey's family, some normalcy returns Wednesday, when his three children start a new school year. A school bus will pick them up and drop them off at the park, he's been told.

Asked if he'd like to rebuild on the place he owns, Bailey's thoughts turned to his 16-year-old son.

"He won't even go back right now to even look at it," Bailey said.

He's not sure where they might move, though he mentioned West Virginia as a possibility. But he won't do anything without thinking about what the weather might do.

"I definitely want out of the flood zone," he said.

Floodwaters wrecked Bailey's home, shifting it at the foundation and leaving the floors looking like "a roller coaster." When he checked around 4:30 a.m. on the fateful morning, the nearby creek was within its banks, he said. By 7:10 a.m., the water was up to his ankles. About 20 minutes later, it reached his stomach.

Bailey, his girlfriend, her sister and his children made a run for it. They've been living at the park ever since.

Bailey said he's awaiting a decision from FEMA on his request for aid. His family has a "little bit" in savings to fall back on, he said, but "it's going quick." Bailey said he used to work in the oil and gas fields but is now disabled.

Greathouse, 54, has no intention of returning to live at her rental trailer. During the deluge, she said, she was rescued by men who attached a chain to her vehicle and pulled it out of the surging floodwaters with their truck.

Unable to get back home, she said she spent several nights sleeping in her car until a church pointed her to Jenny Wiley. She's been there about three weeks.

Greathouse's husband is getting out of the hospital Thursday after being treated for a hernia, she said. They're awaiting approval for FEMA aid, but once that happens they're planning to move to the Daytona, Florida, area. She has family there, she said.

"Start a new journey and get out of here," said the lifelong Kentuckian. "There's nothing really here to offer any of us."

Reflecting further on the thought, she softened at the notion of cutting ties to her home state.

"I'll always come home," she said.

## 5 takeaways from Twitter whistleblower Peiter Zatko

By DAVID HAMILTON AP Technology Editor



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 33 of 62

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Startling new revelations from Twitter's former head of security, Peiter Zatkó, have raised serious new questions about the security of the platform's service, its ability to identify and remove fake accounts, and the truthfulness of its statements to users, shareholders and federal regulators.

Zatkó — better known by his hacker handle "Mudge" — is a respected cybersecurity expert who first gained prominence in the 1990s and later worked in senior positions at the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Agency and Google. Twitter fired him from the security job early this year for what the company called "ineffective leadership and poor performance." Zatkó's attorneys say that claim is false.

In a whistleblower complaint made public Tuesday, Zatkó documented his uphill 14-month effort to bolster Twitter security, boost the reliability of its service, repel intrusions by agents of foreign governments and both measure and take action against fake "bot" accounts that spammed the platform. In a statement, Twitter called Zatkó's description of events "a false narrative."

Here are five takeaways from that whistleblower complaint.

## TWITTER'S SECURITY AND PRIVACY SYSTEMS WERE GROSSLY INADEQUATE

In 2011, Twitter settled a Federal Trade Commission investigation into its privacy practices by agreeing to put stronger data security protections in place. Zatkó's complaint charges that Twitter's problems grew worse over time instead.

For instance, the complaint states, Twitter's internal systems allowed far too many employees access to personal user data they didn't need for their jobs — a situation ripe for abuse. For years, Twitter also continued to mine user data such as phone numbers and email addresses — intended only for security purposes — for ad targeting and marketing campaigns, according to the complaint.

## TWITTER'S ENTIRE SERVICE COULD HAVE COLLAPSED IRREPARABLY UNDER STRESS

One of the most striking revelations in Zatkó's complaint is the claim that Twitter's internal data systems were so ramshackle — and the company's contingency plans so insufficient — that any widespread crash or unplanned shutdown could have tanked the entire platform.

The concern was that a "cascading" data-center failure could quickly spread across Twitter's fragile information systems. As the complaint put it: "That meant that if all the centers went offline simultaneously, even briefly, Twitter was unsure if they could bring the service back up. Downtime estimates ranged from weeks of round-the-clock work, to permanent irreparable failure."

## TWITTER MISLED REGULATORS, INVESTORS AND MUSK ABOUT FAKE "SPAM" BOTS

In essence, Zatkó's complaint states that Tesla CEO Elon Musk — whose \$44 billion bid to acquire Twitter is headed for October trial in a Delaware court — is correct when he charges that Twitter executives have little incentive to accurately measure the prevalence of fake accounts on the system.

The complaint charges that the company's executive leadership practiced "deliberate ignorance" on the subject of these so-called spam bots. "Senior management had no appetite to properly measure the prevalence of bot accounts," the complaint states, adding that executives were concerned that accurate bot measurements would harm Twitter's "image and valuation."

## ON JAN. 6, 2021, TWITTER COULD HAVE BEEN AT THE MERCY OF DISGRUNTLED EMPLOYEES

Zatkó's complaint states that as a mob assembled in front of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, eventually storming the building, he began to worry that employees sympathetic to the rioters might try to sabotage Twitter. That concern spiked when he learned it was "impossible" to protect the platform's core systems from a hypothetical rogue or disgruntled engineer aiming to wreak havoc.

"There were no logs, nobody knew where data lived or whether it was critical, and all engineers had some form of critical access" to Twitter's core functions, the complaint states.

## A PLAYGROUND FOR FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

The Zatkó complaint also highlights Twitter's difficulty in identifying — much less resisting — the presence of foreign agents on its service. In one instance, the complaint alleges, the Indian government required Twitter to hire specific individuals alleged to be spies, and who would have had significant access to sensitive data thanks to Twitter's own lax security controls. The complaint also alleges a murkier situation involving taking money from unidentified "Chinese entities" that then could access data that might

endanger Twitter users in China.

## Uvalde school board to consider firing district police chief

By ACACIA CORONADO Associated Press

UVALDE, Texas (AP) — Uvalde's embattled school police chief on Wednesday faced becoming the first officer to lose his job over the hesitant response by hundreds of heavily armed law enforcement personnel during the May massacre at Robb Elementary School.

The Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District was set to make a decision on Pete Arredondo's future, three months to the day after a gunman killed 19 children and two teachers in one of the deadliest classroom attacks in U.S. history.

The meeting comes less than two weeks before the new school year begins in Uvalde.

Arredondo, who has been on administrative leave since June, has come under the most scrutiny for his actions during the May 24 tragedy. State police and a damning investigative report in July have criticized the police chief of the roughly 4,000-student school district for failing to take charge of the scene, not breaching the classroom sooner and wasting time by looking for a key to a likely unlocked door.

Ninety days after the massacre, the absence of any firings have frustrated many Uvalde residents and amplified demands for accountability. Investigations and body camera footage have laid bare how police rushed to the scene with bulletproof shields and high-powered rifles within minutes — but waited more than an hour before finally confronting the gunman in a classroom of fourth-graders.

An attorney for Arredondo did not respond to an email Tuesday.

Uvalde school officials have been under mounting pressure from victims' families and members of the community, many of whom have called for Arredondo's termination. Superintendent Hal Harrell had first moved to fire Arredondo in July but postponed the decision at the request of the police chief's attorney.

Only one other police official at the scene, Uvalde police Lt. Mariano Pargas, is known to have been placed on leave since the shooting. Pargas was the city's acting police chief during the massacre.

The Texas Department of Public Safety, which had more than 90 state troopers at the scene, has also launched an internal investigation into the response by state police.

School officials have said the campus at Robb Elementary will no longer be used. Instead, campuses elsewhere in Uvalde will serve as temporary classrooms for elementary school students, not all of whom are willing to return to school in-person following the shooting.

School officials say a virtual academy will be offered for students. The district has not said how many students will attend virtually, but a new state law passed last year in Texas following the pandemic limits the number of eligible students receiving remote instruction to "10% of all enrolled students within a given school system."

Schools can seek a waiver to exceed the limit but Uvalde has not done so, according to Melissa Holmes, a spokeswoman for the Texas Education Agency.

New measures to improve school safety in Uvalde include "8-foot, non-scalable perimeter fencing" at elementary, middle and high school campuses, according to the school district. Officials say they have also installed additional security cameras, upgraded locks, enhanced training for district staff and improving communication.

However, according to the district's own progress reports, as of Tuesday the fencing had not begun at six of the eight campuses planned and cameras had only been installed at the high school. Some progress had been made on locks at three of eight campuses, and communication improvement was marked as half complete for each campus.

Uvalde CISD did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

## Nadler defeats Maloney in battle of top House Democrats

By KAREN MATTHEWS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. Rep. Jerry Nadler, who twice led fights to impeach former President Donald

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 35 of 62

Trump, defeated U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney in a Democratic primary Tuesday after a court forced the two veteran lawmakers into the same New York City congressional district.

Nadler's victory ends a 30-year run in Congress for Maloney, who battled to get government aid for people sickened by clouds of toxic soot after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The unusual fight between incumbents who have spent decades working together was the result of a redistricting process that lumped Nadler's home base on the west side of Manhattan together with Maloney's on the east side, with neither willing to run in another part of the city.

In his victory speech, Nadler said he and Maloney "have spent much of our adult lives working together to better both New York and our nation. I speak for everyone in this room tonight when I thank her for her decades of service to our city."

Nadler also defeated Suraj Patel, a 38-year-old lawyer and lecturer at New York University who has now failed to advance out of a Democratic congressional primary in three straight tries.

Nadler, 75, was first elected to Congress in 1992. As chair of the House Judiciary Committee, he led both impeachments of Trump. Nadler was buoyed in the last weeks of the campaign by endorsements from The New York Times and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer.

He pledged he would go back to Congress "with a mandate to fight for the causes so many of us know to be right," including abortion access and climate change.

Maloney, 76, also first elected in 1992, is the first woman to chair the House Oversight and Reform Committee. She is known for her longtime advocacy for Sept. 11 first responders seeking compensation for diseases they attribute to contamination from the destruction of the World Trade Center. She wore a firefighter's jacket on Capitol Hill and at the 2019 Met Gala.

Maloney said women in politics still face "misogyny" today, something she said she experienced herself in her campaign this year.

"I'm really saddened that we no longer have a woman representing Manhattan in Congress," Maloney added. "It has been a great, great honor and a joy and a privilege to work for you."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called Maloney "a champion for integrity" in a statement on the race and said "her longtime public service will be profoundly missed in the Congress."

Pelosi also congratulated Nadler, saying he "has been a commanding force for freedom and justice" and that the country would "greatly benefit from his continued leadership."

Few policy differences between Nadler, Maloney and Patel emerged during the primary campaign.

All support abortion rights, the Green New Deal and tighter restrictions on gun ownership. Patel argued that Nadler's and Maloney's generation failed to achieve Democratic goals like codifying Roe v. Wade and should cede to new blood.

Nadler and Maloney countered that their seniority in Congress brings clout that benefits New Yorkers.

Friends for many years, the two Democrats lamented having to run against each other — something that only happened after a court redrew the boundaries of the state's congressional districts after concluding the legislature botched the process.

"I didn't want to run against my good friend, Jerry Nadler," Maloney said at a recent debate. "We have been friends and allies for years. Unfortunately, we were drawn into the same district."

Still, on the campaign trail Maloney said that as a woman, she would fight harder to protect abortion rights than Nadler.

Asked at a debate how his record differed from that of Maloney, Nadler cited his votes against the Iraq War and the Patriot Act, and in favor of the Iran nuclear deal. Maloney, also elected to Congress in 1992, voted the other way on all three.

Maloney also came under fire from her opponents for her past positions on vaccines, including in 2006 when she introduced legislation directing the federal government to study the debunked theory that vaccines can cause autism. Maloney insisted that she supports vaccines and regretted having ever questioned vaccine safety.

The primary winner in the overwhelmingly Democratic district will face Republican Michael Zumbuskas in the November general election.

## Mullin wins US Senate GOP runoff in deep-red Oklahoma

By SEAN MURPHY Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — U.S. Rep. Markwayne Mullin won Tuesday's GOP primary runoff for one of Oklahoma's U.S. Senate seats, making him a likely favorite to win the seat U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe is leaving early after nearly 30 years in office.

Mullin, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, defeated former Speaker of the Oklahoma House and banking executive T.W. Shannon after the two advanced from a 13-candidate Republican primary field in June. Because Inhofe is retiring early, Mullin will serve the remaining four years left on Inhofe's term.

"Thank you for giving our family this opportunity," Mullin, 45, said at a watch party in Tulsa, surrounded by his wife and six children. "It's not just me you're electing. It's a family affair."

Mullin, who topped the primary field with nearly 44% of the vote, earned former President Donald Trump's endorsement shortly after the primary.

Mullin and Shannon were both seeking to replace Inhofe, a fixture in Republican politics in Oklahoma since the 1960s who has held the U.S. Senate seat since being elected in 1994.

Mullin will be heavily favored in November's general election against former Democratic U.S. Rep. Kendra Horn, along with an independent and a Libertarian. Oklahoma hasn't elected a Democrat to the U.S. Senate in more than 30 years.

In a state where nearly 10% of the population identifies as American Indian, both Mullin and Shannon are members of Native American tribes — Mullin a Cherokee citizen and Shannon, who is also African American, a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation.

"I never knew I was special for being Cherokee until I went to Washington, D.C.," Mullin told reporters during a campaign stop Tuesday in Norman, "because where I'm from everybody's Indian or wants to be, right?"

If elected in November, Mullin will be the first enrolled Native American tribal member in the U.S. Senate since former Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell left the Senate in 2005, according to U.S. Senate records.

Campaign finance reports show that Mullin raised about \$3.6 million, which is nearly three times the \$1.3 million that Shannon reported he raised.

In campaign ads and on the stump, both men touted their positions on hot-button issues and vowed to fight President Joe Biden's policy agenda. Shannon launched an anti-abortion ad in which he labeled Planned Parenthood the "true face of white supremacy," while Mullin in an ad featuring two of his own children and a montage of transgender collegiate swimmer Lia Thomas, said: "Democrats can't even tell us what a woman is."

Also on Tuesday, in the Democratic primary runoff for Oklahoma's other U.S. Senate seat, cybersecurity expert Madison Horn defeated Jason Bollinger, an Oklahoma City attorney. Horn, who is not related to Kendra Horn, will face incumbent Republican U.S. Sen. James Lankford, who will be the heavy favorite in November, along with a Republican and an independent.

In the race for Mullin's open U.S. House seat in eastern Oklahoma, Republican Josh Brecheen, a former state senator from Coalgate, defeated state Rep. Avery Frix, of Muskogee, in the GOP runoff after the two emerged as the top two candidates in June's 14-candidate primary. Brecheen will face Democrat Naomi Andrews, of Tulsa, and independent Ben Robinson, of Muskogee, in November.

In other Republican runoffs Tuesday, Labor Commissioner Leslie Osborn defeated challenger state Rep. Sean Roberts, state Sen. Kim David defeated former state Rep. Todd Thomsen in the race for corporation commissioner, Gov. Kevin Stitt's Secretary of Education Ryan Walters defeated Shawnee Superintendent April Grace in the race for state superintendent, and state Rep. Todd Russ defeated former state Sen. Clark Jolley in the race for state treasurer.

## Officers won't face any charges in Rayshard Brooks shooting

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 37 of 62

By SUDHIN THANAWALA and KATE BRUMBACK Associated Press

MORROW, Ga. (AP) — Two white Atlanta police officers who clashed with Rayshard Brooks acted reasonably during the 2020 encounter that ended with the 27-year-old Black man's fatal shooting, a specially appointed prosecutor said Tuesday in announcing his decision not to pursue charges against them.

Officer Garrett Rolfe, who shot and killed Brooks in June 2020, and Officer Devin Brosnan faced a "quickly evolving" situation when Brooks lunged and grabbed one of their Tasers during an arrest attempt, said Pete Skandalakis, executive director of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia.

"We did not look at this with 20/20 hindsight. Given the quickly changing circumstances, was it objectively reasonable that he used deadly force? And we conclude it was," Skandalakis said of Rolfe.

The shooting happened against the backdrop of heightened tensions and protests nationwide after the death of George Floyd under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer less than three weeks earlier. Sometimes-violent protests over Floyd's death had largely subsided in Atlanta, but Brooks' killing set off a new round of demonstrations against police brutality and racial injustice.

Skandalakis said he believes that context is important and acknowledged that encounters between police and the African American community are sometimes "very volatile," but he said he doesn't believe race played a role in this instance.

"This isn't one of those cases," he said. "This is a case in which the officers were willing to give Mr. Brooks every benefit of the doubt and, you know, unfortunately, by his actions, this is what happened."

On June 12, 2020, police responded to complaints of a man sleeping in a car in the drive-thru lane of a Wendy's restaurant. Police body camera video shows the two officers having a calm conversation with Brooks for roughly 40 minutes.

Then, when the officers told Brooks he'd had too much to drink to be driving and tried to arrest him, Brooks resisted in a struggle caught on dash camera video. Brooks grabbed a Taser from one of the officers and fled, firing it at Rolfe as he ran. Rolfe fired his gun, and an autopsy found that Brooks was shot twice in the back.

Police Chief Erika Shields resigned less than 24 hours after Brooks died, and protesters set fire to the Wendy's, which was later demolished.

L. Chris Stewart, a lawyer for Brooks' family, said Tuesday that Brooks should not have fought with the officers and that if they had used deadly force during that fight, they would have been completely justified.

"But they did not. They did not. They chose not to when they were justified. But they decided to use lethal force as a man was running away — 19 feet away," he said.

He and his law partner, Justin Miller, noted that the prosecutors said they had to hire experts and break down the encounter video frame by video frame to reach a decision. Something that complicated should have been presented to a grand jury of Fulton County citizens to decide whether charges were merited, the family's lawyers said.

Stewart said the family will continue its fight for justice in civil court, where they have a lawsuit pending.

The two officers' lawyers have said their actions were justified.

"This was the proper and only decision that could be reached based upon the evidence and Georgia law," Brosnan attorneys Don Samuel and Amanda Clark Palmer said in an emailed statement.

Lawyers Noah H. Pines, Bill Thomas and Lance LoRusso said Rolfe will not be making a statement at this point.

Skandalakis and former Gwinnett County District Attorney Danny Porter, who was co-counsel in the case, spent about an hour during the news conference walking through the details of the encounter between Brooks and the two officers. Porter showed still images taken from videos to break down what happened once things turned violent.

Skandalakis called it "a peaceful encounter that all of a sudden becomes a violent encounter," saying that once Brooks took the Taser from Brosnan, he assumed an offensive position.

Porter said Brooks proceeded to "beat the crap" out of the two officers after Rolfe's lawful attempt to arrest him. Rolfe acted in accordance with Georgia law and Atlanta Police Department policy given the

facts of the situation, he said.

"The police didn't come into this encounter hot," he said. "There was no hostility."

Rolfe was fired a day after the shooting, but his dismissal was overturned in May 2021 by the Atlanta Civil Service Board. The board found that the city failed to follow its own procedures for disciplinary actions.

Five days after Brooks was killed, then-Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard held a dramatic news conference to announce warrants had been taken out against Rolfe and Brosnan. Rolfe's charges included felony murder, aggravated assault and violation of his oath. Brosnan was charged with aggravated assault and violating his oath.

Skandalakis said Tuesday that he would file paperwork to dismiss those warrants. He declined to comment when asked whether Howard had rushed charges.

The Atlanta Police Department said in a statement that both officers are on administrative duty and will undergo training and recertification.

Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens, who was a City Council member when the shooting happened, said in a statement his "heart continues to ache" for Brooks' family, but he respects the "independent role" that the special prosecutor played.

Two months after he announced the charges, Howard lost the Democratic primary in his bid for reelection. Just weeks after taking office in January 2021, his successor, Fani Willis, asked Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr to reassign the case, citing concerns about Howard's actions.

Willis has since gained national attention for her ongoing investigation into whether former President Donald Trump and others illegally tried to influence the outcome of the 2020 election in Georgia.

Carr initially refused to reassign the case, but in July 2021 appointed Skandalakis to take it over after a judge excused Willis and her office.

## 2 men convicted in plot to kidnap Michigan Gov. Whitmer

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI and ED WHITE Associated Press

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — A jury on Tuesday convicted two men of conspiring to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in 2020, delivering swift verdicts in a plot that was broken up by the FBI and described as a rallying cry for a U.S. civil war by anti-government extremists.

The result was a big victory for the U.S. Justice Department. A different jury just four months ago couldn't reach unanimous decisions on Adam Fox or Barry Croft Jr. but acquitted two other men, a stunning conclusion that led to a second trial.

Their arrests nearly two years ago came at an extremely tense time: the volatile homestretch of the election between Joe Biden and then-President Donald Trump playing out against a backdrop of armed protests over COVID-19 restrictions, especially in Michigan.

Jury selection in the retrial of Fox and Croft coincidentally occurred a day after FBI agents searched Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate for documents, putting the agency in headlines at the same time that the judge was trying to detect any biases about law enforcement in the jury pool.

Fox and Croft were convicted Tuesday of two counts of conspiracy related to the kidnapping scheme and attempts to use a weapon of mass destruction. Prosecutors said they wanted to blow up a bridge to disrupt police if the abduction could be pulled off at Whitmer's vacation home.

Croft, 46, a trucker from Bear, Delaware, was also convicted of another explosives charge. The jury deliberated for roughly eight hours over two days.

"Today's verdicts prove that violence and threats have no place in our politics and those who seek to divide us will be held accountable. They will not succeed," said Whitmer, a Democrat, who turned 51 years old on Tuesday.

"But we must also take a hard look at the status of our politics," she added. "Plots against public officials and threats to the FBI are a disturbing extension of radicalized domestic terrorism that festers in our nation, threatening the very foundation of our republic."

Law enforcement officials across the country have been warning about an increase in threats and the

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 39 of 62

potential for violence against agents or buildings.

Fox and Croft, who face sentences of up to life in prison, just stared at the jury as the verdicts were read. Defense attorney Christopher Gibbons shook his head while another defense lawyer, Joshua Blanchard, removed his glasses.

Jurors declined to speak to reporters.

"It's been a good fight. We were hoping for a different outcome," Gibbons said.

During closing arguments Monday, a prosecutor had a blunt message: No one can strap on an AR-15 rifle and body armor and snatch a governor.

"But that wasn't the defendants' ultimate goal," Assistant U.S. Attorney Nils Kessler said. "They wanted to set off a second American civil war, a second American Revolution, something that they call the boogaloo. And they wanted to do it for a long time before they settled on Gov. Whitmer."

The investigation began when Army veteran Dan Chappel joined a Michigan paramilitary group and became alarmed when he heard talk about killing police. He agreed to become an FBI informant and spent the summer of 2020 getting close to Fox and others, secretly recording conversations and participating in drills at "shoot houses" in Wisconsin and Michigan.

The FBI turned it into a major domestic terrorism case with two more informants and two undercover agents embedded in the group. Evidence showed the group had many gripes, particularly over stay-at-home orders and other pandemic restrictions imposed by Whitmer.

Fox, Croft and others, accompanied by the government operatives, traveled to northern Michigan to see Whitmer's vacation home at night and a bridge that could be destroyed. Ty Garbin and Kaleb Franks, too, were on that ride. They pleaded guilty and testified for the prosecution.

Whitmer was not physically harmed; six men were arrested hours away from her home in October 2020. David Porter, who leads the FBI in western Michigan, hailed the verdicts.

"Here in America, if you disagree with your government you have options. ... What you cannot do is plan or commit acts of violence," he said outside the courthouse.

Defense attorneys tried to put the FBI on trial, repeatedly emphasizing through cross-examination of witnesses and during closing remarks that federal players were present at every crucial event and had entrapped the men.

Fox and Croft, they said, were "big talkers" who liked to smoke marijuana and were guilty of nothing but exercising their right to say vile things about Whitmer and government.

"This isn't Russia. This isn't how our country works," Blanchard, Croft's attorney, told jurors. "You don't get to suspect that someone might commit a crime because you don't like things that they say, that you don't like their ideologies."

Gibbons said the FBI isn't supposed to create "domestic terrorists." He described Fox, 39, as poor and living in the basement of a Grand Rapids-area vacuum shop, which was a site for meetings with Chappel and an agent.

Hours after the verdicts, U.S. District Judge Robert Jonker unsealed his Aug. 14 findings about a juror. Blanchard had disclosed early in the trial that his office took a call from someone who said the juror was eager to get picked and would vote to convict.

"The juror repeatedly and consistently denied making any such statements," said Jonker, who, with staff, spoke to the person in private. "Based on the court's observation of the juror's demeanor and behavior, these responses were credible."

In separate but related cases, eight other men linked to the kidnapping scheme are being prosecuted by the Michigan attorney general in state courts.

Whitmer in 2020 blamed Trump for stoking mistrust and fomenting anger over coronavirus restrictions and refusing to condemn hate groups and right-wing extremists like those charged in Michigan.

On Aug. 6, three days before jury selection, Trump told conservative activists that the kidnapping plan was a "fake deal."

## Student loan help for millions coming from Biden after delay

By SEUNG MIN KIM, MICHAEL BALSAMO, CHRIS MEGERIAN and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press  
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Wednesday is set to announce his long-delayed move to forgive up to \$10,000 in federal student loans for many Americans and extend a pause on payments to January, according to three people familiar with the plan.

Biden has faced pressure from liberals to provide broader relief to hard-hit borrowers, and from moderates and Republicans questioning the fairness of any widespread forgiveness. The delay in Biden's decision has only heightened the anticipation for what his own aides acknowledge represents a political no-win situation. The people spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss Biden's intended announcement ahead of time.

The precise details of Biden's plan, which will include an income cap limiting the forgiveness to only those earning less than \$125,000 a year, were being kept to an unusually small circle within the Biden administration and were still not finalized on the eve of the announcement.

Down-to-the-wire decision-making has been a hallmark of the Biden White House, but the particular delay on student loans reflects the vexing challenge confronting him in fulfilling a key campaign promise.

The plan would likely eliminate student debt entirely for millions of Americans and wipe away at least half for millions more.

The nation's federal student debt now tops \$1.6 trillion after ballooning for years. More than 43 million Americans have federal student debt, with almost a third owing less than \$10,000 and more than half owing less than \$20,000, according to the latest federal data.

The continuation of the pandemic-era payment freeze comes just days before millions of Americans were set to find out when their next student loan bills will be due. This is the closest the administration has come to hitting the end of the payment freeze extension, with the current pause set to end Aug. 31.

Wednesday's announcement was set for the White House after Biden returns from vacation in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. The administration had briefly considered higher education schools in the president's home state for a larger reveal, but scaled back their plans.

Biden was initially skeptical of student loan debt cancellation as he faced off against more progressive Sens. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., who had proposed cancellations of \$50,000 or more, during the 2020 primaries.

As he tried to shore up support among younger voters and prepare for a general election battle against then-President Donald Trump, Biden unveiled his initial proposal for debt cancellation of \$10,000 per borrower, with no mention of an income cap.

Biden narrowed his campaign promise in recent months by embracing the income limit as soaring inflation took a political toll and as he aimed to head off political attacks that the cancellation would benefit those with higher take-home pay. But Democrats, from members of congressional leadership to those facing tough re-election bids this November, have pushed the administration to go as broad as possible on debt relief, seeing it in part as a galvanizing issue, particularly for Black and young voters this fall.

The frenzied last-minute lobbying continued Tuesday even as Biden remained on his summer vacation. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., one of the loudest advocates in recent years for canceling student loan debt, spoke privately on the phone with Biden, imploring the president to forgive as much debt as the administration can, according to a Democrat with knowledge of the call.

In his pitch, Schumer argued to Biden that doing so was the right thing to do morally and economically, said the Democrat, who asked for anonymity to describe a private conversation.

Inside the administration, officials have discussed since at least early summer forgiving more than \$10,000 of student debt for certain categories of borrowers, such as Pell Grant recipients, according to three people with knowledge of the deliberations. That remained one of the final variables being considered by Biden heading into Wednesday's announcement.

Democrats are betting that Biden, who has seen his public approval rating tumble over the last year, can help motivate younger voters to the polls in November with the announcement.



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 41 of 62

Although Biden's plan is narrower than what he initially proposed during the campaign, "he'll get a lot of credit for following through on something that he was committed to," said Celinda Lake, a Democratic pollster who worked with Biden during the 2020 election.

She described student debt as a "gateway issue" for younger voters, meaning it affects their views and decisions on housing affordability and career choices. A survey of 18- to 29-year-olds conducted by the Harvard Institute of Politics in March found that 59% of those polled favored debt cancellation of some sort — whether for all borrowers or those most in need — although student loans did not rank high among issues that most concerned people in that age group.

Some advocates were already bracing for disappointment.

"If the rumors are true, we've got a problem," Derrick Johnson, the president of the NAACP, which has aggressively lobbied Biden to take bolder action, said Tuesday. He emphasized that Black students face higher debt burdens than white students.

"President Biden's decision on student debt cannot become the latest example of a policy that has left Black people — especially Black women — behind," he said. "This is not how you treat Black voters who turned out in record numbers and provided 90% of their vote to once again save democracy in 2020."

John Della Volpe, who worked as a consultant on Biden's campaign and is the director of polling at the Harvard Kennedy School Institute of Politics, said the particulars of Biden's announcement were less important than the decision itself.

"It's about trust in politics, in government, in our system. It's also about trust in the individual, which in this case is President Biden."

Combined with fears about expanding abortion restrictions and Trump's reemergence on the political scene, Della Volpe said student debt forgiveness "adds an additional tailwind to an already improving position with young people."

Republicans, meanwhile, see only political upside if Biden pursues a large-scale cancellation of student debt ahead of the November midterms, anticipating backlash for Democrats — particularly in states where there are large numbers of working-class voters without college degrees. Critics of broad student debt forgiveness also believe it will open the White House to lawsuits, on the grounds that Congress has never given the president the explicit authority to cancel debt on his own.

The Republican National Committee on Tuesday blasted Biden's expected announcement as a "handout to the rich," claiming it would unfairly burden lower-income taxpayers and those who have already paid off their student loans with covering the costs of higher education for the wealthy.

"My neighbor, a detective, worked 3 jobs (including selling carpet) & his wife worked to make sure their daughter got quality college degree w/no student debt," Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas, the top Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee, tweeted Tuesday. "Big sacrifice. Now their taxes must pay off someone else's student debt?"

Biden's elongated deliberations have sent federal loan servicers, who have been instructed to hold back billing statements while he weighed a decision, grumbling.

Industry groups had complained that the delayed decision left them with just days to notify borrowers, retrain customer service workers and update websites and digital payment systems, said Scott Buchanan, executive director of the Student Loan Servicing Alliance.

It increases the risk that some borrowers will inadvertently be told they need to make payments, he said.

"At this late stage I think that's the risk we're running," he said. "You can't just turn on a dime with 35 million borrowers who all have different loan types and statuses."

## US to send \$3 billion in aid to Ukraine as war hits 6 months

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and MATTHEW LEE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Russia's war on Ukraine drags on, U.S. security assistance is shifting to a longer-term campaign that will likely keep more American military troops in Europe into the future, including imminent plans to announce an additional roughly \$3 billion in aid to train and equip Ukrainian forces

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 42 of 62

to fight for years to come, U.S. officials said.

U.S. officials told The Associated Press that the package is expected to be announced Wednesday, the day the war hits the six-month mark and Ukraine celebrates its independence day. The money will fund contracts for as many as three types of drones, and other weapons, ammunition and equipment that may not see the battlefield for a year or two, they said.

The total of the aid package — which is being provided under the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative and is the largest to date— could change a bit overnight, but not likely by much. Officials said that it will include money for the small, hand-launched Puma drones, the longer-endurance Scan Eagle surveillance drones, which are launched by catapult, and, for the first time, the British Vampire drone system, which can be launched off ships.

Several officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the aid before its public release.

Unlike most previous packages, the new funding is largely aimed at helping Ukraine secure its medium- to long-term defense posture, according to the officials familiar with the matter. Earlier shipments, most of them done under Presidential Drawdown Authority, have focused on Ukraine's more immediate needs for weapons and ammunition and involved materiel that the Pentagon already has in stock that can be shipped in short order.

In addition to providing longer-term assistance that Ukraine can use for potential future defense needs, the new package is intended to reassure Ukrainian officials that the United States intends to keep up its support, regardless of the day-to-day back and forth of the conflict, the officials said.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg noted the more extended focus Tuesday as he reaffirmed the alliance's support for the conflict-torn country.

"Winter is coming, and it will be hard, and what we see now is a grinding war of attrition. This is a battle of wills, and a battle of logistics. Therefore we must sustain our support for Ukraine for the long term, so that Ukraine prevails as a sovereign, independent nation," Stoltenberg said, speaking at a virtual conference about Crimea, organized by Ukraine.

Six months after Russia invaded, the war has slowed to a grind, as both sides trade combat strikes and small advances in the east and south. Both sides have seen thousands of troops killed and injured, as Russia's bombardment of cities has killed countless innocent civilians.

There are fears that Russia will intensify attacks on civilian infrastructure and government facilities in Ukraine in the coming days because of the independence holiday and the six-month anniversary of the invasion.

Late Monday, the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine and the State Department issued a new security alert for Ukraine that repeated a call for Americans in the country to leave due to the danger.

"Given Russia's track record in Ukraine, we are concerned about the continued threat that Russian strikes pose to civilians and civilian infrastructure," it said.

Other NATO allies are also marking the independence day with new aid announcements.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said his country is providing more than 500 million euros (nearly \$500 million) in aid, including powerful anti-aircraft systems. The aid will also include rocket launchers, ammunition, anti-drone equipment, a dozen armored recovery vehicles and three additional IRIS-T long-range air defense systems, the German news agency dpa reported.

The funding must still be approved by parliament, and some of it won't be delivered until next year.

And Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced \$3.85 million for two Ukraine projects through the Peace and Stabilization Operations Program. It includes about \$2.9 million in funding for ongoing development of Ukraine's national police force and other emergency services, and about \$950,000 to help advise Ukraine's defense ministry.

To date, the U.S. has provided about \$10.6 billion in military aid to Ukraine since the beginning of the Biden administration, including 19 packages of weapons taken directly from Defense Department stocks since August 2021.

U.S. defense leaders are also eyeing plans that will expand training for Ukrainian troops outside their

country, and for militaries on Europe's eastern and southern flanks that feel most threatened by Russia's aggression.

## Ukraine fears stepped-up attacks around national holiday

By PAUL BYRNE and DEREK GATOPOULOS Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The sense of dread deepened Tuesday in Ukraine because of warnings that Russia may try to spoil the country's Independence Day holiday and mark the war's six-month point with intensified attacks.

The U.S. reinforced the worry with a security alert citing "information that Russia is stepping up efforts to launch strikes against Ukraine's civilian infrastructure and government facilities in the coming days." As it has done previously, it urged American citizens to "depart Ukraine now." Several European countries issued similar warnings.

Kyiv authorities banned mass gatherings in the capital through Thursday for fear of missile attacks around Independence Day, which, like the six-month mark in the war, falls on Wednesday. The holiday celebrates Ukraine's independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

"Our country is having a very hard time, and we need to be careful," 26-year-old Vlad Mudrak said in support of the ban.

Anxiety also mounted after the weekend car bombing outside Moscow that killed the daughter of a leading right-wing Russian political theorist. Russia accused Ukraine of carrying out the attack. While Ukraine denied involvement, the bloodshed stirred fears of Russian retaliation.

Hundreds of people paid tribute at a memorial service Tuesday to the bombing victim, Darya Dugina, 29, the daughter of Alexander Dugin, a writer dubbed "Putin's brain" and "Putin's Rasputin" because of his purported influence on Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Dugina, a pro-Kremlin TV commentator, died when the SUV she was driving blew up Saturday night as she was returning home from a patriotic festival. Her father, a strong supporter of the invasion of Ukraine, was widely believed to be the intended target.

Over the weekend, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned that Russia "may try to do something particularly nasty, something particularly cruel" this week.

On Tuesday, however, Zelenskyy stressed defiance rather than worry when he raised the national flag at a memorial one day ahead of Independence Day.

"The blue and yellow flag of Ukraine will again fly where it rightfully should be — in all temporarily occupied cities and villages of Ukraine," he said, including the Crimea Peninsula, which Russia annexed in 2014.

He added: "It is necessary to liberate Crimea from occupation. It will end where it had started."

At a separate event, Zelenskyy appeared to downplay the threats this week, indicating that at most, he expected increased intensity rather than new targets, and he added, "No one wants to die, but no one is afraid of Russia, and this is the most important signal."

NATO, meanwhile, said Zelenskyy can continue to count on the 30-nation alliance for help in defending itself in what Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg called "a grinding war of attrition." The war broke out on Feb. 24.

"This is a battle of wills and a battle of logistics. Therefore, we must sustain our support for Ukraine for the long term so that Ukraine prevails as a sovereign, independent nation," Stoltenberg said at an international conference on Crimea.

One particular source of foreboding is Europe's largest nuclear power plant, in southeastern Ukraine, where shelling has raised fears of a catastrophe.

Shelling close to the Zaporizhzhia plant continued early Tuesday. Regional Gov. Valentyn Reznichenko said Russian forces fired on Marhanets and Nikopol, two towns less than a dozen kilometers (7 miles) from the power station.

The U.N. Security Council met Tuesday to discuss the danger, and the U.N. nuclear agency renewed its request to assess safety and security at the plant if Ukraine and Russia agree.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 44 of 62

Another source of concern is the fate of Ukrainian prisoners of war. Michelle Bachelet, U.N. high commissioner for human rights, cited reports that Russia and its separatist allies in eastern Ukraine are planning to put Ukrainian POWs on trial, possibly in the coming days. The Kremlin has denounced Ukrainian prisoners as Nazis, war criminals and terrorists, and several prisoners have been sentenced to death.

In the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk, Russian authorities reported four people were killed and nearly a dozen wounded in Ukrainian shelling of a separatist headquarters and other buildings.

In other developments, the U.S. plans to announce on Wednesday an additional \$3 billion or so in aid to train and equip Ukrainian forces, according to American officials speaking on condition of anonymity. They said the money will fund contracts for drones and other weapons.

A small bright spot emerged in Ukraine: A new soccer season started Tuesday in Kyiv. Shakhtar Donetsk and Metalist 1925 from Kharkiv — teams from eastern cities fighting for their existence — played to a 0-0 draw in a 65,000-capacity downtown stadium with no fans allowed.

"This is work ... to show the world that life in Ukraine does not stop but continues," Shakhtar coach Igor Jovicic said.

## **Bolsonaro welcomes emperor's heart for Brazil bicentennial**

By MAURICIO SAVARESE Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — The embalmed heart of the emperor who declared Brazil's independence returned to the South American nation Tuesday for ceremonies worthy of a head of state as the country prepares to celebrate its bicentennial.

The heart of Pedro I, contained in a golden reliquary, arrived from Portugal on Monday in a Brazilian air force plane. It was carried up the ramp of the presidential palace in Brasilia on Tuesday afternoon — in line with procedures afforded to visiting leaders on official state visits.

President Jair Bolsonaro welcomed the reliquary as cannon fired a salute in Brazil's capital. Cabinet ministers and first lady Michelle Bolsonaro also attended a quick ceremony in honor of Brazil's bicentennial.

Brazilians will be able to view the reliquary in a foreign ministry building.

Pedro I declared Brazil's independence in 1822 and imperial rule lasted until 1889, when the monarchy gave way to a republic. Pedro I died 187 years ago and, per his will, his heart was transported to the Portuguese city of Porto, where it is kept in a glass vase with formaldehyde at the Church of Our Lady of Lapa. He is known in Portugal as Pedro IV.

Lawmaker Luiz Philippe de Orleans e Bragança, a member of Brazil's former royal family and a staunch supporter of Bolsonaro, said the idea to bring the emperor's heart came from one of the president's informal advisers.

"We lost a little of our reference of Brazil's founders, what they represented, what they thought, what they hoped for Brazil. It is very important to bring some of that back," Bragança said in an interview with radio station Jovem Pan on Monday. Bringing the heart to Brazil "was a demand of a part of our society, which wants a historical redemption."

Brazil's struggle for independence was unlike the bloody affairs of other Latin American nations. While there was some fighting, mostly it was resolved through mediation of other nations and Brazil's payment of reparations to Portugal. The European nation finally recognized Brazilian statehood in 1825.

Some Brazilians who seek to honor the monarchy's legacy are allied with Bolsonaro, who is running for reelection. His critics have said that bringing Pedro I's heart to Brazil represents a nod to such people and is an example of the president playing politics with the bicentennial. He has repeatedly called for his supporters to flood the streets for Independence Day on Sept. 7, and political analysts have expressed concern about possible violence.

"The coming of Peter I's heart to Brazil will be an opportunity for the Brazilian people to pay a tribute to a central figure of Brazil's independence process," Brazil's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The statement said the heart will be returned to Portugal on Sept. 8. The government didn't disclose how much the transportation of the heart cost public coffers.

## Symbolism, empty seats: soccer returns to Ukraine amid war

By DEREK GATOPOULOS and ADAM PEMBLE Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — With two teams playing in an empty stadium hundreds of miles away from their hometowns, the Ukrainian soccer league started its new season Tuesday after a poignant ceremony paying tribute to those fighting in the war with Russia.

The opening match at Kyiv's 65,500-seat Olympic stadium — where spectators were not allowed in — saw two teams from the war-torn east of the country, Shakhtar Donetsk and Metalist 1925, play out a 0-0 draw. The result, though, was always going to be an afterthought.

It was the first top-level soccer match played in the country since Russia's invasion in February, and the decision to restart the league has been hailed as a defiant sign that Ukrainians are ready to restore some sense of normal life. Although this game felt far from normal.

Ukraine remains under martial law and large public gatherings have been banned in the capital ahead of the Independence Day holiday Wednesday due to fears of potential Russian bombardment.

Police stood guard in front of the turnstiles, where weeds have grown after stadiums were closed six months ago, but no fans showed up to the arena. Three more league games were scheduled for later Tuesday.

"This is work ... to show the world that life in Ukraine does not stop but continues," Shakhtar coach Igor Jovicovic said before the opening game. "Football is something that can move the emotions of the whole country and the people who fight for all of us. So football is essential for us individually, as a team, not only for Shakhtar but also for the entire Ukrainian Premier League. It helps to continue living and shows the world that football goes on."

Players from the two teams entered the field with blue and yellow Ukrainian national flags draped over their shoulders and observed a minute of silence while the names of Ukrainian cities where people had died in the war were displayed on a large screen.

Players raised a Ukrainian flag at the stadium that once belonged to Danylo Myhal, a Canadian of Ukrainian descent. At the Montreal Olympics in 1976, Myhal ran onto the field carrying the flag during a match between the Soviet Union and East Germany. Wearing an embroidered shirt, he danced a Ukrainian folk dance before being detained.

"(Myhal) always dreamed of bringing his flag to Ukraine and today it's finally happened," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a televised address before kickoff. "It's being raised today at the opening of the Ukrainian soccer championship."

## Unexpected war warning system: Chernobyl tour's camera

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Months before Russia invaded Ukraine, Yaroslav Yemelianenko decided to set up a battery-operated camera showing his company's tourist information center at a checkpoint near the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Imagine his surprise when sitting in his Kyiv apartment on Feb. 24, his livestream showed dozens of Russian tanks driving south from Chernobyl, the site of the world's worst nuclear power disaster, toward the Ukrainian capital.

"In two hours, we saw a huge amount of Russian equipment on the cameras," Yemelianenko, the founder of Chernobyl Tour, said Tuesday.

Russian troops shut off all official government surveillance cameras, but didn't notice the small camera Yemelianenko had installed to monitor his booth where his employees sold souvenirs and postcards to tourists.

Chernobyl Tour had been taking tourists through the "exclusion zone," the radioactive area surrounding the plant, showing them the facility, a nearby city the Soviets built to house workers and radioactive forests.

Yemelianenko immediately decided to provide his video to the Ukrainian government. For several days,

while the battery power lasted, Yemelianenko and colleagues monitored and transmitted data to the Ukrainian army every 10 to 15 minutes.

"Psychologically, it was difficult. On the one hand, we read the news with reassurance that no one would enter Kyiv. At the same time, we kept counting the number of (pieces of) Russian military equipment," Yemelianenko said in an interview.

The stream of Russian military equipment just kept coming, all shown on the video monitor. Tanks, along with trucks carrying troops and communications equipment, stream along the gray road, past Yemlianenko's booth bearing a radiation symbol and his company's name, in English. So much Russian equipment was on the road that traffic jams developed on the way to Kyiv, 94 miles (150 kilometers) away.

After a few days, the signal was lost. Russian troops had seized the power plant, scene of the April 1986 nuclear catastrophe. But Yemelianenko and his team had already developed an alternative — a network of informants in villages near Chernobyl. Even though Russian forces already occupied these villages, the locals risked their safety to provide Yemelianenko details on the positions of military equipment.

Ukrainian forces subsequently took back control of the Chernobyl plant. With the passage of time and the military focus shifting elsewhere, the videos have made their way into the public domain.

The video offers a rare, first-hand glimpse into Russia's earliest invasion moves, when the plan was to take Kyiv. Russian troops retreated from the capital in late March. Since then, Yemelianenko and his team have been volunteering in liberated villages to provide food and medicine.

While the risk of additional radiation leaks has abated at Chernobyl, it has increased because of fighting near Europe's largest nuclear power plant, also in Ukraine, Zaporizhzhia.

## Former Louisville cop pleads guilty in Breonna Taylor case

By DYLAN LOVAN Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A former Louisville police detective who helped falsify the warrant that led to the deadly police raid at Breonna Taylor's apartment has pleaded guilty to a federal conspiracy charge.

Federal investigators said Kelly Goodlett added a false line to the warrant and later conspired with another detective to create a cover story when Taylor's March 13, 2020, shooting death by police began gaining national attention.

Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman, was shot to death by officers who knocked down her door while executing a drug search warrant. Taylor's boyfriend fired a shot that hit one of the officers as they came through the door and they returned fire, striking Taylor multiple times.

Goodlett, 35, appeared in a federal courtroom in Louisville on Tuesday afternoon and admitted to conspiring with another Louisville police officer to falsify the warrant. Goodlett briefly answered several questions from federal judge Rebecca Jennings Grady.

Taylor's mother, Tamika Palmer, was in the courtroom Tuesday but did not speak after the proceedings.

Three former Louisville officers were indicted on criminal civil rights charges earlier this month by a federal grand jury. Goodlett was not indicted, but charged in a federal information filing, which likely means the former detective is cooperating with investigators.

Goodlett will be sentenced Nov. 22. Grady said there may be "extenuating circumstances" that may move the court to push back the sentencing date. Part of the plea hearing was also kept under seal and was not discussed in open court Tuesday. She faces up to five years in prison for the conviction.

She resigned from the department Aug. 5, a day after U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland announced new federal charges in the Taylor case.

Former officers Joshua Jaynes and Kyle Meany were indicted on charges related to the warrant used to search Taylor's home. A third former officer, Brett Hankison, was charged with using excessive force when he retreated from Taylor's door, turned a corner and fired 10 shots into the side of her two-bedroom apartment. He was acquitted by a jury on similar state charges earlier this year. Jaynes, Meany and Hankison have all been fired.

The three former officers face a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted on the civil rights charges.

Federal prosecutors said in court records that Jaynes, who drew up the Taylor warrant, had claimed to Goodlett days before the warrant was served that he had "verified" from a postal inspector that a suspected drug dealer was receiving packages at Taylor's apartment. But Goodlett knew this was false and told Jaynes the warrant did not yet have enough information connecting Taylor to criminal activity, prosecutors said. She added a paragraph saying the suspected drug dealer, Jamarcus Glover, was using Taylor's apartment as his current address, according to the court records.

Two months later, when the Taylor shooting was attracting national headlines, the postal inspector told a media outlet he had not verified packages for Glover were going to Taylor's apartment. Jaynes and Goodlett then met in Jaynes' garage to "get on the same page" before Jaynes talked to investigators about the Taylor warrant, court records said.

They decided to say Sgt. John Mattingly, who is identified in the court records as J.M., told them Glover was receiving packages at Taylor's home, according to prosecutors. Mattingly was shot in the leg during the raid at Taylor's apartment.

Meany, who signed off on the Taylor warrant and was still a Louisville police sergeant when he was indicted on Aug. 4, was fired by Louisville Police Chief Erika Shields on Friday.

Shields said in a statement that Meany has not yet had his case heard by a jury, but "he is facing multiple federal charges after a lengthy investigation by the DOJ" and should not "expect continued employment under such conditions."

Hankison was the only officer charged who was on the scene the night of the killing.

## Serena Williams tells Meghan of baby's injury before match

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Serena Williams and Meghan recount challenges they've experienced as working mothers on the Duchess of Sussex's first podcast, including stories of having to work soon after scary incidents involving their children.

Williams, a 23-time Grand Slam champion who said recently "the countdown has begun" to her retirement, recounted on Meghan's "Archetypes" Spotify podcast Tuesday that she played a match at the 2018 French Open after a nearly sleepless night after her daughter, Olympia, broke her wrist.

"I somehow managed to win, but I was so emotionally spent and just like so emotionally drained that it was, it was crazy. And, you know, and then like every night after that, I just was with her the whole time and was like you're going to be with me," said Williams, who has indicated that her final tournament will be the U.S. Open, which starts in New York next week.

The tennis great and Meghan, who are friends, spoke at length on Tuesday's episode about the challenges of balancing high profile careers in the public eye and motherhood.

"So when you went and played that match the next morning, no one knew what your night had been like the night before. They forgot that human piece of it," Meghan said about Williams' French Open experience.

Meghan recounted an incident during a tour of South Africa with her husband, Prince Harry, and their son, Archie, in which a fire broke out in her son's room and the pair had to leave their baby to continue their official duties. Archie was supposed to be napping in the room at the time, but his nanny had taken him out to get a bite to eat. The incident left everyone shaken, Meghan said.

She said she wanted to spend time with her son, but she and Harry had to go and do another official engagement.

"The focus ends up being on how it looks instead of how it feels," Meghan said. "And part of the humanizing and the breaking through of these labels and these archetypes and these boxes that we're put into is having some understanding on the human moments behind the scenes that people might not have any awareness of and to give each other a break.

"Because we did — we had to leave our baby," she said.

Williams, who turns 41 next month, and Meghan spoke about the tennis star's recent announcement about stepping away from tennis. Williams said she discussed it with Prince Harry before revealing her decision publicly.

"Obviously I'm retiring professionally, but it's also an evolution. I'm doing more business things. And I

really want to expand my family. And, you know, I've been putting it off for so long. And as a woman, there's only so, so long you can put that off," Williams said.

Harry and Meghan have a multi-year deal to produce and host podcasts for Spotify under their production company Archewell Audio. Meghan has said the "Archetypes" podcast will focus on harmful labels and stereotypes applied to women.

The Spotify deal is one of several high-profile deals the couple have struck, including one with Netflix. Harry and Meghan stepped away from royal duties in March 2020 over what they described as intrusions and racist attitudes of the British media toward the duchess. They have since relocated to California, where they are raising their children, Archie and Lili.

## More than 100 classified Trump docs recovered back in Jan.

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Archives and Records Administration recovered more than 100 documents bearing classified markings, totaling more than 700 pages, from an initial batch of 15 boxes retrieved from Mar-a-Lago earlier this year, according to newly public government correspondence with the Trump legal team.

The numbers make clear the large volume of secret government documents recovered months ago from former President Donald Trump's Florida estate, well before FBI officials returned there with a search warrant on Aug. 8 and removed an additional 11 sets of classified records. The warrant reveals an FBI investigation into the potential unlawful possession of the records as well as obstruction of justice.

The figures on documents were included in a May 10 letter in which acting archivist Debra Steidel Wall told a lawyer for Trump, Evan Corcoran, that the Biden administration would not be honoring the former president's protective claims of executive privilege over the documents.

Corcoran had weeks earlier requested additional time to review the materials in the boxes before the National Archives produced them to the FBI so that he could determine whether any specific document was subject to executive privilege and therefore exempt from disclosure, according to the letter.

The letter was made public Tuesday on the website of the National Archives. It was released Monday night on a website launched by John Solomon, who was appointed by Trump in June to be one of his designated representatives to the National Archives and who is a Trump ally and conservative journalist.

The archivist's letter says the Justice Department had found "no precedent for an assertion of executive privilege by a former President against an incumbent President to prevent the latter" from obtaining from the National Archives presidential records that belong to the federal government and that are needed for current government business.

As a result, the letter said, claims of executive privilege would not be honored and the FBI would be given access to the documents in a matter of days.

The National Archives had asked the Justice Department to investigate after saying that it had located classified material among the 15 boxes of records it retrieved from Mar-a-Lago that it said should have been turned over by Trump at the end of his White House tenure.

In the letter, archivist Wall writes that in those boxes, the National Archives had identified items marked as classified at the top secret level as well as information about special access programs.

It says the records included over 100 documents with classified markings, "comprising more than 700 pages" and cites an excerpt from separate correspondence from the Justice Department's National Security Division saying that "access to the materials is not only necessary for purposes of our ongoing criminal investigation" but also for an "assessment of the potential damage" resulting from the manner in which the documents were transported and stored.

Corcoran did not immediately return messages seeking comment on the letter.

## Yelp to add more flags to anti-abortion pregnancy centers



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 49 of 62

The online reviews site Yelp said Tuesday it is rolling out a new feature to protect users seeking abortions from being misled about anti-abortion pregnancy centers listed on its platform.

Such centers are typically religiously affiliated and deter clients from having an abortion. On Tuesday, Yelp said it will place a consumer notice on the listings informing users that the centers "typically provide limited medical services and may not have licensed medical professionals onsite."

In 2018, moderators for the San Francisco-based company began recategorizing listings for such organizations as "crisis pregnancy centers" or "faith-based crisis pregnancy centers." The organizations had previously categorized themselves as reproductive health services, medical centers and other health and medical categories.

"It's well-reported that crisis pregnancy centers do not offer abortion services, and it's been shown that many provide misleading information in an attempt to steer people seeking abortion care to other options," the company said in a post on its website detailing the change.

Yelp's move might put more pressure on Google to do something similar with listings on its site. Last week, hundreds of Google employees released a petition calling on the company to fix misleading search results for abortion services by removing "fake abortion providers" and halt its business with "publishers of disinformation related to abortion services."

In June, Democratic lawmakers in Congress also urged the company to curb the appearance of the anti-abortion pregnancy centers for certain search results. But Republicans pushed back last month, warning the tech giant not to do so in a letter sent by 17 conservative attorney generals to Google CEO Sundar Pichai.

Google did not immediately reply to a request for comment on Tuesday.

In the past several months, Yelp said it has also been picking up on efforts to better match users searching for abortion clinics with those services and make it less likely those users will see anti-abortion pregnancy centers in search results. The company said it has evaluated roughly 33,500 listings this year and recategorized nearly 470 pages for the centers.

## Independent Spirit Awards make acting awards gender neutral

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

The Film Independent Spirit Awards will now feature gender neutral film and television acting categories and raise its budget cap to \$30 million, the organization said Tuesday.

"We're thrilled to join the other festivals and award shows that are already moving to celebrate great acting without reference to gender," Josh Welsh, Film Independent's president, said in a statement. "We're also happy to welcome non-binary performers into the Spirit Awards without forcing them to choose to identify as male or female."

The Spirit Awards honor smaller budget indie films and are known for its starry, free-wheeling ceremony that's part of the awards season runup to the Academy Awards.

It joins several prominent awards organizations that have made the switch to non-gendered awards, including The Grammys, The Gotham Awards and the MTV Movie & TV Awards. The categories will now be "best lead performance" and "best supporting performance."

Raising the eligibility cap from \$22.5 million to \$30 million for a film production is intended to acknowledge the rising costs of making films.

"It has been a long time since we substantially increased the budget limit for eligibility," Welsh said. "This new cap allows us to continue to celebrate the same breadth of work that we have in the past."

Film Independent also set the date for its next show for March 4, 2023, the weekend before the Oscars on March 12. Nominations for the 2023 Spirit Awards will be announced on November 22.

## Review: Love, hope and 'Three Thousand Years of Longing'

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

There is not a cynical molecule in the makeup of George Miller's "Three Thousand Years of Longing,"

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 50 of 62

a patient and occasionally dazzling fantasy about love, myth, hope, companionship and perhaps, most of all, about storytelling. Idris Elba and Tilda Swinton, wrapped in plush white bathrobes, will reiterate the storytelling point over and over again during a vulnerable, sprawling conversation in a stately Istanbul hotel suite that's nice enough to make one consider a career in academia.

Though the setting and wardrobe might feel familiar, this story is anything but. Only one of the parties, Swinton's Alithea Binnie, is human. Elba is an immortal djinn, the fancy term for the anglicized "genie," whom Alithea has stumbled upon in a small, striped glass bottle in an unsorted bin of an Istanbul antique store.

In most stories, the ability to suddenly get your heart's desire with a wish comes as good news, at least at first. But Alithea isn't one who has a list of wants. Not only is she a proud, contented single and child-free woman — she's also a "narratologist" who is so well-versed in mythology that she knows all the ways in which wish-making and granting can go wrong. And yet by not fulfilling her duty to make three wishes, she also is condemning the djinn to nonexistence. He tries to convince her otherwise, by telling fantastical stories from his past, spanning some three thousand years, and all the times he was sent back to the bottle for caring too much about the wisher, from Sheba (Aamito Lagum), to a servant who longs for a prince, Gulten (Ece Yüksel), and finally child bride of an old merchant who desires knowledge, Zefir (Burcu Gölgedar).

These stories are enchanting, brutal, sensual, grotesque and often involve power struggles and irrational decisions made for love. Miller gets to play in a wide array of cultures as the djinn skips through time, all with their own shimmering palettes and fairy tale hyperrealism. It's a nice reminder that Miller is a man who can tackle both "Mad Max: Fury Road" and "Babe: Pig in the City."

At times, you may grow impatient wondering what it's all building towards and if you even care, as Alithea doubles down on her stance that she'd rather not make any wishes at all. But she, and the audience, are in for a surprise. It's the kind of moment that doesn't make a lot of emotional sense on paper, but that's why we go to the movies, isn't it? Swinton and Miller make it work.

Still for all its romanticism, the film may also sit upon an uneasy foundation: The inglorious trope of the "magical, mystical Negro." The term, was popularized by Spike Lee, who in a lecture to Yale students over 20 years ago identified a trend exemplified in films like "The Legend of Bagger Vance" and "The Green Mile" in which the powers belonging to Black characters, often exoticized, seem to only be used to benefit white characters. No matter how the various films try to justify it, the relationship, as Matt Zoller Seitz later wrote in Salon, "is that of a master and servant."

You don't get a more literal depiction of master and servant than that of genie and the person who released them, and here, the fact is that the djinn is Black and the human is white. But "Three Thousand Years of Longing" does not seem like the kind of movie that is internationally embracing this idea. One could even argue that Elba's djinn exists outside of race somehow. Would it have made a difference if he was blue?

Or perhaps the phrase, like the Bechdel Test, was never supposed to be a literal line of demarcation between movies that are acceptable and movies that are not, but a way of talking about representation and, yes, storytelling. Maybe, like Swinton herself once said when faced with criticisms around the race of another fictional character, it can all be true.

"Three Thousand Years of Longing," a United Artists Releasing release in theaters Friday, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "brief violence, some sexual content and graphic nudity." Running time: 108 minutes. Three stars out of four.

## Budgeting can be a challenge. Here are 5 tips to get started

By ADRIANA MORGA Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Budgeting is key to managing your finances, whether you're trying to pay off debt, start a rainy day fund or deal with the consequences of inflation.

Creating a budget is much like trying to eat better or exercise more — everyone tells you it's good for you, but it's hard to get into the habit, said Colleen McCreary, consumer financial advocate at Credit Karma.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 51 of 62

"A lot of people think it's over-complicated and a hard thing to do," McCreary said. "Much like going to the gym, the hardest part is showing up, so you just have to decide that you're going to try it out."

Even with prices high due to inflation, Elena Pelayo, educator at How Money Works, a financial literacy organization, said there are small steps you can take to manage your money. These include looking at how many online subscriptions you pay for or how often you eat in restaurants and cutting back where you can.

Here are five important steps when you're ready to create a budget:

## 1. WRITE IT DOWN

Writing down all of your expenses is crucial, said Pelayo. She suggests recording every penny that you spend rather than trying to approximate, which can lead to errors.

Pelayo recommends using whatever method fits you best, whether that's writing it down on paper, creating an Excel spreadsheet or using a website.

Next, she recommends categorizing where your income should be spent. Always start off with covering your basic needs.

A well-known budgeting system is the 50/30/20 rule, where 50% of your income is allocated for necessities like food and rent, 30% for things you want, and 20% for savings and debt repayment.

Wiltrice Rogers of Allen Park, Michigan, has used this system for more than 30 years.

"It helped me to see how beneficial it is, and that we have more discretionary funds when I follow this method," said Rogers, an intake coordinator for a nonprofit organization.

Websites such as NerdWallet or Money Fit offer 50/30/20 calculators to help.

This method works for many people, but it might not be right for you if necessities eat up more than 50 percent, in which case you'll need to allocate less for savings or things you want to do or buy.

## 2. BUDGET FORMAT

Writing down your after-tax salary and then adding your expenses in a notebook or a blank spreadsheet might be enough to make a plan. But if you need help visualizing what's coming in and going out, there are resources available.

"There are lots of online templates that'll help you look at spending categories and expense categories for personal finance. And they're really helpful," Pelayo said.

The Federal Trade Commission offers a budget template in a PDF format that can be printed, and Microsoft offers Excel templates for special occasions such as saving for a wedding or home construction. If you prefer apps, Mint, PocketGuard, and EveryDollar are among Bankrate's top five budgeting apps.

## 3. MAKE A REALISTIC PLAN

If 50/30/20 isn't realistic for you, there are still ways to save and tackle debt. Start setting aside small quantities of money every month or set small goals, such as choosing a restaurant where you won't spend more than \$40, McCreary said.

"Small steps lead to progress," she said. "It's really about progress, not perfection."

McCreary recommends starting with one goal each week, whether that's saving a certain amount or reducing the amount you spend on non-necessities.

"Don't overcomplicate it, don't make it too hard for yourself," she said.

Rogers, for example, usually tries to save as much money as possible when buying groceries.

"I get the sales papers and mark what we need and if it's on sale. I try to do a triangle of the stores to save time and gas" she said. She also buys in bulk, sticks to her grocery list, and goes shopping by herself to avoid her son and husband convincing her to buy extra items.

Websites such as Flipp, which shows digital flyers from major retailers around you, and Groupon, where you can find coupons for products and services, can make it easier to save money. But keep in mind that this only works when you use coupons for items that you really need or were planning to buy anyway.

If your income just covers your necessities, reducing credit card debt can be challenging. Pelayo recommends that even if you live paycheck to paycheck, you might want to add at least \$10 above the minimum payment of your credit card with the highest interest rate. And if you can afford it, she recommends paying 10% more than the minimum payment per month.

#### 4. MAKE IT A HABIT

To achieve your financial goals through a budget, you have to change your mindset, Pelayo said.

"You have to look deep inside yourself and say, am I willing to change my habits?" she said.

Once you are mentally ready, you can start setting goals.

— Set a time goal

Building new habits can be hard, and it's even more daunting to think about having to maintain them for the rest of your life.

McCreary recommends that your first goal can be two weeks of keeping a budget. After achieving that, you can set a longer timeline, such as 30 days or six months, until it is embedded in your routine.

— Gamify your budget

If you're still struggling, McCreary recommends that you gamify your budget and turn it into a challenge.

"Maybe there's an outcome involved. Like 'Hey, if we save enough money, we can get a new TV or go on vacation,'" she said.

Examples of gamification include giving yourself a small reward after a certain amount of time or money that you have saved.

Apps such as Mint, which rewards the number of times you check your budget, and Acorns, which allows users to invest with their spare change, can help. Yotta and Save to Win allow users to create saving bank accounts that rewards them for the amount that they save.

For accountant Tiffona Stewart, gamifying her savings meant using the envelope system, where you put cash in envelopes for specific expenses.

"This is tailored to your life and what you want to save for, so that's what I like about it," Stewart said.

Stewart also started a business selling envelopes and budget binders on Etsy as a way to encourage and promote financial literacy. She sells "one month challenge" packages meant to help save \$1,000 in cash.

"You play those games and you make these things your own. You're trying something new, there's nothing wrong and right, you might get it wrong one month and then get better the next one," she said.

#### 5. INVOLVE YOUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS

As with any lifestyle change, having people around you to support your decisions and encourage healthy habits is crucial, McCreary said. That could include talking with your significant other about your finances, telling your friends that you will start budgeting, or explaining to your children how the family is now spending money.

Rogers' 11-year-old son now knows that if there is not a coupon for the item, they don't get it.

In Stewart's case, using cash when going out with friends helped. If you only take \$100 out with you to the bar and don't bring your credit card, and you want to pay for another round but you only have \$20 left, you simply can't spend any more, she said.

"You need everybody who's involved in those decisions, to commit with you to be supportive of it," McCreary said.

## **Pfizer COVID shots appear 73% effective in children under 5**

Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine was 73% effective in protecting children younger than 5 as omicron spread in the spring, the company announced Tuesday.

Vaccinations for babies, toddlers and preschoolers opened in the U.S. in June after months of delay. Only about 6% of youngsters ages 6 months through 4 years had gotten at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by mid-August, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Health authorities authorized tot-sized vaccine doses made by Pfizer and its partner BioNTech based on a study showing they were safe and produced high levels of virus-fighting antibodies. But there was only preliminary data on how that translated into effectiveness against symptomatic COVID-19.

The new update analyzed COVID-19 diagnoses between March and June in Pfizer's ongoing study of the three-dose vaccine. There were 21 COVID-19 cases among the 351 tots who got dummy shots -- compared to just 13 among the 794 youngsters given three vaccine doses.

The child cases primarily were caused by the BA.2 omicron version that was circulating at the time. Today, another omicron relative, BA.5, is causing most COVID-19 cases in the U.S. and much of the world.

In older children and adults, the COVID-19 vaccines have been used long enough to prove that they remain strongly protective against severe disease and death even as the coronavirus mutates -- while early protection against infection wanes. Still, scientists track that initial effectiveness rate as extra evidence of vaccine performance -- and to look for signs of how they initially hold up against new mutants.

Pfizer this week asked U.S. regulators to authorize modified vaccine doses that better match the newest omicron variants for people 12 and older as boosters this fall. The company said it also is developing updated shots for kids under 12.

## Hopi teens see need for skateboarding park, make it happen

By FELICIA FONSECA Associated Press

VILLAGE OF TEWA, Ariz. (AP) — They skateboarded on basketball courts and in parking lots, through highway intersections and down roads that twist from the mesas that rise above the high desert.

They set up tricks with old railroad ties and lumber, sometimes using their own skateboards to move the materials in place. During a pandemic that led to lockdowns, curfews and mask mandates on the Hopi reservation, the solo nature of skateboarding was a comfort.

But the reservation that borders the northeast corner of Arizona lacked a designated skate spot. So a group of Hopi teenagers made it happen, seeing out a project they initially thought would take months and displaying the Hopi cultural value of sumi'ngwa — coming together for the greater good.

"I hope this will inspire other youth groups to try and do something like this to make the Hopi community a better place for the future generations of our people," said Quintin "Q" Nahsonhoya, one of a handful of co-leads on the project.

The skateboarding destination opened late this spring in the Village of Tewa. It's called Skate 264 for the highway that runs through the 2,500 square-mile (6,474-square-kilometer) Hopi reservation and connects the more than dozen villages. Kira Nevayaktewa came up with the logo that features a cat named "Skategod" that was part of the crew.

The youth group first wanted to ensure the community wanted a skate park, so they surveyed residents who overwhelmingly supported the idea. The group received a grant for branding, sold merchandise to raise money, secured a plot of land and got materials donated through partnerships.

Skate parks have popped up across Indian Country in recent years, many of them youth-led. Some host competitions like one on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota or the All Nations Skate Jam held during the Gathering of Nations powwow in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to much smaller spots like those on Hopi. Native Americans also have created their own brands of skateboards that feature traditional designs with modern twists. The sport that has Indigenous roots tied to surfing has gained even more acceptance since it debuted at the 2020 Olympics, said Betsy Gordon, who curated an exhibit on skateboarding in Native communities at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

"That gives it legitimacy in a lot of adult eyes, people who are making the rules or who fund (skate parks)," she said. "This sense of skateboarding being outsider and niche and oppositional and dangerous, I think it's really disappearing."

The creators of the Hopi skate spot — all teenagers when they started work in it in late 2020 — make it clear skateboarding is for everyone. Go at your own pace. Create your own style. No one is too good to fall, they say in an online Wipe Out Wednesday feature.

In one of their videos, someone picks up a skateboard for the first time, learns new tricks and is celebrated even when he doesn't land them.

"For Hopi, a lot of things have to do from the heart and not willing to give up," said Terrill Humeyestewa, one of the co-leads. "The skateboard is is kind of the same principle as that. Have a good mind, strong heart, think about what you're doing it for and everything will work out OK."

The co-leads, who also include Laela Nevayaktewa and Jacque Thorpe, have a mix of shy and outspo-

ken characteristics. Each of them became comfortable talking with people outside their circle of family and friends. They got approval from the Village of Tewa for land to build the skate spot — no small feat on tribal land where development requires approval from clans, permit holders or the larger community.

The group raised money by selling beanies, stickers and shirts at roadside stands. Nahsonhoya's father, Brandon, and stepmother, Valaura, served as fiscal sponsors and created partnerships with a Phoenix-area skateboard company that donated the ramp and props, and others who donated concrete for the foundation. Other family members and the broader community helped with the manual labor, feeding the crew or providing guidance.

Some of the co-leads have graduated high school since starting the project, others are finishing up. While safety was a priority, they said they also wanted to bring joy to others through skateboarding, stay active and avoid bad influences.

"It keeps you from doing nothing with your time, and that's how I see Hopi and skateboarding coming together, filling your days and your time with something positive," Thorpe said.

Adult mentors lent their skills for video production, photography, graphic design and organizing to keep the group on track and encourage them.

"I didn't know about skateboarding, but what I do know is community organizing and local fundraising, and I have a lot of connections in the community, so I can figure it out with you guys," Samantha Honanie, a mentor, told the group.

"If they believed in themselves, we were going to walk them through this whole process," said Paul Molina, another mentor.

The Village of Tewa now is overseeing the park and eventually will have security guards to patrol the area. Village leaders are hoping to add lights and a basketball court alongside the softball fields for the youth, said Deidra Honyumptewa, chair of the village's board of directors.

"It's a huge testament to us leaders, or older people, that these kids can get things done and they see a need for it," she said.

## Weather whiplash: Summer lurches from drought to flood

BY SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Parts of northern Texas, mired in a drought labeled as extreme and exceptional, are flooding under torrential rain. In a drought.

Sound familiar? It should. The Dallas region is just the latest drought-suffering-but-flooded locale during a summer of extreme weather whiplash, likely goosed by human-caused climate change, scientists say. Parts of the world are lurching from drought to deluge.

The St. Louis area and 88% of Kentucky early in July were considered abnormally dry and then the skies opened up, the rain poured in biblical proportions, inch after inch, and deadly flooding devastated communities. The same thing happened in Yellowstone in June. Earlier this month, Death Valley, in a severe drought, got a near record amount of rainfall in one day, causing floods, and is still in a nasty drought.

China's Yangtze River is drying up, a year after deadly flooding. China is baking under what is a record-long heat wave, already into its third month, with a preliminary report of an overnight low temperature only dipping down to 94.8 degrees (34.9 degrees Celsius) in the heavily populated city of Chongqing. And in western China flooding from a sudden downpour has killed more than a dozen people.

In the Horn of Africa in the midst of a devastating but oft-ignored famine and drought, nearby flash floods add to the humanitarian disaster unfolding. Europe, which suffered through unprecedented flooding last year, has baked with record heat compounded by a 500-year drought that is drying up rivers and threatening power supplies.

"So we really have had a lot of whiplash," said Kentucky's interim climatologist Megan Schargorodski. "It is really difficult to emotionally go through all of these extremes and get through it and figure out how to be resilient through the disaster after disaster that we see."

In just two weeks in late July and early August, the U.S. had 10 downpours that are only supposed to

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 55 of 62

happen 1% of the time — sometimes called 1-in-100-year storms — calculated Weather Prediction Center forecast branch chief Greg Carbin. That's not counting the Dallas region, a likely 1-in-1,000-year storm, where some places got more than 9 inches of rain in 24 hours ending Monday with several inches more forecast to come.

"These extremes of course are getting more extreme," said National Center for Atmospheric Research climate scientist Gerald Meehl, who wrote some of the first studies 18 years ago about extreme weather and climate change. "This is in line with what we expected."

Weather whiplash, "where all of a sudden it changes to the opposite" extreme, is becoming more noticeable because it's so strange, said climate scientist Jennifer Francis of the Woodwell Climate Research Center in Falmouth, Massachusetts. She is in the middle of a study of whiplash events.

The scientists at World Weather Attribution, mostly volunteers who quickly examine extreme weather for a climate change fingerprint, have a strict criteria of events to investigate: they have to be record-breaking, cause a significant number of deaths, or impact at least 1 million people. So far this year they've been swamped. There have been 41 events — eight floods, three storms, eight droughts, 18 heat waves and four cold waves — that have reached that threshold point, said WWA official Julie Arrighi, associate director of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Center.

In the United States, many of the big heavy summer rains are traditionally connected to hurricanes or tropical systems, like last year's Hurricane Ida that smacked Louisiana and then plowed through the South until it flooded the New York, New Jersey region with record rainfall rates.

But this July and August, the nation had been hit with "an overabundance of non-tropical related extreme rainfall," the National Weather Service's Carbin said. "That's unusual."

Scientists suspect climate change is at work in two different ways.

The biggest way is simple physics. As the atmosphere warms it holds more water, 4% more for every degree (7% more for every degree Celsius), scientists said.

Think of the air as a giant sponge, said UCLA and Nature Conservancy climate scientist Daniel Swain. It soaks up more water from parched ground like a sponge "which is why we're seeing worse droughts in some places," he said. Then when a weather system travels further, juicy with that extra water, it has more to dump, causing downpours.

Another factor is the stuck and wavier jet stream — the atmospheric river that moves weather systems around the world — said Woodwell's Francis. Storm systems don't move and just dump huge amounts of water in some places. Other places, like China, are stuck with hot weather as cooler, wetter weather moves around them.

"When that jet stream pattern gets amplified, which is what we're starting to see happen more often, then we notice more of these big whiplash events," Francis said.

When the ground is so hard from drought, water doesn't seep in as much and runs off faster in flood, Francis and others said.

This will only get worse as climate change worsens, so "it highlights the type of events that we need to adapt to, that we need to harden ourselves against," said Princeton University climate scientist Gabriel Vecchi.

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change emphasized what it called compounding weather disasters as a future threat.

"Frankly how fast and how badly it's now playing out is a surprise to many of us," said IPCC report co-author Maarten van Aalst, director of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre in the Netherlands. "It's scary how quickly it is appearing in front of our eyes."

## **Euro falls below parity with the dollar. What's the impact?**

By The Associated Press undefined

The euro has fallen below parity with the dollar, diving to its lowest level in 20 years and ending a one-to-one exchange rate with the U.S. currency.

It's a psychological barrier in the markets. But psychology is important, and the euro's slide underlines

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 56 of 62

the foreboding in the 19 European countries using the currency as they struggle with an energy crisis caused by Russia's war in Ukraine.

Here's why the euro's slide is happening and what impact it could have:

WHAT DOES EURO AND DOLLAR PARITY MEAN?

It means the European and American currencies are worth the same amount. While constantly changing, the euro has dropped just below a value of \$1 this week.

A currency's exchange rate can be a verdict on economic prospects, and Europe's have been fading. Expectations that the economy would see a rebound after turning the corner from the COVID-19 pandemic have been replaced by recession predictions.

More than anything, high energy prices and record inflation are to blame. Europe is far more dependent on Russian oil and natural gas than the U.S. to keep industry humming and generate electricity. Fears that the war in Ukraine will lead to a loss of Russian oil on global markets have pushed oil prices higher. And Russia has been cutting back natural gas supplies to the European Union, which EU leaders described as retaliation for sanctions and weapons deliveries to Ukraine.

Energy prices have driven euro-area inflation to a record 8.9% in July, making everything from groceries to utility bills more expensive. They also have raised fears about governments needing to ration natural gas to industries like steel, glassmaking and agriculture if Russia further reduces or shuts off the gas taps completely.

The sense of doom increased as Russia reduced the flows through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to Germany to 20% of capacity and said it would shut it down for three days next week for "routine maintenance" at a compressor station.

Natural gas prices on Europe's TTF benchmark have soared to record highs amid dwindling supplies, fears of further cutoffs and strong demand.

"If you think Euro at parity is cheap, think again," Robin Brooks, chief economist at the Institute of International Finance banking trade group, tweeted Monday. "German manufacturing lost access to cheap Russian energy & thus its competitive edge."

"Global recession is coming," he said in a second tweet.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THE EURO WAS EQUAL TO THE DOLLAR?

The euro was last valued below \$1 on July 15, 2002.

The European currency hit its all-time high of \$1.18 shortly after its launch on Jan. 1, 1999, but then began a long slide, falling through the \$1 mark in February 2000 and hitting a record low of 82.30 cents in October 2000. It rose above parity in 2002 as large trade deficits and accounting scandals on Wall Street weighed on the dollar.

Then as now, what appears to be a euro story is also in many ways a dollar story. That's because the U.S. dollar is still the world's dominant currency for trade and central bank reserves. And the dollar has been hitting 20-year highs against the currencies of its major trading partners, not just the euro.

The dollar is also benefiting from its status as a safe haven for investors in times of uncertainty.

WHY IS THE EURO FALLING?

Many analysts attribute the euro's slide to expectations for rapid interest rate increases by the U.S. Federal Reserve to combat inflation at close to 40-year highs.

As the Fed raises interest rates, the rates on interest-bearing investments tend to rise as well. If the Fed raises rates more than the European Central Bank, higher interest returns will attract investor money from euros into dollar-denominated investments. Those investors will have to sell euros and buy dollars to buy those holdings. That drives the euro down and the dollar up.

Last month, the ECB raised interest rates for the first time in 11 years by a larger-than-expected half-percentage point. It is expected to add another increase in September. But if the economy sinks into recession, that could halt the ECB's series of rate increases.

Meanwhile, the U.S. economy looks more robust, meaning the Fed could go on tightening — and widen the rate gap.

WHO WINS?



American tourists in Europe will find cheaper hotel and restaurant bills and admission tickets. The weaker euro could make European export goods more competitive on price in the United States. The U.S. and the EU are major trade partners, so the exchange rate shift will get noticed.

In the U.S., a stronger dollar means lower prices on imported goods — from cars and computers to toys and medical equipment — which could help moderate inflation.

#### WHO LOSES?

American companies that do a lot of business in Europe will see the revenue from those businesses shrink when and if they bring those earnings back to the U.S. If euro earnings remain in Europe to cover costs there, the exchange rate becomes less of an issue.

A key worry for the U.S. is that a stronger dollar makes U.S.-made products more expensive in overseas markets, widening the trade deficit and reducing economic output, while giving foreign products a price edge in the United States.

A weaker euro can be a headache for the European Central Bank because it can mean higher prices for imported goods, particularly oil, which is priced in dollars. The ECB is already being pulled in different directions: It is raising interest rates, the typical medicine for inflation, but higher rates also can slow economic growth.

## Children of climate change come of age in 'Katrina Babies'

BY DREW COSTLEY AP Science Writer

Edward Buckles, Jr. was 13 when Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans and completely upended his life. Buckles and his family moved from New Orleans to Lafayette, Louisiana for several months while their hometown began to recover from the catastrophic storm.

He told The Associated Press he doesn't remember much from those months living in Lafayette, grasping for a sense of normalcy in the aftermath of one of the most destructive hurricanes in American history.

His community was experiencing so much destruction. Now as an adult, he views that blank spot in his memory as a response to the trauma of what he witnessed.

Buckles' parents asked him at the time if he was okay, but he wasn't quite able to figure that out for himself in the moment. Later the trauma resurfaced. With kids, he said, "what's responsible and what's important is that you set them up to deal with that trauma once it surfaces."

But the filmmaker said in his new documentary "Katrina Babies" that not all the children who were traumatized by living through the hurricane and its aftermath had adults checking in on them. So that's what he set out to do, capturing several New Orleans residents as they reconcile with a childhood marred by Hurricane Katrina.

The documentary, which has garnered critical praise, will be available for streaming on HBO Max on August 24 and debuts on HBO the same day at 9 pm ET, 17 years and a day after the hurricane formed in the Atlantic Ocean.

It shows how New Orleans and its people were changed by the storm. It depicts the childhood trauma it caused for a generation coming of age after one of the United States' first major climate-related disasters. New Orleanians featured in the documentary share stories of seeing dead people and pets, of leaving home and returning to communities destroyed, while they were still children.

The film looks at climate past and present and, the filmmakers hope, sounds alarm bells for the climate future.

"I hope this is a local and American story that will motivate people to want to do better and care about human beings, and about how intrinsically linked we are with nature and that the future is clear: There is going to be more of this," said Audrey Rosenberg, lead producer of the film.

Buckles said that while Hurricane Katrina might have been a formative experience for him and the youth of New Orleans at the time, more waters have come through since. Though he isn't a climate scientist, he knows firsthand the repeated damage wrought on his hometown by hurricanes and tropical storms made more intense by climate change.

"My grandmother lost her home due to flooding from Hurricane Katrina," he said. "She has been flooded

seven more times just from tropical storms.”

Cierra Chenier, 26, was featured in the documentary and also knows people who have had to rebuild multiple times since Hurricane Katrina due to subsequent hurricanes and storms.

She said the loss of culture and history in New Orleans due to repeated climate-related disasters like Hurricane Katrina shaped her decision to become a local historian and writer.

“I got into wanting to preserve our history because of how quickly I felt my childhood became history,” she said. Even though the storm was 17 years ago, she said, it continues to shape the present.

“In preserving our stories, writing about those stories and narrating those stories, it’s always connected to the present and we can form better solutions for the future,” she said.

Chenier, Buckles and the other youth affected by Hurricane Katrina have a lot to say about the future, having experienced years of government inaction to limit climate change or prepare and recover from climate disasters. Year after year, New Orleanians and the state and federal government know that hurricane season is going to come and be potentially catastrophic because of climate change, Buckles said.

And still, he said, Hurricane Ida, which hit New Orleans 16 years to the day after Hurricane Katrina, affected people in his community in eerily similar ways to the 2005 storm. The relief measures, he said, were nearly as slow.

As a result, people in his community have become more resilient. But he said he wonders whether government agencies are relying on those harmed by climate-related disasters to help themselves when what they really need is public planning and preparation.

“The youth are tired of dealing with this, myself included,” he said. “And we cannot forget to hold accountable those who need to be held accountable.”

## Six months on, Ukraine fights war, faces painful aftermath

By EVGENIY MALOLETKA and DEREK GATOPOULOS Associated Press

CHERNIHIV, Ukraine (AP) — Danyk Rak enjoys riding his bike, playing soccer and quiet moments with the family’s short-legged dog and two white cats, Pushuna and Lizun.

But at age 12, his childhood has been abruptly cut short. His family’s home was destroyed and his mother seriously wounded as Russian forces bombarded Kyiv’s suburbs and surrounding towns in a failed effort to seize the capital.

Six months after Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine, and with no end to the conflict in sight, The Associated Press revisited Danyk as well as a police officer and an Orthodox priest whose lives have been upended by war.

“I WANT TO BE AN AIR FORCE PILOT”

Tears come to Danyk’s eyes as his mother, Luda, recalls being pulled from the rubble, covered in blood, after shrapnel tore through her body and smashed her right foot.

Twenty-two weeks after she was wounded, she’s still waiting to have her foot amputated and to be fitted with a prosthetic. She keeps the piece of shrapnel surgeons removed during one of her many operations.

Danyk lives with his mother and grandmother in a house near Chernihiv, a town 140 kilometers (nearly 90 miles) north of Kyiv, where a piece of tarp covers the broken bedroom windows. He sells milk from the family’s cow that grazes in the nearby fields. A handwritten sign wrapped in clear plastic on the front gate reads: “Please buy milk to help my mother who is injured.”

“My mother needs surgery and that’s why I have to help her. I have to help my grandmother too because she has heart problems,” Danyk said.

Before schools reopen on Sept. 1, Danyk and his grandmother have been joining volunteers several days a week clearing the debris from buildings damaged and destroyed in the Russian bombardment outside Chernihiv. On the way, he stops at his old house, most of it smashed to the foundations.

“This was my bedroom,” he says, standing next to scorched mattress springs that protrude from the rubble of bricks and plaster.

Polite and soft spoken, Danyk says his father and stepfather are both fighting in the Ukrainian army.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 59 of 62

"My father is a soldier, my uncles are soldiers and my grandfather was a soldier, too. My stepfather is a soldier and I will be a soldier," he says with a look of determination. "I want to be an air force pilot."

"THIS BRIDGE WAS THE ROAD FROM HELL"

Before the Russian withdrawal from Kyiv and surrounding areas on April 2, suburbs and towns near the city's airport were pounded by rockets, artillery fire and aerial bombardment in an effort to break the Ukrainian defenses.

Entire city blocks of apartments were blackened by the shelling in Irpin, just 20 kilometers (12 miles) northwest of the capital, along a route where police Lt. Ruslan Huseinov patrolled daily.

Some of the most dramatic scenes from the early stages of the war were of the evacuation from Irpin underneath a destroyed highway bridge, where thousands escaped the relentless attacks.

Huseinov was there for 16 days, organizing crossings where the elderly were carried along muddy pathways in wheelbarrows.

Reconstruction work has begun on the bridge, where mangled concrete and iron bars hang over the river. Clothing and shoes from those who fled can still be seen tangled in the debris.

"This bridge was the road from hell," says Huseinov, 34, standing next to an overturned white van still lodged into a slab of smashed concrete.

"We got people out of (Irpin) because conditions were terrible — with bombing and shelling," he said. "People were really scared because many lost their children, members of their family, their brothers and sisters."

Crosses made from construction wood are still nailed to the railings of the bridge to honor those lost and the effort to save civilians.

"The whole world witnessed our solidarity," says Huseinov, who grew up in Germany and says he would never again take the good things in life for granted.

"In my mind, everything has changed: My values in life," he said. "Now I understand what we have to lose."

"BEFORE THE WAR, IT WAS ANOTHER LIFE"

The floor of the Church of Andrew the Apostle has been re-tiled and bullet holes in the walls plastered over and repainted — but the horror of what happened in March lies only a few yards away.

The largest mass grave in Bucha — a town outside Kyiv that has become synonymous with the brutality of the Russian attack — is behind the church.

"This grave contained 116 people, including 30 women, and two children," said Father Andriy, who has conducted multiple burial services for civilians found shot dead or killed by shelling, some still only identified as a number while the effort to name all of Bucha's victims continues.

Many of the bodies were found before the Russians pulled out of the Kyiv region, Father Andriy said.

"We couldn't bury people in the cemetery because it's on the outskirts of the city. They left people, dead people, lying in the street. Dead people were found still in their cars. They were trying to leave but the Russians shelled them," said Father Andriy, wearing a large cross around his neck and a dark purple cassock.

"That situation lasted two weeks, and the local authorities began coming up with solutions (to help relatives and loved ones. It was bad weather and wild animals were discovering the bodies. So something had to be done."

He decided to carry out burial services in the church yard, many next to where the bodies had been discovered.

The experience, he said, has left people in the town badly shaken.

"I think that, neither myself or anyone who lives in Ukraine, who witnessed the war, can understand why this happened," he said.

"Before the war, it was another life."

"For now we are surviving on adrenaline," he said. "But I'm worried that the aftermath will last decades. It will be hard to get past this and turn the page. Saying the word 'forgive' isn't difficult. But to say it from your heart — for now, that's not possible."

## U. Michigan study to help those with autism improve driving

By MIKE HOUSEHOLDER Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — University of Michigan researchers are studying how well people with autism spectrum disorder can detect road hazards, and plan to assist the young motorists in sharpening their driving skills.

The upcoming effort will be the second phase of a project funded by Ford Motor Co. that teams the Ann Arbor university with a local driving school.

During phase one of the study, researchers found that students with autism spectrum disorder detected fewer hazards than control participants during simulated drives.

But, according to lead researcher Elise Hodges, some extra work behind the wheel did the trick.

"Those folks that underwent training improved in two-thirds of hazards in the simulated drive," said Hodges, a clinical associate professor in the University of Michigan's neuropsychology program.

Tate Ellwood-Mielewski, who was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder at age 3, is among those who plan to get back in the driver's seat for phase two of the study.

"I do want to be able to drive ... and get places where I want to go," said Ellwood-Mielewski, a 23-year-old from Ann Arbor whose mother, Debbie Mielewski, was instrumental in pulling together the partners to make the study happen.

Mielewski had been harboring a growing concern about how her son would fare in the future with no driver's license and his parents no longer around.

So, Mielewski, a technical fellow of sustainability at Ford, approached her boss in 2018 "and just blurted out: "Would you support a program to help autistic spectrum kids to learn how to drive?"

"And he immediately said, "Yes!"

Ann Arbor Academy, a school for students with learning and social differences, hosted driving lessons. Hodges designed the simulated drives and oversaw the study. Ford footed the bill.

The goal, in part, was to provide an opportunity for those with autism spectrum disorder to improve their driving skills.

"Many of them ... would like to drive, but getting from wanting to drive and being able to drive are two different things," Hodges said.

Indeed, the first phase of the study found that, in addition to detecting hazards, students with autism tended to slow down and "stop short" in front of stop signs.

Hodges said she hopes the individualized driving sessions planned for phase two will bear fruit.

Either way, programs like this can go a long way toward helping those with autism overcome their doubts, Debbie Mielewski said.

"If we can just free them to think that they can do anything, I really think they can," she said. "They need support. We should support them."

Hodges said she hopes similar programs appear elsewhere.

"In the best-case scenario, I would hope that parents would learn that their teens or young adults who have ASD actually may be able to drive successfully," she said. "And there may be some tools out there that they may not have been aware of."

The second phase is expected to start in a month or two, Hodges said.

## Today in History: August 24, Mount Vesuvius erupts

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 24, the 236th day of 2022. There are 129 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 24, A.D. 79, long-dormant Mount Vesuvius erupted, burying the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in volcanic ash; an estimated 20,000 people died.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 61 of 62

On this date:

In 1814, during the War of 1812, British forces invaded Washington, D.C., setting fire to the Capitol (which was still under construction) and the White House, as well as other public buildings.

In 1912, Congress passed a measure creating the Alaska Territory.

In 1932, Amelia Earhart embarked on a 19-hour flight from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey, making her the first woman to fly solo, non-stop, from coast to coast.

In 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty came into force.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Communist Control Act, outlawing the Communist Party in the United States.

In 1981, Mark David Chapman was sentenced in New York to 20 years to life in prison for murdering John Lennon. (Chapman remains imprisoned.)

In 1989, Baseball Commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti (juh-MAH'-tee) banned Pete Rose from the game for betting on his own team, the Cincinnati Reds.

In 1992, Hurricane Andrew smashed into Florida, causing \$30 billion in damage; 43 U.S. deaths were blamed on the storm.

In 2006, the International Astronomical Union declared that Pluto was no longer a full-fledged planet, demoting it to the status of a "dwarf planet."

In 2016, a 6.2 magnitude earthquake reduced three central Italian towns to rubble and killed nearly 300 people.

In 2019, police in Aurora, Colorado, responding to a report of a suspicious person, used a chokehold to subdue Elijah McClain, a 23-year-old Black man; he suffered cardiac arrest on the way to the hospital and was later declared brain dead and taken off life support. (Three officers were placed on leave but returned to the force after a prosecutor found insufficient evidence to support charging them; the officers and two paramedics were later indicted by a grand jury on manslaughter and other charges following an investigation by state Attorney General Phil Weiser ordered by Gov. Jared Polis.)

In 2020, Republicans formally nominated President Donald Trump for a second term on the opening day of a scaled-down convention; during a visit to the convention city of Charlotte, North Carolina, Trump told delegates that "the only way they can take this election away from us is if this is a rigged election." Anger over the shooting of a Black man, Jacob Blake, by police spilled into the streets of Kenosha, Wisconsin for a second night.

Ten years ago: A Norwegian court found Anders Behring Breivik guilty of terrorism and premeditated murder for twin attacks on July 22, 2011 that killed 77 people; he received a 21-year prison sentence that can be extended as long as he is considered dangerous to society. The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency wiped out 14 years of Lance Armstrong's cycling career — including his record seven Tour de France titles — and barred him for life from the sport after concluding he'd used banned substances.

Five years ago: Presidential adviser Jared Kushner met with Israeli and Palestinian leaders to try to jumpstart peace talks. Former Carter administration Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus, who engineered the conservation of millions of acres of Alaska land, died at the age of 85. Mavis Wanczyk, a hospital worker from the western Massachusetts town of Chicopee, was announced as the winner of the biggest undivided lottery jackpot in U.S. history, a \$758.7 million Powerball prize; lottery officials said she chose to take a lump sum payment of \$480 million, or \$336 million after taxes.

One year ago: President Joe Biden said he would stick to his Aug. 31 deadline for completing a risky airlift of Americans, endangered Afghans and others seeking to escape Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. Kathy Hochul became New York's first female governor after the resignation of Andrew Cuomo took effect; on her first day in office, Hochul acknowledged that the state had nearly 12,000 more deaths from COVID-19 than Cuomo had told the public. Former football star Herschel Walker filed paperwork to enter the U.S. Senate race in Georgia after months of speculation; the Republican had the backing of former President Donald Trump. Rolling Stones drummer Charlie Watts died in a London hospital at the age of 80.

Today's Birthdays: Composer-musician Mason Williams is 84. R&B singer Marshall Thompson (The Chi-

# Groton Daily Independent

**Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 048 ~ 62 of 62**

Lites) is 80. Actor Anne Archer is 75. Actor Joe Regalbuto is 73. Actor Kevin Dunn is 67. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee is 67. Actor-writer Stephen Fry is 65. Actor Steve Guttenberg is 64. Baseball Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr. is 62. Actor Jared Harris is 61. Talk show host Craig Kilborn is 60. CBS News correspondent Major Garrett is 60. Rock singer John Bush is 59. Actor Marlee Matlin is 57. Basketball Hall of Famer Reggie Miller is 57. Broadcast journalist David Gregory is 52. Movie director Ava DuVernay is 50. Actor-comedian Dave Chappelle is 49. Actor James D'Arcy is 49. Actor Carmine Giovinazzo (jee-oh-vihn-AH'-zoh) is 49. Actor Alex O'Loughlin is 46. Actor Beth Riesgraf is 44. Actor Chad Michael Murray is 41. Singer Mika is 39. Actor Blake Berris is 38. Actor Rupert Grint ("Harry Potter" films) is 34.