

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 1 of 79

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- Redfield holds off last minute drive to win in football action](#)
- [5- The Life of Andrew 'Andy' Daly](#)
- [6- South Dakota State Fair Know Before You Go](#)
- [7- Groton Chamber Ad](#)
- [8- South Dakota Average Gas Prices](#)
- [9-Drought Monitor](#)
- [10- Weather Pages](#)
- [14- Daily Devotional](#)
- [15- 2022 Community Events](#)
- [16- Subscription Form](#)
- [17- News from the Associated Press](#)

## 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

## 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.  
Volleyball at Aberdeen Christian (7th at 5:15 p.m. JV at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity)  
Emmanuel: 6:30 am Bible Study  
The Pantry open at the Groton Community Center, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

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

© 2022 Groton Daily Independent

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 2 of 79

## Redfield holds off last minute drive to win in football action



**Andrew Marzahn looks for an opening as he runs the ball.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Area's football team had three golden opportunities and a last minute chance to score, but the ball refused to cross into the end zone as Redfield held on for a 14-12 win. The game was played Friday in Groton.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Bahr Spray Foam, John Sieh Agency, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Locke Electric, Dacotah Bank, SD Army National Guard, Milbrandt Enterprises Inc, Doug Abeln Seed, Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass.

Groton Area had the ball down within the 15 yard line three times during the game, but the Redfield defense prevented the Tigers from scoring. The Tiger defense forced a turnover with a minute left in the game, but the ensuing passes were thwarted.

It was an even game, as the score would indicate, with both teams having 13 first downs and Groton Area had the edge in total offense, 283-222. Both teams had one fumble and one interception.

Groton Area scored first with 11:55 left in the first half on a five yard pass from Kucker to Diegel. The PAT kick was blocked and it was 6-0. Redfield would then score with 6:54 left in the half on a four yard pass from Nolan Gall to Keaton Rohlf. The PAT was a fake kick which ended up on a pass from Gall to Chase



**Korbin Kucker gets ready to launch a pass downfield.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 3 of 79



**Keegen Tracy looks for an opening as he makes his move.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

McGillivany. It was 8-0 at half time.

Redfield would score with 2:46 left in the third quarter, on a seven yard run by Mason Whitley. The two-point run attempt failed and it was 14-6.

Groton Area scored with 3:11 left in the game on a 58 yard pass play from Kucker to Marzahn. The PAT pass attempt failed and it was 14-12.

Offensively for the Tigers, Groton Area had 29 carries for 100 yards with Teylor Diegel having six carries for 55 yards, Korbin Kucker having 16 for 29 yards and Andrew Marzahn had seven for 16 yards. Redfield had 40 carries for 180 yards with Mason Whitley having 21 carries for 145 yards and one touchdown.

Kucker completed nine of 16 passes for 183 yards with two touchdowns and one interception. Receivers were Diegel with four catches for 93 yards and one touchdown, Marzahn had two catches for 66 yards and one touchdown, Keegan Tracy had two catches for 17 yards and Tate Larson had one catch for seven yards. Redfield completed five of eight passes for 42 yards with one touchdown and one interception. Nolan Gall had one catch for 20 yards and Chase McGillivany had two for 16 yards.

Groton Area had two fumbles and lost one and had three penalties for 39 yards. Redfield lost one fumble and had seven penalties for 60 yards.

Defensive leaders for the Tigers were Christian Ehresmann with 14 tackles and one fumble recovery, Logan Ringgenberg had nine tackles, Kaleb Antonsen had seven tackles, Teylor Diegel, Holden Sippel and Korbin Kucker each had six tackles, Tate Larson had six tackles and an interception and Marzahn had one fumble recovery.

Mason Whitley led Redfield with 10 tackles.

Groton Area, now 0-2 on the season, will host Dakota Hills Coop on Friday. Redfield, now 1-1, is hosting Aberdeen Roncalli.

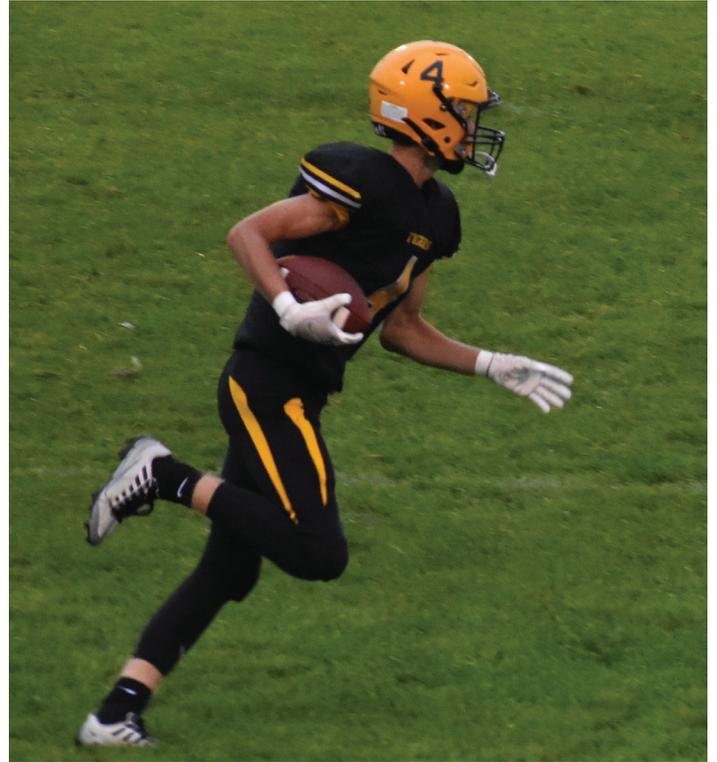
- Paul Kosel

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 4 of 79



**Tate Larson caught this pass, but it was just outside of the endzone.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Ryder Johnson moves quickly to gain yards for the Tigers.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Holden Sippel grabbed the jersey of Nolan Gall and did not let go during this play.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



## The Life of Andrew 'Andy' Daly



Viewing for Andrew 'Andy' Daly, 39, of Columbia will be Sunday, August 28, 2022 from 3-7pm with family present from 5-7pm. Wake service will start at 7pm. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30am, Monday, August 29, 2022. Viewing, wake and funeral will be at St Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Groton, SD with Father Greg Tschakert. Burial will take place at the Columbia Catholic Cemetery. The family requests casual dress or Titan Machinery apparel. Andy died unexpectedly on August 24th, 2022 at Avera St. Luke's Hospital.

Andrew Daniel Daly was born March 29, 1983 to Steve & Patti (Locke) Daly in Aberdeen, SD. He graduated from Groton High School in 2001. He attended Southeast Technical Institute and graduated with a degree in Diesel Mechanics in 2003. He worked at Aberdeen Equipment, now known as, Titan Machinery until the time of his death. He earned numerous "Most Efficient Service Technician" Awards for his dedication and hard work and was recently promoted to the title of Service Manager for Titan Aberdeen CIH. He was well known throughout the farming community for his exper-

tise in machinery, especially in combines, headers, and planters.

Andy was passionate about four things: his job, his family and friends, hunting, and racing. Ever since he was little, Andy enjoyed pushing the limits with three-wheelers, four-wheelers, motorcycles, and snowmobiles. When he moved back from college, he started racing a Pure Stock car at Brown County Speedway and eventually moved up a class to a Super Stock car. Andy's brother, Michael, was by his side in the pits and they continued to join the Stearns Motorsports crew after he decided to quit racing.

In 2007, Andy met Lucy and her three kids, Braden, Zack, and Chloe. Andy and Lucy wed January 16, 2016. Andy was a family man through and through, nothing made him prouder than his family and the farm they built with his dad, mom, brother, and brother-in-law, Jordan. A typical day for Andy involved chores in the early morning with his dad, followed by a full day at Titan, and then working on the farm until the day's tasks were complete. While he may have had an ornery and stubborn demeanor, he was a teddy bear to all that truly knew him.

The Daly family gathered for every holiday, birthday, vacation, calving season, and every day in between. Andy, Lucy, and kids moved to Daly Corner in 2016. You could always find Andy in the farmyard throwing wrenches, working cattle, giving rides in his many toys to his nieces and nephew, or playing with his dog, Mylee. Recently, Andy and Lucy purchased their forever home on an acreage at Daly Corner next to his parents farm. Andy, Lucy, and kids spent many hours turning the acreage into their dream place.

Grateful for having shared his life is Andy's wife Lucy; children Braden, Zack, and Chloe; proud parents Steve and Patti; brother, Michael; sisters Whitney (Jordan) Stiegelmeier and Lindsey (Anthony) Poeppel; nieces Olivia, Blakely, Veda, and Ivy; nephew Jack; and Grandma Rose Locke. We will be lost without him.

Preceding Andy in death are his grandparents Arthur & Ruth Daly and Ervin Locke; uncles Lonnie Daly and Jake McKiver; Aunt Renee McKiver; father-in-law Jerome McCarlson, and mother-in-law Darlene (Dolly) McCarlson.

Pallbearers: Michael Daly, Nick Johnson, Landon Johnson, Jeremy Johnson, Todd Peterson, Mike Stearns, Phil Holcomb, Justin Ranek, and Tanner Gates.

Honorary pallbearers: Titan Machinery employees.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 7 of 79

can be found at Gates 1, 3, 6, and 7. Gate hours are 7 am to 8 pm Thursday-Sunday, and 7 am to 3 pm on Monday. Gate admission is free after 8 pm, Thursday-Sunday, and 3 pm on Monday. A map of the fairgrounds is available online.

Free parking is available outside the southeast and southwest corners of the fairgrounds and at the former Huron Mall on Lincoln Ave. Fairgoers can park on the west side of the mall in the Advanced Sunflower Parking Lot and ride a free shuttle bus to Gate 3. The shuttle stops at designated locations every 30 minutes.

Event times and entertainment schedules can be found at [www.sdstatefair.com](http://www.sdstatefair.com)

Fair admission is \$4 for kids and \$6 for adults. Discounts and daily promotions are available on the State Fair's website. Midway rides, grandstand entertainment, and other activities cost extra. Free stage entertainment and attractions are available throughout the fair at no extra cost. State Fair Grandstand Ticket Packages are available which include two nights of bull riding and three concerts for \$165 for Grandstand Reserved Seating or \$200 for standing room. Individual tickets are available for all shows.

Please use caution around the DEX: Dakota Events CompleX construction site on the east end of the fairgrounds. Respect the barriers and stay out of the construction zone.

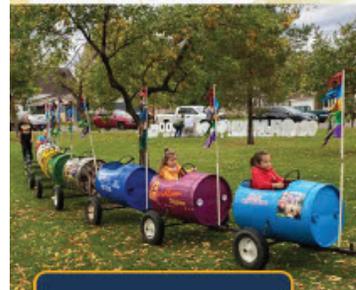
Livestock exhibitors hauling a livestock trailer should note the new livestock trailer parking area a quarter mile west of Huron Continental Marketing on the north side of Hwy 14.

The 2022 South Dakota State Fair runs Thursday, September 1 through Monday, September 5. Channel Seeds preview night will be Wednesday, August 31. For information about the South Dakota State Fair, contact the Fair office at 800-529-0900, visit [www.sdstatefair.com](http://www.sdstatefair.com) or find them on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

## GROTON'S EVENTS



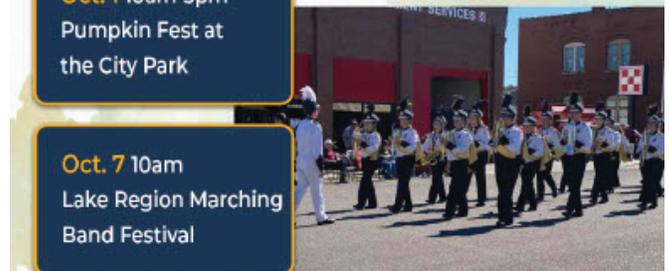
Sept. 2 - 4 Airport  
Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton  
Municipal Airport



Oct. 1 10am-3pm  
Pumpkin Fest at  
the City Park

Sept. 10 8am-3pm  
Lion's Club Fall City-  
wide Rummage Sale

Sept. 11 10am  
Couples Sunflower  
Tourney at Olive  
Grove Golf Course



Oct. 7 10am  
Lake Region Marching  
Band Festival



Oct. 31 4-6pm  
Downtown Trick  
or Treat

Oct. 31 5:30-7pm  
United Methodist  
Church Trunk or Treat

**GROTON**  
Chamber Of Commerce

120 N Main St., Groton, SD 57445

605-397-8422

[GrotonChamber.com](http://GrotonChamber.com)

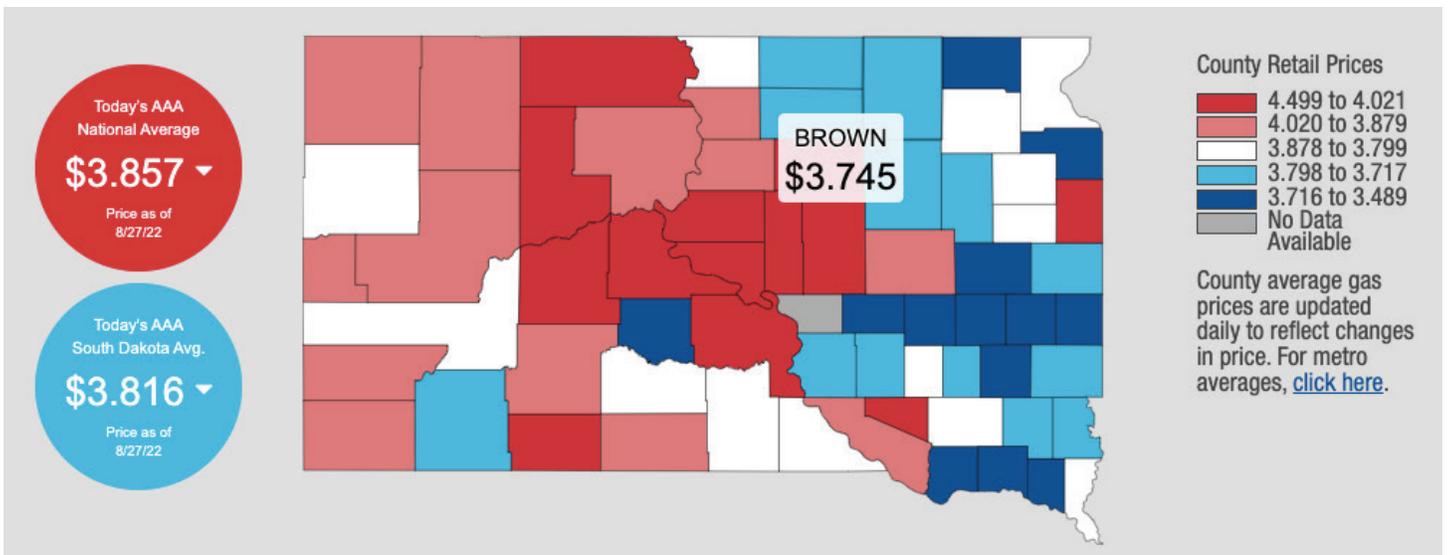
# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 8 of 79

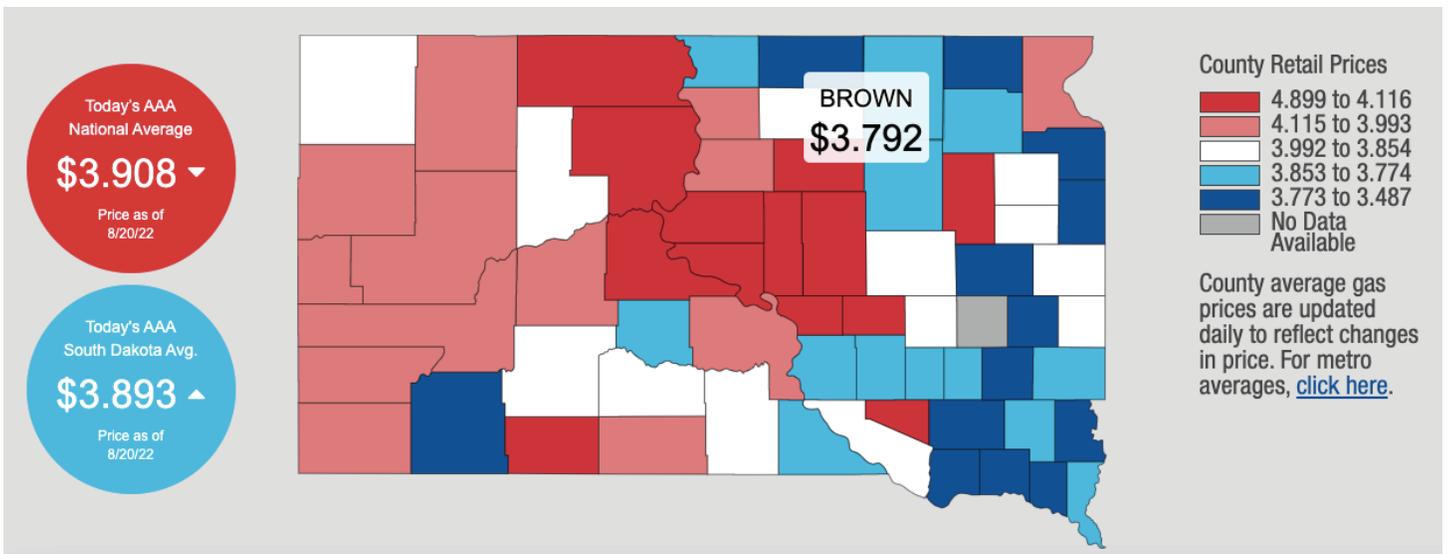
## South Dakota Average Gas Prices

Current Avg.	\$3.816	\$3.984	\$4.465	\$4.825
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.828	\$4.021	\$4.486	\$4.811
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.893	\$4.073	\$4.548	\$4.790
Month Ago Avg.	\$4.315	\$4.482	\$4.976	\$5.136
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.161	\$3.284	\$3.676	\$3.255

### This Week



### Last Week



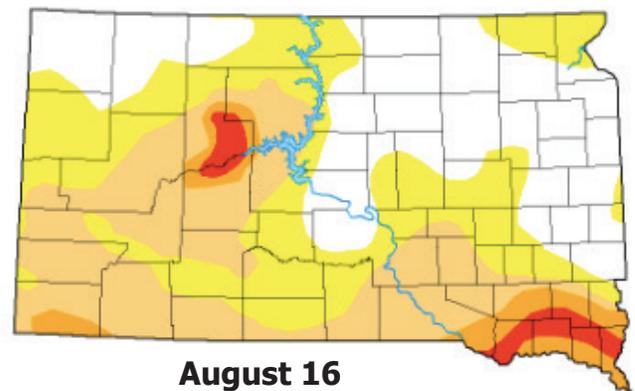
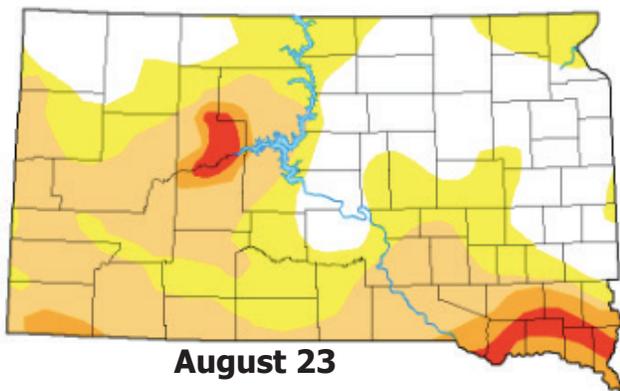
# Broton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 9 of 79

## Drought Classification



## Drought Monitor

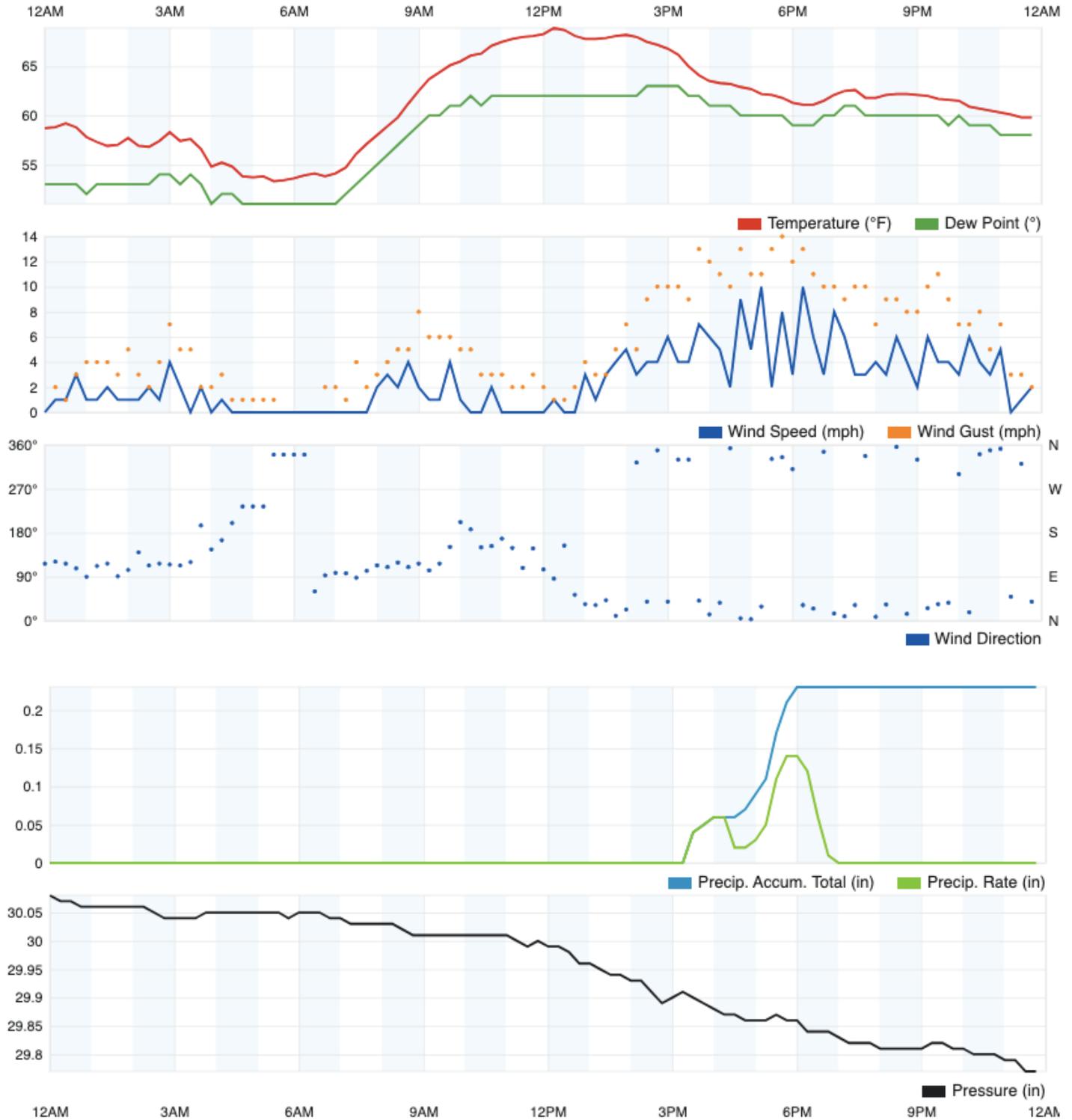


Warm, dry conditions continued across the region. Moderate drought (D1) expanded in western South Dakota and northeast Wyoming where rainfall deficits of near 3 inches over the last 90 days dried out soils, lowered streamflow, and stressed vegetation. Additional analysis across the High Plains next week is likely to result in increasing drought severity across parts of the region due to persistent dry weather.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 10 of 79

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 11 of 79

This  
Afternoon



Sunny

High: 86 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 63 °F

Sunday



Mostly Sunny  
then Slight  
Chance  
T-storms

High: 84 °F

Sunday  
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 59 °F

Monday



Sunny

High: 81 °F

## Today

Clearing & Breezy  
Isolated afternoon Storm or Two  
East of the James Valley

Highs: 83-92

## Sunday

Breezy  
Isolated afternoon Storm or Two  
East of the James Valley

Highs: 80-87



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

[weather.gov/abr](http://weather.gov/abr)

Graphic Created  
8/27/2022 4:03 AM

Eventually clearing skies will take over and temperatures will recover. Humidity will linger with a south breeze. That breeze changes to westerly for Sunday and while temperatures will be similar, the humidity will be much less.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 13 of 79

## Today in Weather History

August 27, 1983: High winds tore through Glenham and Wakpala, destroying several structures and damaging crops. The worst damage occurred in Glenham, in Walworth County, where two mobile homes were damaged, the roof of a school torn off, and trees limbs down. A tall TV antenna was blown over, and a boat was blown off a trailer. High winds also tore through the Bowdle area, downing power lines and tree limbs. Numerous roofs were also damaged.

August 27, 2013: Numerous severe thunderstorms brought large hail along with wind gusts from 60 to 90 mph to parts of north central and northeast South Dakota. Numerous trees were downed along with many structures damaged. Eighty mph winds near Polo in Hand County snapped off two large cottonwood trees. Ninety mph winds snapped numerous trees off at their base along with destroying a garage and tipping several campers over onto their side at Cottonwood Lake near Redfield.

1854: A tornado struck downtown Louisville around noon on Sunday, August 27th, 1854. It first touched down near 25th Street, southwest of downtown and lifted at the intersection of 5th and Main Streets. Although the tornado was only on the ground for a little over two miles, the twister claimed at least 25 lives. Many of those who perished were killed in the Third Presbyterian Church, where 55 people were gathered for Sunday church services. Straight-line winds that accompanied the tornado did significant damage to the Ohio River, where at least one boat sunk.

1881: A Category 2 Hurricane made landfall between St. Simons Island and Savannah, Georgia, on this day. Landfall coincided with high tide and proved very destructive. The hurricane killed 700 people, including 335 in Savannah, making it the sixth deadliest hurricane in the United States.

1883: Krakatoa Volcano exploded in the East Indies. The explosion was heard more than 2500 miles away, and every barograph around the world recorded the passage of the airwave, up to seven times. Giant waves, 125 feet high and traveling 300 mph, devastated everything in their path, hurling ashore coral blocks weighing up to 900 tons, and killing more than 36,000 persons. Volcanic ash was carried around the globe in thirteen days producing blue and green suns in the tropics, and vivid red sunsets in higher latitudes. The temperature of the earth was lowered one degree for the next two years, finally recovering to normal by 1888.

1893: An estimated Category 3 hurricane made landfall near Savannah, Georgia on this day. This hurricane produced a high storm surge of 16 to 30 feet which cost the lives of 1,000 to 2,000 people. As of now, this storm is one of the top 5, deadliest hurricanes on record for the USA.

1964 - Hurricane Cleo battered Miami and the South Florida area. It was the first direct hit for Miami in fourteen years. Winds gusted to 135 mph, and the hurricane caused 125 million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1970 - Elko, NV, was deluged with 3.66 inches of rain in just one hour, establishing a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Washington D.C. soared to a record hot 100 degrees, while clouds and rain to the north kept temperature readings in the 50s in central and southeastern New York State. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Afternoon thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in the southwestern U.S. Thunderstorms in eastern New Mexico produced wind gusts to 75 mph near the White Sands Missile Range, and produced three inches of rain in two hours near the town of Belen. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in southeastern Nebraska, eastern Kansas and Missouri. Thunderstorms produced baseball size hail south of Belleville KS, and tennis ball size hail south of Lincoln NE. Thunderstorms produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 70 mph at Saint Joseph MO. Thunderstorms in North Dakota deluged the town of Linton with six inches of rain in one hour. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2005: Hurricane Katrina reached Category 3 intensity in the Gulf of Mexico about 335 miles south-southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River with maximum sustained winds of 115 mph.



## Plans and Providence

### Scripture: James 4:13–17 (NIV)

#### Boasting About Tomorrow

13 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. 17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them..

#### Insight By: Arthur Jackson

Is it wrong to plan? Certainly not. Those who come away from James 4:13–17 thinking that good planning is a bad thing miss the point of the passage and ignore Scripture's teaching elsewhere. Students of life know the value of having a plan. So did the writer in Proverbs 21:5: "Careful planning puts you ahead in the long run; hurry and scurry puts you further behind" (the message). A good plan is a good thing. What James critiques and condemns, however, is the kind of planning that ignores life's uncertainty and brevity (James 4:14) and God as the giver of life (v. 15). The book of James has been called the "Proverbs of the New Testament." James 4:13–17 echoes Proverbs 27:1: "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring" and encourages us to "trust in the Lord with all [our] heart and lean not on [our] own understanding" (3:5)..

#### Comment by Glenn Packiam

In 2000, an upstart company operating on a movie-rental-by-mail system offered to sell their company for \$50 million to Blockbuster, the home movies and video game rentals king at that time. Netflix had roughly 300,000 subscribers, while Blockbuster had millions and millions of them. Blockbuster passed on the opportunity to purchase their little competitor. The result? Today Netflix has more than 180 million subscribers and is worth nearly \$200 billion. As for Blockbuster, well . . . it went bust. None of us can predict the future.

We're tempted to believe that we're in control of our lives and that our plans for the future will succeed. But James says, "You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes" (4:14). Life is brief, quick, and more fragile than we often realize. Planning is necessary, but the sin of presumption is in the assumption that we're in control. That's why James warns us not to "boast in [our] arrogant schemes," for "all such boasting is evil" (v. 16).

The way to avoid this sinful practice is through grateful participation with God. Gratitude reminds us that He's the source of every "good and perfect gift" (1:17). Then when we come to God, we ask Him not to simply bless our present and future plans but to help us join Him in what He's doing. This is what it means to pray, "If it is the Lord's will" (4:15).

**Reflect and Prayer:** How are you tempted to be in control of your life? What will it mean for you to surrender to God and participate with Him?

Dear Jesus, I relinquish my plans to You. Help me to put my trust in You, because You never fail.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 15 of 79

## 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

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 16 of 79

## 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

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 17 of 79

News from the  Associated Press

## Friday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 14, Deuel 7

Alcester-Hudson 12, Corsica/Stickney 6

Avon 52, Burke 6

Belle Fourche 27, Douglas 16

Beresford 41, Milbank 6

Bon Homme 46, Kimball/White Lake 0

Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan 30, Flandreau 6

Brookings 26, Watertown 3

Canton 27, Sioux Falls Christian 20

Chester 58, Centerville 52

Clark/Willow Lake 28, Webster 7

Colome 26, Gayville-Volin 20

Dakota Valley 15, Vermillion 3

DeSmet 36, Stanley County 7

Dell Rapids 33, Madison 14

Deubrook 52, Colman-Egan 20

Elk Point-Jefferson 55, Baltic 0

Elkton-Lake Benton 26, Estelline/Hendricks 7

Faith 46, Newell 0

Florence/Henry 12, Britton-Hecla 6

Freeman/ Marion/ Freeman Academy Co-op 44, Iroquois/ Lake Preston Co-op 8

Great Plains Lutheran 31, Waverly-South Shore 22

Gregory 60, Wolsey-Wessington 34

Hamlin 52, Dell Rapids St. Mary 12

Hanson 40, Irene-Wakonda 0

Herreid/Selby Area 30, Timber Lake 14

Hitchcock-Tulare 50, Faulkton 14

Howard 21, Canistota 20

Ipswich 58, Langford 8

Jones County 41, Sunshine Bible Academy 0

Kadoka Area 40, Harding County/Bison Co-op 22

Lead-Deadwood 48, Hill City 6

Lemmon/McIntosh 28, Dupree 6

Lennox 40, Chamberlain 8

Lyman 40, New Underwood 0

Mobridge-Pollock 51, Dakota Hills 0

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 30, Miller/Highmore-Harrold 13

North Central Co-Op 18, Northwestern 12

Omaha Nation, Neb. 52, Crazy Horse 6

Parkston 22, Platte-Geddes 14

Pine Ridge def. Oelrichs, forfeit

Redfield 14, Groton Area 12

Sioux Falls Lincoln 29, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 13

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 18 of 79

Sioux Valley 35, Sisseton 12  
St. Thomas More 21, Spearfish 0  
Sully Buttes 36, Potter County 6  
Tea Area 45, Huron 6  
Tri-Valley 21, Parker 0  
Viborg-Hurley 52, Garretson 0  
Wall 49, Philip 14  
Warner 26, Leola/Frederick 12  
White River 22, Bennett County 20  
Winner 52, Wagner 12  
Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 14, Jim River 0  
Yankton 45, Mitchell 6

## PREP VOLLEYBALL

Aberdeen Central def. Rapid City Central, 25-16, 25-18, 19-25, 25-13  
Mitchell def. Sturgis Brown, 17-25, 25-13, 25-11, 25-11  
Pierre def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-21, 18-25, 25-9, 25-21

Some high school volleyball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

## South Dakota AG clears officers in Sioux Falls shooting

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Mark Vargo said Friday that a police officer and sheriff's deputy were justified in shooting and killing a man in a Sioux Falls Burger King parking lot earlier this month.

The state's Division of Criminal Investigation reviewed the Aug. 9 shooting and found that James Michael James, 21, had shot at the Minnehaha County Sheriff's deputy three times. The police officer and deputy returned fire. James was shot four times.

He was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The attorney general's office said that the law enforcement officers were surveilling an area known for drug trafficking when they saw a car with four people conduct what "appeared to be illegal drug activity."

The Division of Criminal Investigation reported that police officers stopped the car, and it pulled into the Burger King parking lot, where James and another man jumped out of the car and ran. While the other man fled from the officers, James pulled a gun from his waistband and fired at the officers.

Both officers returned fire, together shooting 21 times, as James continued to fire at them.

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

06-27-30-38-64, Mega Ball: 23, Megaplier: 2

(six, twenty-seven, thirty, thirty-eight, sixty-four; Mega Ball: twenty-three; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$153,000,000

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: 115,000,000

## Trump search: What may come next in inquiry with legal peril

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A newly released FBI document helps flesh out the contours of an investigation

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 19 of 79

into classified material at former President Donald Trump's Florida estate. But plenty of questions remain, especially because half the affidavit, which spelled out the FBI's rationale for searching the property, was blacked out.

That document, which the FBI submitted so it could get a warrant to search Trump's winter home, provides new details about the volume and top secret nature of what was retrieved from Mar-a-Lago in January. It shows how Justice Department officials had raised concerns months before the search that closely held government secrets were being illegally stored and before they returned in August with a court-approved warrant and located even more classified records at the property.

It all raises questions whether a crime was committed and, if so, by whom. Answers may not come quickly.

A department official this month described the investigation as in its early stages, suggesting more work is ahead as investigators review the documents they removed and continue interviewing witnesses. Intelligence officials will simultaneously conduct an assessment of any risk to national security potentially created by the documents being disclosed.

At a minimum, the investigation presents a political distraction for Trump as he lays the groundwork for a potential presidential run.

Then there's the obvious legal peril.

A look at what's next:

**WHAT IS THE FBI INVESTIGATING?**

None of the government's legal filings released so far singles out Trump — or anyone else — as a potential target of the investigation. But the warrant and accompanying affidavit make clear the investigation is active and criminal in nature.

The department is investigating potential violations of multiple laws, including an Espionage Act statute that governs gathering, transmitting or losing national defense information. The other laws deal with the mutilation and removal of records as well as the destruction, alteration or falsification of records in federal investigations.

The inquiry began quietly with a referral from the National Archives and Records Administration, which retrieved 15 boxes of records from Mar-a-Lago in January — 14 of which were found to contain classified information. All told, the FBI affidavit said, officials found 184 documents bearing classification markings, including some suggesting they contained information from highly sensitive human sources. Several had what appeared to be Trump's handwritten notes, the affidavit says.

The FBI has spent months investigating how the documents made their way from the White House to Mar-a-Lago, whether any other classified records might exist at the property. The bureau also has tried to identify the person or people "who may have removed or retained classified information without authorization and/or in an unauthorized space," the affidavit states.

So far the FBI has interviewed a "significant number of civilian witnesses," according to a Justice Department brief unsealed Friday, and is seeking "further information" from them. The FBI has not identified all "potential criminal confederates nor located all evidence related to its investigation."

**WILL ANYONE BE CHARGED?**

It's hard to say at this point. To get a search warrant, federal agents must persuade a judge that probable cause exists to believe there's evidence of a crime at the location they want to search.

But search warrants aren't automatic precursors to a criminal prosecution and they certainly don't signal that charges are imminent.

The laws at issue are felonies that carry prison sentences.

One law, involving the mishandling of national defense information, has been used in recent years in the prosecution of a government contractor who stowed reams of sensitive records at his Maryland home (he was sentenced to nine years in prison) and a National Security Agency employee who transmitted classified information to someone who was not authorized to receive it (the case is pending).

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 20 of 79

Attorney General Merrick Garland hasn't revealed his thinking on the matter. Asked last month about Trump in the context of a separate investigation into the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the Capitol, he responded that "no person is above the law."

## WHAT HAS TRUMP ARGUED?

Trump, irate over the records investigation, issued a statement Friday saying that he and his team have cooperated with the Justice Department and that his representatives "GAVE THEM MUCH."

That's at odds with the portrayal of the Trump team in the affidavit and the fact that the FBI search occurred despite warnings months earlier that the documents were not being properly stored and that there was no safe location for them anywhere in Mar-a-Lago.

A letter made public as part of the affidavit forecasts the arguments the Trump legal team intends to advance as the investigation proceeds. The May 25 letter from lawyer M. Evan Corcoran to Jay Bratt, the head of the Justice Department's counterintelligence, articulates a robust, expansive view of executive power.

Corcoran asserted that it was a "bedrock principle" that a president has absolute authority to declassify documents — though he doesn't actually say that Trump did so. He also said the primary law governing the mishandling of classified information doesn't apply to the president.

The statute that he cited in the letter was not among the ones the affidavit suggests that Justice Department is basing its investigation on. And in a footnote in the affidavit, an FBI agent observed that the law about national defense information does not use the term classified information.

## WHAT HAS THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION SAID?

The White House has been notably circumspect about the investigation, with officials repeatedly saying they will let the Justice Department do its job.

The director of national intelligence, Avril Haines, notified Congress on Friday that her office would lead a classification review of the documents recovered during the search. Intelligence officials will also conduct an assessment of any potential risk to national security, Haines wrote the leaders of two House committees who had requested it.

In the letter, Haines said any intelligence assessment will be "conducted in a manner that does not unduly interfere with" the criminal investigation.

President Joe Biden appeared Friday to mock the idea that Trump could have simply declassified all the documents in his possession, telling reporters, "I just want you to know I've declassified everything in the world. I'm president I can do — c'mon!"

He then said he would "let the Justice Department take care of it."

## Rival Chechen fighters take war to battlefields of Ukraine

By DEREK GATOPOULOS and ANDREW KRAVCHENKO Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Kneeling in a patch of yellow wildflowers, a Chechen soldier carefully attaches an explosive device to the bottom of a small drone. Seconds later, it is released. It explodes next to two old storefront mannequins set up 200 meters (yards) away, one with a Russian-style military hat on its head.

After this and other training outside the Ukrainian capital, the Chechen soldiers, in assorted camouflage footwear and protective gear, will be heading to the front lines in Ukraine, vowing to continue the fight against Russia that raged for years in their North Caucasus homeland.

Fighters from Chechnya, the war-scarred republic in southern Russia, are participating on both sides of the conflict in Ukraine.

Pro-Kyiv volunteers are loyal to Dzhokhar Dudayev, the late Chechen leader who headed the republic's drive for independence from Russia. They form the "Dudayev Battalion" and are the sworn enemies of Chechen forces who back Russian President Vladimir Putin and joined Russia in the months-long siege of Ukraine's key port of Mariupol and other flashpoints in eastern and southern Ukraine.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 21 of 79

One group of new Chechen arrivals, many of whom live in Western Europe, was being trained at a makeshift firing range outside Kyiv before heading east. At a training session Saturday, the new recruits – all Muslim men – shouted “Allahu akbar!” (“God is great!”), holding their rifles in the air before being handed military ID cards that are issued to volunteers.

Ukrainian officials say the Chechen battalion currently numbers several hundred who fight alongside the country’s military but are not formally under the national command.

Instructors teach the new battalion members combat basics, including how to use a weapon, assume a firing position and how to work in teams. Trainers include veterans of wars in Chechnya that ended in 2009, some joining up in Ukraine after the fighting against Russia-backed separatists started in Ukraine in 2014.

Tor, a volunteer who asked only to be identified by his battlefield nickname, said he sees no difference between the two conflicts.

“People have to understand we don’t have a choice,” he said speaking in English and with his face covered. “If they (Russian forces) win this war, they will continue. They never stop. I don’t know. The Baltic countries will be next, or Georgia or Kazakhstan. Putin openly, absolutely, says he wants to rebuild the Soviet empire.”

Russia launched two wars to prevent Chechnya, a mostly Muslim province, from gaining independence after the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. The first conflict erupted in 1994.

The second Chechen war began in 1999 and culminated in a siege by Russian troops of Grozny, the Chechen capital, which was devastated by heavy Russian bombardment. After years of battling an insurgency, Russian officials declared the conflict in Chechnya over in 2017.

Muslim Madiev, a veteran fighter of the Chechen conflicts, identified himself as an adviser to the volunteer battalion in Ukraine. He joined the soldiers Saturday in shooting practice, taking aim at a plastic bottle held up on a stick. Bullet casings flew from his automatic rifle onto a field already littered with bullets, shotgun cartridges and cardboard target sheets.

“We’re going to win this war. The whole world is already standing up for us,” he says, speaking in Russian.

“We were the only ones who fought for ourselves (in Chechnya). No one stood with us. But now the whole world is behind Ukraine. We must win, we must win,” he declared. \_\_\_ Follow AP’s coverage of the war in Ukraine at <https://apnews.com/hub/russia-ukraine>

## Ukraine, Russia trade more blame on threats to nuclear plant

By DEREK GATOPOULOS Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Fears about the potential for a radiation leak at Europe’s largest nuclear power plant persisted Saturday as both sides traded blame for nearby shelling. Ukraine said Russian forces fired on areas just across the river from the plant and Russia claimed Ukrainian shells hit a building where nuclear fuel is stored.

Authorities were distributing iodine tablets to residents who live near the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in case of radiation exposure, which can cause health problems.

Much of the concern centers on the cooling systems for the plant’s nuclear reactors. The systems require power to run, and the plant was temporarily knocked offline Thursday because of what officials said was fire damage to a transmission line. A cooling system failure could cause a nuclear meltdown.

Russian forces occupied the nuclear plant complex early in the 6-month-old war but local Ukrainian workers have kept it running. The Ukrainian and Russian governments have repeatedly accused the other of shelling the complex and nearby areas, raising fears of a possible catastrophe.

Periodic shelling has damaged the power station’s infrastructure, Ukraine’s nuclear power operator, Energoatom, said Saturday. “There are risks of hydrogen leakage and sputtering of radioactive substances, and the fire hazard is high,” it said.

The governor of Ukraine’s Dnipropetrovsk region, Valentyn Reznichenko, said Saturday that Russian Grad missiles and artillery shells hit the cities of Nikopol and Marhanets, each located 10 kilometers (6

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 22 of 79

miles) across the Dnieper River from the plant.

But Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said Ukrainian forces had fired on the plant from Marhanets. Over the past day, 17 Ukrainian shells hit the plant, with four striking the roof of a building that stores nuclear fuel, he said.

It was not immediately possible to verify either account.

The U.N.'s atomic energy agency has tried to work out an agreement to send a team in to inspect and help secure the plant. Officials said preparations for the visit were underway, but it remained unclear when it might take place.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said it was essential for International Atomic Energy Agency representatives to get to the plant as soon as possible and to help keep it "under permanent Ukrainian control."

"The situation remains precarious and dangerous," Zelenskyy said in his latest nightly address. "Any repetition of (Thursday's) events, i.e., any disconnection of the station from the grid or any actions by Russia that could trigger the shut down of the reactors, will once again put the station one step away from disaster."

Ukraine has claimed Russia is using the power plant as a shield by storing weapons there and launching attacks from around it. Moscow, for its part, accuses Ukraine of firing on the nuclear complex.

The dispute over the plant led Russia late Friday to block agreement on the final document of the four-week-long review of the U.N. treaty that is considered the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament. The draft document of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty review conference criticized Russia's takeover of the Zaporizhzhia plant.

The deputy head of Russia's delegation said the conference became "a political hostage" to countries that were trying "to settle scores with Russia by raising issues that are not directly related to the treaty."

Elsewhere in Ukraine, one person was killed and another wounded in Russian firing in the Mykolaiv region, local government officials said. Mykolaiv city is an important Black Sea port and shipbuilding center.

The governor of the eastern Donetsk region, Pavlo Kyrylenko, said Saturday that two people were killed in Russian firing on the city of Bakhmut, a significant target for Russian and separatist forces seeking to take control of the parts of the region they do not already hold.

The British government said Saturday that it was giving Ukraine underwater drones and training sailors to use them to clear mines from the ravaged country's coastline. Mines laid in the Black Sea during the war have hampered seaborne exports of Ukrainian grain to world markets, although an agreement reached in July has allowed shipments to resume along a single corridor.

More than 1 million metric tons of Ukrainian foodstuffs have been shipped since the start of August under the Black Sea grain deal, the United Nations said Saturday. The flow of grain under deal has driven down prices, reduced the risk of food insecurity and allowed the World Food Program to restart wheat purchases from Ukraine for drought-hit countries such as Ethiopia and Yemen.

## At LatAm's biggest rodeo, Brazilians don't believe the polls

By MAURICIO SAVARESE Associated Press

BARRETOS, Brazil (AP) — Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro traveled to Latin America's biggest rodeo — a bubble of staunch support — to connect with voters from the countryside ahead of October's vote.

On Friday evening, the far-right leader rode a horse while holding a cowboy hat in his outstretched arm and greeting supporters draped in Brazil flags, while his campaign jingle "The People's Captain" played. He joked with them and they prayed together for the future of the country. All major polls show Bolsonaro trailing well behind former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, but one wouldn't know it from the scene at the rodeo in the municipality of Barretos, in Sao Paulo state.

"This event is already part of our history. Moved by agribusiness, by the work of countryside men and women, Brazil is projecting itself onto the global stage," Bolsonaro told the crowd, which chanted the word "legend" in reference to him. "Our motto is God, country, family and freedom. Yeee-hooo!"

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 23 of 79

The multi-day spectacle had tens of thousands of attendees who were predominately white and middle-class. Many came decked out in the national colors of green and canary yellow that Bolsonaro has transformed into symbols of support for his administration. The packed arena roared when Bolsonaro was introduced to the tune of DJ Snake's and Lil Jon's song "Turn Down for What," which his supporters have used in hundreds of videos to portray him as defiant.

Outside, a vendor sold towels bearing the faces of Bolsonaro and da Silva of the leftist Workers' Party, and displayed a board showing how many of each candidate had been purchased. Barely any featuring da Silva had sold, and attendees took it as a signal their candidate will win the vote. Elsewhere in Brazil, such towel sales scoreboards point in the opposite direction.

Despite da Silva's lead in the polls, a dozen farmers, cattle ranchers and rodeo fans in Barretos told The Associated Press that Bolsonaro doesn't need to reach out to many moderate voters, which da Silva is openly attempting to do -- most notably, with his selection of a center-right rival turned running mate.

"The last time the polls didn't say Bolsonaro was going to win," said 57-year-old Gualter Silveira, who owns a small farm. "This year it is going to be the same. I see him going everywhere. Lula doesn't. How can Bolsonaro be behind?"

Wearing a Brazilian flag as a scarf, businessman Daniel Tales, 43, said he felt goosebumps in his mustache after seeing Bolsonaro in person. The proud cowboy from neighboring Minas Gerais state said he believes his candidate will need a run-off against da Silva to secure a second term.

"But he doesn't need to change anything. He doesn't need to do anything else or anything less," Tales said. "He has a strong personality, he is the man of the moment, he came to make a revolution."

Asked how Bolsonaro could bring undecided voters to his side, he replied: "He needs to be himself. That's all."

Four years ago, Bolsonaro won almost 74% of the vote in Barretos in the second round vote against Fernando Haddad, the Workers' Party's candidate after da Silva was declared ineligible. The president receives a lot of love in the region for professing conservative values and defending farmers, and also because he created a National Rodeo Day in 2020 and loosened regulations for such events in Brazil. Friday wasn't his first time at the Barretos rodeo; he came in 2019 as president and three other times during his career as a lawmaker to help his son's bid for Congress.

This time, Bolsonaro brought along cabinet ministers, politicians running for office and some business leaders whose properties were searched by police earlier this week due to their alleged participation in a private chat group that included comments favoring a possible coup and military involvement in politics. One of them, Luciano Hang, wore his customary yellow shirt and green pants, and he did his best to rile up the the crowd.

Bolsonaro and his allies have routinely scoffed at the polls, sometimes saying the president will not just win the election, but do so in the first round without need for a run-off. They say a more accurate way to gauge the upcoming result is watching the turnout at Bolsonaro rallies.

Bolsonaro supporters who spoke to the AP said they are ready to heed his call and take to the streets for Independence Day on Sept. 7. Some politicians and analysts have expressed concern that it could turn violent.

"We'll see you out on Independence Day," emcee Cuiabano Lima said as Bolsonaro left the rodeo arena. Lima also said da Silva is a thief who belongs in prison, and the crowd chanted in agreement.

Da Silva, who governed from 2003 to 2010 and is universally known as Lula, was barred from running in 2018 after being jailed due to convictions for corruption and money laundering, which the Supreme Court later annulled on the basis that the judge in the case had been biased. That cleared the way for him to run in 2022.

Silvana Cunha, 47, is concerned about the possibility da Silva could return to power. She works with cattle raisers and says Bolsonaro improved her life due to higher beef prices during his administration. Although she trusts he will win in October, she acknowledged the challenges he faces.

"It took time to organize everything as he wished," said Cunha, a fervent Catholic who has attended

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 24 of 79

the Barretos rodeo for years. "No matter who wins, it will be very difficult. We will need a strong hand. It is a massive task to put the country back on the track for growth after this pandemic. We need to be very careful. Either we will have a setback or an evolution."

## **Abrams, Georgia Democrats aiming to replicate 2020 success**

By BILL BARROW and JEFF AMY Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ga. (AP) — Four years ago, Georgia Democrats had a contested primary for governor because the party's old guard didn't believe in Stacey Abrams. She routed their alternative and, in a close general election loss, established herself as de facto party boss in a newfound battleground state.

That previewed 2020, when Joe Biden put Georgia in Democrats' presidential column for the first time in 28 years, and Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff captured Senate seats soon after to give Democrats control on Capitol Hill.

Now Abrams and Warnock top the Democratic ticket together for the first time as the party tries to replicate its success in a tough midterm election landscape. The outcome will again help determine the balance of power in Washington and whether Republicans retain their dominance in state government.

"Georgia is a blue state," the party chair, Nikema Williams, said Saturday at the state convention in Columbus. "Together we're going to keep defying the odds, turning bluer each cycle and moving our state forward to greater heights."

Yet Williams and others acknowledge that 2022 is not a simple replay of the last two cycles.

Abrams, in her governor's race rematch with Brian Kemp, is not running against a little-known Republican secretary of state but rather a well-positioned incumbent.

Warnock, no longer a political newcomer, is trying to distinguish himself from a relatively unpopular president who once campaigned for him. That's a point that challenger Herschel Walker relentlessly seeks to make by criticizing Warnock as a rubber-stamp for the White House.

The rest of the Democratic ticket must run under the banner of a national party that controls Washington at a time of sustained inflation and an uncertain economy. And Democrats must retool their voter turnout operation to comply with tighter voting restrictions that Kemp and the Republican-led legislature enacted after Democrats' 2020 victories.

The response, Democrats say, isn't to run from their record but to embrace it, while portraying Republicans as an "extremist" party that advances an out-of-step cultural agenda and remains in thrall to former President Donald Trump.

"The party of Trump is a party of extremism, a party of election deniers, a party of authoritarianism, that says that their opinions about who should win elections matter more than the voters," said Charlie Bailey, the nominee for lieutenant governor. His GOP opponent, Burt Jones, is among the fake electors who signed certificates falsely stating that Trump, not Biden, had won their states.

That approach aligns with the national pitch that Biden made Thursday at a campaign rally in Maryland, where he framed voters' choice in November as being between Democrats and Trump's "MAGA movement," a dominant strain of the GOP that Biden said resembles "semi-fascism."

Kemp and Georgia's secretary of state, Republican Brad Raffensperger, have garnered plaudits from moderate voters for bucking Trump's bid to overturn the 2020 election. But Abrams and others challenge the "moderate" label for either man.

Abrams criticizes Kemp as an "extremist" who signed a concealed carry law to loosen gun restrictions and a near-total abortion ban that bars the procedure after six weeks of pregnancy, before many women know they're pregnant.

Bee Nguyen, a legislator challenging Raffensperger, hammers the secretary of state for his part in overhauling state voting procedures. Nguyen notes that Raffensperger, as a state lawmaker, compiled a staunchly conservative record on abortion and guns, among other matters. "He's not a friend to democracy. He's not a friend to women, either," she said recently on the liberal "Pod Save America" podcast.

Georgia Democrats say the Supreme Court's decision eliminating a constitutional right to access abor-

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 25 of 79

tion, combined with Georgia's near ban, is a critical enough issue to overcome swing voters' worries about the economy.

"I'll tell you that people are much more concerned about protecting their rights and their access to health care than anything else," said attorney general nominee Jen Jordan, a state senator who has made her support of abortion rights a centerpiece of her bid.

Kemp blasts Abrams as a liberal who wants to "defund the police." Abrams counters with proposals that would increase salaries for many law enforcement and criminal justice personnel. "Brian Kemp wants you to be afraid of me," she says in one of her advertisements.

Jordan talks openly of crime increases but dismisses Republicans' effort to cast it as "an Atlanta problem" — GOP framing aimed at white voters beyond the demographically diverse and heavily Democratic city.

"It's not an urban problem or a suburban problem. It's a Georgia problem, and the people who have been in charge have a lot to answer for," Jordan said.

In the Senate campaign, Warnock has largely steered clear of Biden, even as he embraces Democrats' legislative victories. Warnock cites a pandemic relief bill and its child tax credit as critical aid to Georgia families. He notes the benefits from a long-sought infrastructure package.

The senator acknowledges that gas prices and general inflation have spiked but notes that he called for a suspension of the federal gas tax and then won passage of a provision in the Democrats' big climate and health care bill that caps the price of insulin for Medicare patients. Republicans blocked his effort to extend the cap to all consumers.

"Today we stand on this mountaintop together," Warnock told Democratic delegates at their convention. "Tomorrow we go down in the valley until we cap the cost of insulin for everybody, until we lower the costs for all Georgians."

In 2018, Kemp topped Abrams by 55,000 votes out of about 4 million cast. Biden outpaced Trump by less than 12,000 votes out of 5 million cast. In concurrent Senate runoffs two months later, about 4.5 million Georgians voted; Warnock and Ossoff won by 2 percentage points and 1.2 percentage points, respectively.

Democrats hope the November electorate is at least as large as that on Jan. 5, 2021. Georgia requires a majority vote to win statewide office, and Libertarian candidates can draw enough to force a runoff.

With that in mind, Abrams, a Black woman from Atlanta, has spent a noticeable amount of time in rural, mostly white Georgia, where she lost ground in 2018 compared with Democrats' performances in previous midterms. Jordan, who is white, notes that she grew up in small-town south Georgia but now represents a suburban Atlanta state Senate district that had been a Republican lock. Abrams sometimes campaigns alongside Bailey, a white man with a pronounced Southern accent and small-town Georgia roots.

"We have a ticket that looks like Georgia," Abrams says often.

Al Williams, a Black state lawmaker who is close to Abrams, said that in an era of few split-ticket voters, Abrams must win for Democrats to have a big day in November.

"Stacey is the wind beneath the sail," he said.

## Pope expands ranks of cardinals who'll likely pick successor

By FRANCES D'EMILIO Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis elevated 20 more churchmen to the rank of cardinal on Saturday, formally expanding those now eligible to vote for his successor in case he dies or resigns — the latter a step he has said he'd consider if the need arises.

Of the churchmen being named new cardinals in the consistory ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica, 16 are younger than 80 and thus eligible to participate in a conclave — the ritual-shrouded, locked-door assembly of cardinals who cast paper ballots to elect a new pontiff.

The 85-year-old Francis has now named 83 of the 132 cardinals currently young enough to join a conclave. The others were appointed by the previous two popes, St. John Paul II and Benedict XVI, whose

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 26 of 79

unexpected retirement in 2013 paved the way for Francis to be elected.

With the eight batches of cardinals Francis has named, prospects are boosted that whoever becomes the next pontiff will share his vision for the future of the church.

Francis reminded the cardinals of their mission, which he said includes "an openness to all peoples, to the horizons of the world, to the peripheries as yet unknown."

Underlining Francis' attention to those on society's margins, among the new cardinals is Archbishop Anthony Poola of Hyderabad, India. The prelate, 60, is the first member of the Dalit community, considered the lowest rung of India's caste system, to become a cardinal.

One by one, the newest cardinals, whose red cassocks and headgear symbolizes the blood they must be prepared to shed if necessary in their mission, knelt before Francis, who placed on their head the prestigious biretta, as the three-peaked hat is known.

That intimate moment was a chance to exchange a few words with Francis, who smiled to put them at ease. At times, the seated Francis, himself hobbled by mobility problems, lent his own arms to help kneeling cardinals stand up.

In choosing San Diego Bishop Robert Walter McElroy, Francis passed over U.S. churchmen leading traditionally more prestigious dioceses, including San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone.

McElroy has been among a minority of American bishops who opposed to a campaign to deny Communion to Catholic politicians who support abortion rights. Cordileone has said he'd no longer allow U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to receive Communion for her defense of abortion rights.

While staunchly against abortion as a grave sin, Francis has also decried what he calls the weaponization of Communion.

McElroy last year was also among a small group of U.S. bishops signing a statement denouncing the bullying that is often directed at LGBTQ youth.

Francis has tried to make gay Catholics feel welcome in the church, whose teaching holds that same-sex intercourse is a sin.

Among the newest cardinals is Bishop Richard Kuuia Baawobr from Wa, Ghana, who has spoken out against LGBTQ rights. The African prelate felt ill when he arrived in Rome on Friday and was hospitalized for a heart problem, the pope told the other cardinals, asking them to pray "for this brother who should have been here."

Asked by The Associated Press about such contrasting views among church leaders, McElroy replied that "there are always cultural differences within the life of the church as there is within in the human family. And different cultures approach these questions in different ways."

McElroy added: "My own view is that we have an obligation in the church to make the LGBT persons feel equally welcome in the life of the church, as everyone else."

With electing future pontiffs a key role for cardinals, McElroy, 68, was asked what he thought of Francis' saying that resignation for popes is a valid option.

"In principle, I think it is a good idea at a particular moment when they feel they can no longer carry the burdens of that office, but I think this pope is far from that moment," the U.S. prelate said. "I believe he sees himself as far from that moment. What he has is a mobility issue, but it has not affected his mind. I can tell you he is still on top of things."

Archbishop Ulrich Steiner of Manaus, Brazil, became the first cardinal from the Amazon, the vast, environmentally-vulnerable region in South America on the Argentine-born pontiff's home continent. In remarks to The AP, Steiner expressed concern about increasing violence in the Amazon.

"But this violence was not born there, it came from outside," Steiner, 71, said. "It is always violence related to money. Concessions, deforestation, also with the mines, also with the fishing."

At 48, the youngest member among the cardinals' ranks is an Italian missionary in Mongolia, where Catholics number some 1,300. Francis "knows how important it is supporting these little communities," said the new cardinal, Giorgio Marengo.

Originally, the pope had picked 21 new cardinals. But retired Belgian Bishop Luc Van Looy declined the honor, citing his own inadequate handling of cases of sexually abusive priests while he led the Ghent

diocese from 2004-2020.

## California weighs rules giving fast food workers more power

By DON THOMPSON Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Since she came to California from Mexico 24 years ago, Maria Bernal has been supporting her family by often working two jobs at fast food restaurants.

But she says she wound up living in a small Kia with her two youngest children, then ages 3 and 15, for six months after she lost her housing in 2019 when one of her employers began paying her minimum wage for eight hours even when she worked a 16-hour double shift.

Union organizers and other advocates say such wage theft and other exploitation is common in the fast food industry, particularly for women and racial minorities who make up many of California's more than half-million fast food workers. The industry denies such abuses are widespread.

Bernal and more than 100 others who recently rallied outside the state Capitol are pinning their hopes on groundbreaking legislation that would give fast food workers increased power and protections.

The proposal awaiting final action before the California Legislature adjourns Wednesday would create a new Fast Food Council made up of four workers' delegates alongside four employers' representatives and two state officials that would set minimum standards for wages, hours and working conditions in California.

Bernal said she hopes the council would give workers like herself "a seat at the table where they will respect us more and not allow wage theft to happen, and also importantly that we won't be afraid of retaliation."

Restaurant owners and franchisers say the proposal would drive up the price of fast food. They cite an analysis they commissioned by the UC Riverside Center for Economic Forecast and Development that puts the price increase at 7% to 20%.

A late wage cap added to the bill would keep the increase on the low end of that range. Late amendments limit any minimum wage bump to \$22 an hour next year, with cost of living increases thereafter, while the statewide minimum will be \$15.50 an hour.

Other late amendments mean the council would also have to be approved by a petition signed by 10,000 fast food workers, and the council would now disappear after six years unless it is renewed.

Matthew Haller, president & CEO of the International Franchise Association, dismissed the last-minute revisions as "an attempt to put lipstick on a pig."

An earlier version cleared the Assembly in January with no votes to spare after falling short last year, and the revised bill is awaiting consideration in the Senate.

Though California's effort would be broader, a wage board created by New York's governor in 2015 led to an increase in fast food wages there, and similar efforts have been tried by some cities. The left-leaning Center for American Progress says that what also are known as workers' boards, worker standards boards or industry committees could combat economic inequality along with racial and gender pay gaps.

"If we are successful here, workers in Florida, Texas, New York, even Idaho will be heartened and they can replicate our successes," Democratic Assemblyman Alex Lee said at the workers' rally.

California's measure would cover fast food restaurants with at least 100 establishments nationally.

It grew out of the decade-long Fight for \$15 and a Union minimum wage movement and efforts by labor unions to organize fast food workers in California and nationwide.

"This is more than just a labor fight. This is a fight about racial justice, this is a fight about gender justice," said Joseph Bryant, executive vice president of the Service Employees International Union behind the drive. "Eighty percent of the workers are people of color who work in fast food. Two-thirds of the workers are women who work in fast food, and these workers are being exploited."

Fast food workers in California are paid nearly \$3 an hour less than comparable workers in other service sector jobs, according to a joint study released this month by Harvard and UC San Francisco.

Bernal hopes the California law and the ongoing effort to unionize fast food establishments will one day lead to benefits like paid vacations, medical coverage and a retirement plan. She filed a wage claim earlier

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 28 of 79

this year with state regulators seeking \$160,000 in back wages and penalties, while her son is alleging child labor law violations and threats by a restaurant manager.

Employees "are still fighting for some of the basic things that should have been happening a long time ago for the fast food workers who serve our community every day, even through a pandemic," said Democratic Assemblyman Chris Holden, the bill's author.

But Jesse Lara, whose family-owned business operates 34 El Pollo Loco franchises in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties, said the bill is unnecessary and would harm the company's more than 1,000 employees.

It unfairly assumes "that we have to rip off our employees to make a profit," when many of the firms' managers have promoted from within, he said. Inflation is "killing us," he said, and higher wages and benefits would force restaurant owners to raise prices and cut workers' hours to make ends meet.

The pending bill targets bona fide abuses, but also furthers unions' goals of collective bargaining with the entire industry instead of attempting to organize fast food chains one restaurant at a time, said Janice Fine, a professor of labor studies and employment relations who directs Rutgers University's workplace justice lab.

Such sector-wide negotiations are common in Europe, she said, but rare in the U.S.

California already has some of the strongest worker protection laws and regulations in the U.S. if not the world, said Matt Sutton, the California Restaurant Association's senior vice president for government affairs and public policy.

He disputed claims that the fast food sector has a higher rate of labor, unemployment, health and safety incidents, but said the answer regardless should be for lawmakers to put more money into enforcing labor standards instead of creating a new council with unique regulatory power over one industry.

"There are avenues to punish employers when it's appropriate," Sutton said.

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom's Department of Finance also opposed the bill in June, citing its potential costs and what it said could be "a fragmented regulatory and legal environment."

"It is not clear that this bill will accomplish its goal, as it attempts to address delayed enforcement by creating stricter standards for certain sectors, which could exacerbate existing delays," the administration warned.

## Facebook parent settles suit in Cambridge Analytica scandal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Facebook's corporate parent has reached a tentative settlement in a lawsuit alleging the world's largest social network service allowed millions of its users' personal information to be fed to Cambridge Analytica, a firm that supported Donald Trump's victorious presidential campaign in 2016.

Terms of the settlement reached by Meta Platforms, the holding company for Facebook and Instagram, weren't disclosed in court documents filed late Friday. The filing in San Francisco federal court requested a 60-day stay of the action while lawyers finalize the settlement. That timeline suggested further details could be disclosed by late October.

The accord was reached just a few weeks before a Sept. 20 deadline for Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his long-time chief operating officer, Sheryl Sandberg, to submit to depositions during the final phases of pre-trial evidence gathering, according to court documents.

Zuckerberg, who founded Facebook in 2004 as a Harvard University student, could have been deposed for up to six hours. Sandberg, who is stepping down as chief operating officer after a 14-year stint, could have been questioned for up to five hours.

The case sprang from 2018 revelations that Cambridge Analytica, a firm with ties to Trump political strategist Stephen Bannon, had paid a Facebook app developer for access to the personal information of about 87 million Facebook users. That data was then used to target U.S. voters during the 2016 campaign that culminated in Trump's election as the 45th president.

The ensuing uproar led to a contrite Zuckerberg being grilled by lawmakers during a high-profile congressional hearing and spurred calls for people to delete their Facebook accounts. Even though

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 29 of 79

Facebook's growth has stalled as more people connect and entertain themselves on rival services such as TikTok, the social network still boasts about 2 billion users worldwide, including nearly 200 million in the U.S. and Canada.

The lawsuit, which had been seeking to be certified as a class action representing Facebook users, had asserted the privacy breach proved Facebook is a "data broker and surveillance firm," as well as a social network.

## **Crist picks Miami teachers union leader as running mate**

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Democrat Charlie Crist on Saturday tapped Miami-Dade County teachers union president Karla Hernandez-Mats as his running mate as he challenges Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis in Florida.

Crist, a congressman who served as the state's Republican governor a decade ago, announced United Teachers of Dade President Hernandez-Mats as his pick at a rally in Miami.

The selection of Hernandez-Mats ensures a Crist campaign focus on education, an arena where DeSantis has had considerable success in animating his conservative base through his hands-off approach to the coronavirus pandemic and policies limiting classroom discussions of race and LGBTQ issues.

Hernandez-Mats advocated delaying students' return to school in the fall of 2020 and continuing mask mandates in 2021, in defiance of DeSantis' administration.

She is the daughter of two Honduran immigrants who came to the U.S. in the 1970s and was the first Hispanic to be elected to lead the United Teachers of Dade in 2016.

Crist secured the Democratic nomination for governor Tuesday after defeating state agriculture commissioner Nikki Fried.

## **US agents in Memphis seize shipped ancient Egyptian artifact**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Federal agents in Memphis have seized a potentially 3,000-year-old ancient Egyptian artifact that was shipped in from Europe.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection says they intercepted the Egyptian canopic jar lid of the funeral deity named Imsety on Aug. 17. The jars were used to hold the internal organs of mummies.

The agency says the item was sent from a dealer to a private buyer in the U.S., and the shipper made contradicting statements about its value.

Experts at the University of Memphis Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology helped determine the artifact's authenticity. The agency says the lid is likely from 1069 B.C. to 653 B.C.

Authorities say the item is protected by bilateral treaties and is an archaeological import subject to seizure under the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act of 1983. The artifact was turned over to Homeland Security Investigations for further examination.

## **EXPLAINER: Lower prescription prices to take time in new law**

By AMANDA SEITZ Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After decades of failed attempts, Democrats passed legislation that aims to rein in the soaring costs of drugs for some in the United States.

It will take years for people to realize some of the most significant savings promised in the climate and health care bill that President Joe Biden signed this month.

The bill mostly helps the roughly 49 million people who sign up for Medicare's drug coverage. But many will be left out from direct savings after lawmakers stripped cost-savings measures for a majority of those covered by private health insurance.

A look at how some might benefit from the drug savings provisions in the "Inflation Reduction Act" and how drugmakers might push back on those efforts.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 30 of 79

## DRUG NEGOTIATIONS

For the first time, Medicare can negotiate the price of its costliest drugs.

In the U.S., “we’ve never had any entity that was negotiating on behalf of such a large group of people before,” said Leigh Purvis, the director of AARP’s health care costs and access.

That new bargaining power won’t kick in until 2025, when Medicare is able to haggle over the price of 10 drugs covered by its prescription plan. By 2029, Medicare will be able to negotiate the cost of as many as 60 drugs.

It will take some time because the Health and Human Services Department will need to develop a plan for selecting which drugs will be negotiated. The complicated rule-making process will take years to devise and face intense lobbying and scrutiny from the pharmaceutical industry, which is eager to carve out loopholes in the new rules.

“The biggest lift is definitely going to be negotiations because the secretary is establishing a whole new program, and they’re going to do a lot of hiring,” Purvis added.

The savings are expected to be huge. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates costs could fall by as much as \$100 billion over the next decade.

Which drugs Medicare and patients will save on, however, remains a bit of a mystery.

In the first year, Medicare will be allowed to negotiate the cost of 10 drugs it spends the most money on, as long as those drugs have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for at least nine years and don’t have any rival generics on the market.

Right now, for example, the blood thinner Eliquis, used by 2.6 million Medicare recipients at a yearly cost of nearly \$10 billion, would likely be at the top of that list.

That might spur pharmaceutical companies to launch new drugs at a higher price, knowing that the product’s cost will be negotiated down for Medicare, cautioned Arthur Wong, an analyst for S&P Global, a financial research firm.

PhRMA, the trade organization that represents pharmaceutical companies, acknowledged it intends to push back against the law.

“We are exploring every opportunity – including legislative, regulatory and legal — to make sure patients have access to the medicines they need and our industry can continue to develop lifesaving cures and treatments,” PhRMA spokesperson Brian Newell said in an emailed statement to The Associated Press.

## A CAP ON OUT-OF-POCKET DRUG PRICES

The bill limits how much money Medicare recipients must use for medications but, again, it will take some time for those rules to take hold.

In 2024, Medicare will get rid of a 5% coinsurance required of patients who have met the catastrophic threshold, which is currently set at \$7,050 for out-of-pocket costs for drugs. Nearly 3 million Medicare patients met that threshold at some point from 2015 to 2019, according to a study by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

The following year, out-of-pocket drug costs will be capped at \$2,000 for Medicare Part D, which typically covers at-home prescription medications.

## HOW WILL THE PRICE OF DRUGS BE CONTROLLED UNTIL THEN?

The Inflation Reduction Act has a series of controls aimed at immediately blunting the rising cost of drugs for Medicare. The bill caps copayments for insulin at \$35 per month beginning in January, but for Medicare beneficiaries only. A \$35-per-month limit on out-of-pocket costs for those on private health insurance was cut.

Starting next year, drug companies will also have to pay a rebate to Medicare if they raise the cost of a drug higher than the rate of inflation. The industry regularly raises the price of drugs above inflation yearly.

A similar rule exists in Medicaid, so the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid has experience running this program, said Rachel Sachs, a professor of law at Washington University in St. Louis.

“They’ve been helpful at controlling the rate of increase,” she said of the rebates.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 31 of 79

Only Medicare patients will benefit directly from this. A move to include people on private insurance who are sold overpriced drugs in the calculation was scrubbed from the legislation.

Some health policy experts hope this provision, along with the others in the package, will help insurance companies negotiate the price of drugs for its customers, potentially extending cost-savings to millions of people.

But others are waiting to see if the bill has the opposite effect. Medicare makes up about one-third of the pharmaceutical industry's market, meaning companies could try to draw more profits from elsewhere.

"That could be a threat that non-Medicare payers may end up having to pay more or at least face harder negotiations with the pharma industry," said analyst Wong.

Follow AP's coverage of health care costs at <https://apnews.com/hub/health-care-costs>

## At \$249 per day, prison stays leave ex-inmates deep in debt

By PAT EATON-ROBB Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Two decades after her release from prison, Teresa Beatty feels she is still being punished.

When her mother died two years ago, the state of Connecticut put a lien on the Stamford home she and her siblings inherited. It said she owed \$83,762 to cover the cost of her 2 1/2 year imprisonment for drug crimes.

Now, she's afraid she'll have to sell her home of 51 years, where she lives with two adult children, a grandchild and her disabled brother.

"I'm about to be homeless," said Beatty, 58, who in March became the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging the state law that charges prisoners \$249 a day for the cost of their incarceration. "I just don't think it's right, because I feel I already paid my debt to society. I just don't think it's fair for me to be paying twice."

All but two states have so-called "pay-to-stay" laws that make prisoners pay for their time behind bars, though not every state actually pursues people for the money. Supporters say the collections are a legitimate way for states to recoup millions of taxpayer dollars spent on prisons and jails.

Critics say it's an unfair second penalty that hinders rehabilitation by putting former inmates in debt for life. Efforts have been underway in some places to scale back or eliminate such policies.

Two states — Illinois and New Hampshire — have repealed their laws since 2019.

Connecticut also overhauled its statute this year, keeping it in place only for the most serious crimes, such as murder, and exempting prisoners from having to pay the first \$50,000 of their incarceration costs.

Under the revised law, about 98% of Connecticut inmates no longer have to pay any of the costs of their incarceration after they get out, said state Rep. Steve Stafstrom, a Bridgeport Democrat and a sponsor of the repeal legislation.

The state retained its ability, though, to collect some prison debts already on the books before the law changed. It's unclear whether the change in the law, made after Beatty sued, will be enough to keep her in her home. That will be decided in court.

Her lawyers have asked a federal judge to block the state from enforcing the law against anyone, saying it remains unfair even after the amendments.

Beatty acknowledges she was guilty of selling and possessing drugs, but said nobody told her when she went to jail that every day behind bars would cost her more than a night at a fine hotel.

"It just drags you back to despair," said Beatty, who has had other brushes with the law over drug possession since her release from jail, but has also become a certified nursing assistant. "That's where I feel like I'm at. I feel like no hope. Where do I go? All of this work and it feels like I've done it in vain."

Pay-to-stay laws were put into place in many areas during the tough-on-crime era of the 1980s and '90s, said Brittany Friedman, an assistant professor of sociology at University of Southern California who is leading a study of the practice.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 32 of 79

As prison populations ballooned, Friedman said, policymakers questioned how to pay for incarceration costs. "So, instead of raising taxes, the solution was to shift the cost burden from the state and the taxpayers onto the incarcerated."

Laws vary from state to state. Many, like Connecticut, only go after inmates for the cost of incarceration if they come into money after leaving prison. A few, such as North Carolina, have laws on the books but almost never use them, Friedman said.

Connecticut's partial repeal went into effect July 1. The state is projected to collect about \$5.5 million less per year from ex-prisoners because of the change.

State Sen. John Kissel, the top Republican on the legislature's Judiciary Committee, said he opposed the repeal passed by the Democratic majority, but might support reforms like allowing inmates to pay off debt in installments.

Kissel said that while Beatty's situation tugs at one's heartstrings, "Everybody has issues."

"The policy is to make one appreciate that your incarceration costs money," he said. "The taxpayers footed the bill. They didn't do anything wrong. And knowing that one has to pay the state back a reasonable sum on a regular basis is not a bad policy."

Connecticut used to collect prison debt by attaching an automatic lien to every inmate, claiming half of any financial windfall they might receive for up to 20 years after they are released from prison, said Dan Barrett, legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut. That included things like insurance settlements, inheritances and lottery winnings.

The state even collected money awarded to inmates in lawsuits over alleged abuse by prison guards.

Former Connecticut inmate Fred Hodges, who served more than 17 years in prison for killing a man while trying to retrieve his son's stolen bicycle, came into \$21,000 after his car was totaled in a 2009 traffic accident. The state claimed half of that, he said. After paying his lawyer, he was left with about \$3,000.

"I have seven grandchildren and the money could have helped them. It could have helped me," said Hodges, who works for a nonprofit that helps other inmates reenter society. "You'd be surprised at the effect it can have on you psychologically when they tell you you owe them \$249 a day. I was locked up for 17 1/2 years. At \$249 a day, how are you going to come up out of that?"

Beatty's lawsuit, which is seeking class-action status, argues that the pay-to-stay seizures violate the excessive fines clause of the Constitution.

Da'ee McKnight, who works with Hodges as a coordinator for an organization called Family ReEntry, said the state took an insurance settlement from him, even though he served most of his sentence before the law was on the books.

"Here, I'm being penalized for something that I was not even made aware of at the time I was sentenced, because it did not even exist," he said.

---

Associated Press writer Dave Collins contributed to this report.

## Nations fail to reach deal on UN treaty to protect sea life

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Diplomats from around the world have failed to reach agreement on a United Nations treaty designed to protect marine life on the high seas, after a fifth round of talks ended in impasse.

Negotiations at U.N. headquarters in New York were suspended early Saturday following two weeks of talks that environmentalists had hoped would close a gap in international marine protection measures.

A proposed treaty would set rules for protecting biodiversity in two-thirds of the world's ocean areas that are outside of national jurisdictions.

Less than 1% of the high seas are protected without a new treaty, and "pockets of marine protection are not enough" for threatened species, said Maxine Burkett, the United States deputy assistant secretary of state who was involved in negotiations.

The global goal is to set aside 30% of ocean area as some kind of marine sanctuary.

Ocean health also is key to combatting climate change because more than 90% of the excess heat

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 33 of 79

from climate change is absorbed by the seas. Marine heat waves are getting longer and more frequent. "The ocean cannot afford further delay," Burkett said earlier in the week, when the negotiations looked promising.

In the Caribbean, "our livelihoods are directly dependent on the health of the ocean," said Janine Felson, Belize's ambassador to the United Nations.

Talks centered on how to share benefits from marine life, establish protected areas, prevent harm from human activity on the high seas and to help poor countries gain the skills and means for ocean exploration.

Campaigners expressed disappointment at the failure to reach a deal but said the talks produced some progress.

Laura Meller, who leads Greenpeace's ocean protection campaign, accused rich countries such as the United States of being too slow to compromise.

"Russia has also been a key blocker in negotiations, refusing to engage in the treaty process itself, or attempting to compromise with the European Union and many other states on a wide range of issues," Meller said.

The talks will resume next year unless a special emergency session is called before the end of 2022.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Monica Medina also voiced disappointment but expressed hope that the work done so far would carry forward. She said the United States remained committed to the goal of protecting at least 30% of the world's oceans by 2030.

"We cannot let the tides and currents push us back. We must keep going," Medina said.

Follow AP's coverage of climate issues and the environment at <https://apnews.com/hub/climate-and-environment>

## Garbage piles in Scotland raise health concerns amid strikes

LONDON (AP) — Stinking piles of garbage on the streets of Edinburgh are threatening the health and safety of the public, a health authority warned Saturday as strikes by garbage collectors in the Scottish capital moved into their ninth day.

The warning from Public Health Scotland came as garbage collectors in Newham, a borough of London, also walked out for a week over a pay dispute.

Images of food waste and diapers rotting on the streets is just adding to scenes of chaos in U.K. as industrial disputes multiply amid soaring food and energy costs. Bathers in the U.K. were warned last week to stay away from dozens of beaches as heavy rain flushed raw sewage into rivers and seas.

Public Health Scotland told local authorities that the "decontamination of public areas where bins have overflowed may be required." It warned that "if organic waste builds up, it can become a risk to human health."

Garbage collectors walked out on Aug. 18 and plan to stay off work until Aug. 30. Even more strikes lay ahead if the pay dispute is not resolved.

Britain is facing a massive cost-of-living crisis, with wage increases failing to keep up with inflation, which last week stood at 10.1%. Those financial challenges have only been increased due to soaring energy costs — authorities say residents in Britain will see an 80% increase in their annual energy bills in October.

The country has seen waves of strikes this summer, with the public transport system grinding to a virtual halt on several days due to rail strikes. Primary schools and nurseries in Glasgow, Scotland's biggest city, will be forced to close for several days next month if a strike from council workers goes ahead.

In London, garbage drivers in Newham Council began a week of walkouts on Saturday, with union officials warning there could be more. Sharon Graham, general secretary of the Unite union, said those workers were paid less than others in neighboring councils.

"The council must now focus on reaching a deal with the workers, who face a financial crisis," Graham said. "If they don't, then the coming days will undoubtedly mean more industrial action."

Britain's image has taken a battering this summer. French lawmakers in the European Parliament com-

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 34 of 79

plained this week that the raw sewage flushed into rivers and seas by the U.K. also threatens bathing waters, fishing grounds and biodiversity in the European Union as well.

Parts of Britain's sewage system became overwhelmed after several days of unseasonably heavy rainfall.

## Protests in India against release of 11 convicted rapists

By BHUMIKA SARASWATI Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Hundreds of people on Saturday held demonstrations in several parts of India to protest a recent government decision to free 11 men who had been jailed for life for gang raping a Muslim woman during India's devastating 2002 religious riots.

The protesters in the country's capital, New Delhi, chanted slogans and demanded the government in the western state of Gujarat rescind the decision. They also sang songs in solidarity with the victim.

Similar protests were also held in several other states.

The 11 men, released on suspended sentences on Aug. 15 when India celebrated 75 years of independence, were convicted in 2008 of rape, murder and unlawful assembly.

The victim, who is now in her 40s, recently said the decision by the Gujarat state government has left her numb and shaken her faith in justice.

The Associated Press generally doesn't identify victims of sexual assault.

The victim was pregnant when she was brutally gang raped in communal violence in 2002 in Gujarat, which saw over 1,000 people, mostly Muslims, killed in some of the worst religious riots India has experienced since its independence from Britain in 1947. Seven members of the woman's family, including her three-year-old daughter, were also killed in the violence.

"The whole country should demand an answer directly from the prime minister of this country," said Kavita Krishnan, a prominent activist.

Officials in Gujarat, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party holds power, have said that the convicts' application for remission was granted because they had completed over 14 years in jail. The men were eligible under a 1992 remission policy that was in effect at the time of their conviction, officials said. A newer version of the policy adopted in 2014 by the federal government prohibits remission release for those convicted of certain crimes, including rape and murder.

The riots have long hounded Modi, who was Gujarat's top elected official at the time, amid allegations that authorities allowed and even encouraged the bloodshed. Modi has repeatedly denied having any role and the Supreme Court has said it found no evidence to prosecute him.

Asiya Qureshi, a young protester in New Delhi, said she participated in the demonstrations to seek justice for the victim.

"Modi gave a speech on 15th August on the safety and protection of women of India and the same day they released the rapists," Qureshi said. "How am I safe in such a climate?"

## Small businesses feel the pinch from slowing housing market

By MAE ANDERSON AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The chill in the housing market is rippling out to the carpenters, landscapers and other small businesses that lose out when fewer homeowners are renovating their properties.

Inflation was already causing some homeowners to delay big renovation projects as prices for building materials, fixtures and appliances jumped. More recently, higher mortgage rates have put a damper on the number of homes being sold.

At the beginning of the year, carpenter Bill Albritton, who has owned Albritton Custom Carpentry near Charlotte, N.C., since 2004, was booked months in advance and completing full custom kitchen cabinet replacements in homes in the historic districts of Charlotte. But he's seen a slowdown over the past two months.

In the Charlotte metropolitan area, the number of home sold fell 19% between June and July, and are down about 21% from July a year ago, according to the Re/Max monthly National Housing Report.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 35 of 79

Albritton is booked out 30 days in advance, compared to the usual 90 to 160 days. Meanwhile, his costs have gone up by more than 30% across the board. Plywood he uses jumped from \$72 to \$140 a sheet around Christmas. It has gone back down to \$85 a sheet, but that's still higher than it used to be. And he has trouble finding hinges at any price.

Albritton is trying to pivot to smaller carpentry jobs.

"Instead of doing new kitchens we're gearing up to do what we call 'kitchen face lifts,'" Albritton said. That means just replacing the fronts of cabinets and drawers and teaming up with a painting contractor to paint the cabinets. It gives "a new kitchen look for a fraction of the price," he said.

The Federal Reserve has been raising interest rates in an effort to reduce inflation, which is running at almost 10% annually at the wholesale level. The fear is the Fed will go too far and the economy will go into a slump.

"I am very worried on the heels of the material shortages we have been battling to now look at a very possible recession," Albritton said. He's reaching out to other home renovation companies to partner with as one way to keep the work coming.

The average rate on a 30-year mortgage is 5.55%, according to Freddie Mac. A year ago, the average was 2.87%. The increase is forcing some would-be buyers out of the market and sales of previously owned homes have fallen for six straight months. That matters to the businesses involved in home renovations because sellers can spend thousands of dollars making a house more attractive to buyers, and then the buyers spend thousands more personalizing their new home or fixing it up.

Growth in homeowner spending for improvements and repairs is expected to slow for the rest of 2022 and the first half of 2023, according to the Remodeling Futures Program at the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University. The center's Leading Indicator of Remodeling Activity predicts homeowner improvement and repair spending will grow 17.4% this year to \$431 billion. That will slow to 10.1% by the second quarter of next year, with total 2023 spending estimated at \$446 billion.

Chris Doyle, CEO and co-founder of Billd, a construction finance company, said small businesses should be aware of what's going on in their market and consider pivoting to different types of projects. A small business previously focused on new-home construction should try to work with renovators instead, for example. And since residential home spending is set to decline, federal construction projects might also be something to look into.

"Everyone's going to have to adapt," he said. "Small businesses have an opportunity to adapt quicker since they're more nimble than bigger companies."

Daniel Edwards, who owns a Handyman Connection franchise in Hanover, Massachusetts, focuses on small jobs that are several thousand dollars, like building decks, swapping out windows and doors and carpentry projects. In the greater Boston area that includes Hanover, home sales in July were down 20%. The median price of a home sold was \$650,000, down 2% from June but up 8% from this time last year, according to Re/Max data.

Edwards said he's normally booked out three or four weeks with jobs, but lately it's been two to three weeks. He says customers are being tighter with money: They want smaller jobs, want to look at receipts and question the price of materials. For example, one customer decided to install a toilet paper holder himself, rather than paying someone to do it, saving about \$25, he said. Another customer who requested a quote for a gutter cleaning decided to hold off. But while business has been slower, he says the dip isn't as bad as he was worried it might be.

"I certainly don't see normal July and August levels, but I don't see what I had feared in terms of significant decline. People still want small- to mid-sized projects," he said.

Inflation has been trying on Tom Monson's business, Monson Lawn & Landscaping, in St. Paul, Minnesota. He's had to raise prices — he now charges \$62.50 to mow a lawn. up from \$50. A sod installation costs \$1,250, up from \$1,100.

More price-sensitive customers have cut back. One customer who was planning on putting in a new lawn decided to wait until next year, and others have cut back from biweekly landscaping appointments

to monthly.

Curbio is a startup that provides pre-sale renovations on homes that it doesn't charge for until the home is sold. They operate in 52 markets across the country, from Chicago to South Florida. They've also started offering smaller projects as the housing market slows.

"As the market starts to cool in some areas, there's much more sensitivity to timelines," said Olivia Mariani, vice president at Curbio. "Before, a homeowner may be willing to wait 8 to 12 weeks to fully gut and remodel their kitchen. Now, they're asking for the minimum viable work."

So instead of doing a full renovation, Curbio has begun shifting project types to more "refreshes" – like painting cabinets or refinishing hardwood floors. It dropped its prior \$15,000 minimum price for projects and now 30% of its projects are under \$15,000.

Mariani said Curbio's data shows that a cabinet refresh can help raise the price of a home for sale just as much as a bigger job.

"Buyers just want a home that doesn't require maintenance -- a full cabinet redo is not really necessary," she said.

## Fed tackles inflation with its most diverse leadership ever

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming (AP) — When Diane Swonk first attended the Federal Reserve's annual economic conference in Jackson Hole in the late 1990s, there was a happy hour for women who attended the event. It barely filled a single table.

Now, the "Women at Jackson Hole" happy hour draws dozens of female economists and high-level decision-makers, from the United States and overseas.

"I'm just glad that now there's a line for the ladies' room," said Swonk, a longtime Fed watcher who is chief economist for the accounting giant KPMG.

It's not just at Jackson Hole but also in the Fed's boardroom where its leadership has become its most diverse ever. There are more female, Black and openly gay officials contributing to the central bank's interest-rate decisions than at any time in its 109-year history. Many are also far less wealthy than the officials they have replaced.

Over time, economists say, a wider range of voices will deepen the Fed's perspective as it weighs the consequences of raising or lowering rates. It may also help diversify a profession that historically hasn't been seen as particularly welcoming to women and minorities.

"Broadly, that's helpful," said William English, a former senior economist at the Fed who teaches at the Yale School of Management. "There's evidence that diverse groups make better decisions."

The central bank, as it is doing now, raises its benchmark short-term rate when it wants to lower inflation, and reduces it when it wants to accelerate hiring. Such moves, in turn, affect borrowing costs throughout the economy — for mortgages, auto loans and business loans, among others.

On Friday, in his speech to the Jackson Hole symposium, Chair Jerome Powell stressed that the Fed plans further rate hikes and expects to keep its benchmark rate high until the worst inflation bout in four decades eases considerably — even if doing so causes job losses and financial pain for households and businesses.

Rhonda Vonshay Sharpe, an economist who is president of the Women's Institute for Society, Equity and Race, said she welcomed the broadening of the Fed's leadership. Sharpe said she's "hopeful that a more diverse group of people will pay attention" to what the Fed does and aspire to high-level economic roles.

Colleges and universities, she suggested, should do more to encourage and prepare students for economic careers, including steering more of them to study mathematics.

The change at the Fed has been a rapid one, with three African Americans and three women having joined the central bank's 19-member interest-rate committee just this year. (Under the Fed's rotating system, only 12 of the 19 committee members vote each year on its rate decisions.)

The Fed's influential seven-member Board of Governors, based in Washington, now includes two Black

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 37 of 79

economists, Lisa Cook and Philip Jefferson, who were both nominated by President Joe Biden and were sworn in this May. They are the third and fourth Black people on the board. Governors get to vote on every Fed rate decision.

Biden also elevated Lael Brainard, a governor since 2014, to the board's powerful vice chair position.

In addition, two of the presidents of the Fed's 12 regional banks are now Black — Raphael Bostic of the Atlanta Fed and Susan Collins of the Boston Fed. Collins, formerly provost of the University of Michigan, became Boston Fed president this year. Bostic took office in 2017.

Just last week, Lorie Logan, a former senior official at the New York Fed, became president of the Dallas Fed. Five of the regional bank presidents are women.

Nela Richardson, chief economist at the payroll processing firm ADP, noted that the education and experience of the new policymakers are similar to their predecessors, with Cook, Jefferson and Collins all Ph.D. economists — an above-average proportion among new Fed officials, she said.

Richardson suggested that having more women in the Fed's leadership is particularly important now, because many of the problems the central bank faces — including very low unemployment that is fueling wage increases and inflation — are related to women's ability to join the workforce. Fewer women, particularly mothers of young children, are working now compared with pre-pandemic trends.

That shortfall is driven, in part, by a drop in the number of childcare workers since the pandemic. With fewer women working or seeking work, many businesses must raise pay to compete for a smaller pool of labor. Those higher wages are then often passed on to consumers as higher prices, thereby fueling inflation.

Swonk credits Esther George, president of the Kansas City Fed, for driving change at the Jackson Hole conference by inviting more women over the years, including Cook and Collins, to attend and participate in panels. Each year, about 130 influential central bankers and economists gather at Grand Teton National Park in Jackson Hole at the end of August to network and discuss the economy's challenges.

Even as it has significantly diversified its leadership, the Fed has yet to address one issue: A Hispanic American has never served on the Fed's rate-setting committee — a frequently voiced complaint of Sen. Robert Menendez, a New Jersey Democrat. For that reason, Menendez voted this year against confirming Powell's reappointment for a second four-year term as Fed chair.

This year, Biden also named Michael Barr, a former Treasury Department official, as a Fed governor, filling all seven seats on the board for the first time in nearly a decade.

Vincent Reinhart, a former Fed economist who is now at Dreyfus and Mellon, said it's unusual for the Fed to have experienced so much turnover so quickly. Fed governors serve staggered terms that are intended to result in one vacancy every two years. The regional bank presidents have five-year terms that can be renewed.

"This has got to be the most dramatic change in Fed leadership in one year on record," he said.

The new members, including Barr, are more likely to favor lower rates to support the economy and hiring, Reinhart said. Yet for now, with inflation near a 40-year high, the Fed's policymaking committee is moving unanimously to sharply raise rates to try to cool the economy and lower inflation. There's little sign of any dissent from that approach, for now.

Tim Duy, chief U.S. economist at SGH Macro, suggested that the Fed is unlike the Supreme Court in one important respect: Just because a president has nominated several new Fed board members doesn't necessarily affect the central bank's policymaking.

The Fed is a more technocratic institution, Duy said, "where you're more likely to see people's views evolve over time," in response to changing economic data. At its July meeting, all 12 members of the Fed's policy committee voted for a large three-quarter-point rate hike — an unusually large increase.

Still, Reinhart said, if inflation should fall substantially and appear to be under control and if unemployment began to rise as the Fed's rate hikes squeeze the economy, some of Biden's appointees could start to argue for an end to the increases — or even to cut rates.

The result might be less unanimity around the Fed's decisions, Reinhart said. Or Powell might end up suspending rate hikes earlier than he would prefer, to preserve consensus.

"There's a lot more opportunity for differences of opinion as we get longer into this rate-hiking cycle," he said.

## Chile hospital integrates Native medicine, birth to death

By GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO Associated Press

OSORNO, Chile (AP) — In labor with her first child last month, Lucia Hernández Rumian danced around her hospital room while her husband played the kultrun, a ritual drum.

She turned down pain medication from the hospital's staff to get massages and oil rubdowns instead from her cultural liaison, who had ceremonially purified the space according to Mapuche customs.

"It became my own space," Hernández said.

The largest public hospital in the southern Chilean city of Osorno is finding new ways to incorporate these and other Indigenous health care practices. There's a special delivery room with Native images on the walls and bed, forms for doctors to approve herbal treatments from trusted traditional healers, and protocols for "good dying" mindful of spiritual beliefs.

The hospital's efforts validate cultural practices at a time when Chile's Indigenous groups — particularly its largest, the Mapuche — are fighting for rights and restitutions with unprecedented visibility as the country gets ready to vote on a new constitution next month.

But they also restore a crucial spiritual component to health care, according to health professionals and patients at Hospital Base San José de Osorno.

"It must be a guarantee — we take charge of the physical part, but without transgressing on the spiritual dimension," said Cristina Muñoz, the certified nurse-midwife who launched new delivery protocols that Indigenous pregnant women can customize and are believed to be the first in the country.

Cristina Aron, the patient who first inspired Muñoz more than a decade ago, has now become a cultural liaison to Hernández and two dozen other women from pregnancy into early motherhood.

"Childbirth is a spiritual energy event for the mother, the baby and the community," Aron said.

She had hoped to deliver her daughter in the countryside with a traditional midwife. But Chilean law requires professional health workers to deliver babies because of past high maternal mortality.

So Aron turned to Osorno's hospital and negotiated her delivery conditions with Muñoz, including being accompanied by a woman conversant in Mapuche practices and taking her placenta to bury ceremonially in her ancestral lands.

Mapuche people see the placenta as holding a twin spirit to the child's. Its burial, often with a tree planted on top to grow as the newborn does, is believed to create a lifelong connection between children and the natural elements of their family's territory.

"It's something very poetic and very revolutionary," said Alen Colipan, whose son's placenta was placed by a river near his paternal grandmother's house. "He will not feel this uprooting from his land."

Colipan was 17 when she gave birth in Osorno's intercultural delivery room, with a floor-to-ceiling photo across three walls of the rocky beach that is home to grandfather Huentellao, a protector spirit revered by the Mapuche Huilliche, the region's Indigenous group.

Colipan said her then-85-year-old midwife, Irma Rohe, who had never entered a hospital, was allowed to receive the infant "without gloves and other imposed things" and ritually clean him.

"We're going back to wanting to give birth with people with ancestral knowledge," Colipan said. "Even our way of being born was dominated. We have to begin to liberate it."

Chilean law now requires hospitals to give the placenta to mothers if requested. For a decade it has also mandated intercultural care in places with a significant Indigenous population. Mapuche people account for one-third of Osorno's inhabitants and eight of 10 in the adjacent province of San Juan de la Costa, said Angélica Levicán, who has been in charge of Indigenous relations for the hospital since 2016.

"Health care among Indigenous people always existed. Then came another system to invalidate our own system," she said. "Our intention is that they complement each other."

To join both kinds of medicine is not easy. Many Indigenous people perceive public hospitals as yet

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 39 of 79

another state institution that discriminates against their beliefs.

Mapuche medicine, based on spirituality, is also different from what doctors are trained for, said José Quidel Lincoleo, director of a center for Mapuche health care studies in Temuco, another southern city with a large Indigenous population.

Mapuche healers seek to connect with a patient's spirit to discover the "biological, social, psychological and spiritual root of the problem" that is manifesting as a disease, Quidel added.

"It could be another previous life, or some harm done to you, or a lack of self-knowledge that makes us transgress on our worldview," he said.

But doctors and traditional healers say they can complement one another's work by realizing that every expert only knows a fraction of what's possible, especially when battling new diseases like COVID-19.

"One understands that saving a body needs to be compatible with beliefs," said Dr. Cristóbal Oyarzun, a rheumatologist and coordinator of internal medicine at Osorno's hospital. "A patient with inner peace has better opportunities to heal."

That's hard to achieve in the aseptic, isolated environment of a hospital, especially during the pandemic. Mapuche healers continued to pray and "spiritually accompany" patients from afar, said Cristóbal Tremigual Lemui, a healer from San Juan de la Costa who has long collaborated with Osorno's hospital.

"For us that is essential ... so patients can receive the energy they need," he said.

Family members also flocked to the hospital's prayer space — an outdoor circle of small sacred laurel and cinnamon trees with a firepit next to the parking lot — to hold ceremonies for the dying, Levicán said.

Walk-ins and admitted patients who identify as Indigenous — an average of 50 a day — are welcomed and accompanied by Erica Inalef, the hospital's intercultural facilitator, so that "they don't feel so very alone."

When, as a teen, she took her elderly father to a hospital, doctors would barely talk to them, and "body and spirit were separated."

Now, doctors can see the enthusiasm with which patients welcome the arrival of consulting traditional healers, and that helps build mutual trust, Inalef said.

Trust can manifest in a traumatologist signing off on a patient's lawenko — an herbal tea whose exact composition the healers hold secret — or in an obstetrician allowing a woman in labor to wear her munulongko, a headscarf believed to protect her.

Cultural clothing is one section in the labor plan Muñoz developed five years ago, which pregnant women can customize. She hopes more will become aware of this option — only about 20 of the hospital's 1,500 births each year are intercultural deliveries.

"Indigenous women are doubly timid, discriminated against for being women, Indigenous, poor and rural," Muñoz said. "We tell her, your body is the first territory you're going to recover."

Reclaiming ancestral practices is what drew Angela Quintana Aucapan to have her baby — Namunküra, or "firm step" in Mapudungun — in the special delivery room recently, while relatives played traditional instruments.

"I was able to do it as my ancestors did," she said. "With a ceremony while we waited for the new addition to the family, I felt supported as I received my baby."

## HUD, Texas at odds over flood relief discrimination claim

By JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — The faded and weathered construction permits still taped to Houston resident Mal Moses' front door are reminders of the difficulties he faced in trying to get his mold-infested walls and leaky roof repaired after Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

But living in his neighborhood of Trinity-Houston Gardens has always been hard, Moses said. His family endured racial slurs and harassment as some of the first Black residents to move in during the late 1960s. When white residents left, he said, it seemed resources such as consistent trash collection or a properly working drainage system fled as well.

So after Harvey, Moses, 65, expected to be denied government help. And he certainly wasn't surprised

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 40 of 79

by federal officials' conclusion this year that the state had discriminated against minorities, particularly Black residents, in how it distributed flood relief money from the hurricane.

"It was just another example (of discrimination) for me. ... I wasn't shocked that it was being done because I experienced it firsthand growing up," said Moses, who ultimately got help from local nonprofit West Street Recovery to repair his home.

Texas had faced a Friday deadline to enter into a voluntary agreement to address an investigation by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that in March found the state had violated the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by causing there "to be disproportionately less funding available to benefit minority residents than was available to benefit white residents" in how it distributed more than \$2 billion to fund flood mitigation projects after Harvey. That deadline passed without any resolution to the dispute.

The Texas General Land Office, or GLO, which is in charge of distributing the funding, says its actions were not unlawful. In a letter sent Thursday to HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott said he did not plan to force the GLO to enter into any agreement because HUD had not proven that the state agency had discriminated based on race or national origin.

"HUD should close this case without following through on the threats made in your letter, which would only slow funding for Texans who truly need disaster mitigation," Abbott said.

HUD has threatened to refer the matter to the Justice Department for possible legal action.

"We are considering our options and have no further comment at this time," HUD spokesman Michael Burns said in an email Friday.

The deadline passed amid the five-year anniversary of Harvey, which inundated the Houston area with torrential rain for days, flooding more than 150,000 homes and 300,000 vehicles. The storm, which first made landfall more than 200 miles (321 km) southwest of Houston near Corpus Christi on Aug. 25, 2017, killed 68 people and caused an estimated \$125 billion in damage in Texas. Many residents still have not recovered.

In an April letter to HUD, the land office's attorneys defended how the funds were awarded, saying of the 108 projects that received money, 59% served minority-majority populations and of the 1.5 million Texans benefiting from the projects, more than 1 million were Hispanic.

"HUD's objections are politically motivated and are factually and legally baseless. GLO did not engage in discrimination," the land office's attorneys said.

Many Houston-area residents and officials were outraged when they learned the land office's initial distribution of \$1 billion didn't include one cent for their hard-hit communities. Other cities with large minority populations also flooded by Harvey, including Beaumont, Corpus Christi and Port Arthur along the Texas Gulf Coast, also got no funding.

A Houston Chronicle investigation found the land office's initial \$1 billion distribution disproportionately flowed to inland counties with less damage than coastal communities that bore the brunt of Harvey.

Where the money was spent is "so clearly not where the harm was done and where the risk is for future disasters," said Ben Martin, research director for Texas Housers, an Austin-based nonprofit that joined Houston group Northeast Action Collective in filing the initial complaint with HUD.

After bipartisan criticism of the lack of funding for the Houston area, the land office awarded \$750 million to Harris County, home to the nation's fourth-largest city, but still nothing for Houston.

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner on Wednesday urged HUD to enforce its ruling against the state, saying the federal agency's integrity "is on the line."

Moses, who is part of the Northeast Action Collective, said that after Harvey, he had to live in his home, full of mold and dust, while it was repaired and as he underwent treatment for lung cancer. During the two-year repair process, his mother, who shared the house with him and adored it, had to live elsewhere.

She died four days after she was finally able to return in 2020.

While his house is in fairly good shape now, Moses said many of his neighbors are still struggling to fully restore their homes or recover financially from repairs they paid for themselves. They also worry if enough has been done to protect them from the next storm.

"I'm just holding on, holding on ... and I'm hoping that the (federal) government steps in ... and makes

sure the money gets appropriated correctly," Moses said.

## **Iraqi PM: Political crisis undermining security achievements**

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's caretaker Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi warned Saturday that the political crisis in the country is threatening security achievements made in past years.

Al-Kadhimi's warning is a clear indication of the dangers of one of Iraq's worst political crises since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. It is the result of disagreements between followers of influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and rival Iran-backed groups since last year's parliamentary elections.

Al-Sadr won the largest share of seats in the October elections but failed to form a majority government, leading to what has become one of the worst political crises in Iraq in recent years.

His bloc later resigned from parliament and his supporters last month stormed the parliament building in Baghdad. Al-Sadr has demanded that parliament be dissolved and early elections held.

"This political crisis threatens the security achievements and the nation's stability," al-Kadhimi said in a speech marking Islamic Day of Combatting Violence against Women in Baghdad.

"Now, the solution is for all political parties to make concessions for the interests of Iraq and Iraqis," said al-Kadhimi.

Last week, al-Kadhimi called for a meeting of senior political leaders and party representatives to find a solution. He warned that if "fighting erupts, the shootings will not stop and will remain for years."

Earlier this month, al-Sadr called on his followers to be ready to hold massive protests all over Iraq but then indefinitely postponed them after Iran-backed groups called for similar rallies the same day, saying he wants to preserve peace and that "Iraqi blood is invaluable" to him.

Iraq has witnessed relative stability since the Islamic State group was largely defeated in the country in 2017. But militants have continued to wage attacks, frequently hitting security forces and military targets with roadside bombs and firing on convoys or checkpoints.

During the rise of IS, when it controlled large parts of Iraq, deadly explosions were common in the oil-rich country.

## **Giant eye murals bear witness to Palestinians in Jerusalem**

JERUSALEM (AP) — A group of artists has filled a Palestinian area of east Jerusalem with paintings of large, wide-open eyes. The murals are a reminder that all eyes are on the neighborhood of Silwan, a flashpoint where Palestinians say Israeli forces and settlers are working to drive them out of their homes.

The eye murals are so giant that they make you feel they are watching you wherever you walk in the neighborhood. Many are painted on the walls of decaying Palestinian homes alongside national symbols.

"The staring eyes say to people that we see them and they should see us too," says Jawad Siyam, director of Madaa-Silwan Creative Center.

"We want to say that we are here — we love our land and our home."

Since 2015, the center has worked with U.S. artists to create the murals and maintain them. In total, they have made about 2,000 feet of graffiti and paintings.

The "I Witness Silwan" art project depicts the eyes of Palestinian and international leaders and influencers. It also features symbols such as the goldfinch and poppy, which Palestinians call their national flower.

Organizers say the art project aims at drawing attention to the displacements the Palestinians face in this neighborhood near the Old City of Jerusalem.

Israel occupied Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war and annexed the holy city as its indivisible capital. The Palestinians claim the eastern part as the capital of their future state. Peace talks between the two sides ground to a halt years ago.

The Silwan project says it aims to counter Israeli settler groups that work to boost the Jewish presence in predominantly Arab or Palestinian areas of the contested holy city.

Palestinian residents of east Jerusalem face Israeli arrests, home raids, demolitions, and the threat of

evictions. Israeli rights group B'Tselem says Israel is "enjoying far-reaching powers with no accountability for their actions" in running the lives of Palestinians in the area.

## Deaths from flooding in monsoon drenched Pakistan near 1,000

By ZARAR KHAN Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Flash floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains across much of Pakistan have killed nearly 1,000 people and injured and displaced thousands more since mid-June, officials said Saturday.

The new death toll came a day after Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif asked for international help in battling deadly flood damage in the impoverished Islamic nation.

The monsoon season, which began earlier than normal this year, has lashed Pakistan with particularly heavy rains and rescuers have struggled to evacuate thousands of marooned people from flood-hit areas. The crisis forced the government to declare a state of emergency.

In northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, flooding destroyed the gates of a major water control system at the Swat River, leading to flooding in the districts of Charsadda and Nowshera, said Sania Safi, a top administrator in Charsadda.

"We preempted the situation and warned and forced hesitating residents to leave their homes for safety and move to relief camps established at government buildings in safe places," she said.

Safi said there was concern of further rising of the Swat and Kabul rivers, adding to the misery of residents who have already suffered the loss of lives and property.

In Nowshera district, local administrator Quratul Ain Wazir said flood waters submerged streets before the gushing waters headed toward low-lying areas.

"Our administration has evacuated many people and taken others to relief camps where government provided beds and food in safe buildings," she said. ... "We will use police to force those hesitant to leave their homes."

Khushal Wahab, who lives in a neighborhood in Nowshera submerged in water, said residents recalled catastrophic flooding that took place 2010 and many evacuated fearing similar danger. "People are scared," he said.

Information Minister Maryam Aurangzeb said soldiers and rescue organizations were helping people to reach safety in many districts of southern Sindh, northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, eastern Punjab and southwestern Baluchistan provinces.

"Government has sanctioned sufficient funds to financially compensate the affected people and we will not leave our people alone in this tough time," she said.

Aurangzeb asked wealthy people and relief organizations to come forward with aid to help flood-affected Pakistanis.

In response to Sharif's appeal for international aid, the United Nations planned a \$160 million flash appeal for donations, according to Foreign Ministry spokesman Asim Iftikhar. He said in his weekly briefing Friday that the appeal will be launched Aug. 30.

The picturesque Kalam Valley in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province is one of the areas most affected by the rains and flooding. Waters from overflowing rivers swept away entire buildings, including an iconic hotel.

"The situation is pretty serious as we don't have any road link left with the rest of the province, we don't have electricity, gas and communications network and no relief is reaching here," said Muzaffar Khan, whose grocery store was swept away along with many other shops.

Thousands whose homes were swept away now live in tents, miles away from their inundated villages and towns, after being rescued by soldiers, local disaster workers and volunteers, authorities said.

In Baluchistan, Asadullah Nasir, a spokesperson at the provincial disaster management authority, said all 34 districts of the impoverished province were badly affected by heavy rain and flooding. He said road networks were destroyed and bridges washed away and relief was only possible by deploying helicopters, which are not often able to operate because of bad weather. He said provincial officials have confirmed 235 deaths but the number was expected to increase significantly after communications are restored.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 43 of 79

In eastern Punjab province, the Rajan Pur district appeared to be the hardest hit along with the district of Dera Ghazi Khan. Thousands of mud and brick houses were inundated by water, most of them completely demolished or at least partly destroyed.

Residents made homeless by the flood took shelter on higher ground, where they waited for relief goods and other help.

Rahim Hasan, 52, said he lost his home and two children — a daughter and a son ages 14 and 16, respectively.

"I have nothing left in life, my home was destroyed and my children swept away by gushing water and now we are lying helpless on this road under open sky where soldiers are feeding us," he said.

The National Disaster Management Authority in its latest overnight report said 45 people were killed in flood-related incidents from Friday to Saturday. That brought the death toll since mid-June to 982 with 1,456 injured.

Monsoon rains were expected to continue this week, mainly in the south and southwest. The season usually runs from July to mid September in Pakistan.

Heavy rains and subsequent flash floods have damaged bridges and road networks across Pakistan, disrupting the supply of fruit and vegetables to markets and causing a hike in prices.

Much of neighboring Afghanistan was also hit by heavy rain and flooding. Mohammad Nasim Haqqani, spokesman for the country's National Disaster Management Ministry, said at least seven people were killed in eastern Nangarhar province over a 24-hour period, and more than 600 others were rescued by Defense Ministry helicopters. The seven in addition to 182 fatalities announced dead earlier in the week.

## Sick dolphin calf improves with tube-fed milk, helping hands

By TASSANEE VEJPONGSA Associated Press

RAYONG, Thailand (AP) — The Irrawaddy dolphin calf — sick and too weak to swim — was drowning in a tidal pool on Thailand's shore when fishermen found him.

The fishermen quickly alerted marine conservationists, who advised them how to provide emergency care until a rescue team could transport the baby to Thailand's Marine and Coastal Resources Research and Development Center for veterinary attention.

The baby was nicknamed Paradon, roughly translated as "brotherly burden," because those involved knew from day one that saving his life would be no easy task.

Irrawaddy dolphins, considered a vulnerable species by International Union for Conservation of Nature, are found in the shallow coastal waters of South and Southeast Asia and in three rivers in Myanmar, Cambodia and Indonesia. Their survival is threatened by habitat loss, pollution and illegal fishing.

Officials from the marine research center believe around 400 Irrawaddy dolphins remain along the country's eastern coast, bordering Cambodia.

Since Paradon was found by the fishermen July 22, dozens of veterinarians and volunteers have helped care for him at the center in Rayong on the Gulf of Thailand.

"We said among ourselves that the chance of him surviving was quite low, judging from his condition," Thanaphan Chomchuen, a veterinarian at the center, said Friday. "Normally, dolphins found stranded on the shore are usually in such a terrible condition. The chances that these dolphins would survive are normally very, very slim. But we gave him our best try on that day."

Workers placed him in a seawater pool, treated the lung infection that made him so sick and weak, and enlisted volunteers to watch him round the clock. They have to hold him up in his tank to prevent him from drowning and feed him milk, initially done by tube, and later by bottle when he had recovered a bit of strength.

A staff veterinarian and one or two volunteers stay for each eight-hour shift, and other workers during the day handle the water pump and filter and making milk for the calf.

After a month, Paradon's condition is improving. The calf believed to be between 4 and 6 months old can swim now and has no signs of infection. But the dolphin that was 138 centimeters long (4.5 feet) and

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 44 of 79

around 27 kilograms (59 pounds) on July 22 is still weak and doesn't take enough milk despite the team's efforts to feed him every 20 minutes or so.

Thippunyar Thipjuntar, a 32-year-old financial adviser, is one of the many volunteers who come for a babysitting shift with Paradon.

Thippunya said with Paradon's round baby face and curved mouth that looks like a smile, she couldn't help but grow attached to him and be concerned about his development.

"He does not eat enough but rather just wants to play. I am worried that he does not receive enough nutrition," she told The Associated Press on Friday as she fed the sleepy Paradon, cradled in her arm. "When you invest your time, physical effort, mental attention, and money to come here to be a volunteer, of course you wish that he would grow strong and survive."

Sumana Kajonwattanakul, director of the marine center, said Paradon will need long-term care, perhaps as much as a year, until he is weaned from milk and is able to hunt for his own food.

"If we just release him when he gets better, the problem is that he he won't be able to have milk. We will have to take care of him until he has his teeth, then we must train him to eat fish, and be part of a pod. This will take quite some time," Sumana said.

Paradon's caregivers believe the extended tender loving care is worth it.

"If we can save one dolphin, this will help our knowledge, as there have not been many successful cases in treating this type of animal," said veterinarian Thanaphan. "If we can save him and he survives, we will have learned so much from this."

"Secondly, I think by saving him, giving him a chance to live, we also raise awareness about the conservation of this species of animal, which are rare, with not many left."

## Tunisia hosts Japanese-African economic cooperation meeting

By FRANCESCA EBEL Associated Press

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — African heads of state, representatives of international organizations and private business leaders gathered in Tunisia on Saturday for the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, a triennial event launched by Japan to promote growth and security in Africa.

Economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, a food crisis worsened by Russia's war in Ukraine, and climate change are among the challenges facing many African countries expected to define the two-day conference.

Tensions among African countries also weighed on the meeting: On Friday, Morocco announced a boycott of the event and recalled its ambassador to Tunisia to protest the inclusion of a representative of the Polisario Front movement fighting for independence for Western Sahara.

The conference comes as Russia and China have sought to increase their economic and other influence in Africa.

While 30 African heads of state and government attended the event in Tunis, Tunisia's capital, many key talks are being held remotely, including those involving Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who tested positive for COVID-19 ahead of the summit.

The Japanese government created and hosted the first TICAD summit in 1993. The conferences now are co-organized with the United Nations, the African Union and the World Bank. The summits have generated 26 development projects in 20 African countries.

This year, discussion around an increase of Japanese investments in Africa is anticipated, with particular focus on supporting start-ups and food security initiatives. Japan has said it plans to provide assistance for the production of rice, alongside a promised \$130 million in food aid.

Africa Center for Strategic Studies, an academic institution of the U.S. Defense Department, compared the conference's format to the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, "where government, business, and civil society leaders participate on an equal basis."

However, this weekend's summit has sparked controversy in Tunisia, which faces its own acute economic crisis, including a recent spike in food and gasoline shortages.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 45 of 79

Critics have spoken out about organizers' alleged "white-washing" of the city, which has seen cleaner streets and infrastructure improvements in preparation for the conference summit. One local commentator said the North African capital looked like it had applied makeup to impress participants.

Meanwhile, the journalists' union in Tunisia issued a statement Friday condemning restrictions on reporting and information around the summit.

Morocco's complaint stemmed from Tunisia inviting the Polisario Front leader to attend. Morocco annexed Western Sahara from Spain in 1975, and the Polisario Front fought to make it an independent state until a 1991 cease-fire. It's a highly sensitive issue in Morocco, which seeks international recognition for its authority over Western Sahara.

"The welcome given by the Tunisian head of state to the leader of the separatist militia is a serious and unprecedented act, which deeply hurts the feelings of the Moroccan people," Morocco's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Morocco announced its withdrawal from the conference and the recall of its ambassador for consultations. But the ministry said the decision does not "call into question the commitment of the Kingdom of Morocco to the interests of Africa."

## **Bills' investigation of Araiza didn't include alleged victim**

By JOHN WAWROW AP Sports Writer

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — The attorney for a California teenager who has accused a Buffalo Bills rookie and two of his former college teammates of gang rape last fall said Friday the NFL team has not contacted him for details despite saying it had conducted a "thorough investigation."

The Bills selected Matt Araiza out of San Diego State in the sixth round of the NFL draft in April, and named him their starting punter this week. A person familiar with the case told the AP the Bills were not aware of the allegations against Araiza in April. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team had not commented publicly about the allegations.

Executives from two different teams told the AP they became aware of Araiza's involvement in an incident during the draft process, but neither person knew the extent of the allegations.

Dan Gilleon, who represents the California teenager, said he has not heard from team officials since first informing them of the allegations against Araiza in late July, when he says he had a phone conversation with team counsel Kathryn D'Angelo.

"She seemed like she was concerned. She says she'll get back to me, and then she never did," said Gilleon, who posted and then deleted a screenshot on social media of the email he says he sent to D'Angelo. "I even followed up and said, 'Hey, you guys haven't talked to me and called me back like you said you would.' And they just ignored that, too."

After the Bills declined multiple requests for comment on Friday, coach Sean McDermott was clearly shaken when he addressed the situation following a 21-0 preseason loss at Carolina.

"It's a situation that's extremely serious. Just hard to go through. It's not a situation that I or we take lightly whatsoever," he said. "I can tell you this my heart, my thoughts and prayers go out to the people involved. And that includes Matt. It includes both sides here. The victim and everyone involved."

McDermott said he was surprised and shocked by some of the revelations that have come out over the past day, and repeatedly stressed the team has work to do. Asked what work needed to be done, he answered by saying: "It's just a matter of trying to find the truth at the end of the day."

McDermott said it was his decision to not have Araiza play, saying he felt it was not the right thing to do. While he said Araiza would travel back with the team, McDermott declined to answer a question on Araiza's status on the roster.

Previously, the Bills' only comment on the lawsuit came a day earlier in saying they were aware of the allegations and had conducted their own investigation.

"The facts of the incident are not what they are portrayed in the lawsuit or in the press," Araiza said in a statement released through his agent, Joe Linta. "I look forward to quickly setting the record straight."

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 46 of 79

Quarterback Matt Barkley handled the team's punting duties against Carolina.

It was unclear if the Bills investigation was finished before they named him to their opening-day roster and the team statement provided no details, a familiar lack of transparency that raises fresh scrutiny on how NFL teams conduct internal reviews into allegations of misconduct.

It also comes as the NFL and the Cleveland Browns are reeling from a scandal involving quarterback Deshaun Watson. Cleveland acquired Watson in a trade with Houston and signed him to a league-record \$230 million contract while he faced civil lawsuits alleging sexual misconduct against two dozen women. Watson this season will serve an 11-game unpaid suspension, pay a \$5 million fine and undergo professional evaluation. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell also has been sharply criticized by members of Congress for not releasing details of an investigation into the Washington Commanders following allegations of workplace misconduct.

The Bills informed the NFL of the incident once they were made aware of it, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press. The person, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the matter, wasn't certain of the timeline.

The executives who had limited knowledge of the accusations against Araiza during the draft process said it didn't impact his status on their draft board because they weren't interested in selecting a punter. Executives from three other teams said they had no knowledge of the allegations against Araiza before the draft and only learned of the incident Thursday. All the people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Gilleon filed a lawsuit in San Diego County Superior Court this week accusing Araiza and two other San Diego State football players of raping a then-17-year-old girl at a Halloween party at an off-campus home where Araiza had been living. A San Diego police investigation has been turned over to the district attorney's office to determine whether to pursue charges. DA spokeswoman Tanya Sierra said Friday there was no timeline as to how long a decision will take.

Araiza's lawyer, Kerry Armstrong, said the player knew he could be the target of allegations since October. It was unclear if he informed the NFL of the allegations before the draft. Armstrong cited his own investigation's findings in denying the allegations, saying: "I 100% do not believe that he ever forcibly raped this girl or had sex with her while she was passed out or drunk or anything like that."

Armstrong said he has shared the findings of his investigation with the Bills over the past month, well before the team awarded Araiza, known as the "Punt God" for his booming kicks in college, the starting job on Monday. He also said he told Araiza six weeks ago, when he was retained, to tell Bills officials about the allegations.

"I told him, obviously, that any time you try to keep something secret like this, they're going to find it anyway, so be very honest with them," he said. "He has been. And I think that's why he's on the team right now."

The NFL declined to comment except to say it was aware of the matter.

At San Diego State, one of the two remaining accused players remains on the roster but the other is not listed. The school said it did not investigate at the request of San Diego police in October.

"After careful consideration, SDSU determined that cooperating with the criminal investigation was the appropriate action to help ensure the highest likelihood of real consequences for anyone found responsible," the university said. A Title IX investigation launched in July is ongoing.

The Bills appear to be following the same approach they took four years ago when running back LeSean McCoy was accused of having his former girlfriend beaten during a break-in at a home he owned outside Atlanta. Despite calls to cut ties with the player, the Bills stood behind McCoy, who was never charged in the matter and eventually reached an undisclosed settlement in a lawsuit filed against him.

Chances of a settlement of the case against Araiza were unclear as Gilleon and Armstrong swapped public accusations.

Armstrong said Araiza was against reaching a settlement, but the lawyer said he was asked by the player's parents to contact Gilleon regarding the possibility. Armstrong said Gilleon never responded,

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 47 of 79

though Gilleon has posted on his Twitter account several text exchanges he said he had with Armstrong in late July.

He told the AP he did so in response to Armstrong alleging his client was "committing a cash grab because he's a Buffalo Bill."

"My client refused to entertain the idea of a monetary settlement," Gilleon wrote in a text to the AP. "It would have taken an apology, psychological counseling, donation to charity, etc., but once Kerry A. began his clown show, I realized it was useless to try to reason with him and withdrew the offer to speak with a civil defense attorney before filing the lawsuit."

Gilleon said the decision to file the lawsuit three days after Araiza was awarded the punting job was the result of his growing frustration over the lack of feedback he was receiving from police on the progress of their investigation.

"They're just blowing us off," Gilleon said. "By filing a lawsuit, we have the power of subpoena and so I can force them to do what they're supposed to do."

## **FBI: Trump mixed top secret docs with magazines, other items**

By ERIC TUCKER and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fourteen of the 15 boxes recovered from former President Donald Trump's Florida estate early this year contained classified documents, many of them top secret, mixed in with miscellaneous newspapers, magazines and personal correspondence, according to an FBI affidavit released Friday.

No space at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate was authorized for the storage of classified material, according to the court papers, which laid out the FBI's rationale for searching the property this month, including "probable cause to believe that evidence of obstruction will be found."

The 32-page affidavit — heavily redacted to protect the safety of witnesses and law enforcement officials and "the integrity of the ongoing investigation" — offers the most detailed description to date of the government records being stored at Mar-a-Lago long after Trump left the White House. It also reveals the gravity of the government's concerns that the documents were there illegally.

The document makes clear how the haphazard retention of top secret government records, and the apparent failure to safeguard them despite months of entreaties from U.S. officials, has exposed Trump to fresh legal peril just as he lays the groundwork for another potential presidential run in 2024.

"The government is conducting a criminal investigation concerning the improper removal and storage of classified information in unauthorized spaces, as well as the unlawful concealment or removal of government records," an FBI agent wrote on the first page of the affidavit.

Documents previously made public show that federal agents are investigating potential violations of multiple federal laws, including one that governs gathering, transmitting or losing defense information under the Espionage Act. The other statutes address the concealment, mutilation or removal of records and the destruction, alteration or falsification of records in federal investigations.

Trump has long insisted, despite clear evidence to the contrary, that he fully cooperated with government officials. And he has rallied Republicans behind him by painting the search as a politically motivated witch hunt intended to damage his reelection prospects. He repeated that refrain on his social media site Friday, saying he and his representatives had had a close working relationship with the FBI and "GAVE THEM MUCH."

His attorneys late Friday repeated their request for the appointment of an independent special master to review the documents taken from the home, saying the redacted affidavit doesn't give Trump sufficient information about why the search took place or what materials were removed.

The affidavit does not provide new details about 11 sets of classified records recovered during the Aug. 8 search at Mar-a-Lago but instead concerns a separate batch of 15 boxes that the National Archives and Records Administration retrieved from the home in January. The Archives sent the matter to the Justice Department, indicating in its referral that a review showed "a lot" of classified materials, the affidavit says.

The affidavit made the case to a judge that a search of Mar-a-Lago was necessary due to the highly

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 48 of 79

sensitive material found in those 15 boxes. Of 184 documents with classification markings, 25 were at the top secret level, the affidavit says. Some had special markings suggesting they included information from highly sensitive human sources or the collection of electronic "signals" authorized by a special intelligence court.

And some of those classified records were mixed with other documents, including newspapers, magazines and miscellaneous print-outs, the affidavit says, citing a letter from the Archives.

Douglas London, a former senior CIA officer and author of "The Recruiter," said this showed Trump's lack of respect for controls. "One of the rules of classified is you don't mix classified and unclassified so there's no mistakes or accidents," he said.

The affidavit shows how agents were authorized to search a large swath of Mar-a-Lago, including Trump's official post-presidential "45 Office," storage rooms and all other areas in which boxes or documents could be stored. They did not propose searching areas of the property used or rented by Mar-a-Lago members, such as private guest suites.

The FBI submitted the affidavit, or sworn statement, to a judge so it could obtain the warrant to search Trump's property. Affidavits typically contain vital information about an investigation, with agents spelling out the justification for why they want to search a particular location and why they believe they're likely to find evidence of a potential crime there.

The documents routinely remain sealed during pending investigations. But in an acknowledgment of the extraordinary public interest in the investigation, U.S. Magistrate Judge Bruce Reinhart on Thursday ordered the department by Friday to make public a redacted version of the affidavit.

In a separate document unsealed Friday, Justice Department officials said it was necessary to redact some information to "protect the safety and privacy of a significant number of civilian witnesses, in addition to law enforcement personnel, as well as to protect the integrity of the ongoing investigation."

The second half of the affidavit is almost entirely redacted, making it impossible to discern the scope of the investigation or where it might be headed. It does not reveal which individuals might be under investigation and it does not resolve core questions, such as why top secret documents were taken to Mar-a-Lago after the president's term ended even though classified information requires special storage.

Trump's Republican allies in Congress were largely silent Friday as the affidavit emerged, another sign of the GOP's reluctance to publicly part ways with the former president, whose grip on the party remains strong during the midterm election season. Both parties have demanded more information about the search, with lawmakers seeking briefings from the Justice Department and FBI once Congress returns from summer recess.

Though Trump's spokesman derided the investigation as "all politics," the affidavit makes clear the FBI search was hardly the first time federal law enforcement had expressed concerns about the records. The Justice Department's top counterintelligence official, for instance, visited Mar-a-Lago last spring to assess how the documents were being stored.

The affidavit includes excerpts from a June 8 letter in which a Justice Department official reminded a Trump lawyer that Mar-a-Lago did not include a secure location authorized to hold classified records. The official requested that the room at the estate where the documents had been stored be secured, and that the boxes that were moved from the White House to Mar-a-Lago "be preserved in that room in their current condition until further notice."

The back-and-forth culminated in the Aug. 8 search in which agents retrieved 11 sets of classified records.

The document unsealed Friday also offer insight into arguments the Trump legal team is expected to make. It includes a letter from Trump lawyer M. Evan Corcoran in which he asserts that a president has "absolute authority" to declassify documents and that "presidential actions involving classified documents are not subject to criminal sanction."

Mark Zaid, a longtime national security lawyer who has criticized Trump for his handling of classified information, said the letter was "blatantly wrong" to assert Trump could declassify "anything and everything."

"There are some legal, technical defenses as to certain provisions of the espionage act whether it would

apply to the president," Zaid said. "But some of those provisions make no distinction that would raise a defense."

In addition, the affidavit includes a footnote from the FBI agent who wrote it observing that one of the laws that may have been violated doesn't even use the term "classified information" but instead criminalizes the unlawful retention of national defense information.

## Russia blocks final document at nuclear treaty conference

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Russia late Friday blocked agreement on the final document of a four-week review of the U.N. treaty considered the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament which criticized its military takeover of Europe's largest nuclear plant soon after Russian troops invaded Ukraine, an act that has raised fears of a nuclear disaster.

Igor Vishnevetsky, deputy director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Non-Proliferation and Arms Control Department, told the delayed final meeting of the conference reviewing the 50-year-old Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty that "unfortunately there is no consensus on this document." He insisted that many countries — not just Russia — didn't agree with "a whole host of issues" in the 36-page last draft.

The final document needed approval of all countries at the conference that are parties to the treaty aimed at curbing the spread of nuclear weapons and ultimately achieving a world without them.

Argentine Ambassador Gustavo Zlauvinen, president of the conference, said the final draft represented his best efforts to address divergent views and the expectations of the parties "for a progressive outcome" at a moment in history when "our world is increasingly wracked by conflicts, and, most alarmingly, the ever growing prospect of the unthinkable nuclear war."

But after Vishnevetsky spoke, Zlauvinen told delegates, "I see that at this point, the conference is not in a position to achieve agreement on its substantive work."

The NPT review conference is supposed to be held every five years but was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This marked the second failure of its 191 state parties to produce an outcome document. The last review conference in 2015 ended without an agreement because of serious differences over establishing a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

Those differences haven't gone away but are being discussed, and the draft outcome documents obtained by The Associated Press would have reaffirmed the importance of establishing a nuclear-free Mideast zone. So, this was not viewed as a major stumbling block this year.

The issue that changed the dynamics of the conference was Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, which brought Russian President Vladimir Putin's warning that Russia is a "potent" nuclear power and that any attempt to interfere would lead to "consequences you have never seen." He also put Russia's nuclear forces on high alert.

Putin has since rolled back, saying that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought," a message reiterated by a senior Russian official on the opening day of the NPT conference on Aug. 2.

But the Russian leader's initial threat and the occupation of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in southeastern Ukraine as well as the takeover of the Chernobyl nuclear plant, scene of the world's worst nuclear disaster in 1986, renewed global fears of another nuclear emergency.

The four references in the draft final document to the Zaporizhzhia plant, where Russia and Ukraine accuse each other of shelling, would have had the parties to the NPT express "grave concern for the military activities" at or near the facility and other nuclear plants.

It also would have recognized Ukraine's loss of control and the International Atomic Energy Agency's inability to ensure the plant's nuclear material is safeguarded. It supported IAEA efforts to visit Zaporizhzhia to ensure there is no diversion of its nuclear materials, a trip the agency's director is hoping to organize in the coming days.

The draft also expressed "grave concern" at the safety of Ukraine's nuclear facilities, in particular Zaporizhzhia, and stressed "the paramount importance of ensuring control by Ukraine's competent authorities."

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 50 of 79

After the conference's failure to adopt the document, dozens of countries took the floor to express their views.

Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the Nonaligned Movement comprising 120 developing countries, expressed disappointment at the failure, calling the final document "of utmost importance."

Yann Hwang, France's ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, read a statement on behalf of 56 countries and the European Union reaffirming unwavering support to Ukraine and deploring Russia's "dangerous nuclear rhetoric, actions and provocative statements about raising its nuclear alert level."

The countries expressed deep concern that Russia is undermining international peace and the objectives of the NPT "by waging its illegal war of aggression against Ukraine."

Russia's deputy delegation head, Andrei Belousov, said the conference had become "a political hostage" to countries that were "poisoning discussions" with political language on Ukraine and were determined "to settle scores with Russia by raising issues that are not directly related to the treaty."

"These states, namely Ukraine and the backers of the Kyiv regime, bear full responsibility for the absence of a final positive result," he said.

Adam Scheinman, the U.S. special representative for nuclear nonproliferation, noted the final draft never named Russia, and he said it understated the situation at the Zaporizhzhia plant "and failed to acknowledge what we all know to be true — that the risk of radiological disaster only exists because of Russia's war of choice."

"Russia is the reason we do not have consensus today," he said. "The last-minute changes that Russia sought were not of a minor character. They were intended to shield Russia's obvious intent to wipe Ukraine off the map."

Under the NPT's provisions, the five original nuclear powers — the United States, China, Russia (then the Soviet Union), Britain and France — agreed to negotiate toward eliminating their arsenals someday and nations without nuclear weapons promised not to acquire them in exchange for a guarantee to be able to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The draft final document would have expressed deep concern "that the threat of nuclear weapons use today is higher than at any time since the heights of the Cold War and at the deteriorated international security environment." It would also have committed parties to the treaty "to making every effort to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again."

Rebecca Johnson, a British nuclear analyst and co-founder of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize, said that "after weeks of negotiations at a time of war, unprecedented global risks and heightened nuclear threats, it is clearer than ever now that nuclear abolition is urgent and necessary."

Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Washington-based Arms Control Association, said: "This NPT conference represents a missed opportunity to strengthen the treaty and global security by agreeing to a specific action plan with benchmarks and timeframes that is essential to effectively address the growing dangers of nuclear arms racing and nuclear weapons use."

## Takeaways from the unsealed Mar-a-Lago search affidavit

By JILL COLVIN and NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department on Friday unsealed the FBI affidavit justifying the unprecedented search of Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate. While the document released is highly redacted, with many of its pages crossed out by black blocks, it includes new details about the sheer volume of sensitive and highly classified information that was stored at the former president's Florida beachfront home, underscoring the government's concerns about its safety.

Here are top takeaways of what the document revealed:

TRUMP HAD 'A LOT' OF CLASSIFIED MATERIAL STORED AT HIS CLUB

While the affidavit doesn't provide new details about the 11 sets of classified records that were re-

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 51 of 79

covered during the FBI's Aug. 8 search of Trump's winter home, it does help to explain why the Justice Department believed that retrieving the outstanding documents was necessary.

Federal investigators knew months before the search that Trump had been storing top secret government records at Mar-a-Lago, a private club accessible not only to Trump, his staff and his family, but paying members and their guests, along with a revolving door of attendees at various functions, including weddings, political fundraisers and charity galas.

The affidavit notes that Mar-a-Lago storage areas, Trump's office, his residential suite and other areas at the club where documents were suspected to still be kept were not authorized locations for the storage of classified information. Indeed, it notes that no space at Mar-a-Lago had been authorized for the storage of classified information at least since the end of Trump's term in office.

Yet the affidavit reveals that, of the batch of 15 boxes that the National Archives and Records Administration retrieved from Trump's home in January, 14 contained documents with classification markings. Inside, they found 184 documents bearing classification markings, including 67 marked confidential, 92 secret and 25 top secret.

The Archives referred the matter to the Justice Department on Feb. 9 after a preliminary review of the boxes found what they described as "a lot of classified records."

## THE RECORDS INCLUDED TOP INTELLIGENCE SECRETS

Agents who inspected the boxes found special markings suggesting they included information from highly sensitive human sources or the collection of electronic "signals" authorized by a court under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

The affidavit lists several markings, including ORCON, or "Originator Controlled." That means officials at the intelligence agency responsible for the report did not want it distributed to other agencies without their permission.

There may also be other types of records with classified names or codewords still redacted.

"When things are at that level of classification, it's because there's a real danger to the people who are collecting the information or the capability," said Douglas London, a former senior CIA officer who wrote a book about the agency, "The Recruiter."

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence has not responded to calls from Congress for a damage assessment. Sen. Mark Warner, the Virginia Democrat who chairs the Senate Intelligence Committee, issued a statement in which he once again called for a briefing.

"It appears, based on the affidavit unsealed this morning, that among the improperly handled documents at Mar-a-Lago were some of our most sensitive intelligence," Warner said.

## CLASSIFIED RECORDS WERE MIXED WITH OTHER PAPERS

Some of those classified records were mixed with other documents, the affidavit says, citing a letter from the Archives.

According to Archives' White House liaison division director, the boxes contained "newspapers, magazines, printed news articles, photos, miscellaneous print-outs, notes, presidential correspondence, personal and post-presidential records, and 'a lot of classified records.'" Several contained what appeared to be Trump's handwritten notes.

Of most significant concern: "highly classified records were unfolded, intermixed with other records, and otherwise improperly (sic) identified."

A president might be given raw intelligence reporting to supplement his briefings or to cover a breaking or critically important matter, said David Priess, a former CIA officer and White House briefer who wrote "The President's Book of Secrets," a history of the President's Daily Brief.

But it would be "unusual, if not unprecedented, for a president to keep it and to intermingle it with other papers," he said.

"Even though I was prepared for this because I knew the judge would not approve a search based on something minor, the breadth and depth of the careless handling of classified information is truly shocking," Priess said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 52 of 79

## TRUMP HAD REPEATED OPPORTUNITIES TO RETURN THE DOCUMENTS

The affidavit makes clear yet again that Trump had numerous opportunities to return the documents to the government, but simply chose not to.

A lengthy process to retrieve the documents had been underway essentially since Trump left the White House. The document states that on or about May 6, 2021, the Archives made a request for the missing records "and continued to make requests until approximately late December 2021," when it was informed 12 boxes were found and ready for retrieval from the club.

The affidavit makes clear that the Department of Justice's criminal investigation concerns not just the improper removal and storage of classified information in unauthorized spaces and the potentially unlawful concealment or removal of government records, but says investigators had "probable cause to believe that evidence of obstruction" would be found in their search.

Trump's lawyer, in a letter that was included in the release, had argued to DOJ that presidents have "absolute" authority to declassify documents, claiming that his "constitutionally-based authority regarding the classification and declassification of documents is unfettered." Trump has not provided evidence the documents at Mar-a-Lago were declassified before he left Washington.

## TRUMP SAYS HE DID 'NOTHING WRONG'

Trump has long insisted, despite clear evidence to the contrary, that he fully cooperated with government officials and had every right to have the documents on site. On his social media site, he responded to the unsealing by continuing to vilify law enforcement.

He called it a "total public relations subterfuge by the FBI & DOJ" and said "WE GAVE THEM MUCH." In another post, he offered just two words: "WITCH HUNT!!!"

In an interview on Lou Dobbs' "The Great America Show" on Thursday, he said he'd done nothing wrong. "This is a political attack on our country and it's a disgrace," he added. "It's a disgrace."

## Official: 6 of 43 missing Mexican students given to army

By FABIOLA SÁNCHEZ and CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Six of the 43 college students "disappeared" in 2014 were allegedly kept alive in a warehouse for days then turned over to the local army commander who ordered them killed, the Mexican government official leading a Truth Commission said Friday.

Interior Undersecretary Alejandro Encinas made the shocking revelation directly tying the military to one of Mexico's worst human rights scandals, and it came with little fanfare as he made a lengthy defense of the commission's report released a week earlier.

Last week, despite declaring the abductions and disappearances a "state crime" and saying that the army watched it happen without intervening, Encinas made no mention of six students being turned over to Col. José Rodríguez Pérez.

On Friday, Encinas said authorities were closely monitoring the students from the radical teachers' college at Ayotzinapa from the time they left their campus through their abduction by local police in the town of Iguala that night. A soldier who had infiltrated the school was among the abducted students, and Encinas asserted the army did not follow its own protocols and try to rescue him.

"There is also information corroborated with emergency 089 telephone calls where allegedly six of the 43 disappeared students were held during several days and alive in what they call the old warehouse and from there were turned over to the colonel," Encinas said. "Allegedly the six students were alive for as many as four days after the events and were killed and disappeared on orders of the colonel, allegedly the then Col. José Rodríguez Pérez."

The defense department did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the allegations Friday.

The role of the army in the students' disappearance has long been a source of tension between the families and the government. From the beginning, there were questions about the military's knowledge of what happened and its possible involvement. The students' parents demanded for years that they be

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 53 of 79

allowed to search the army base in Iguala. It was not until 2019 that they were given access along with Encinas and the Truth Commission.

The commission report says the army registered an anonymous emergency call on Sept. 30, 2014, four days after the students' abduction. The caller reportedly said the students were being held in a large concrete warehouse in a location described as "Pueblo Viejo." The caller proceeded to describe the location.

That entry was followed by several pages of redacted material, but that section of the report concluded with the following: "As can be seen, obvious collusion existed between agents of the Mexican state with the criminal group Guerreros Unidos that tolerated, allowed and participated in events of violence and disappearance of the students, as well as the government's attempt to hide the truth about the events."

Later, in a summary of how the commission's report differed from the original investigation's conclusions, there is mention of a colonel.

"On Sept. 30 'the colonel' mentions that they will take care of cleaning everything up and that they had already taken charge of the six students who had remained alive," the report said.

In a witness statement provided to federal investigators in December 2014, Capt. José Martínez Crespo, who was stationed at the base in Iguala, said the base commander for the 27th Infantry Battalion at the time was Col. José Rodríguez Pérez.

Through a driving rain later Friday, the families of the 43 missing students marched in Mexico City with a couple hundred other people as they have on the 26th of every month for years.

Parents carried posters of their children's faces and rows of current students from the teachers' college marched, shouted calls for justice and counted off to 43. Their signs proclaimed that the fight for justice continued and asserted: "It was the State."

Clemente Rodríguez marched for his son Christian Alfonso Rodríguez Telumbre, who was a second student identified by a tiny burned bone fragment.

Rodríguez said the families had been told last week before the report was released about the coronel and the six students.

"It's not by omission anymore. It's that they participated," he said of the military. "It was the state, the three levels of government participated."

He said the families had not been told that any of the arrest orders announced last week for members of armed forces had been carried out yet.

On Sept. 26, 2014, local police took the students off buses they had commandeered in Iguala. The motive for the police action remains unclear eight years later. Their bodies have never been found, though fragments of burned bone have been matched to three of the students.

Last week, federal agents arrested former Attorney General Jesus Murillo Karam, who oversaw the original investigation. On Wednesday, a judge ordered that he stand trial for forced disappearance, not reporting torture and official misconduct. Prosecutors allege Murillo Karam created a false narrative about what happened to the students to quickly appear to resolve the case.

Authorities also said last week that arrest warrants were issued for 20 soldiers and officers, five local officials, 33 local police officers and 11 state police officers as well as 14 gang members. Neither the army nor prosecutors have said how many of those suspects are in custody.

It was also not immediately clear if Rodríguez Pérez was among those sought.

Rodríguez, the student's father, said Murillo Karam's arrest was a positive step.

Murillo Karam "was the one who told us the soldiers couldn't be touched," Rodríguez said. "And now it's being discovered that it was the state that participated."

In a joint statement, the families said the Truth Commission's confirmation that it was a "state crime" was significant after elements suggesting that over the years.

However, they said the report still did not satisfactorily answer their most important question.

"Mothers and fathers need indubitable scientific evidence as to the fate of our children," the statement said. "We can't go home with preliminary signs that don't fully clear up where they are and what happened to them."

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has given Mexico's military enormous responsibility. The armed forces are not only at the center of his security strategy, but they have taken over administration of the

seaports and been given responsibility for building a new airport for the capital and a tourist train on the Yucatan Peninsula.

The president has said often that the army and navy are the least corrupt institutions and have his confidence.

## Missouri school district reinstates spanking if parents OK

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH and MARGARET STAFFORD Associated Press

A school district in southwestern Missouri decided to bring back spanking as a form of discipline for students — if their parents agree — despite warnings from many public health experts that the practice is detrimental to students.

Classes resumed Tuesday in the Cassville School District district for the first time since the school board in June approved bringing corporal punishment back to the 1,900-student district about 60 miles (100 kilometers) southwest of Springfield. The district had dropped the practice in 2001.

The policy states that corporal punishment will be used only when other forms of discipline, such as suspensions, have failed and then only with the superintendent's permission.

Superintendent Merlyn Johnson told The Springfield News-Leader the decision came after an anonymous survey found that parents, students and school employees were concerned about student behavior and discipline.

"We've had people actually thank us for it," he said. "Surprisingly, those on social media would probably be appalled to hear us say these things, but the majority of people that I've run into have been supportive."

Parent Khristina Harkey told The Associated Press on Friday that she is on the fence about Cassville's policy. She and her husband did not opt-in because her 6-year-old son, Anakin Modine, is autistic and would hit back if he were spanked. But she said corporal punishment worked for her when she was a "troublemaker" during her school years in California.

"There are all different types of kids," Harkey said. "Some people need a good butt-whipping. I was one of them."

Morgan Craven, national director of policy, advocacy and community engagement with the Intercultural Development Research Association, a national educational equity nonprofit, called corporal punishment a "wildly inappropriate, ineffective practice."

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1977 that corporal punishment is constitutional and left it up to states to set their own policies. Craven said 19 states, many in the South, have laws allowing it in schools. The most current data from 2017-18 shows about 70,000 children in the U.S. were hit at least once in their schools.

Students who are hit at school do not fare as well academically as their peers and suffer physical and psychological trauma, Craven said. In some cases, children are hurt so badly that they need medical attention.

"If you have a situation where a kid goes to school and they could be slapped for, you know, some minor offense, it certainly creates a really hostile, unpredictable and violent environment," Craven said. "And that's not what we want for kids in schools."

But Tess Walters, 54, the guardian of her 8-year-old granddaughter, had no qualms about signing the corporal punishment opt-in papers. She said the possibility of being spanked is a deterrent for her granddaughter, who has attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

"I've read some some people's responses on Facebook recently, and they're just going over the top like, 'Oh, this is abuse, and, oh, you're just going to threaten them with, you know, violence.' And I'm like, 'What? The child is getting spanked once; it's not beatings.' People are just going crazy. They're just being ridiculous," Walters said.

Mitch Prinstein, chief science officer with American Psychological Association, said decades of research shows corporal punishment will not reduce inappropriate behavior and is likely to increase aggression, rage, hostility and could lead to depression and self-esteem problems.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 55 of 79

Prinstein said better methods for eliminating undesirable conduct including problem-solving training; rewarding positive behavior, such as with extra recess; and providing extra attention in the classroom.

"Parents are experts on what works for their own children," Prinstein said. "But it's important for parents to be educated on very substantial science literature demonstrating again that corporal punishment is not a consistently effective way of changing undesirable behavior."

Sarah Font, an associate professor of sociology and public policy at Pennsylvania State University, co-authored a 2016 study on the subject. Her research found that districts using corporal punishment are generally in poor, Republican-leaning rural areas in Southern states. Font said Black children are disproportionately subjected to it.

The disparity frustrates Ellen Reddy, of the Nollie Jenkins Family Center, which advocates on issues such as corporal punishment and special education.

"Look at the history of violence against Black and brown bodies," said Reddy, who described herself as a Black mother of sons and a grandson. "Since we've been in this country, there's been violence perpetrated against our children, our families, our foreparents. So when do we stop that kind of violence?"

Disabled students also are more likely to be subjected to corporal punishment, said Elizabeth Gershoff, a professor of human development and family sciences at the University of Texas at Austin. She said that led four states — Tennessee, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Louisiana — to ban using it for those students.

She noted that overall, corporal punishment is on the decline, with the numbers dropping steadily since the federal government started tracking it in the late 1970s.

"Most schools are realizing, 'You know what, we can discipline children, we can guide their behavior without hitting them,'" said Gershoff, who authored the 2016 study with Font.

Cassville School District spokeswoman Mindi Artherton was out of the office Friday and a woman who answered the phone in her office suggested reading the policy. She said staff had already done interviews. "At this time, we will focus on educating our students," she added, before hanging up.

The policy says a witness from the district, which is in a county that is around 93% white, must be present and that the discipline will not be used in front of other students.

"When it becomes necessary to use corporal punishment, it shall be administered so that there can be no chance of bodily injury or harm," the policy says. "Striking a student on the head or face is not permitted."

In Missouri, periodic efforts to ban corporal punishment in schools have failed to gain traction in the Legislature. The state does not track which districts allow spanking because those decisions are made at the local level, a spokeswoman for Missouri's K-12 education department said.

U.S. Sen. Christopher Murphy, a Connecticut Democrat, is pushing for a ban on the use of corporal punishment in schools that receive federal funding. He has called it a "barbaric practice" that allows teachers and administrators to physically abuse students.

## Trump election probe in Georgia cites voting system breach

By KATE BRUMBACK and CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The prosecutor investigating whether former President Donald Trump and others illegally tried to interfere in the 2020 election in Georgia is seeking information about the alleged involvement of a Trump ally in the breach of voting equipment at a county roughly 200 miles south of her Atlanta office.

The widening of the probe highlights the latest instance in which unauthorized people appear to have gained access to voting equipment since the 2020 election, primarily in battleground states lost by Trump. Election experts have raised concerns that sensitive information shared online about the equipment may have exposed vulnerabilities that could be exploited by people intent on disrupting future elections.

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis is seeking to have attorney Sidney Powell, who tried persistently to overturn Trump's loss, testify before a special grand jury seated for the investigation into possible illegal election interference. In her court petition filed Thursday, Willis said Powell is "known to be affiliated" with Trump and the Trump campaign and has unique knowledge about her communications with them and others "involved in the multi-state, coordinated efforts to influence the results of the November 2020

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 56 of 79

elections in Georgia and elsewhere.”

The scope of Willis’ criminal investigation has expanded considerably since it began, prompted by a Jan. 2, 2021, phone call in which Trump suggested Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger could “find” the votes needed to overturn Trump’s narrow election loss in the state. Among other things, Willis wrote that she wants to ask Powell about rural Coffee County, where Trump beat President Joe Biden by nearly 40 percentage points.

Emails and other records first reported this month by The Washington Post and also obtained by The Associated Press show that Powell was involved in arranging for a team from data solutions company SullivanStrickler to travel to the county’s elections office.

The records were produced in response to subpoenas issued by plaintiffs in a long-running lawsuit that alleges Georgia’s voting machines, which are manufactured by Dominion Voting Systems, are vulnerable to attack. The plaintiffs want the machines replaced by a system that uses hand-marked paper ballots.

The lawsuit filed by the Coalition for Good Governance and individual voters long predates and is unrelated to false allegations of widespread election fraud pushed by Trump and his allies.

Dominion has filed defamation lawsuits against high-profile Trump supporters, including Powell, who made false claims about Dominion voting machines being used to steal the 2020 election.

In an email sent to Powell on Jan. 7, 2021, SullivanStrickler COO Paul Maggio said he and his team were “on our way to Coffee County Georgia to collect what we can from the Election/Voting machines and systems.” He included an invoice for an “initial retainer” of \$26,000 to pay for a team of four people for one day. The subject of the invoice is “Voting Machines Analysis.”

“Everything went smoothly yesterday with the Coffee County collection. Everyone involved was extremely helpful,” Maggio wrote in an email the next day. “We are consolidating all of the data collected and will be uploading it to our secure site for access by your team.”

A document listing the contents of Maggio’s hard drive shows that it includes forensic images of an election management system server, a precinct tabulator, compact flash cards and thumb drives used to program tabulators and touchscreen voting machines, a computer used to check in voters and a laptop computer supplied by Dominion. It also includes scanned images of paper ballots from the January 2021 U.S. Senate runoff election.

The company defended its actions in a statement sent by its attorney, Amanda Clark Palmer.

“SullivanStrickler was retained by and took direction from licensed, practicing attorneys to preserve and forensically copy the Dominion Voting Machines used in the 2020 election,” the statement said. “The firm had no reason to believe that, as officers of the court, these attorneys would ask or direct SullivanStrickler to do anything either improper or illegal.”

The attorneys told the firm to contact county election officials to access certain data and then to distribute it to certain other people, the statement said. The company maintains that “at the time they engaged in that work, they were operating under the good faith belief that their client was authorized to access the voting machines and servers.”

“With the benefit of hindsight, and knowing everything they know now, they would not take on any further work of this kind,” the statement said, adding that the company intends to fully cooperate with any investigation.

Willis noted that there also is “evidence in the public record” that Powell was involved in similar efforts in Michigan and Nevada around the same time. A lawyer representing Powell didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment Friday.

Ryan Germany, general counsel for the Georgia secretary of state’s office, said in a declaration filed in court on Aug. 2 that the office opened an investigation in mid-March and brought in an expert to perform a forensic inspection of the Coffee County election server. The next steps, he said, are to complete the forensic investigation and interview witnesses.

The secretary of state’s office requested help earlier this month from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, which on Aug. 15 opened “a computer trespass investigation of a Coffee County elections server,” spokesperson Nelly Miles said in an email.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 57 of 79

The Coffee County case appears similar to breaches of voting equipment elsewhere. In addition to Georgia, these include local election offices in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Colorado.

During an event last summer held by Trump ally Mike Lindell, the MyPillow CEO who has sought to prove voting machines are being manipulated, copies of voting systems from Mesa County, Colorado, and Antrim County, Michigan, were distributed and made available online.

A month earlier, Pennsylvania election officials decertified voting equipment used in one county — also named Fulton — after officials there allowed an outside firm access to “certain key components of its certified system, including the county’s election database, results files, and Windows systems logs.” The firm also was allowed to make copies of voting system hard drives.

In Mesa County, Colorado, Clerk Tina Peters and her deputy were indicted in connection with a May 2021 security breach at the election office. Prosecutors allege the pair were part of a “deceptive scheme” to provide access to their voting system technology to unauthorized individuals.

This week, the deputy clerk, Belinda Knisley, pleaded guilty and agreed to testify against Peters, who has denied wrongdoing and claimed she had an obligation to investigate.

Also in Colorado, state election officials have been investigating a potential breach in Elbert County, where they say the clerk made two copies of the county’s voting system and provided them to two attorneys not authorized to have them.

In Antrim County, Michigan, a judge had allowed a forensic exam of voting equipment after a brief mix-up of 2020 election results led to a lawsuit alleging fraud. The lawsuit was dismissed, but somehow a copy of the voting system ended up being distributed publicly at the Lindell event, according to attendees.

Michigan authorities also are investigating security breaches at four local election offices that are alleged to have occurred between March and late June 2021.

## **Grown kids recall Vegas dad whose bones ID’d from Lake Mead**

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The identification of bones found in May on the receding shoreline of Lake Mead has resurfaced family memories of a 42-year-old Las Vegas father believed to have drowned 20 years ago.

Thomas Erndt’s son, also named Tom Erndt, told KSNV-TV in Las Vegas that his father began to struggle after jumping into the water during a nighttime family boat outing late Aug. 2, 2002. The younger Tom Erndt said he was 10 at the time.

“It is going to take a lot of time for me to move forward and remember this,” he told KVVU-TV, recalling that he spent a lot of time with his father, an aircraft mechanic, at his job.

Family members did not immediately respond Friday to email messages from The Associated Press.

The Clark County coroner’s office said Wednesday that Thomas Erndt’s bones were the ones found May 7 near a former marina at the shrinking Colorado River reservoir behind Hoover Dam.

A statement from Coroner Melanie Rouse said investigators used DNA and reports of Erndt’s disappearance for the identification. An official cause and manner of death were not determined.

Coroner’s investigators still are working to identify a man who was killed by a gunshot after his body was found May 1 in a rusted barrel. His clothing suggested his death dated from the 1970s or 1980s, and authorities said it was being investigated as a homicide.

That discovery prompted speculation about watery graves and renewed interest in the lore of organized crime in early years of casino development on the Las Vegas Strip — about a 30-minute drive from the lake.

Several more sets of partial human skeletal remains have been found since then — including on July 25, Aug. 6 and Aug. 16 — generally near a swimming area at the lake. They were not in barrels.

The water level at Lake Mead has dropped more than 170 feet (52 meters) since it was full in 1983, putting the reservoir today at less than 30% of capacity.

Tom Erndt, of South San Francisco, California, told KSNV-TV he wants his father to be remembered as a person, not bones found at the lake.

His aunt, Julie Erndt, now living in Kentucky, told the Las Vegas Review-Journal she was thankful that her brother’s remains were finally identified.

## **GOP, Dems seek political boost from student loan debt plan**

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — To Democrats championing the White House's student loan forgiveness plan, it was the long-awaited delivery of one of President Joe Biden's campaign promises.

To Republicans — and even some in the president's own party — it was an ill-advised move that was unfair to those who had diligently paid back their loans or decided not to go to college.

In the student debt relief plan, both parties see an opportunity to boost their own political message ahead of the critical November midterm elections. While Democrats contended that the loan forgiveness would provide a lifeline for struggling working-class families, Republicans charged that it's a giveaway to the "elites."

For the midterms, the elitist rhetoric tactic "plays right in line with the GOP's current brand of grievance and victimization politics," conservative strategist Chip Felkel said, "giving them another rallying point to fire up their base and maybe attract some like-minded independents who see this action as 'unfair.'"

Both the White House and some of Biden's top allies argued that it was instead Republicans who were focused on the elite and that the potential beneficiaries of the student loan debt relief include more than just the wealthy.

"Who paid the piper?" asked U.S. House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn, one of Biden's top congressional allies, pointing to Republican-passed tax cuts for the wealthy and big corporations in 2017 under the Trump administration as the real iniquity. "I think a lot of low-income people that we are trying to help today, those families paid for that tax cut while rich people and big corporations got off tax-free. ... This is an attempt on the part of this administration to once again help working families."

Biden's plan will erase \$10,000 in federal student loan debt for those with incomes below \$125,000 a year, or households that earn less than \$250,000. It will also cancel an additional \$10,000 for those who received federal Pell Grants to attend college, and it will pause federal student loan repayments.

The rhetoric from both parties over the student debt loan relief also likely reflects the education levels of their core constituencies, though plenty of people who attended college classes and took out student loans did not end up graduating from college.

Forty-four percent of Biden voters in the 2020 presidential election had college degrees, compared with 34% of Trump voters, according to AP VoteCast, an extensive survey of the electorate. Fifty-six percent of Biden voters did not have a college degree, compared with 66% of Trump voters.

Initially hesitant to endorse broad cancellation of student loan debt, Biden gradually embraced deeper tactics to alleviate the burden during the 2020 campaign, even expressing support for some proposals from Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, who made broad-based student loan debt cancellation a hallmark of her own bid.

This week, Warren applauded Biden's plan, saying she would "keep pushing for more because I think it's the right thing to do" but noting the significance of "what it means for the president of the United States to touch so many hard-working middle-class families so directly." Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who also campaigned in 2020 to "cancel all student debt," called the plan "an important step forward" but said "we've got to do more."

Speaking at a White House briefing Friday, deputy director of the National Economic Council Bharat Ramamurti said student loan forgiveness would help "teachers, nurses, firefighters, police, members of the military and more."

But not all Democrats were enthusiastic about the student debt loan relief, particularly those candidates facing tough races in November.

Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan, facing off in a U.S. Senate battle in Ohio against Republican JD Vance, criticized Biden's order as unnecessary for some people and unfair to others. Saying he's paying off his family's own loans, Ryan said that "waiving debt for those already on a trajectory to financial security sends the wrong message to the millions of Ohioans without a degree working just as hard to make ends meet."

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 59 of 79

Colorado Sen. Michael Bennet, in a tough reelection of his own, said the administration should have “proposed a way to pay for this plan,” adding that “one-time debt cancellation does not solve the underlying problem.”

Republicans, meanwhile, focused on the higher-end income bracket on Biden’s student loan plan, excoriating it as a boon for the wealthy.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., called the plan “student loan socialism” that is “astoundingly unfair.” He said inflation is “crushing working families” and decried Biden’s proposed fix “to give away even more government money to elites with higher salaries.”

Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., who is seeking reelection, said it was “grossly unfair to families who didn’t send their kids to college or managed to pay off their student debt.”

Mike Berg, spokesperson for the National Republican Congressional Committee, said, “Democrats know robbing middle-class taxpayers to give a bailout to Harvard Law graduates is an indefensible policy.”

In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis — campaigning for his reelection this year, in addition to laying the groundwork for a possible 2024 presidential challenge to Biden — posted on his social media accounts that “It’s unfair to force a truck driver to pay a loan for someone that got a PhD in gender studies.”

The contention that recipients of the relief plan were gender studies majors was a popular refrain among Republicans, though only a small number of students nationwide study in that field.

Largely driven by comments from conservative pundits and politicians including DeSantis and Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves, Facebook and Instagram posts mentioning the term “gender studies” received more than half a million mentions, comments and likes in the 48 hours after Biden’s announcement, according to data from social media insights tool CrowdTangle.

The posts highlight how conservatives plan to campaign off potential frustration from millions of blue-collar workers who skipped college and might not see a benefit from Biden’s student loan debt relief order. Some of the critical Republicans, including DeSantis, hold multiple Ivy League degrees.

Aneesa McMillan, deputy executive director of Priorities USA, a Democratic super PAC, said student loan forgiveness would help drive support for Democrats in the midterms.

“This is one of the reasons we saw historic turnout for Joe Biden,” McMillan said. “And he has consistently delivered on those promises that he made to voters.”

Felkel, though, doubted the order’s ultimate weight for Biden’s party, given Democrats’ challenges to satisfy internal factions.

“While progressives on the left have been pushing this for a while, I don’t think this will give them a boost in the November elections like they might hope,” he said. “Those pushing were voting for Democrats already. Attempts to satisfy the progressives will hurt some Democrats in tough races.”

## Mississippi residents prepare for possible river flooding

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The rental home that Suzannah Thames owns in Mississippi’s capital city was filled with dirty, snake-infested flood water when the Pearl River overflowed its banks in 2020.

On Friday, Thames pointed to a column on the front porch to show how deep the water was then — about up to her waist. She’s now getting ready for another inundation, days after storms dumped torrential rainfall in Mississippi and other parts of the Deep South.

Hydrologists predict the Pearl River near Jackson will crest by Tuesday somewhat short of the levels it reached two years ago. Emergency officials are telling people in low-lying areas to prepare for flooding of homes and businesses.

Thames hired a crew to move furniture, appliances and other belongings out of the three-bedroom home that she now rents to a newly married couple — a medical student and engineer who will temporarily stay in a short-term vacation rental.

“We’re fortunate that we have two trailers,” Thames said as she oversaw the move. “There’s people who don’t have anything. There’s people who are going to lose everything.”

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 60 of 79

Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba has urged residents in flood zones to pack enough belongings to get them through several days of evacuation. He said law enforcement officers will increase patrols to protect property.

"Don't allow that to be an impediment for you saving your life and saving the lives of those other individuals in your home," Lumumba said during a news conference Friday.

Second-year medical student Emily Davis and her husband, engineer Andrew Bain, rent the white-brick home from Thames in northeast Jackson. Davis said they knew they were moving into a flood zone, but this is the first time she's ever had to prepare for high water.

"I've felt really stressed because there's so much to do — so much more than I realized to do," Davis said as workers hoisted items into moving vans.

Thames said the rental home is covered by flood insurance, and she lives in an elevated house nearby. She said her house is built 4 feet (1.2 meters) above the line of a massive 1979 flood.

Thames said she wants officials to move forward with a long-discussed plan to build another lake near Jackson to control flooding in the metro area. The project has stalled amid funding problems and opposition from people downstream along the Pearl River.

Thames describes her neighborhood as "paradise" because she can watch deer, alligators and other wildlife less than a mile from the Pearl River, even inside the city limits.

"I've lived in the flood zone for 30 years," Thames said. "I'm not crying, 'Oh, poor me, I've been flooded,' because I knew of the potentiality of it and I prepared for it."

## Louisiana woman denied abortion wants 'vague' ban clarified

By SARA CLINE Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — A pregnant Louisiana woman who was denied an abortion — even though her fetus has a rare and fatal condition — demanded on Friday that Gov. John Bel Edwards and the legislature call a special session to clarify the state's restrictions on the procedure.

Nancy Davis, who is 15 weeks pregnant, said she will travel out of state next week for a "medically necessary" abortion. A state law currently in effect bans all abortions except if there is substantial risk of death or impairment to the woman if she continues her pregnancy and in the case of "medically futile" pregnancies. Davis, 36, and abortion-rights advocates for months have criticized the legislation as vague and confusing.

Their concerns are being echoed in numerous other states that, like Louisiana, passed so-called trigger laws when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark 1973 decision guaranteeing a constitutional right to abortion. Roughly a dozen states currently ban abortions at all stages of pregnancy, with some allowing for narrow exceptions such as in cases of rape, incest or when the pregnant woman's life is in danger.

"Ms. Davis was among the first women to be caught in the crosshairs of confusion due to Louisiana's rush to restrict abortion, but she will hardly be the last," Ben Crump, an attorney for Davis, said during a news conference held on the state's Capitol steps Friday.

Ten weeks into Davis' pregnancy, doctors at Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge diagnosed the fetus she is carrying with acrania, a rare and fatal condition in which the baby's skull fails to form in the womb. Davis was told that if she brought the pregnancy to full term and gave birth, the baby would likely survive for a very short amount of time — anywhere from several minutes to a week. The physicians advised Davis to get an abortion, but said they could not perform the procedure.

"Basically, they said I had to carry my baby to bury my baby," Davis said. "They seemed confused about the law and afraid of what would happen to them."

If a doctor performs an illegal abortion in Louisiana, they could face up to 15 years in prison.

In a statement last week to news outlets, spokesperson Caroline Isemann said Woman's Hospital was not able to comment on a specific patient, but reiterated that it is the hospital's mission to provide the "best possible care for women" while complying with state laws and policies.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 61 of 79

Since then, the law's author, Sen. Katrina Jackson, and other legislators have said that Davis qualifies for an abortion and that the hospital "grossly misinterpreted" the statute. Yet in a written statement Tuesday signed by Jackson and 35 others, including nine other women, they indicated that many of them share a religious faith that would "compel us to carry this child to term."

Davis and her attorneys said they don't blame the doctors, but the vagueness of the law.

"The law is clear as mud," Crump said. "Every women's situation is different and subject to interpretation, so of course medical professionals don't want to risk prison or to have to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars of fines for making the wrong call. Who would just take somebody's word for it when their liberty is in jeopardy?"

A lawsuit filed by an abortion clinic in Shreveport and others has been in process since the new law took effect. The legislation has by turns been blocked and then enforced as the suit makes its way through the courts. The most recent ruling allowed enforcement of the law. Plaintiffs challenging the ban don't deny the state can now prohibit abortions; they argue that the law's provisions are contradictory and unconstitutionally vague.

While Davis has not filed a complaint or lawsuit, she wants Louisiana legislators to hold a special session to clarify the law. Their next regular session is scheduled for April 2023.

"Imagine how many women may be affected before (lawmakers) come back into session," Crump said. "How many more Nancy Davises will have to endure the mental anguish and mental cruelty before the legislators clear up these vague and ambiguous laws."

## Colorado mom guilty of Qanon kidnapping conspiracy

By COLLEEN SLEVIN Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A Colorado mother accused of plotting to kidnap her son from foster care after her teen daughter said she started associating with supporters of the QAnon conspiracy theory was found guilty of conspiracy to commit second-degree kidnapping on Friday.

Cynthia Abcug, 53, denied she was involved in planning a raid on the foster home where her then 7-year-old son lived in the fall of 2019. She had lost custody of him earlier that year after being accused of medical child abuse — lying about him having seizures and other health problems in order to trick doctors into providing unnecessary care.

Jurors also found Abcug guilty of a misdemeanor count of child abuse. She is scheduled to be sentenced in October.

Her son, now 10, is still in foster care and has not had serious health problems since being removed from Abcug, according to prosecutors.

Abcug's lawyers suggested that a drug prescribed to treat the seizures was responsible for at least some of the boy's health problems. Doctors had begun weaning him from the medication before he was removed from Abcug's custody.

Abcug moved her family to Colorado in the fall of 2017 at the suggestion of a doctor in Florida in hopes that neurologists at Children's Hospital Colorado could find out what the cause of his health problems were.

Abcug testified that after her son was removed in May 2019 she was extremely anxious and reached out on social media for help getting her son back. She told jurors she ended up meeting members of a group that said it was working on reforming the family court system and offered to help her get her son back legally. She said it turned out to be a scam with members interested in stealing money raised online to help parents who had lost custody of their children.

She did not describe the group as being involved with QAnon but said she heard references to the conspiracy theory by people she met through her activism online.

Many QAnon supporters believe former President Donald Trump was fighting enemies in the so-called deep state to expose a group of satanic, cannibalistic child molesters they believe secretly runs the globe.

Around this time, Abcug posted on social media that social workers took children to sell them and sent them to other countries for adoption.

The conspiracy theory was not a main issue in the trial, which focused more on detailed testimony from

medical providers and educators about Abcug's medical history.

Abcug said she heard references to QAnon in passing in talking to people she met online. Rubber bracelets with a phrase used by QAnon supporters, Storm Is Upon Us, as well as a website known for posts about QAnon printed on them were found in Abcug's home, according to police.

Abcug's daughter, who was 16 at the time, told authorities she was concerned because her mother had been talking about a raid on the foster home for several months and that she believed people were going to be hurt because those involved believed her brother was wrongfully taken from his home, according to Abcug's arrest affidavit. Her daughter also told them her mother had allowed a military veteran she believed to be armed to sleep on their couch to provide security, it said.

Abcug said the group she was working with arranged to send the man to protect her after the lock of her back sliding door was found broken. He has been identified by police but has not been charged. In response to a question from the jury, she acknowledged she had never met him before she allowed him to stay with her.

Abcug said she bought a gun around this time because she feared for her safety but never made it to an appointment for a training class and has never fired it. Police found the appointment listed on the house's whiteboard calendar when Abcug's daughter was also removed from the home after reporting her concerns.

After her daughter was removed, Abcug said the man providing security coordinated with others to take her to a "safe house" and implied that she was held against her will. Abcug said her phone was taken from her and she was held for three months in a hotel.

Abcug was arrested in Montana on Dec. 30, 2019.

## **Powell: Fed's inflation fight could bring 'pain,' job losses**

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming (AP) — Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell delivered a stark warning Friday about the Fed's determination to fight inflation with more sharp interest rate hikes: It will likely cause pain for Americans in the form of a weaker economy and job losses.

The message landed with a thud on Wall Street, sending the Dow Jones Industrial Average down more than 1,000 points for the day.

"These are the unfortunate costs of reducing inflation," Powell said in a high-profile speech at the Fed's annual economic symposium in Jackson Hole. "But a failure to restore price stability would mean far greater pain."

Investors had been hoping for a signal from Powell that the Fed might soon moderate its rate increases later this year if inflation were to show further signs of easing. But the Fed chair indicated that that time may not be near, and stocks tumbled in response.

Runaway price increases have soured most Americans on the economy, even as the unemployment rate has fallen to a half-century low of 3.5%. It has also created political risks for President Joe Biden and congressional Democrats in this fall's elections, with Republicans denouncing Biden's \$1.9 trillion financial support package, approved last year, as having fueled inflation.

The Dow Jones average finished down 3% on Friday, its worst day in three months. The tech-heavy Nasdaq composite shed nearly 4%. Shorter-term Treasury yields climbed as traders built up bets for the Fed to stay aggressive with rates.

Some on Wall Street expect the economy to fall into recession later this year or early next year, after which they expect the Fed to reverse itself and reduce rates.

A number of Fed officials, though, have pushed back against that notion. Powell's remarks suggested that the Fed is aiming to raise its benchmark rate — to about 3.75% to 4% by next year — yet not so high as to tank the economy, in hopes of slowing growth long enough to conquer high inflation.

"The idea they are trying to hammer into the market's head is that their approach makes a rapid pivot to (rate cuts) unlikely," said Eric Winograd, an economist at asset manager AllianceBernstein. "They are

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 63 of 79

going to stay tight even when it hurts.”

After raising its key short-term rate by a steep three-quarters of a point at each of its past two meetings — part of the Fed’s fastest series of hikes since the early 1980s — Powell said the Fed might ease up on that pace “at some point,” suggesting that any such slowing isn’t near.

Powell said the size of the Fed’s rate increase at its next meeting in late September — whether one-half or three-quarters of a percentage point — will depend on inflation and jobs data. An increase of either size, though, would exceed the Fed’s traditional quarter-point hike, a reflection of how severe inflation has become.

The Fed chair said that while lower inflation readings that have been reported for July have been “welcome,” he added that, “a single month’s improvement falls far short of what (Fed policymakers) will need to see before we are confident that inflation is moving down.”

On Friday, an inflation gauge that is closely monitored by the Fed showed that prices actually declined 0.1% from June to July. Though prices did jump 6.3% in July from 12 months earlier, that was down from a 6.8% year-over-year jump in June, which had been the highest since 1982. The drop largely reflected lower gas prices.

In his speech Friday, Powell noted that the history of high inflation in the 1970s, when the central bank sought to counter high prices with only intermittent rate hikes, shows that the Fed must stay focused.

“The historical record cautions strongly against prematurely” lowering interest rates, he said. “We must keep at it until the job is done.”

What particularly worries Powell and other Fed officials is the prospect that inflation would become entrenched, leading consumers and businesses to change their behavior in ways that would perpetuate higher prices. If, for example, workers began demanding higher pay to match higher inflation, many employers would then pass on those higher labor costs to consumers in the form of higher prices.

Many analysts speculate that Fed officials want to see roughly six months or so of lower monthly inflation readings, similar to July’s, before stopping their rate hikes.

Powell’s speech was the marquee event of the the Fed’s annual economic symposium at Jackson Hole, the first time the conference of central bankers is being held in person since 2019, after it went virtual for two years during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since March, the Fed has implemented its fastest pace of rate increases in decades to try to curb inflation, which has punished households with soaring costs for food, gas, rent and other necessities. The central bank has lifted its benchmark rate by 2 full percentage points in just four meetings, to a range of 2.25% to 2.5%.

Those hikes have led to higher costs for mortgages, car loans and other consumer and business borrowing. Home sales have been plunging since the Fed first signaled it would raise borrowing costs.

In June, the Fed’s policymakers signaled that they expected their key rate to end 2022 in a range of 3.25% to 3.5% and then to rise further next year to between 3.75% and 4%. If rates reached their projected level at the end of this year, they would be at the highest point since 2008.

Powell is betting that he can engineer a high-risk outcome: Slow the economy enough to ease inflation pressures yet not so much as to trigger a recession.

His task has been complicated by the economy’s cloudy picture: On Thursday, the government said the economy shrank at a 0.6% annual rate in the April-June period, the second straight quarter of contraction. Yet employers are still hiring rapidly, and the number of people seeking unemployment aid, a measure of layoffs, remains relatively low.

At its meeting in July, Fed policymakers expressed two competing concerns that highlighted their delicate task.

According to minutes from that meeting, the officials — who aren’t identified by name — have prioritized their inflation fight. Still, some officials said there was a risk that the Fed would raise borrowing costs more than necessary, risking a recession. If inflation were to fall closer to the Fed’s 2% target and the economy weakened further, those diverging views could become hard to reconcile.

At last year’s Jackson Hole symposium, Powell listed five reasons why he thought inflation would be

"transitory." Yet instead it has persisted, and many economists have noted that those remarks haven't aged well.

Powell indirectly acknowledged that history at the outset of his remarks Friday, when he said that, "at past Jackson Hole conferences, I have discussed broad topics such as the ever-changing structure of the economy and the challenges of conducting monetary policy."

"Today," he said, "my remarks will be shorter, my focus narrower and my message more direct."

## US data reveals racial gaps in monkeypox vaccinations

By MIKE STOBBE, CARLA K. JOHNSON and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

The Biden administration said Friday there's enough monkeypox vaccine available now but health officials say the shots aren't getting to some of the people who need the protection the most.

About 10% of monkeypox vaccine doses have been given to Black people, even though they account for one-third of U.S. cases, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The new numbers come from 17 states and two cities, and represent the most comprehensive details yet on who has been getting the two-dose vaccines. Similar disparities had been reported previously by a few states and cities.

Most U.S. monkeypox cases have been in men who have sex with men, but officials have stressed that anyone can catch the virus.

Experts offered several possible explanations for the disparity. It may be related to how and where shots are being offered and publicized. It may be that some Black men don't trust doctors and government public health efforts. Or they may be less willing to identify themselves as a person who is at higher risk of catching the disease.

The gap is an echo of disparities seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, when certain racial groups were a disproportionately large share of cases but a smaller fraction of the people initially receiving vaccinations, said Dr. Yvens Laborde, director of global health education at Ochsner Health in New Orleans.

"If we're not careful, the same thing will happen here" with monkeypox, he said.

Available information suggests that Black men are a growing proportion of monkeypox cases, said Caitlin Rivers, a Johns Hopkins University expert on government response to epidemics.

"This is a problem that is not resolving," she said.

The Biden administration said Friday it has shipped enough monkeypox vaccine to deliver the first of two doses to the group at highest risk of infection. That's an estimated 1.6 million men who have sex with other men, but the CDC does not have a racial breakdown of the group. The administration expects to have enough for second doses available by the end of next month.

Earlier this month, health officials authorized a plan to allow injection of smaller doses of the vaccine into the skin instead of into muscle, which has helped stretch supplies. With the help of that new method, which requires about one-fifth the usual dose, the administration says it has now shipped enough vaccine for at least 1.6 million doses.

According to the administration, only 14 jurisdictions of 67 have used enough vaccine to request more from the federal stockpile.

Some experts say health officials need to make sure Black men have more access to vaccinations, testing, treatment and other types of information and assistance.

CDC director Dr. Rochelle Walensky, speaking at a White House briefing, said her agency has taken steps to increase access. Vaccines and educational materials will be available at Atlanta's upcoming Black Pride events and New Orleans's Southern Decadence.

"We've seen as we're starting to roll these pilot projects out that they are working," she said.

The government hadn't previously reported on vaccine recipients' demographics, because such information sharing is voluntary. The numbers released Friday reflect information on about 208,000 doses administered as of earlier this week, out of more than 1 million shipped. Age, sex, racial and ethnic information was not available for every recipient.

But, based on what information was available, the data shows:

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 65 of 79

—About half of vaccine recipients were white and about a quarter were Hispanic. About 10% were Black and another 10% were Asian.

—About 94% were identified as male, and 6% female.

—More than half were between the ages of 25 and 39.

The gaps nationally echo those seen in statistics from Georgia, North Carolina, New York City and Washington, D.C. In all four locales, Black men accounted for many or most of the cases, but were a smaller proportion of vaccine recipients.

Monkeypox is endemic in parts of Africa, where people have been infected through bites from rodents or small animals. It wasn't considered a disease that spreads easily among people until May, when infections emerged in Europe and the U.S.

There have been more than 45,000 cases reported in countries that have not historically seen monkeypox.

The U.S. has the most infections of any country — more than 16,000. About 98% of U.S. cases are men and about 93% were men who reported recent sexual contact with other men. No one in the U.S. has died, but deaths have been reported in other countries.

Officials say the virus has been spreading mainly through skin-on-skin contact, but they warn it might also transmit in other ways, including through touching linens used by someone with monkeypox.

## Trump's NYC golf course to host Saudi-backed women's event

By KAREN MATTHEWS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York City-owned golf course managed by former President Donald Trump's business is expected to host a Saudi Arabia-supported women's tournament in October, city officials said Friday.

The plan to host the Aramco Team Series at the Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point in the Bronx comes after New York City's attempt to cancel Trump's contract to run the course was thrown out by a judge in April.

Former Mayor Bill de Blasio said shortly after Trump supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, that he was canceling Trump's contracts to run the golf course and several Central Park concessions. The Democratic mayor said the city had the legal right terminate a contract with a company whose leaders are engaged in criminal activity such as inciting an insurrection.

Manhattan state court Judge Debra James ruled that city's claim that the Trump Organization had breached the contracts lacked any legal foundation.

The Aramco Team Series, first played in 2020 as the Saudi Ladies Team International, is financed by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund.

The Saudi fund is also backing the LIV Golf tour, set up as a rival to the PGA Tour, which played a tournament at Trump's Bedminster, New Jersey course last month.

Some family members of Sept. 11 victims who blame Saudi Arabia for the 2001 terror attacks criticized Trump for hosting the Saudi-backed tour.

The Saudi government has denied any involvement in the attacks.

Messages seeking comment about Aramco's Oct. 13-15 tournament in New York City were sent to the Trump Organization and the Aramco Team Series.

Nick Paolucci, a spokesperson for the city law department, said, "As the decision in the previous administration's court case displayed, contractually, the city is obligated to follow the terms of the Trump Ferry license agreement and cannot unreasonably withhold approval of this tournament."

## Airstrike hits kindergarten in capital of Ethiopia's Tigray

Associated Press undefined

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — An airstrike by Ethiopia's air force hit a kindergarten in the country's embattled Tigray region, causing deaths and injuries on Friday, according to local broadcasters. It was the latest escalation of a conflict that has created a humanitarian crisis for millions of people.

Tigray Television quoted witnesses saying the afternoon attack hit a kindergarten called Red Kids Para-

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 66 of 79

dise in the Tigrayan capital of Mekele. It aired graphic images of children and adults with dismembered bodies in the aftermath of the attack.

Homes near the kindergarten also were hit in the strike, broadcaster Dimtsi Weyane reported.

Tigrayan officials called the airstrike "a heartless, sadistic" assault.

"This vicious regime has outdone itself with today's deliberate targeting of a children's building," they said in a statement.

That statement didn't say how many people were killed in the airstrike. But the director of Mekele's Ayder Hospital, Kibrom Gebreselassie, said on Twitter that two children are among at least four people killed.

"More casualties are arriving. The total number so far in our hospital is 13," he said.

The AP hasn't been able to independently verify the footage. Ethiopian authorities didn't immediately comment on the report.

But Ethiopia's Government Communications Service said in a statement earlier Friday that the government will "take action targeting the military forces that are the source of the anti-peace sentiment of the Tigray Peoples Liberation Front."

It warned people in Tigray to stay away from military equipment and training facilities used by Tigray forces.

The report of a strike on a kindergarten comes amid a resumption of fighting between Ethiopian federal forces and Tigray fighters. Both sides accused each other of restarting the war Wednesday after a lull in fighting since June 2021.

The conflict in Tigray, which began in November 2020, has killed thousands in Africa's second-most populous country, which holds more than 115 million people. The conflict had calmed in recent months amid slow-moving mediation efforts. But last week the spokeswoman for Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed told journalists that Tigray authorities were "refusing to accept peace talks."

Ethiopia's government has said it's ready for talks, but insists the African Union must lead the mediation efforts.

Tigray authorities have criticized the African Union's efforts and urgently sought the resumption of telephone, banking and other services that have been largely cut off since the war began. The statement by Tigrayan authorities after Friday's airstrike charged that the federal government isn't interested in peace talks.

The conflict has created a humanitarian crisis for millions of people affected by the fighting in the Amhara and neighboring Afar regions, while thousands of Tigrayans now live in refugee camps in Sudan.

## Herschel Walker skips details in bid to oust Raphael Warnock

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

KENNESAW, Ga. (AP) — Republican Herschel Walker has plenty to say about how his Democratic rival, U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock, does his job in Washington. But Walker is considerably less revealing about what he'd do with the role himself.

A former football star and friend of former President Donald Trump, Walker tells voters he supports agriculture, veterans and law enforcement. He sells cultural conservatism and his mental health advocacy. He tags Warnock as a yes-man for President Joe Biden. Yet when asked for concrete alternatives to what he calls "the Biden-Warnock agenda," Walker defaults mostly to generalities and stem-winding tangents — or he turns the question around.

"Have you asked my opponent? Don't play games. You're playing games," Walker told reporters recently when pressed to clarify his stance on exceptions to abortion bans.

The broader approach tracks the way many political challengers — including Warnock two years ago — try to put incumbents on the defensive. That method is especially salient for Republican candidates in a midterm election year when Democrats must run alongside sustained inflation. But Walker's rendition, as much as any GOP candidacy nationwide, is testing the bounds of that strategy as Democrats hammer the political novice as unfit for high office.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 67 of 79

"There is a stark difference between me and my opponent," Warnock said at a recent campaign stop, theatrically stretching the word "stark" as he smiled. "This race," the senator continued, "is about who's ready to represent Georgia."

Democrats' paid advertising levels the same charge, without humor.

Among Warnock's first general election ads was video of Walker claiming he knows of a cure for COVID-19. "I have something that can bring you into a building that would clean you from COVID as you walk through this dry mist," Walker said. "This here product — they don't want to talk about that."

Another Warnock ad hammered Walker for not agreeing to any of three long-standing Georgia general election debates after saying he'd debate Warnock "any time, any day."

Other ads from Warnock-aligned groups have chronicled Walker's exaggerations about his business and academic accomplishments and his first wife's allegations of Walker's violent behavior.

Those spots are part of an advertising deluge that's allowed Warnock to burnish his personal brand, explain his Senate record on his terms and launch broadsides against Walker. That reach could prove decisive in a closely divided state: Warnock won his January 2021 special election runoff by 2 percentage points out of 4.5 million votes. Polls suggest reflect another hotly contested race, with Republicans depending on Walker to tilt the balance of the 50-50 Senate.

Warnock has fueled his ad blitz with a considerable money advantage. From the closing weeks of 2020 through June 30 of this year, he'd spent more than \$85 million. Walker, by comparison, had raised \$20.2 million and spent \$13.4 million.

That leaves some Republicans fretting that Walker is behind in establishing his case. "I get really passionate about this because I know Herschel, and the left is trying to paint him into something he is not," said Ginger Howard, a Georgia representative on the Republican National Committee.

Walker's answer so far is to make the race a referendum on Biden and Democrats, thus avoiding direct comparisons between the Georgia nominees. Walker aides say that isn't just the obvious course to navigate a first-time candidate's liabilities; it also happens, they insist, to resonate with a majority of Georgians.

"This is still a center-right state in a very Republican year," said adviser Chip Lake, noting Biden's approval ratings lag badly behind Warnock's standing in Georgia. "Voters aren't asking Herschel for white papers on policy."

Liz Marchionni, who volunteers at her local Cobb County Republican office north of Atlanta, said most voters care more about broader values than specifics. "Every candidate should answer questions," she said. But Walker "has excellent business experience," she added. "He's a strong Christian. And he's working for freedom for all Americans."

Nonetheless, the first-time candidate has started doing more policy themed events: roundtables with farmers, meetings with business owners, gatherings with law enforcement, a panel with conservative women, including the candidate's wife, Julie Blanchard. Walker now huddles regularly with groups of reporters.

Much of that is a shift from his shielded Republican primary campaign. He easily won that contest anyway, leveraging his fame as a former University of Georgia football star and his relationship with Trump. But Lake said the campaign recognized Walker has to "engage with as many Georgians as possible" to defeat Warnock.

In recent appearances, Walker has talked of prioritizing aid to farmers, cutting environmental regulations he says limit domestic energy sources, and championing "second chance" policies to help convicted felons get employment.

But he doesn't get into details, and his go-to applause lines reflect standard conservative dogma. "We need spiritual warriors ... leaders who love this country ... people with common sense," he told a standing-room-only crowd in northern Cobb County.

Lake said "it's no different than any other campaign I've worked on." And, he added, "I don't remember Raphael Warnock's campaign being that detailed" ahead of his victory over then-Sen. Kelly Loeffler.

Indeed, Warnock's standard pitch this summer is more policy-heavy than in 2020, in part because he

talks about measures that he's helped get through the Senate. Yet in that campaign, Warnock did tout his activism as a Baptist pastor on Medicaid expansion and voting rights, holding forth on policy details. For example, he talked then about capping insulin costs and allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices with pharmaceutical firms. The Senate recently approved drug-price negotiations and a limited version of the insulin cap. Republicans restricted the cap only to Medicare; Warnock called for extending it across all consumers, including the privately insured.

Walker's latest forays into policy highlight the potential risks in trying to match Warnock.

Discussing inflation before the recent Senate votes, Walker said he endorsed capping insulin prices. Told of Warnock's efforts, he replied: "I support some of the good things he's doing, but that's just a Band-Aid. Why don't he get back and get to things that are correct?"

Walker didn't answer a follow-up question about what policies he'd pursue to combat the wider inflation he blames on Warnock. Instead, he veered into a soliloquy on border patrols and crime.

After accusing Warnock of supporting the Inflation Reduction Act without "reading the bill," Walker admitted he'd read only "some of the bill" himself.

Meeting with north Georgia farmers, he learned that a majority of the federal farm bill — a staple of federal spending for generations — finances consumer food assistance. Farmers don't necessarily oppose that consumer aid, though Congress often fights over amounts. But Walker heard the breakdown and mused that it is wasteful, even as one farmer explained that feeding a country of 330 million residents "is national security."

Walker glosses over details when attacking Warnock, as well. Talking about why women should support him, Walker said, "I will keep them safe, not like my opponent, who votes to be soft on crime and soft-on-crime judges." Walker then alluded to an unspecified local prosecution in Atlanta, alleging it involved defendants who'd been arrested more than 100 times.

"These guys have done so many crimes, and they let them out of jail," he said. "Right now, that's something that I would be tough on right there."

Asked recently which Senate committee assignments he'd seek should he win, Walker said he wants to focus on agriculture and "something with our military" and supporting veterans.

## **Biden calls abortion restrictions 'beyond the pale'**

By CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Republican-led states continue to ban nearly all abortions, President Joe Biden said Friday that such restrictions were "beyond the pale."

Biden and Democrats are trying to harness outrage over the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion nationwide, in this year's midterm elections.

"You're going to hear women roar on this issue, and it's going to be consequential," he said.

Biden made the comments at a White House meeting of state and local officials to talk about ways to expand access to abortion and to mark Women's Equality Day.

Biden reiterated his desire for Congress to codify *Roe v. Wade* into law, but "we're short a handful of votes," he said.

Democrats would need 10 Republican votes to overcome a filibuster and get a bill through the 50-50 Senate, but only two GOP senators have publicly backed abortion rights. And even though they narrowly control the Senate, Democrats don't have enough votes to sidestep the filibuster.

"The only way it's going to happen if the American people make it happen in November," Biden said.

In the meantime, Biden has been looking for ways to protect abortion access. But his options are limited.

Idaho, Tennessee and Texas are the latest Republican-led states to tighten their restrictions. They've been implementing so-called "trigger laws" that were put on the books to severely limit abortions if *Roe* was overturned, which happened in June.

Lina Hidalgo, the county judge from Harris County, Texas, called her state's law a "slap in the face."

"I think you speak for the majority of the American people," Biden responded.

## Fears of a radiation leak mount near Ukrainian nuclear plant

By PAUL BYRNE Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Authorities began distributing iodine tablets to residents near Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant Friday in case of a radiation leak, amid mounting fears that the fighting around the complex could trigger a catastrophe.

The move came a day after the plant was temporarily knocked offline because of what officials said was fire damage to a transmission line. The incident heightened dread of a nuclear disaster in a country still haunted by the 1986 explosion at Chernobyl.

Continued shelling was reported in the area overnight, and satellite images from Planet Labs showed fires burning around the complex — Europe's biggest nuclear plant — over the last several days.

Iodine tablets, which help block the absorption of radioactive iodine by the thyroid gland in a nuclear accident, were issued in the Ukrainian-controlled city of Zaporizhzhia, about 45 kilometers (27 miles) from the plant. A woman and her small daughter were among those receiving the pills.

The U.N.'s atomic energy agency has been trying to send a team in to inspect and help secure the plant. Officials said preparations for the trip were underway, but it remained unclear when it might take place.

The Zaporizhzhia plant has been occupied by Russian forces and run by Ukrainian workers since the early days of the 6-month-old war. The two sides have repeatedly accused each other of shelling the site.

In Thursday's incident, Ukraine and Russia blamed one another for the transmission-line damage that knocked the plant off the power grid.

Exactly what went wrong was not clear, but Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the plant's emergency backup diesel generators had to be activated to supply electricity to operate the complex.

The plant requires power to run the reactors' vital cooling systems. A loss of cooling could lead to a nuclear meltdown.

Ukrenergo, Ukraine's transmission system operator, reported Friday that two damaged main lines supplying the plant with electricity had resumed operation, ensuring a stable power supply.

The country's nuclear power agency, Energoatom, said the plant had been reconnected to the grid and was producing electricity "for Ukraine's needs."

"The nuclear workers of Zaporizhzhia power plant are real heroes! They tirelessly and firmly uphold the nuclear and radiation safety of Ukraine and the whole of Europe on their shoulders," the agency said in a statement.

Russia-installed officials in the Zaporizhzhia region, however, said that the plant was supplying electricity only to Russia-controlled areas of the country and not the rest of Ukraine.

Concerns about the site have reverberated across Europe.

French President Emmanuel Macron said a visit by the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency should be allowed to take place "very quickly," warning: "Civilian nuclear power must not be an instrument of war."

Lana Zerkal, an adviser to Ukraine's energy minister, told Ukrainian media that the logistics for an IAEA visit were still being worked out. Zerkal accused Russia of trying to sabotage the visit.

Ukraine has claimed Russia is using the plant as a shield by storing weapons there and launching attacks from around it. Moscow, for its part, accuses Ukraine of recklessly firing on the place.

Zaporizhzhia's reactors are protected by thick, reinforced concrete containment domes that experts say can withstand an errant artillery shell. Many of the fears center instead on a possible loss of the cooling system, and also the risk that an attack on the cooling ponds where spent fuel rods are kept could scatter radioactive material.

Continued Russian shelling of Nikopol, a city across the Dnieper River from the Zaporizhzhia plant, damaged 10 houses, a school and a health care facility but caused no injuries, Dnipropetrovsk Gov. Valentyn Reznichenko said.

## Hints of cooling prices, but Fed vows firm inflation stance

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Inflation eased last month as energy prices tumbled, raising hopes that the surging costs of everything from gasoline to food may have peaked.

According to a Commerce Department report Friday that is closely watched by the Federal Reserve, consumer prices rose 6.3% in July from a year earlier after posting an annual increase of 6.8% in June, the biggest jump since 1982. Energy prices made the difference in July: They dropped last month after surging in June.

Yet on the same day at the Federal Reserve's annual economic symposium in Jackson Hole, Chair Jerome Powell delivered a stark message: The Fed will likely impose more large interest rate hikes in coming months and is resolutely focused on taming inflation.

There was hope that the Fed might signal a moderation in rate increases if inflation were to show further signs of easing.

So-called core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, rose 4.6% last month from a year earlier after rising 4.8% in June. The drop — along with a reduction in the Labor Department's consumer price index last month — suggests that inflationary pressures may be easing.

On a monthly basis, consumer prices actually fell 0.1% from June to July; core inflation blipped up 0.1%, the Commerce Department reported.

And the Fed appears ready to continue efforts to ensure prices are moving in the right direction.

Inflation started rising sharply in the spring of 2021 as the economy rebounded with surprising speed from the short but devastating coronavirus recession a year earlier. Surging customer orders overwhelmed factories, ports and freight yards, leading to delays, shortages and higher prices. Inflation is a worldwide problem, especially since the Russian invasion of Ukraine drove up global food and energy prices.

On Friday, regulators in the U.K. said that residents will see an 80% increase in their annual household energy bills.

In the United States, the Commerce Department's personal consumption expenditures (PCE) index is less well known than the Labor Department's consumer price index (CPI).

But the Fed prefers the PCE index as a gauge of inflationary pressures, partly because the Commerce index attempts to measure how consumers adjust to rising prices by, for example, substituting cheaper store brands for pricier name brands.

There is evidence just in the last several months that that is taking place at numerous levels.

CPI has been showing higher inflation than PCE; Last month, for instance, CPI was running at an 8.5% annual pace after hitting a four-decade high 9.1% in June. One reason: The Labor Department's index gives more weight to rents, which have soared this year.

The Commerce Department also reported Friday that Americans' after-tax personal income rose 0.3% from June to July after adjusting for inflation; it has fallen in June. Consumer spending rose 0.2% last month after accounting for higher prices.

Spiking prices have become a political threat to the current administration and President Joe Biden was quick to point to the latest data that could show inflation is loosening its grip.

"The American people are starting to get some relief from high prices, and the Inflation Reduction Act that I signed last month will also help bring prices down," Biden said Friday. "Gas prices decreased every day this summer — the fastest decline in over a decade. And, today's report showed that personal income was up last month as well."

The Fed was slow to respond to rising inflation, thinking it the temporary result of supply chain bottlenecks. But as prices continued to climb, the U.S. central bank moved aggressively, hiking its benchmark interest rate four times since March.

On Friday, Powell warned more explicitly than he has in the past that the Fed's continued tightening of credit will cause pain for many households and businesses as its higher rates further slow the economy and potentially lead to job losses.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 71 of 79

"These are the unfortunate costs of reducing inflation," Powell said. "But a failure to restore price stability would mean far greater pain."

Price pressures may already be easing as the U.S. economy slows. Gross domestic product — broadest measure of economic output — shrank in the first half of 2020 as borrowing costs increased. The housing market has been hit especially hard. And supply chain backlogs have started to unspool.

"Inflation appears to have peaked in mid-2022 and should slow on a year-over-year basis through the rest of this year and in 2023," said Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC.

Nick Zawitz, who runs Tangle Creations, a South San Francisco company that makes Fidget Toys among others, said that shipping costs have plunged and raw materials prices have dropped slightly. Meanwhile, the company's sales are up 45% over the past year. "Things are chugging along," Zawitz said.

## Some cities could be left behind on lead pipe replacements

By MICHAEL PHILLIS Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — In many cities, no one knows where the lead pipes lie underground. That's important because lead pipes contaminate drinking water. After the lead crisis in Flint, officials in Michigan accelerated efforts to locate their pipes, a first step toward removal.

But other places are moving more slowly.

That means as billions of dollars in new federal funding becomes available to address the problem, some places are in a better position than others to quickly apply for funds and start digging.

Those that wait are at risk of being left behind.

"The issue right now is we want to reduce the time that vulnerable folks are living with lead exposure," said Eric Schwartz, co-CEO of BlueConduit, which uses computer modeling to help communities predict where their lead pipes are.

In Iowa, for example, only a handful of cities have located their lead water lines and so far only one — Dubuque — has asked for newly-available federal funds to remove them. State officials still expressed confidence they will find their lead lines by the federal government's 2024 deadline and communities will have time to apply for funds.

Lead in the body can lower IQ, stunt development and cause behavior problems in children. Lead pipes can leach into drinking water. Removing them eliminates the threat.

There are millions of lead pipes in the ground, installed decades ago, that carry tap water to homes and businesses. They are concentrated in the Midwest and Northeast but are present across much of the country. Scattershot record keeping means many cities don't know which of their water pipes are made of lead versus PVC or copper.

Some places like Madison and Green Bay, Wisconsin, have managed to remove theirs. But it's an expensive problem and historically there's been little federal funding to address it.

"The lack of resources has been a huge issue," said Radhika Fox, head of the Environmental Protection Agency office of water.

President Joe Biden signed an infrastructure bill last year that finally provided a big boost, allocating \$15 billion over five years to assist communities with lead pipes. It's not enough to solve the problem, but will help.

Communities that avoid the issue or wait too long may not be eligible.

"If you don't get your act together and you don't submit an application, you're not going to get the money," said Erik Olson of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Local officials can start replacement work before they complete a detailed inventory, but it helps to have an estimate of where lead pipes are, said Eric Oswald, director of Michigan's drinking water division.

"We need to know that they have identified the lead service lines before we're going to fund the removal process," he said.

### SCANDAL AFTER SCANDAL

Lead pipes have caused harm for decades. In recent years, residents in Newark, New Jersey, and Ben-

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 72 of 79

ton Harbor, Michigan, were forced to use bottled water for basic needs like cooking and drinking, after tests revealed elevated levels of lead. Flint, a majority-Black community where officials initially denied there were lead problems, focused national attention on the health crisis. Public trust in tap water fell afterwards, especially in Black and Hispanic communities.

Sri Vedachalam, director of water equity and climate resilience at Environmental Consulting & Technology Inc., said he hopes communities are replacing pipes for residents' benefit.

"But realistically, if it is to avoid embarrassment, that's still a win," he said.

There is some indication that embarrassment has been a motivator. Michigan and New Jersey passed tough measures to combat lead in drinking water, including speeding up the mapping process, after downplaying high lead levels. But things are moving more slowly in some other states like Iowa and Missouri that haven't experienced similar headline-grabbing crises.

Earlier in August, the EPA instructed communities how to document their pipes. Money will flow according to the needs of each state, Fox said. There is technical assistance available and also easier terms for disadvantaged communities.

Water testing in Hamtramck, a city of nearly 30,000 surrounded by Detroit, has periodically revealed worrisome levels of lead. The city assumes most of its pipes are made of the problem metal and work is underway to replace them.

"We've been doing street after street," said city manager Max Garbarino.

Pipe replacement is so sought after in Michigan that communities have applied for more funds than will be immediately available.

## EQUITY CONCERNS

EPA distributed early funds using a formula that doesn't consider the number of lead pipes in each state. So some states received far more money per lead pipe than others. The agency is working to correct that for future years. Michigan is hopeful that if states don't spend their money, it will eventually flow to them.

Schwartz of BlueConduit said officials should be sure not to skip pipe inspections in poor neighborhoods, to ensure inventories are accurate. Otherwise if there is better documentation in wealthy areas, they might receive replacement funding more quickly even if they don't need it as much.

Dubuque, a city of about 58,000 on the Mississippi River, wants more than \$48 million to replace roughly 5,500 of its pipes that contain lead. Mapping work started years ago and previous officials ensured that it was properly updated, anticipating it would one day be a federal requirement. They were right.

Christopher Lester, manager of the city's water department, said those past efforts made applying for funds easy.

"We're fortunate to have the inventory developed. We don't need to try and play catch up," Lester said.

## **Powell: Fed could keep lifting rates sharply 'for some time'**

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming (AP) — Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell delivered a stark message Friday: The Fed will likely impose more large interest rate hikes in coming months and is resolutely focused on taming the highest inflation in four decades.

Powell also warned more explicitly than he has in the past that the Fed's continued tightening of credit will cause pain for many households and businesses as its higher rates further slow the economy and potentially lead to job losses.

"These are the unfortunate costs of reducing inflation," he said in a high-profile speech at the Fed's annual economic symposium in Jackson Hole. "But a failure to restore price stability would mean far greater pain."

Investors had been hoping for a signal that the Fed might soon moderate its rate increases later this year if inflation were to show further signs of easing. But the Fed chair indicated that that time may not be near.

After hiking its key short term rate by three-quarters of a point at each of its past two meetings — part

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 73 of 79

of the Fed's fastest series of rate increases since the early 1980s — Powell said the Fed might ease up on that pace "at some point" — suggesting that any such slowing isn't near.

Powell said the size of the Fed's rate increase at its next meeting in late September — whether one-half or three-quarters of a percentage point — will depend on inflation and jobs data. An increase of either size, though, would exceed the Fed's traditional quarter-point hike, a reflection of how severe inflation has become.

The Fed chair said that while lower inflation readings that have been reported for July have been "welcome," "a single month's improvement falls far short of what the Committee will need to see before we are confident that inflation is moving down."

He noted that the history of high inflation in the 1970s, when the central bank sought to counter high prices with only intermittent rate hikes, shows that the Fed must stay focused.

"The historical record cautions strongly against prematurely" lowering interest rates, he said. "We must keep at it until the job is done."

Powell's speech is the marquee event of the the Fed's annual economic symposium at Jackson Hole, the first time the conference of central bankers is being held in person since 2019, after it went virtual for two years during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since March, the Fed has implemented its fastest pace of rate increases in decades to try to curb inflation, which has punished households with soaring costs for food, gas, rent and other necessities. The central bank has lifted its benchmark rate by 2 full percentage points in just four meetings, to a range of 2.25% to 2.5%.

Those hikes have led to higher costs for mortgages, car loans and other consumer and business borrowing. Home sales have been plunging since the Fed first signaled it would raise borrowing costs.

In June, the Fed's policymakers signaled that they expected their key rate to end 2022 in a range of 3.25% to 3.5% and then to rise further next year to between 3.75% and 4%. If rates reached their projected level at the end of this year, they would be at the highest point since 2008.

Powell is betting that he can engineer a high-risk outcome: Slow the economy enough to ease inflation pressures yet not so much as to trigger a recession.

His task has been complicated by the economy's cloudy picture: On Thursday, the government said the economy shrank at a 0.6% annual rate in the April-June period, the second straight quarter of contraction. Yet employers are still hiring rapidly, and the number of people seeking unemployment aid, a measure of layoffs, remains relatively low.

At the same time, inflation is still crushingly high, though it has shown some signs of easing, notably in the form of declining gas prices.

At its meeting in July, Fed policymakers expressed two competing concerns that highlighted their delicate task.

According to minutes from that meeting, the officials — who aren't identified by name — have prioritized their inflation fight. Still, some officials said there was a risk that the Fed would raise borrowing costs more than necessary, risking a recession. If inflation were to fall closer to the Fed's 2% target and the economy weakened further, those diverging views could become hard to reconcile.

At last year's Jackson Hole symposium, Powell listed five reasons why he thought inflation would be "transitory." Yet instead it has persisted, and many economists have noted that those remarks haven't aged well.

Powell indirectly acknowledged that history at the outset of his remarks Friday, when he said that, "at past Jackson Hole conferences, I have discussed broad topics such as the ever-changing structure of the economy and the challenges of conducting monetary policy."

"Today," he said, "my remarks will be shorter, my focus narrower and my message more direct."

## Secret Service recovers \$286M in stolen pandemic loans

By FATIMA HUSSEIN Associated Press

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 74 of 79

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Secret Service said Friday that it has recovered \$286 million in fraudulently obtained pandemic loans and is returning the money to the Small Business Administration.

The Secret Service said an investigation initiated by its Orlando office found that alleged conspirators submitted Economic Injury Disaster Loan applications by using fake or stolen employment and personal information and used an online bank, Green Dot, to conceal and move their criminal proceeds.

The agency worked with Green Dot to identify roughly 15,000 accounts and seize \$286 million connected to the accounts.

"This forfeiture effort and those to come are a direct and necessary response to the unprecedented size and scope of pandemic relief fraud," said Kevin Chambers, director for COVID-19 fraud enforcement at the Justice Department.

Billions have been fraudulently claimed through various pandemic relief programs — including Paycheck Protection Program loans, unemployment insurance and others that were rolled out in the midst of the worldwide pandemic that shutdown global economies for months.

In March, the Government Accountability Office reported that while agencies were able to distribute COVID-19 relief funds quickly, "the tradeoff was that they did not have systems in place to prevent and identify payment errors and fraud" due in part to "financial management weaknesses."

As a result, the GAO has recommended several measures for agencies to prevent pandemic program fraud in the future, including better reporting on their fraud risk management efforts.

Since 2020, the Secret Service initiated more than 3,850 pandemic related fraud investigations, seized over \$1.4 billion in fraudulently obtained funds and helped to return \$2.3 billion to state unemployment insurance programs.

The latest seizure included a collaboration of efforts between Secret Service, the SBA's Inspector General, DOJ and other offices.

Hannibal "Mike" Ware, the Small Business Administration's inspector general, said the joint investigations will continue "to ensure that taxpayer dollars obtained through fraudulent means will be returned to taxpayers and fraudsters involved face justice."

## Serena's example: Tennis icon's impact felt in Black America

By AARON MORRISON Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In 2016, responding to the fatal police shootings of two Black men just a day apart, Serena Williams joined a small chorus of top Black athletes in speaking out. "I won't be silent!" she vowed.

"Have we not gone through enough, opened so many doors, impacted billions of lives?" Williams asked in a Facebook post in the wake of the back-to-back killings of Philando Castile just outside St. Paul, Minnesota, and Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

"I realized we must stride on — for it's not how far we have come but how much further still we have to go," she wrote.

That wasn't the only time Williams would wade into the politically thorny topic. It's an outspokenness for which other Black athletes, from Muhammad Ali to Colin Kaepernick, have paid a steep professional price.

After nearly three decades in the public eye, few can match Williams' array of accomplishments, medals and awards. Through it all, the 23-time Grand Slam title winner hasn't let the public forget that she's a Black American woman who embraces her responsibility as a beacon for her people.

From the outset of her professional career, Williams was othered because of her unconventional rise in the predominantly white sport — a Black girl who honed her formidable skills on the public tennis courts of Compton, California, far from the privileged private clubs that nurtured most U.S. players. Even as a teenager, her response to the racism, hostility and undermining by the establishment made her a role model for Black Americans.

Now that Williams, 40, has indicated she is getting ready to hang up her tennis racket for good, perhaps even right after the U.S. Open, which starts Monday, sports analysts will take stock of her reign as one of the greatest athletes of all time. But no matter how her swan song plays out, Williams' icon status on

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 75 of 79

and off the court, as well as her impact on the Black community, are indelible.

"Most Black folks, they understand the sacrifices," said Elle Duncan, an anchor for ESPN's SportsCenter. "If they can't pull apart your game, they will find other reasons: your braids, your hair, your attitude, your body type, the clothes that you wear."

"It was always about that with Serena, because it was never about her tennis," Duncan said.

When Black women and girls were berated for wearing beads in their braids in the workplace, classroom or while competing in sports, they could see Williams and her sister, Venus, swinging tennis rackets as their beads click-clacked in all their bright and colorful glory.

Some of Williams' competitors, daunted by the task of beating her, turned to speaking disparagingly about her physical build and allure. Her response? A dignified, seemingly unbothered Williams brushed off press questions about it. In other moments, a more joyous Williams was seen "Crip walking" on the tennis court after winning gold at the 2012 London Olympics, a nod to her roots in Compton.

Even as a top athlete who amassed wealth and influence, Williams has remained grounded in the grim realities of the times. After she won the championship at Wimbledon in 2016, Williams was asked what should be done to address underlying issues after the fatal ambush of several Dallas police officers gunned down by a sniper to protest the shooting of Black men by police.

"I don't think that the answer is to continue to shoot our young Black men in the United States ... or just Black people in general," she said. "Also, obviously, violence is not the answer of solving it. The shooting in Dallas was very sad. No one deserves to lose their life — doesn't matter what color they are, where they're from. We're all human."

After gun violence touched their own family, Serena and Venus Williams opened a community center in Compton in 2016 to offer counseling and therapy to residents affected by violence. The Yetunde Price Resource Center is named for their half-sister, who was killed in a drive-by shooting in 2003.

Martin Blackman, a former professional tennis player, said the Williams sisters' journey through the sport inspired Black Americans like himself who'd seen few top Black contenders in the arena.

"The way people could connect with not having to be wealthy to play the game, not having to go through the traditional pathway to make it," said Blackman, now the general manager for player and coach development at the U.S. Tennis Association.

"They weren't insiders," he said of Serena and Venus.

Serena Williams' temperament off the court had just as much impact as her dominance in matches, Blackman added.

"Just the poise in being able to maintain a balance between being a fierce competitor, a strong Black woman who was comfortable in her own skin," he said. "Someone who was always respectful, always polite, never lost her composure in press conferences. She's not just a role model, but she's kind of a template for what you can do without compromising who you are."

At a pivotal point in her career, Williams chose to stay away from the Indian Wells tournament in California for many years after she and her father said they heard racist taunts from fans upset by Venus defaulting before a head-to-head match with Serena.

The slights to Serena Williams didn't end there, especially in moments when her conduct was deemed by some as unsportsmanlike.

During her loss to Naomi Osaka in the final of the 2018 U.S. Open, Williams shouted angrily in response to what she felt was unfair treatment by the chair umpire. An Australian newspaper lampooned Williams in a cartoon, depicting her with exaggerated physical characteristics strikingly similar to racist caricatures of Black people from the Reconstruction era.

Black Americans' participation in tennis dates to just before the turn of the 20th century. However, Black players were barred from the former U.S. National Lawn Tennis Association and made to play in segregated tennis clubs, until Althea Gibson broke barriers 72 years ago this month.

Gibson became the first Black player on the U.S. tour in the 1950s and notched multiple Grand Slam titles. It's a point of pride for the American Tennis Association, founded in 1916 to nurture young Black tennis talent, that it trained the likes of Gibson and Arthur Ashe.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 76 of 79

But Williams' success boosted interest in the sport beyond what the organization had previously seen, said ATA President Roxanne Aaron.

"You don't have to walk in the same shoes as other people," Aaron said of the lessons Williams' career teaches up-and-coming players. "You can even identify your own path, and that's the path you should walk no matter what."

Players who have emerged after Williams, like Osaka and Coco Gauff, are among the talents who cite the Williams sisters as inspirations in a sport still predominantly white.

Osaka, who was born in Japan to a Japanese mother and Haitian father, and moved to the U.S. when she was 3, has called Serena "the main reason why I started playing tennis."

The same influence hasn't been seen in other diversity-starved sports, ESPN's Duncan said.

"With Tiger Woods, we kept hearing about how he was inspiring this new generation of Black and brown kids to golf," she said. "Have you seen it? I don't see it. We see it with Serena."

"Will she go down as one of the greatest athletes of all time?" Duncan asked. "Yes. But I think more than anything, she's one of the greatest influencers of all time."

"She is playing against the very girls that were inspired by her, those chocolate girls that said, 'This is a tennis club sport. But God, if Serena and Venus can dominate, why can't I?'"

## **NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week**

By The Associated Press undefined

A roundup of some of the most popular but completely untrue stories and visuals of the week. None of these are legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. The Associated Press checked them out. Here are the facts:

---

Congress didn't exempt its members from IRS audits

CLAIM: Members of the U.S. Congress recently voted to exempt themselves from IRS audits of their personal finances.

THE FACTS: Congress has not voted on any such measure, according to spokespeople for the IRS, the Speaker of the House and the House Ways and Means Committee. The unsupported claim that U.S. lawmakers voted to exempt themselves from IRS audits spread online this week after a tweet from an account that has posted numerous bogus claims was interpreted as real. "BREAKING," read the Aug. 17 tweet, which amassed more than 13,000 shares. "In order to safeguard democracy, Congress has voted to exempt itself and its members from upcoming IRS audits." Hours later, the same account hinted that it had been a joke, writing that "a shocking number of American adults" can't spell or recognize the word "satire." Still, the tweet was not deleted or labeled and the false claim has since circulated as real on Twitter and Instagram. A review of recent legislation passed in Congress found no bills matching this claim. The Inflation Reduction Act, which became law last week and sparked an onslaught of misinformation about the IRS, did not include any such provision. Terry Lemons, communications and liaison chief at the IRS, confirmed to The Associated Press that the claim was false, and that "all tax filers are treated equally under the tax law." Henry Connelly, spokesperson for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, said the claim was "nonsense." Dylan Peachey, a spokesperson for the House Ways and Means Committee, also confirmed the claim was false.

— Associated Press writer Ali Swenson in New York contributed this report.

---

Posts exaggerate adult fentanyl deaths in the U.S.

CLAIM: Fentanyl is the leading cause of death for adults in the U.S.

THE FACTS: Fentanyl overdose deaths, while high, are not the leading cause of deaths among all adults in the U.S., experts say. Heart disease and cancer kill more people, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Social media users, including some Republican elected officials, claimed that the synthetic opioid is the No. 1 killer of adults in the U.S. "Fentanyl is the leading cause of death among

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 77 of 79

American adults," Rep. Beth Van Duyne, R-Texas, wrote on Twitter. "Until @POTUS secures our southern border, this crisis will only get worse." The congresswoman's tweet was also shared by House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif. This is not the case, according to experts and CDC data. "It absolutely is not the leading cause of death for all adults," said Kenneth Leonard, director of the University at Buffalo Clinical and Research Institute on Addictions. "I wouldn't minimize fentanyl as a problem, but it's certainly hard to say it's the leading cause of death," said Lewis Nelson, a professor of pharmacology, physiology and neuroscience at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. That distinction goes to heart disease and cancer, said Dan Ciccarone, a professor of family and community medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. About 71,000 people died from overdosing on synthetic opioids like fentanyl in 2021, up from almost 58,000 in 2020, according to the CDC. In comparison, the CDC estimates that in 2020, almost 700,000 people died from heart disease, roughly 600,000 from cancer and around 350,000 due to COVID-19. Spokespeople for McCarthy did not respond to the AP's request for comment. Andrea Coker, a spokesperson for Van Duyne, wrote in an email that while heart disease may be the leading killer of older American adults, the "cdc is stating fentanyl is the leading cause of death for Americans 18-45." As part of her response, Coker provided a link to an analysis conducted by the Ohio-based nonprofit Families Against Fentanyl that determined fentanyl was the top killer of people ages 18-45 in 2019 and 2020. The group analyzed publicly available CDC data by comparing synthetic opioid deaths to other causes of death over the last few years, according to spokesperson Moira Muntz. The CDC has not verified that fentanyl is the top killer among people in that age group, said Jeff Lancashire, a spokesperson for the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. The agency uses death certificates to determine the leading causes of death in the U.S. In its datasets, fentanyl deaths are included as part of a larger category of deaths attributed to synthetic opioids. Synthetic opioids, which include drugs like fentanyl and tramadol, are different from natural opioids, like morphine, and semi-synthetic opioids, such as oxycodone, according to the CDC. While fentanyl accounts for the majority of synthetic opioid deaths, the CDC lacks breakout data on deaths caused by fentanyl specifically, Lancashire said. Drug overdose deaths are spread over four different cause of death categories, though the majority of them land in the "accidental" category. The rest are classified as suicides, homicides or undetermined. According to preliminary 2021 data, accidents were the leading cause of death among 18-45 year-olds, with accidental synthetic opioid overdoses amounting to less than half of those deaths, Lancashire wrote. "It doesn't appear that fentanyl alone is the leading cause of death among 18-45 year olds and definitely is NOT the leading cause of death among all adults," he wrote. "However, we don't break down the leading causes in such a way that we can rank fentanyl anywhere."

— Associated Press writer Josh Kelety in Phoenix contributed this report.

Florida didn't ban 'To Kill a Mockingbird,' as fake list suggests

CLAIM: The state of Florida banned "To Kill a Mockingbird" in schools, along with a number of other popular titles on a "Banned Book List."

THE FACTS: Florida hasn't forced schools to stop teaching Harper Lee's classic novel "To Kill a Mockingbird," despite misleading posts that amassed thousands of shares on social media. The false claim erupted after various social media users shared a list of book titles and said it showed books banned in Florida, including "To Kill a Mockingbird" and other well-known titles such as "A Wrinkle in Time," "The Giver," and "Of Mice and Men." Bryan Griffin, press secretary for Florida's Republican governor, confirmed in several tweets that the claim was false. "The State of Florida has not banned To Kill a Mockingbird," Griffin tweeted. "In fact, Florida RECOMMENDS the book in 8th grade." The tweet linked to Florida's state Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking, or BEST, standards, which include the book as a sample text for eighth grade students. Jeremy Redfern, deputy press secretary for the governor, told the AP in an email that there is no banned book list at the state level, and that the "Banned Book List" circulating online was fake. "The state sets guidelines regarding content, and the local school districts are responsible for enforcing them," Redfern said. The Palm Beach County School District temporarily removed "To Kill a Mockingbird" from

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 051 ~ 78 of 79

classrooms to review it earlier this year, but has since returned it, according to the Florida Freedom to Read Project. The group, which tracks book removals across Florida school districts, said its research did not find any other recent bans of the title in Florida schools, though it relies on documentation from the state's school districts, which have not all responded in recent months. "There is no way for us to say for sure that the title is still available in every district, but it definitely isn't banned across the state," said Stephana Ferrell, cofounder of the Florida Freedom to Read Project. Tasslyn Magnusson, an independent researcher who tracks book banning attempts nationwide, also said she was not aware of any recent bans on "To Kill a Mockingbird" in Florida school districts. She said the widely shared "Banned Book List" also didn't match up with her own data. The Palm Beach County School District did not respond to emailed requests for comment.

— Ali Swenson

---

Flawed calculation fuels falsehood on Pfizer vaccine and pregnancies

CLAIM: Pfizer documents show that 44% of pregnancies reported during its COVID-19 vaccine trial ended with miscarriages.

THE FACTS: The claim is based on a flawed calculation that, among other issues, twice counted some of the same reported miscarriages — which also were not established to be caused by the vaccine. Thousands of social media users in recent days spread the erroneous claim that newly released documents showed that nearly half of all pregnancies in the Pfizer vaccine trial resulted in miscarriages. "Massacre: Nearly Half of Pregnant Women in Pfizer Trial Miscarried," one widely shared headline claimed. The claim first appeared Aug. 12 in a blog run by Naomi Wolf, an author who has gained attention in recent years for spreading COVID-19 misinformation. The blog post falsely claimed that documents from the Food and Drug Administration revealed "chilling data showing 44 percent of pregnant women participating in Pfizer's mRNA COVID vaccine trial suffered miscarriages." Asked for comment, the Daily Clout noted in a statement to the AP that it had issued a correction. The post was updated to say in a footnote that the 44% figure is "incorrect." As of Friday, the post was no longer accessible. The original blog post cited a more than 3,600-page document of Pfizer information dated March 2021 and submitted to the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. The blog post pointed to 22 references in the document to spontaneous abortions, or a pregnancy loss without outside intervention before the 20th week of pregnancy. The blog also noted that a table within the same document showed 50 pregnancies that occurred among trial participants after receiving their first dose. Using those numbers, the blog wrongly concluded that nearly half of pregnancies in the trial resulted in miscarriages. But Jeffrey Morris, director of the division of biostatistics at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine, told the AP in an email that the post's methodology contained "numerous mistakes." The blog's 22 references to miscarriages actually count about half of the same events twice, Morris said. That's evident by comparing the unique ID numbers of the clinical trial participants for each of the reports. For example, a single miscarriage reported by one participant in October 2020 was recorded in a "Listing of Adverse Events" as well as a subsequent "Listing of Serious Adverse Events," though they refer to the same instance. Such reported adverse events are also not confirmed to be caused by the vaccine, but are simply events that occurred after a participant received a shot. Beyond that, Morris pointed out that, of the unique miscarriage events in the document, only three of the subjects appear in the table that lists 50 pregnancies that occurred after participants received their first dose. That means the table is not a listing of all participants who were pregnant during the clinical trial, and therefore can't be used to calculate the miscarriage rate as the website did. Miscarriages are not uncommon: It's estimated that about 10% to 20% of known pregnancies result in miscarriage. The AP has previously debunked similar claims that misrepresented Pfizer data to assert that the vaccine was dangerous to pregnancies. In reality, a 2021 study in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that COVID-19 vaccine exposure did not increase the odds of a spontaneous abortion. And a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine the same year found that the risk of spontaneous abortion after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination was consistent with the

expected risk of spontaneous abortion. A Pfizer spokesperson declined to comment on the specific claim. The FDA did not return a request for comment.

— Associated Press writer Angelo Fichera in Philadelphia contributed this report.

## **CNN management intent on changing perception of the network**

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It was the kind of story that media reporter Brian Stelter would normally sink his teeth into — if only it didn't involve him.

CNN said last week it was cancelling "Reliable Sources," its 30-year-old program on the media, and letting Stelter go, part of a nascent effort by new management to reclaim a brand identity that it feels was damaged during the Trump era.

The news network, now under the Warner Discovery corporate banner and led since spring by CNN Worldwide Chairman Chris Licht, is trying to inject more balance into its programming and become less radioactive to Republicans. How and whether that can be accomplished remains a mystery.

"CNN has to figure out what it wants to be," said Carol Costello, a former anchor there and now a journalism instructor at Loyola Marymount University.

Former President Donald Trump portrayed CNN as an enemy, and a Pew Research Center study illustrated the impact that had with his followers. In 2014, Pew found that one-third of people who identify or lean Republican said they distrusted CNN as a source for political news. By 2019, that number had shot up to 58 percent — higher distrust than The New York Times, The Washington Post or MSNBC.

And that was before the overheated 2020 election campaign and the anger over its outcome.

Last year's firing of CNN anchor Chris Cuomo after he helped his brother, former Democratic New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, behind the scenes, also hurt CNN's reputation among Republicans, said Carlos Curbelo, a former GOP congressman from Florida.

As Trump attacked the network, CNN returned fire. Under previous leader Jeff Zucker, CNN figures became more opinionated on the air than they ever had before. Anderson Cooper once likened Trump to "an obese turtle on its back, flailing in the hot sun, realizing his time is over," a remark he later apologized for.

"All mainstream media took a hit with the ascent of Donald Trump," Costello said. "I really think he did a number on journalism in general, not just CNN. For a time we all played into it, and our reporting was kind of hysterical."

CNN's tone had a lot to do with changes in the network's reputation, said Mark Whitaker, a veteran newsman and former CNN executive. CNN had higher ratings and more buzz under Zucker, but, Whitaker asked, "Was it worth it in terms of the way it changed the brand perception?"

Being seen as a liberal alternative to Fox News Channel isn't an issue for a news outlet that plays up partisanship. But for a company that has sold itself as an unbiased news source for more than 40 years — to viewers, to advertisers, to cable or satellite operators — that presents a problem.

Since Licht took over, morning anchor Brianna Keilar's occasional takedowns of Fox coverage have disappeared. Although Licht hasn't commented publicly on Stelter's exit, the media reporter's criticism of Fox was a regular feature of "Reliable Sources."

It received little notice at the time, but cable news executive John Malone, now a member of the Warner Discovery board of directors, said in a CNBC interview last November that "I would like to see CNN evolve back to the kind of journalism it started with, and actually have journalists, which would be unique and refreshing."

Similarly, Warner Discovery President and CEO David Zaslav said at a company town hall in April that CNN should set itself apart from a cable news industry that is dominated by "advocacy networks." CNN needs to be about reporting, truth and facts, he said.

"If we get that, we can have a civilized society," said Zaslav, who appointed Licht. "And without it, if it all becomes advocacy, we don't have a civilized society."

Licht has given few interviews to outside journalists since taking over, and a CNN spokesman turned